

**Introduction to film studies**  
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**Lecture No: #36**

Good morning. So, today we are going to discuss what are genres which specific reference to film genre. So, as a most of us we are know the genres literally mean a category or a type. A typical genre is a collection of instantly recognizable stylistic features a literature for example, you have I am talking a very broadly now, literary genre of poetry or drama or fiction, short story, non fiction. So, these are the broad genres the broad categories. You might very often come across the courses like calls and drama or across in lesson poetry or fiction. As sub category would be across in American drama or Latin American fiction. So, those are sub genre which form an integral part of a broader category.

Likewise in cinema also, we have genres some of the most recognizable or instantly recognizable genres are the western. We are basically talking in the American context the western. So for we have been talking very often about western being an out and out American product, American creation or Hollywood creation. So, western and gangster they are the most popular genres of American drama. We also have musicals even in art and musical is the very popular genre. We have thriller and then we have spy genre which is a sub genre of a broader category like an action movie. We have commercial art cinema think Hong kong cinema the Bruce lee, Jet li, Tannian kind of cinema so that is commercial art cinema but, then we have is variants in every part of the world I mean Kill bill what about example of commercial art cinema but, then Kill bill is a specific category is in a expecting category of its own.

We also have a very popular romantic comedy the popularity called Ram kam and then we have science fiction. We have already done films like Bladgewane and which was based on Do androids dream of electric sheep, Pillip ethics novel, and we have also done The majesty logic. So, those are the popular genres of cinema but, then we have many more, and we are going to look at how genres are remain, and categorized, and analyzed,

and then we will be discussing gangster as the popular genre, because gangster cinema is off course is the Hollywood product but, then even in around countries has become very important genre of cinema, and then we see our Indian cinema has interpreted and reinterpreted the genre of gangster.

So, a genre usually what does it we hope? If we hopes the look of the characters, physical environment, and significant object. We are going to read that in details what is the look of the character, what are the objects our iconic office formed in genre. Genres identities usually what purpose do they serve? The basic purpose that they serve to preserve offence integrity. Women of my earlier classes Swetha was asking, and I she answer that she Ram kam happens to be her favorite genre my corresponds that was a someone who is the follower or an admirer of a romantic comedy of a film genre. Film makers usually make a movie to kitted to that specific group of audience but, so the way the film is marketed, and advertised, and projected its aim that the particular group or subgroup of audience.

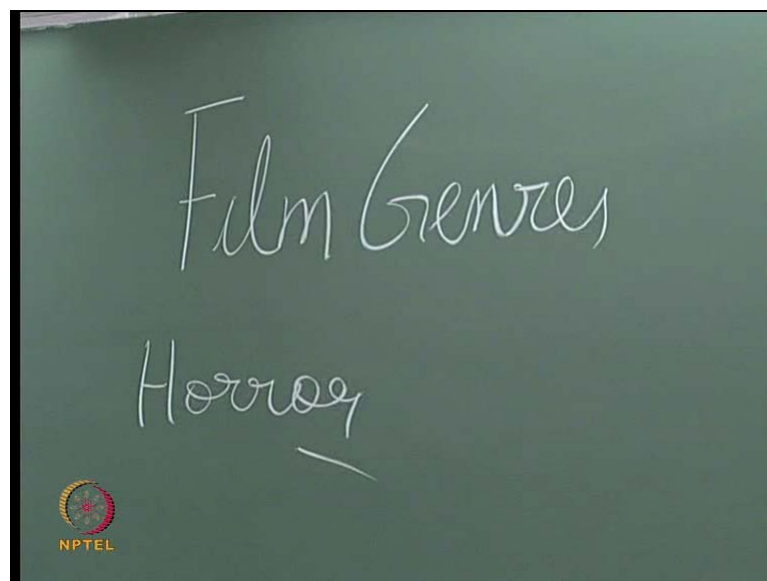
So, let us assume a movie like Clueless, Alisha, the Silver stone, and we have the remake of that in Hindi Aisha. So, a films like Clueless or Alisha vacated to a particular group vacated to an English group. Thus largely you know female audience, girls who would be interested in may be you know like a Pursuit of life, The devil west brother but, they think of another genre like The bones logic of James bond movie these genres these groups of films they have the own fan following thus was I mean. When I say the genres preserve the films integrity and identity. Genres kitted to the group of audience, and people go to a movie expect thing something out of it. So, followers of romantic comedy we go to a movie like The devil west brother, Clueless expecting something out of it.

