

EXPRESSION OF OEDIPUS COMPLEX AND ELECTRA COMPLEX IN INDIAN MOVIES

*Rahmath Nishada. K

*Assistant professor, Govt. Arts and Science college, Nadapuram

Abstract

The aim of the study is to explore the expression of oedipus complex and electra complex in Indian movies. For the analysis the researcher used four Indian movies, which contain Oedipus and electra complex. The research was used content analysis for the study. From the analysis the researcher explores that the different aspects of oedipus complex and electra complex.

Keywords: Oedipus Complex and Electra Complex

Introduction

The Oedipus complex is a concept of psychoanalytic theory coined by Sigmund Freud in 1910. It refers to a child's unconscious desire for the opposite-sex parent, thought as a necessary stage of psychosexual development. Freud considered that the child's identification with the same-sex parent is the successful resolution of the complex and that unsuccessful resolution of the complex..might..lead..to neurosis, pedophilia, and homosexuality. Freud deprecated the term "Electra complex", which was introduced by Carl Gustav Jung in 1913 in regard to the Oedipus complex manifested in young girls. Freud further proposed that the Oedipus complex, which originally refers to the sexual desire of a son for his mother, is a desire for the parent in both males and females, and that boys and girls experience the complex differently: boys in a form of castration anxiety, girls in a form of penis envy.

In Classical psychoanalytic theory, the Oedipus complex occurs during the phallic stage of psychosexual development (age 3–6 years), when also occurs the formation of the libido and the ego; yet it might manifest itself at an earlier age. In the phallic stage, a boy's decisive psychosexual experience is the Oedipus complex—his son–father competition for possession of mother. It is in this third stage of psychosexual development that the

child's genitalia are his or her primary erogenous zone; thus, when children become aware of their bodies, the bodies of other children, and the bodies of their parents, they gratify physical curiosity by undressing and exploring themselves, each other, and their genitals, so learning the anatomic differences between "male" and "female" and the gender differences between "boy" and "girl".

Indian psychologists have also hypothesized a different version of the Oedipus complex called as the Indian Oedipus complex. In this model, instead of sons desiring mothers and overcoming fathers, and daughters loving fathers and hating mothers, most often, we have fathers (or father-figures) suppressing their sons and desiring their daughters, and mothers desiring their sons and ill-treating their daughters. The structure is same as that of the Freudian model but the relationship of desire is reverse in the Indian model.

There have been a few Hindi films that have explored the Oedipal complex, but by and large, the controversial theory is present as an understated subtext with non-sexual tones. One of the recurring themes in Hindi cinema has been the role of mother-son relationships, but not many films have dared to cross the boundary. The familial relationships are treated reverentially, and any deviation is frowned upon in the conservative Indian society. However, it is still an interesting exercise to explore where themes related to Oedipal complex are present in Hindi cinema.

Need and significance of the study

The aim of the study is to explore the expression of oedipus complex and electra complex in Indian movies. Oedipus complex and electra occurs during the phallic..stage of psychosexual development (age 3–6 years), when also occurs the formation of the libido and the ego; yet it might manifest itself at an earlier age. But many

psychologists oppose the theory of Freud, so the researcher attempt to explore the oedipus complex and electra complex in Indian movies to support the Freudian theories.

Statement of the problem

The problem of the study entitled as expression of oedipus complex and electra complex in Indian movies.

Objective of the study

- To understand the expression of oedipus complex and electra complex in Indian movies.

Definition of key terms

Oedipus complex

Oedipus.. complex.in psychoanalytic theory, a desire for sexual involvement with the parent of the opposite sex and a concomitant sense of rivalry with

Results and Discussion

the parent of the same sex; a crucial stage in the normal developmental process. Sigmund Freud introduced the concept in his Interpretation of Dreams(1899).

Electra complex

The female counterpart of the Oedipus complex, involving the daughter’s love for her father, jealousy toward the mother, and blame of the mother for depriving her of a penis. The name derives from the Greek myth of Electra, daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, who seeks to avenge her father’s murder by persuading her brother Orestes to help her kill Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus [Carl Jung1913].

Method

Four Indian movies containing oedipus complex and electra complex were used for the study. Its was a qualitative study, the content analysis was used to explore the expression of oedipus and electra complex in Indian movies.

