

METHODS OF CHARACTER CONSTRUCTION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN THRILLERS (A CASE STUDY OF THE FILM “KHUDA HAAFIZ”)**Xusan Komiljonovich Alijonov**

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Abstract

This article explores the principles of character construction in contemporary Indian thrillers using the film “Khuda Haafiz” as a case study. The analysis focuses on character psychology, dramatic situations, and visual expressive techniques that shape the interpretation of the character and the emotional dynamics of the genre.

Keywords: Indian cinema, thriller, character construction, psychological analysis, dramatic structure, visual poetics, “Khuda Haafiz”.

МЕТОДЫ СОЗДАНИЯ ОБРАЗОВ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ ИНДИЙСКОМ ТРИЛЛЕРЕ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ ФИЛЬМА «KHUDA HAAFIZ»)**Аннотация**

В статье анализируются принципы создания образов в современных индийских триллерах на примере фильма «Khuda Haafiz». Особое внимание уделяется психологии персонажей, драматическим ситуациям и визуальным средствам выразительности, влияющим на интерпретацию образа и динамику жанра.

Ключевые слова: Индийское кино, триллер, создание образа, психологический анализ, драматическая структура, визуальная поэтика, «Khuda Haafiz».

ZAMONAVIY HIND TRILLERLARIDA OBRAZ YARATISH USULLARI (“KHUDA HAAFIZ” FILMI MISOLIDA)**Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy hind trillerlarida obraz yaratish tamoyillari “Khuda Haafiz” filmi misolida tahlil qilinadi. Asosiy eʻtibor qahramon psixologiyasi, dramatik vaziyatlar va vizual ifoda vositalarining obraz talqiniga taʼsiri hamda janrning emotsional-dinamika xususiyatlarini yoritishga qaratiladi.

Kalit soʻzlar: hind kinosi, triller, obraz yaratish, psixologik tahlil, dramatik struktura, vizual poetika, “Khuda Haafiz”.

Introduction

In contemporary Indian cinematography, the thriller genre has significantly developed in recent years, offering audiences a strong emotional impact through dramatic tension, psychological analysis, and visual dynamics. This trend is particularly evident in thrillers that engage with real-life issues such as security, human rights, justice, migration, and social instability. The film *Khuda Haafiz* serves as a vivid example of this new generation of Indian thrillers. The narrative interprets the protagonist’s personal tragedy, love, danger, quest, justice, and psychological pressure as the core of the dramatic structure. The reason for selecting this



film as the object of study lies in its integration of contemporary dramaturgical, psychological, and visual techniques in character construction, offering an opportunity to explore the genre's new aesthetic and poetic dimensions. The relevance of this research is underscored by the growing global influence of Indian thrillers, highlighting the need to scientifically analyze the methods of character creation and providing a fresh perspective for film theory and practice.

This study addresses the problem of how characters are constructed in Indian thrillers, how dramatic tension is developed, and how visual and psychological tools are employed. The aim of the research is to conduct a scholarly analysis of character creation techniques in contemporary Indian thrillers using *Khuda Haafiz* as a case study. The objectives include examining the film's dramaturgical structure, analyzing the psychological development of the characters, investigating elements of visual poetics, and exploring the stylistic devices specific to the thriller genre. The object of the research is contemporary Indian thrillers, while the subject is the mechanisms of character creation in *Khuda Haafiz*. The theoretical foundation of the study is based on film aesthetics, narratology, visual analysis, thriller genre theory, and cinematographic psychology. Contemporary film studies, academic articles on Indian thrillers, film critics' analyses, and compositional and psychological approaches to artistic film analysis provide the methodological basis for this research.

Methodology

In this study, the process of character creation in *Khuda Haafiz* was examined using comparative, structural, psychological, and visual-analytic methods. Comparative analysis allowed for a comparison of the film with other contemporary Indian thrillers to identify trends in character construction. The structural approach facilitated the analysis of the film's dramatic model, event sequence, and narrative structure. The psychological method was applied to analyze the characters' mental states, motivations, and personality development. The visual-analytic method served to examine how cinematographic tools—camera movement, angles, color schemes, lighting, editing rhythm, and scene composition—contribute to character formation. Additionally, to study the mechanisms of character creation in depth, theoretical sources on film aesthetics, narratology, and thriller genre poetics were synthesized, and an interpretative approach was applied to analyze the film's content and aesthetic layers.

Scenes from the film

Main Body — Genre Characteristics





Khuda Haafiz embodies the core characteristics of the contemporary Indian thriller genre, maintaining high levels of tension, danger, and intrigue throughout. Key criteria of the thriller genre—such as a protagonist under threat, uncertainty, time pressure, dramatic decision-making, and persistent danger—are consistently manifested in the film. The director gradually heightens tension through visual composition, sound, and editing rhythm, allowing the audience to become fully immersed in the unfolding events. The main sources of suspense arise from the protagonist's entry into an unfamiliar environment, encounters with a criminal network, and competition against time. Each scene is constructed according to principles of intrigue, keeping the viewer engaged and anticipating the next development.