You have a movie like The shop around the corner, Globish movie which was remaked as you got meal Tom hance and Mandarin. So, a popular romantic comedy screenplay was by Noorhaffen. So, these kinds of films they have the own follower. When we advertise the movie like which is the remake of a very popular romantic comedy of the whole piece The shop around the corner, and then the audience on the 90s, they expect an updated version of the same film. For example, Clueless is advertised as a contemporary updated version of J. Austen`s Emma, and Aisha is advertised in India as an updated version of among but, also a remake of something like Clueless so, the

audience that go to watch those movie they do not want to the expect, and genres really came to live up to the expectation sometimes they do but, then anothers doing.

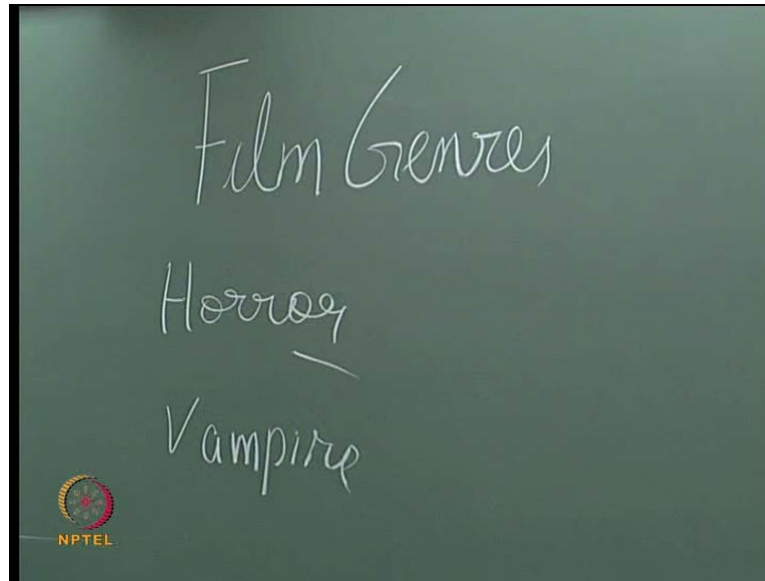
So, genres in other words allow for expectations where certain things can happen, and certain things cannot, and when certain things happen out of the box, out of the, out of character in a particular genre then we get instance on genre bending, or genre blending and that also something we are going to look at the way. Subgenres, what are subgenres? I was just talking about go through drama as a sub category of a drama. So, what is are sub genre? A film like James bond logic what is it? It is a subgenre of Easpunish thriller movie but, then again the broad genre would always we need action adventure genre, and a detective or thriller genre or Easpunish it becomes a subgenre category. So, subgenre we were talking about subgenre is defined by specific characteristics. For example, you know you have a very popular category horror cinema.

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Now horror has been interpreted in several countries in different ways. So, psycho is generally characterized as a horror film.

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We also have a subgenre of vampire films **vampire films**, and then another subgenre becomes a selection film. So, I know what would you do last summer I still know what would you did last summer. So, those films become a subgenre of the broad category horror cinema. So, they as we are talking about genres scatted to a particular audience, and when you have a horror perhaps, it is locatering to a particular group of audience, but when you selection cinema or j horror then the least group gets more visible, more define, morely define. So, you know the perhaps you are targeting and age group which is between 16 and 25, and then those are **those are** the age groups they generally enjoying j horror and selection films. We have post Apocalyptic cinema which is a subgenre of science fiction a movie like The road, which was based on comic by Karthis novel is you can categorize it as a subgenre of science fiction.

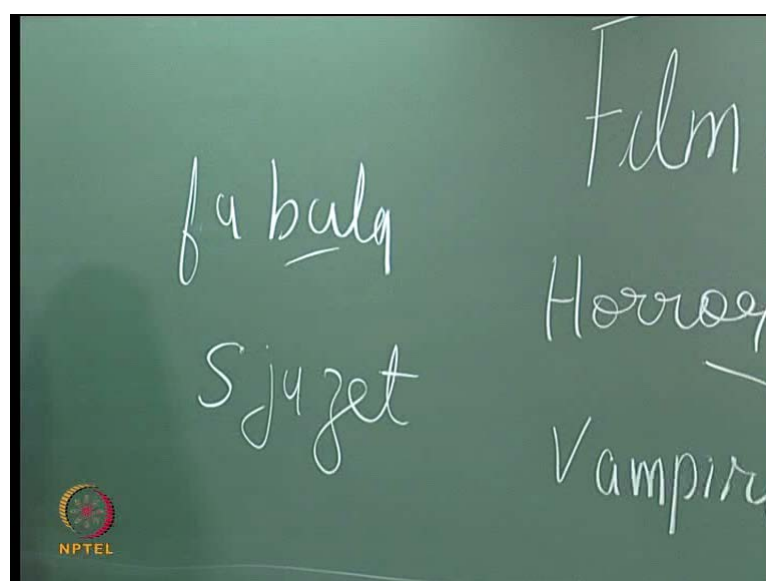
Nova, we have already discussed, Nova is a lengthy, one of a earlier classes. Nova is a category of gangster cinema, and we will see how Nova becomes a category of gangster cinema, and why it happen? We have already discuss these code to some extent. We have sports films like our own Chak De India was a very popular sports film. Sports films in India unfortunately I am not very popular, not very common but, Chak De India happen to be an exception, because perhaps, because of the presence of the star. So, sports films are very good example or of subgenre of drama category. So, they want to drama, they lot of action as well as dialog, and high conflict, a strong characterization. These are the features we discuss in the earlier classes what are, whats, how a movies

