



A STUDY OF NUANCES OF EDITING IN NEW AGE FILM APPRECIATION AMONG TAMIL AUDIENCE

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Abstract

Film appreciation is to recognize the full personal worth of a film using a heightened perception or understanding which results in the unique perspective. The same story can be in several ways with different characters. Plot (Story Arc and Plausibility), Attraction (Premise & Entertainment Value), Theme (Identity & Depth), Acting (Characters & Performance), Dialogue (Storytelling & Context), Cinematography (Visual Language & Lighting, Setting, and Wardrobe), Editing (Pace & Effects). Further, the process of editing is essential to bring a filmmaker's vision to life. There are three stages of the editing process such as the rough cut, fine cut, and final cut. Each step has its specific purpose, requiring unique skills to complete.

Therefore, the art of film has many individual artists working together to create the final piece of art, the finished motion picture. Film editing is crucial within the filmmaking process, as it can make or break a feature film. It is the step of transforming the raw footage into film footage with a logical sequence. Hence, understanding the nuances of editing in new age film appreciation among audience is pivotal for further research in the domain.

Keywords: Film, Audience, Editing, Appreciation.

Introduction

“The films are made in two tables’ two tables: one in the Director’s table to cater fit in the screenplay and the second one in the Editor’s table for the audience”.

T E Kishore, Editor, National Award Winner.

The post-production process mainly involves editing of the film, and with the right editing skills, one can transform a rough cut of the film into the polished broadcast quality video. The editors utilize their expertise in editing to deliver quality films to the audience. Editing, at its most basic, can help assemble all the shots into proper sequence. The editing tools help to weed out or fix the mistakes made during the production process. It can be used to trim the video to the length desired, and it can also be used to communicate the right aesthetics to the audience.

Remember the Edit

The process of editing for a quality finished product entails that the film maker should keep it in mind while shooting the film. One has to visualize what type of editing would be required for the film to get the desired results. There are several aspects that go unnoticed while shooting a scene, but gain prominence with editing; this is why it is important to shoot multiple shots of the scene, even if the first shot is good.

And, the editing process is essentially the second chance to fix the problems that occur during the production phase such as forgetting to turn on a light, put on the headphone or attach the microphone. All these shortcomings can be covered through expert editing.



Right Frame

The composition of the shots should be consistent and perfect, so your video can make the maximum impact. The right framing makes it easier for viewers to follow the story and understand the message of the video better. Maintaining that consistency during the production process is impossible- which is why editing is required. Therefore, the editing tools help to correct the framing miscues.

Transitions

The editing process is where the transitions are added to the movie thereby helping to tie the different shots of the video together. Therefore, editing makes it easier for the audience to follow the action in the video and helps understand the content narrated in the video. Hence, editing plays a crucial role in the video production process. Therefore, shooting and editing films professionally will further the narration of the story.

In *Michael Onjaatje's* conversations with *Walter Murch*, quotes: “*Orson Welles* once said in an interview in *Cahier du Cinéma*: For my style, for my vision of the cinema, editing is not simply one aspect: it’s the aspect. The notion of directing a film is the invention of critics like you [*Cahier du Cinéma*]. It isn’t an art, or at best it’s an art only one minute a day. That minute is terribly crucial, but it occurs very rarely. The only time one is able to exercise control over the film is in the editing. The images themselves are not sufficient. Though the images are very important, but they are only images. Therefore, what is essential is the duration of each image and sequence of the images: the whole eloquence of cinema is that it’s achieved in the editing room.”

Anyone who has ever made a film understands that the moment you arrive at a location you are at the mercy of time and circumstance. Everything on the face of the earth seems to come together and conspire against you. Filmmakers are great rationalizers and when everything starts to go wrong, you rationalize it into something positive. It's in the editing room that you start the film over again by refining the shots by replacing them with the what is actually required for shot. This is not replacing the shots but rather, provides with the opportunity to react to the story as it exists and to reshape it. The shots and frames that promise to work well are likely to fell flat and those visuals which appeared to be below par during the production will achieve smashing success.

Review of Literature

The study in part of research to fill the scholarship vacuum and generate new research interests and knowledge in the area if nuances of film editing and film appreciation thereby seeking to challenge and compliment the synonymous relationship that exists between Film Editing and Film Appreciation.

Devdas MB et al (2013) conducted the research to study the various technological developments and the advancement of techniques in film editing, the increased usage in special effects, the digital effects and their articulation in recent Indian movies. The study is also made an attempt to evaluate the latest software used in film editing and their effects. The study resulted in the revelation that, the recent techniques were adopted in the making of songs, scenes and sequences in the movies with significant improvement.

Baskaran, S. T. (1991) described about editing department in the film industry as one of the major departments in the film making process. He characterized the editor's job was to organize the shots according to the director and according to his own imagination and creativity.



The career of Stanley Kubrick, from Paths of Glory (1957) to Full metal jacket (1987), is telling. Kubrick always Look advantage of the existing technology, but beginning with 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), he began to challenge convention and to make technology a central subject of each of his films. He proved that technology and creativity were not mutually exclusive. Technology in and of itself need not be used creatively, but, in the right hands, it can be. Technology plays a critical role in shaping film, but it is only a tool in the human hands of the artists who play their ideas in this medium.

