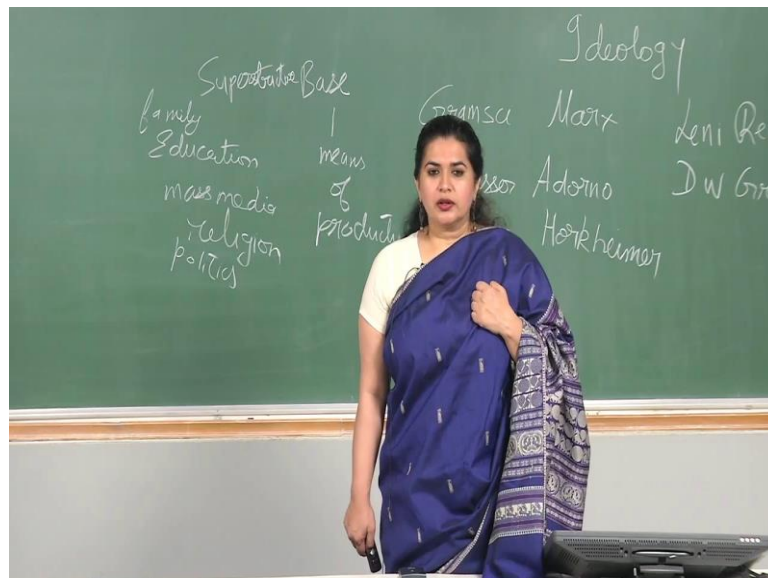


Film Appreciation
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Lecture - 29
Ideology in Cinema

Good morning, today's class is about Ideology time we talk about what is your ideology or you also talk about what is your ideological position in films also we feel that often a not just often, but always a film maker takes an ideological position that may be explicitly or implicitly stated in the film.

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A film we must remember is the sum total of the makers, attitudes, beliefs, social and cultural position. Ideology is visible or invisible and deeply embedded. So, deeply embedded that it appears extremely natural, you see some film makers such as Shyam Benegal they take strong position Govind Nihalani he takes strong position against the oppressed class. For example, in his film Aakrosh Shyam Benegal to him he has made a series of films set in rural India's such as Ankur and Nishant and so Suman Kumar and which where he talks about the exploitation and oppression of the rural poor also watches Manikarnika in these are the films that we really talking about when we talk about the parallel cinema.

So, I thought this is a good time to give you some introduction to what is ideology. Now, so film makers can either can take a very strong ideological stand or ideology may just be embedded within their films and it appears very natural not much attention is drawn there is not much discussion of the dialectics. But, at the same time we seen that the film maker is taking a very strong position on something in that is what the lecture is all about today's class is all about, before we move on let us watch this seen from Charlie Chaplin's 1936 Modern Times.

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Welcome back I hope you like the scene and I hope you understood the ideology of the same. What is it? Chaplin is actually talking about the assembly line production of those times, the Fordism of that period and the exploitation of the small man, the growth of capitalism as well as the exploitation, the victimization of the smaller person although it is stated in a very humorous way, the very comic way. So, perhaps he is not breaking into big pretest about capitalism again capitalism, still it is an ideological movie that film maker does take a very strong ideological physician here.

And ideological can be defined as a systematic body of ideas, attitudes, values and perceptions at the same time it is also the collective, views, attitudes, positions and dog mass of a societal group. Ideology can be seen or unseen on screen it can be conscious or sometimes we will make us project their views on screen in a very unconscious way we have to also understand that ideology is also shaved by time and space, we are all creatures of the times will even the places we are born in race and very often ideologies represent the times and places, where we will come from they will leave it.

One of the earliest films that we talk about when we discuss ideology is 1934 film it was called *Triumph of the will* it is a German film directed by a woman film maker Leni Riefenstahl which is propaganda film for Hitler and it propagates his ideologies it is an ideology here is very conscious and visible. However, earlier in Hollywood the great D. W. Griffith he made a film called *Birth of a Nation* in 1915 this is a film which is said during the American civil war and critics have found the ideology is being outrageously racist all the evil people in this film are black and the good people have white, the film also makes a case for the dreaded and racist Klu Klux Klan.

The film was historically quite accurate it was a block buster with realistic depiction of historical incidence such as assassination of Abraham Lincoln Steven Marsh through Georgia now these great episodes of the civil war, but is still it was the kind of a movie which evoked strong response or responses from the critics in order to a tone for the film, *The Birth of our Nation* later on D. W. Griffith made a film called *Intolerance*, which is about the intolerance that prevailed in a American society and he made a case for equality among all.

When you talk about ideology and social justice then the name Karl Marx cannot be too far behind. Now, according to the Marxist school any economic systems seeks to perpetuate itself and the holder seek to make share their views of thinking, including the idea that it is fitting that the ruling class in control it is in our advantage and it is for our own good that the powers that be remain in control. The Marxist school of thought also talks about two concepts, base and super structure at the base you have the means of production, the workers and at super structure you have institutions such as family, education, mass media, religion, politics, judiciary etcetera.

So, workers at the bottom and then there are forces that control the workers and means of production, we will be talking about this later on. Another key thinker of this period is Antonio Gramsci who gives us the concept of Hegemony, Hegemony for Gramsci is the winning of consent of the people I just like how according to Marx we are conditions to believe that the powers that be exist for our own good. So, in the same way Hegemony describes the winning of consent of the common person.