make? We talk about a strong narrative plot then we talked about characterization, and conflict. Conflict creates high drama in most sport movies.

Money ball where pets that is a very popular and successful example of a sport film and it is a drama, and gives the Oliver stones which is one of the most inspirational film of all time that is a sub category of drama, then we also have go through dramas another subgenre of drama, The link and lawyer, I thing (( )) is a very popular To kill a mocking bird starring Gregory Peck which is a only academic award. To an extend even a movie like Scent of a women which ends in almost like jury like setting when the boy is on trial he is about to expel and then cornel francs its comes an differents film. So, those kind of Scent of a women is very good example of typical drama.

It has lots of drama, lot of conflict it is also upcoming up age kind of film especially for the boy, and it is journey to these two men stage and how they evolve over the period of mean time. Theoretically, lot of work has been done there else has been a Tharigation, Jet li, and Bruce whose so we are going to consider but, then very recent book comes Flam is someone called Rick altman who is written a book Film slash genre, it is not slasher film but, it is a film genre. So, what does he say the gist of the book is that the genre film uses the same material over and again, and it is not a certain derisive way it is a very positive statement about genre films.

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Same material over and over again. I do not know if you remember those two words that we did in one of our earlier classes: the concept of Fubula and Sjuzet. Fubula is a story, Sjuzet is the way of stories told. So, Fubula is the story: "Once upon a time something happened." "Once upon a time in America," Sjuzet: "horror film is the gangster film but, and it uses the same material over and over again, and we want the movie 'Sandeep in America' not, 'Once upon a time west you have.' 'Once upon a time in America' is a supreme example of a highly successful gangster movie but, it does not have all the tropes, it has all the characteristic basic raw material of a gangster movie but, then the Sjuzet: the way the movie unfolds is something very different, then it does not follow the 'Guard father rejecting.' The 'Guard father' is a very classic linear kind of plot.

It has identifiable characters, it has conflict: a kind of conflict where the root for the so-called entity root, in spite of its weaknesses, in spite of its fate, we will still root for the 'odd corleone,' we will still root for Michael Corleone in spite of the very obvious flaws. 'Once upon a time in America' turns: takes all the tropes of a gangster movie and then turns him over: does it what does it do?

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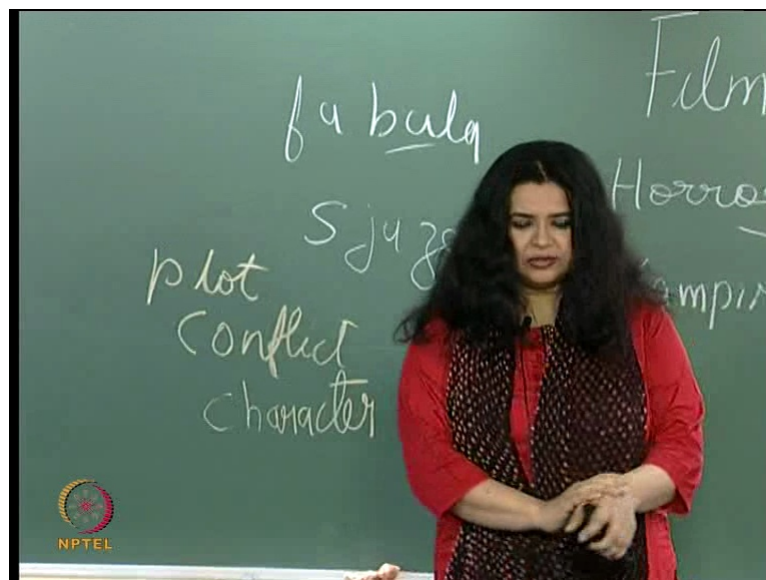
We do not have first the first rule that he while its survival non te the directed the movie. The first rule that he while is of a linear plot that the plot is anything but, linear it follows back and forces time and very non-linear director. The first 15 minute are absolutely silent is an extremely violent.