Table 1 movie and content respectively

Movie	Content
Haider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep between Mother and father, separate them and hugged mother. • Mother side to son that “Remember what you would say when you were a child? "When I grow up, I'm going to marry my mommy." • Son applied perfume on mothers’ neck and kissed on mothers’ neck. • You would snuggle between your father and me. Even if he touched me, you would fight with him. • Mother kissed on son’s lip.
Electra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed narration about mother’s beauty • Invitation for an independent life with mother • Guilt about mother’s death so son committed suicide • Feeling anger towards sister because she spread rumors about mother
Kamoshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed narration about mother’s beauty • When he realizes that it is not acceptable to love his mother then he removes her from this place and looks for this kind of faith for the face, of this motherly affection
Kuch kuch hota hai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight-year-old daughter tells her father she cannot do everything for him as she is not his wife • Tina’s father finds out she is in love, he expresses intense fear of separation • Fear of her love will get divided

Table 1 shows that the movie and analyzed contents in the study. Vishal Bharadwaj made Haider (2014), inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet. Based in politically-charged Kashmir, Haider narrates the story of a Kashmiri boy Haider, who finds out that his mother was having an affair with his uncle who might have been behind the murder of his father. Similarly, in Haider, the day of Haider's second marriage, Haider's mother Gazala tells him that when he was a child he used to say that he wanted to marry her. If father touched her Haider always fight with her. Haider's replay to mother is now father's brother touches you...What should I do now?. This replay is the clear evidence of Oedipus complex. Were son shows intense fear of separation. He used to sleep between her mother and her father so that her father could not touch her. Haider, is the first movie that portrayed sexual undertones between the mother and the son. In a scene, when Gazala is getting ready for her wedding to Khurram, Haider comes and apply perfume on mother's neck and kisses on her neck. In the final moments of the film, Gazala kisses on Haider lips. In an interview, Vishal Bharadwaj said that he tried to explore the oedipal complex as much he could within the constraints of the society. He said, "I have explored whatever can be within the parameters of our society. " Like Haider's relationship with his mother Gazala, there was something special about the relationship between the police officer Parvez and his daughter Arshia. At one point, when Parvez gets to know Arshia delivered Roohdar's message to Haider, he cooks food for her and puts it in her mouth with his own fingers. There was some chilling quality about that scene as if he was trying to entice her and threaten her into submission to divulge information about Haider. His act of giving food to his daughter after licking his own fingers pointed to some kind of Electra complex. The film touched upon both the oedipal and the electra complex. Elektra Is a 2010 Malayalam psychological drama film co-written and directed by Shyama prasad. The film is based on the story of the Greek mythological.. character Electra although it has a contemporary setting in an aristocratic family in Kerala. Key to the film is the concept of the Electra complex and Oedipus complex; a daughter's psychosexual competition with her mother for her father's affection, and a son's psychosexual competition with his father for his mother's affection. in this movie there is a scene son say to his mother that we should leave this place and go away from these

people and invited for an independent life with mother. In another scene son tells a detailed narration about mother's beauty. He shows anger towards his sister for spreading rumors about mother.

In the end of movie son committed suicide due to guilt mother's death. In this movie also shows electra complex an erotic attraction towards her father. She is overly possessive towards father. Movie also shows daughter envy towards her mother.

In Khamoshi (1969), there is a description of the Oedipal complex, the first Hindi film to mention it. Directed by Asit Sen, Khamoshi is the story of a nurse Radha who works in the psychiatry ward in a hospital. She is asked to take care of Arun, a writer who lost his mind after his lover rejected him. Radha starts taking care of him and, eventually, falls in love with him. In the early moments of the film, Colonel Saab, the head doctor, explains the treatment for Arun, and he talks about the Oedipal complex. After this, he learns to love his mother or father; if it's a girl then her father and if it's a guy then his mother. This is called the oedipus or the electra complex. When he realizes that it is not acceptable to love one's mother then he reluctantly removes her from this place and looks for this kind of faith for the face, of this motherly affection. He, then, adds that the nurse will have to play a role so that Arun finds that his mother and his lover's face is the same. Radha, after some reluctance, agrees to treat Arun. In one scene Arun's guardian explained that once Arun tells that he explained a detailed narration of her mother's beauty and the way of her dressing. And she used to dress up like Arun's mother and which help to treat him. Radha, as a nurse and a therapist, is a representation of the sacrificing mother, who has nurtured her sons in an erotic-nurturant manner in the Indian oedipal complex style is clear.

In Karan Johar's Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998), there is a scene in the film where an eight-year-old Anjali inadvertently tells her father Rahul that she cannot do everything for him as she is not his wife. In another scene, in the same film, when Tina's father finds out she is in love with Rahul, he tells her that even if it was someone other than Rahul, he would have felt bad. Since she is in love with another man, her love will get divided. These are harmless dialogues in Indian cinemas.

By analyzing these movies, it clear that the exact theoretical version of Freudian theory of Oedipus and electra complex.

Conclusion

The Oedipus complex refers to a child's unconscious desire for the opposite-sex parent, thought as a necessary stage of psychosexual development. Freud deprecated the term Electra complex, which was introduced by Carl Gustav Jung in 1913 in regard to the Oedipus complex manifested in young girls. Many psychologists oppose the theories done by Freud, but this study explore the expression of oedepus and electra complex in Indian movies. This study revealed different types of expression of oedepus and electra complex.

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