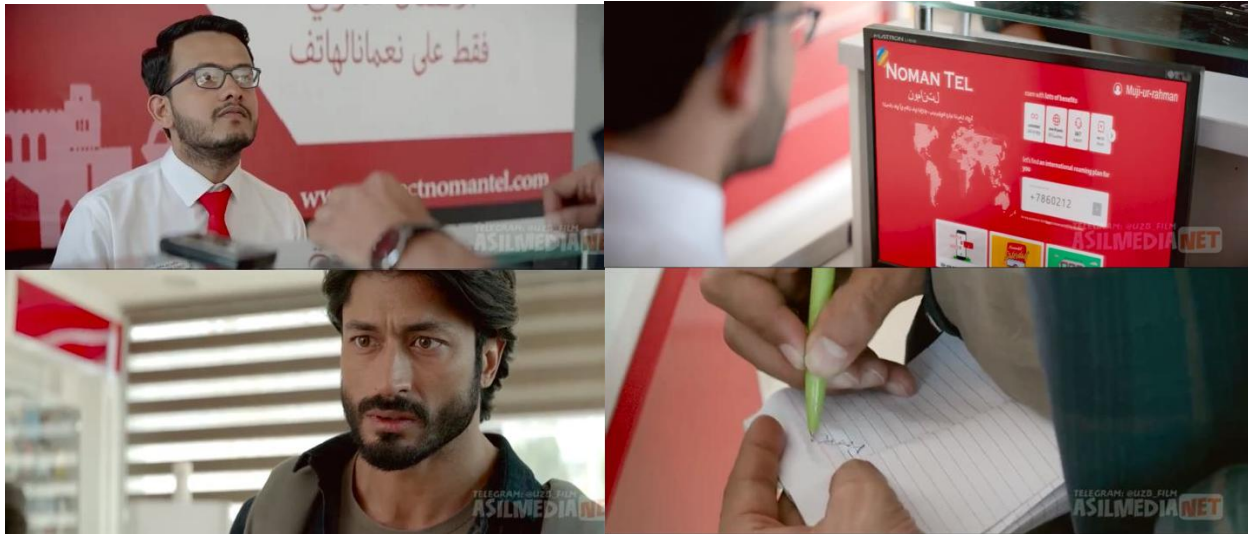
Dramaturgical Methods of Character Creation

The protagonist, Sameer Chaudhary, is portrayed through his motivations, internal conflicts, and psychological state, forming a dramaturgical core. His primary objective—to locate his missing spouse—drives the entire dramatic progression of the film. This goal provides a strong emotional foundation, deepening the character and supporting his psychological transformation. Conflicts, including confrontations with criminals, injustices within the legal system, and dangerous situations in a foreign country, serve to develop the protagonist. Throughout this process, his courage, fear, trust, and willpower are tested, enhancing the emotional dynamics. This dramaturgical construction fosters empathy in the audience and enables them to experience the protagonist's internal and external struggles more intensely.

Psychological Characterization and Actor Performance

In *Khuda Haafiz*, Sameer Chaudhary's character is rendered with deep psychological layers, evolving consistently throughout the film. His struggle between fear, stress, trust, and hopelessness is convincingly portrayed by actor Vidyut Jammwal. Particularly impactful are the scenes showing the protagonist alone in an unfamiliar country, distressed over locating his spouse, and confronting life-threatening challenges. Secondary characters—officials, criminals, and local helpers—play a key functional role in revealing Sameer's inner state. Each of these characters acts as a catalyst, either accelerating or slowing his psychological transformation. Thus, the film centers on the complex dynamics of individual emotions in constructing a psychologically rich character.





Scenes from the film *Visual Poetics and Cinematic Expression*

The visual poetics of the film rely on key cinematic tools that both intensify tension and reveal the psychological states of the characters. Through camera movement, angles, and changes in perspective, the director visually represents the protagonist's approach to or distance from danger. Low-angle shots heighten the sense of threat, while handheld camera sequences realistically convey stress and unease. Lighting and color also serve dramatic purposes: dark, cool tones signal danger and uncertainty, whereas warm colors appear in moments of hope and confidence. Editing rhythm amplifies tension, generating a sense of urgency and anxiety in the audience. The choice of locations and settings—narrow streets, isolated buildings, and unfamiliar environments—further underscores the protagonist's psychological state, emphasizing his isolation and vulnerability. In this way, the film's visual poetics enhances the dramaturgical content and makes the psychological expression of the characters more compelling.

Findings / Results

The research findings indicate that in *Khuda Haafiz*, psychological analysis, dramatic conflict, and visual poetics are effectively integrated in the process of character creation. Dramatic tension and emotional dynamics are intensified through both the main and secondary characters, enabling the audience to experience the events more deeply. The role of psychological dramatism in the thriller genre is crucial for generating suspense, danger, and intrigue. Moreover, the film's visual solutions—camera angles, lighting, color schemes, and location choices—enhance the depiction of characters' psychological states and enrich the aesthetic presentation of dramatic situations.

Discussion

When compared with existing scholarly perspectives, the results demonstrate that the film successfully embodies the characteristics of the thriller genre and introduces innovative approaches to psychological characterization and dramatic tension. The scientific novelty of the research lies in its systematic analysis of character creation mechanisms in contemporary Indian thrillers and the connection between visual poetics and psychological dramatism.



Consequently, the study reinforces the genre's significance in cinematography and its effectiveness in conveying key thriller elements to the audience, providing a foundation for future film research.



Scenes from the film

Conclusion

The study shows that *Khuda Haafiz* exemplifies effective methods of character creation in contemporary Indian thrillers, with its dramatic and psychological dimensions systematically analyzed. The research objectives were achieved, highlighting the theoretical and practical significance of constructing characters with clear motivations, internal conflicts, and psychological transformation, thereby generating dramatic tension and emotional dynamics within the thriller genre. Scenes, conflicts, and the function of secondary characters allow for a deeper understanding of the characters and provide meaningful impact on the audience.

Furthermore, the study revealed the role of visual poetics—including camera movement, angles, lighting, color schemes, location choices, and editing rhythm—in enhancing psychological dramatism within the thriller genre. The findings indicate that the integration of artistic and visual tools expands the aesthetic potential of the thriller. For future research, it is recommended to analyze other Indian thrillers and transnational cinematic examples to further explore character creation techniques and the genre-specific features of visual poetics.

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