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Then, second element of plot is conflict, there is plenty of conflict and we have lots of violence, lots of blackest on screen but, it is not the normal good versus evil. These people kill out of greed in the quest for power and ambition. So, again this kind of narratives will pass from the feel, essentially feel good element of the Guard father after all no civilians are ever killed in the Guard father but, Once upon a time in America friends killed the friends, brothers with by brother, because just we are not talking about when they dies, for neatly greed and ambition that clients are committed here

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Then we have characters, a movie like the *Guard* father has very relatable, very identifiable characters in spite of the essential flaws. However in *Once upon a time*, we do not have a single sympathetic character, we are talking about the presence of the star of the structure of Robert de niro but, then highly appoint when root for the hero or when we relate the hero, because he is creating such unsympathetic tones. Whats happening? Now using the same material but, it is the way the story is told. It is all in the hands of the film maker what he does with his material. It is a genre, it is a recognizable genre, a gangster genre it fulfills your expectations but, then is the treatment that differs in *Once upon a time in America*, and it prevents it from becoming a clone of the *Guard* father.

So, that is the difference. Ric om also suggest that genres are of repetitive nature. We know and then repetitive nature seems to diminish the importance of each films ending along with cause and effect sequences. Now what does it mean the diminishes the importance of each films ending you know what Alfan is try to tell us as that genre films depend on the cumulative effect of the films of an repeated situations, themes, and items. So, these are the take away. Genre films depend on the cumulative effect of the films of an repeated situations, themes, and items and for example, we can take example like in gangster movies invariably we never find the hero walking away in the sunset but, the way we find in a western there is also we know western in also kind of a genre and there we know that the western hero will never settle down, he has to ride away, he has to rest an balance equilibrium in a society which has been dissurrounded, because of some evil character the hero walks in restores and leaves.

So, that because they some other town waiting to be rescued, that is the idea. So, endings are often repeated that is what we mean when we say genre films depend on the cumulative effect of the films repeated situations. So, we know this is what is going to happen in a typical western this is what is going to, this is how a typical gangsters going to end. So, gangster hero how he dies on screen James Cagney, we are talking about the 30s public academies then Edward Robinson in *Little Caesar*, palmuny in 1930s *Skafish*. So, they have to die in the end they know hope no life of promise and roses and wine ending for the gangster hero. So, what we are trying to, what the Colbert is trying to suggest is that the genres prevent that element of surprise. Can you think of more examples Sandeep?

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Yes. Is there any gangster movie that you have seen the hero not die?

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Ok.

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In our way, that the good manners, it is quite different in the sense that it is the life on the run he will never find peace, is the life worst than death? Where he lives the life which is he knows that the some total of his life has come to an ending, he lives the kind of weakness protection program, and he is always strength, always lives under the blooming shadow of thread. So, it is a very inglorious kind of an end for that hero really out of character he is not from way he started, and the way he end, almost an unsuita wiper not at the bank the ways have taken and think I will pettiness and in his Star fish in 1983 I mean he ends with a bank, I will call the movie, thus the way gangsters are suppose to that but, again in months upon a time in America the ending is extremely ambiguous.

There are two gangsters there one is played by James woods, and off course leading man is Robert gennaro. We are left one ring at the end weather the linear character is then or weather he is just or weather he is already thus dreaming the entire movie its ends on a very ambiguous note, we just find a truck driving two worlds, and then it passes in bike and then when he looks on weather the idea that is that the if his life has been garbage truck you know that at truck that collect garbage takes away is that one surge ionic suggesting or weather he had been more over by that particular garbage truck and he is taken away, to be dispose for his body to be disposed. So, you never know how that but, again it is a very inglorious and he does not die he knows that how does genres dept dyeing publicans is sorted?

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Outside the movie theatre? That day have taken from genre willingness really. So, genre production is allied with again I am voting the Calment genre production is allied with decorum, nature science and other standard produced and defended by these sponsoring society. Now the other irradiation that I was referring to Jet li and Bruce, and he has

written a book called Concepts in film theory. This is how he explains genres. Genres are a specific networks of formulas which deliver a certified project to a waiting customer. So, that is what we have been talking about use spectra romantic comedy is a certified project, and there is a waiting and willing customer for this kind of film. The other day I was reading an interview by Ajay devgan, and he has the remake of 80s what called Himmatwala. Now he says that they are very few characters you can pull of a movie like Himmatwala originally it is start Jaidev and Sridevi.

