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Topic of Research: A Critical Study of the Cinematic Adaptations of *Devdas* in the Indian Subcontinent

Findings

This thesis presents a study of the nineteen cinematic adaptations that have emerged from the nations of the Indian subcontinent. Despite its immense popularity and almost gaining mythic proportions, there has been no attempt to study the reasons why this text continues to be adapted even almost a century after the text is written. This thesis attempts to move beyond the limited perspective of analyzing the popularity as being driven by the tragic love story aspect of the narrative.

This research through an exploration of the existing discourses on cinematic adaptations, finds that there is a need to look at cinematic adaptations as adaptation 'proper.' Adaptation 'proper' is a translation of the spirit of the text in the spirit of the times, thereby moving away from fidelity discourse, medium specificity discourse and intertextuality. Therefore, adaptations are considered as being 'reworkings,' 'transcreations' and 'transcontextual' in nature.

What becomes apparent through a close study of the various cinematic adaptations of the literary text is that these nineteen different adaptations are drawing upon each other and elucidating the socio-cultural flows between the nations of the Indian subcontinent. Each of the adaptations by focusing on the socio-cultural nuances of the individual locations in which these nineteen adaptations are set, one gets a cross-section of the re/presentation of how each society and each culture responds to the question that the text attempts to address.

A combination of close study and symptomatic study has been used to analyze the cinematic adaptations of *Devdas* as a multi-lingual, multimodal and multimedial textual system.

The case study method allows us to look at the context and allows us to trace the socio-political, cultural history of the locations in which the adaptations are set. This becomes extremely important in a study like the present study since it allows us to uncover the nuances of the filmic text that would otherwise remain concealed.