Research Methodology

Research Design

As required understand the evolving significance of Editing in the new age film appreciation of the Tamil films produced from 2000-2015, both qualitative and quantitative methods. Also, the two main research designs; exploratory research design and descriptive research designs are adopted to understand the elements and perspectives of editing *vis-à-vis* Film Appreciation.

Sampling

Non-probability sampling procedure was used in selecting films for analysis. Since there was no documentation of films by any institution in Tamil Nadu, Film makers, Film audience, Film teachers, and Film scholars were consulted in the selection of thirty films among the popular genre. These films were carefully chosen for analysis, as all those consulted agreed that these films dealt with popular mass appeal.

Objectives of the Study

To understand the nuances of editing in the new age film appreciation, with reference to Tamil audience. Also, to study the changes/patterns from among the select films released from 2000 to 2015.

- To understand the nature of Editing and film appreciation in selected Tamil Films.
- To understand the elements which contribute/enhance the Film Appreciation among Tamil Audience.
- To understand the perspectives of Filmmakers/Film Audience/Film Teachers/Film Scholars on significance of Editing in Film Appreciation.

Analysis & Interpretation

S.No	Family Profile	Variables	No. of Respondents	%
1	Gender	Male	72	51.4
		Female	68	48.6
		21 - 30	47	33.6
		32 - 40	52	37.1
		> 41	41	29.2
3	Marital Status	Married	96	68.6
		Unmarried	44	31.4
4	Qualification	Under-Graduation	66	47.1
		Post-Graduation	48	34.2
		Others	26	18.6
5	Occupation	Media Industry/Allied	37	26.2
		Filmmaking/Related	31	22.1
		Private/Government Sector	42	30.0



		Others	30	21.4
6	Income per year	> 4L	28	20.0
		4L – 6L	34	24.2
		6L - 8L	41	29.2
		8L – 10L	22	15.7
		< 10L	15	10.7
7	Editing in films perfects emotions among characters	Yes	92	65.7
		No	48	34.2
8	Editing maintains rhythm in narration of story	Yes	88	62.8
		No	52	37.1
9	Story narration in film can be perfected with Editing	Yes	88	62.8
		No	52	37.1
10	Clarity in story telling in films is possible only through Editing	Yes	91	65.0
		No	49	35.0
11	Watching classic films will enhance film narration better	Yes	93	66.4
		No	47	33.6
12	Watching different film genre help better film appreciation	Yes	92	65.7
		No	48	34.2
13	Editing has the potential of making or breaking a feature film	Yes	77	55.0
		No	73	45.0
Total			140	100.0

- The table above reveals that from among the total of one hundred and forty respondents, 51.4% are male and 48.6% are female. And, notably the majority of respondents viz., 37.1% belong to the age group of 32-40 years.
- The classification of respondents based on their marital status reveals that, 68.6% are married and 31.4% are unmarried.
- The qualification of respondents reveals that, 47.1% have graduation, and 34.2% have post graduate qualification, whereas 18.6% of the respondents have either higher or lower qualification from the majority of the respondents.
- The respondents belonging to the occupation of Media/Allied Industry accounts for 26.2%, whereas the respondents belonging to Filmmaking/Related industry constitute 22.1%. Notably, the maximum number of respondents are from the Private/Government sector viz., 30%. The respondents belonging to other sectors of occupation constitute 21.4%.
- The categorization of respondents reveals that 20% respondents belong to the group earning less than 4 lakhs per annum, whereas, 24.2% earns between 4-6 lakhs, 29.2 % earns between 6 to 8 lakhs and 15.7 percent respondents earn between 29.2%. However, 15.7% of respondents earn more than 10 lakhs per annum.



- Most of the respondent's viz., 65.7% opined that editing in films perfects emotions among characters, however, 34.2% thought otherwise.
- Notably, 62.8% respondents felt editing maintains rhythm in narration of story, but 37.1% had contrary opinion.
- Most of the respondents viz., 37.1% were of the opinion that the narration in the film can be perfected with editing. However, 37.1% thought that the narration has little to do with editing.
- The majority of respondents viz., 65% opined that the storytelling in films is possible only through editing. However, 35% of the respondents differed in their perspective.
- Interestingly, 66.4% of the respondents opined that, watching classic films will enhance narration of film, but 33.6% or the respondents negated the idea.
- Most of the respondents viz., 65.7% agreed upon the statement that watching different genre will help appreciate the film better. However, 34.2% respondents felt otherwise.
- The respondents are equally divided in their opinion on whether editing has the potential of making or breaking a film. Those agreed on the statement constituted 55%, and disagreed constituted 45%.

Conclusion

The Film makers/Film Audience/Film Teachers/Film Scholars despite their gender, marital status, qualification, occupation and income agreed upon the aspects such as editing perfects the emotions among the characters in the films, maintains the rhythm in narration of the story, perfecting the narration, providing clarity in narration through editing, watching different genre to appreciate the films better and finally, concluding with the fact that good editing will enhance the film to its maximum potential.

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