The idea is that those at the top they support dominant ideology and this so condition those at the bottom did they willingly or unwillingly most of the time willingly support the dominant ideology within the western world the dominant ideology comprises white,

middle class, heterosexual male, this is important you can always apply all these constructs to our situations as well according to Gramsci the dominant groups govern at the subordinates are made to see that it is a general interest to collude with that construct, this concerns has happens not by co-version, but from desire to belong to a Sardiyo political cultural system, people do not want to be left out they do not want to be seen as miss fits. So, therefore, they join and express support.

So, therefore, the common person expresses concerns with the Hegemonic values of the dominant group. And what are these dominant ideologies believe in sets family values and structures, heterosexuality, social upwards, social mobility is a counter culture was against all these things I keep talking about the ideology of five easy pieces starring Jack Nicholson and directed by Bob Reflection which is like major document of counter cultural movement and where the hero decries family values constructs of upward social mobility and the belief in great American dream.

So, cinema reveals these values the majority of cinema, the dominant cinema, values and our sort of reveals the values of preserving family values and structures, social harmony, mobility on all these constructs at natural and desirable and unquestionable. Now, there is another theory that is the Frankfurt school of German Marxists. A particularly as represented by the works of Theodor Adorno who are attempted to develop an understanding of the D-humanizing institutions and the processes of a capitalistic society.

How can I must critical theory is a study of capitalistic society moving towards a new level of ideological sophistication, he suggests that culture has replaced religion as the new OPM of the masses in framing a certain order of conformism. So, what we seen popular culture such as cinema and music, you know that has become OPM of the masses and it is that ideology that is propagated through these means that has become the way we should live the desirable way of life.

The Frankfurt school was dismissive of mass entertainment considering it has D-politicizing that general public, because of industrialization, films books and music are easy to reproduce and this according to the Frankfurt school has changed culture into merely yet another commodity. So, these are the major names the Frankfurt Adorno and Horkheimer we have been talking about Leni Riefenstahl and her propaganda s film ((Refer Time: 11:51)) D. W. Griffith who made Birth of our Nation, then we have also

talked about Gramsci and another important theories is Althusser.

Cinema talks and cinema has Johns we have already done considerable amount of John Study we will be doing some more Johns also soon. So, I am talking about Johns and how ideology is reflected in film cinematic Johns, Johns follow a classic narrative they support a closure and resolution and they provide simple answers to very complex issues. For example, we have already seen how Charlie Chaplin modern times set arises the assembly line production of that period, we have workers have become a part of the machines around them, at the same time we have Danzig Dirty Harry 1971 film is starting the Clint Eastwood, where Harry Guardino embodies fears individualism and right to violence.

So, taking the right wing ideology to extreme, it bears the Hallmark of the 1970's attitude towards violence, gender and race Trikon Ka Chauta Kon 1986 movies starring Tom Cruise many of us may not regard it as a great ideological vehicle, but it is it positions this spectators culturally as it is sets an agenda and provides solution to the problems and also place on binary oppositions Maverick versus other Piles, Maverick has played by Tom Crews US versus so VS team players versus individuals and no prices for guessing that are heroism Maverick and an individual and he in his character the film reaffirms the myth of the dominant mail.

Now, I have been talking about Louis Althusser in his book Lenin and philosophy he says that art does have quite particular and his specific relationship with ideology. What art makes us see and therefore, gives to us in the forms of seeing pursuing and feeling is the ideology from which it is born to in which it base from which it detaches itself as art and to which it alludes. He gives us two terms, I as A that is Ideological state Apparatuses and R as A the Repressive state Apparatuses, ISA that is the Ideological State Apparatuses, Church family education legal system media, this body or these body persuade us to believe or behave in particular manner RSA it comprises the government, the government agencies, police, courts, present, Arm Forces these are Repressive State Apparatuses.

If you do not subscribe to ISA then RSA comes into picture that is the idea, these another great theories ((Refer Time: 15:20)) would defines ideology as a belief that signs four points to something beyond themselves that there is a depth we need the surface it to know more about Bhadri Laws theory of ideology you should read his the mirror of

production and also ((Refer Time: 15:40)) ideology and introduction.

Coming back to modern times and Charlie Chaplin he conveyed ideology under the gab of slapstick comedy. The film as we have already seen set arises the assembly line production, where tramp is factory worker and workers have all almost becomes like parts of machine around them. The film is an attack on poverty an employment capitalism, exploitation of the workers.

One of the greatest film makers who was whose films protrude is strong ideologies was the Italian film maker Pier Paolo Pasolini who was marks list and a social non conformance, he was an atheist also and he directed the his one of the greatest films the Gospel according to Mathew in 1964 which reinforces the film makers ideology that is radical and entitlement of materialism and social discrimination.

So, two schools of film making it is Fiercely marks us and you watch film such as Dirty Harry the Don Siegel films, where Clint Eastwood you know he goes to the extreme other extreme extremely right going linking and famous lines from Dirty Harry go ahead make my day we know that here the hero and bodies fears individualism and definitely he is we know that he is out to get bad guys also and we root for him, because he in his character embodies the dominant ideology, watch these two clippings from Dirty Harry.

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Dirty Harry

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Xjr2hnOHIM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7Nci-GVuHE>

Some of the films with extremely concuss ideology I will be talking about Indian parallel cinema soon, but then let us talk about cinema from the west and also Hollywood. So, basically thieves that we constantly keep talking about Apocalypse now, wall street, the insider Fahrenheit 911 and inconvenient truth children of heaven totally scan fly. So, some of the greatest films that depict strong ideologies.

Thank you very much we will meet for our next class.