It is a regular masala path boiler and, but, it was maze success it was like huge blockbuster, and it is point of a series of clothes after that we would find the same pair in acting the same kind of dancer and the same kind of you know the comic subclass and the same kind of comic villains it was like an assembly like production and now I go back to that genre of cinema why go back to that Himmatwala kind of 30 years down the line. When cinema has progress so much when people have making films like Gangs of wasseypur, a movie with martinis consciously has prize, and then why do we need the Himmatwala now? Because the excess set of audience willing to lap it up. The same kind of audience which exits for film like Singam or for a film like Dabangg or Bodyguard. So, I am not being erosive about the audience I am saying directors there is a certified product which is delivered to a waiting and willing consumer and customer. So, every kind of a movie has set of consumer and customer.

The other day we were talking about the end of new Hollywood cinema. Now, many people, many great directors of that period have lamented the fact that the movement might have laid down, and there was so many reasons, and we have discussed those reasons but, it was not as if the audience has rejected the movement they do with play the audience for lapping of movement like Star wars or closer encounters of the third kind. So, genres, so perhaps these movies have cause I think you use the word damming down of the audience perhaps there is in the side set of audience which will always with in majority in every society but, that does not necessarily need that movie like American graphical or American gigolo or Days of heaven would not find its audience.

There would always the people who would be there for that kind of cinema also, what how I was find to connect the whole thing is that new Hollywood cinema also those grateful maker also felt that the movement laid down, because of their own mismanagement and, because of certain fault in the distribution pattern of cinema. There

is always certain audience expecting a certain kind of cinema. You are a young man in your early 20s perhaps what kind of cinema you waiting for?

Present I am waiting for the (C) man of steel (C)

Man of steel that Superman, because it is produced by Christopher Nolan so, you will think you assume that there going be at an edge to the movie it is not going to be there Sacring sweet, Superman kind of story. So, it is not going to be a repeat version of what Christopher re involve all about but, because it has Christopher Nolan imaging anything so, something as it immerge out of it. So, a more Dark night kind of superman. So, perhaps best you all young, but why you waiting so eagerly for the Jeremy hammer version of Boliden. Though you may be a fan of the movie really, so it is a number of things that make a genre and stop resist becomes an integrant picture of a genre. So, therefore, Ajay devgan is right when he says, only few actress can pool of on Himmatwala you see even for that brand of cinema, you need a certain kind of star presents.

Convince big enough who are enjoy that kind of fan following which I am shows the kind of opening for that kind of cinema I am shows the kind of lagging of that kind of cinema perhaps Salman khan can pull that off but, if you look at southern heroes who are know out and out only for very uneven classy kind of cinema, they will never be able to pull of. The Himmatwala is one of cinema. So, genres deliver a certified product you know much of our pleasure of watching bone trilogy comes, they are very well made films and they some offers who have read the original novel Robert Williams novel. We know what to expect, but then the second part and the third part they deviated from the original plot, and first plot was quite faithful to the novel, and we know what to except and off course the way and them as if the role so much of the films pleasure came out of that but, when another actor replaces the same role, we feel that down no one was but, it is the same like you know Stardom place such an important part in making a genre.

Can you imagine any other actor in Admission impossible scenes? You will feel terribly let down, terribly cheated is someone else there is; a genres have to satisfied certain expectations. Genres I am sure the production of meaning by regulating the viewers relation to the images and narratives constructed for that. Genres construct the proper expectative their own consumption. So, that is what genres construct a kind of

expectative and that expectative becomes a willing and regular consumer of that particular product, it is like creating a brand. You have so, I am just now at this point going to read you a quotation from this book by D. K. Hale is called essential quintet terrazzino, and what does tell because we have been talking about how genre function, how genres satisfies certain expectations.

Genres are like brands, and vacated to consumers. So, it is like you know user searching quality of brand of toothpaste, you would not go for anything else. So, perhaps the girl next door is not waiting for man of steel. She might be way expecting an academy of the great gasping but, someone else might be expecting or awaken waited breath for the next series of sequence of let us the wise Christopher Nolan not making the Dark night series what happen is someone else to starts re doing the prentice. That is the kind of audiences that is we have. Now what does at intenosite? You know most movies that win a lot of Oscars I cannot stand that is there inteno of movie and then gives you a list of movies and that is breath taking, the kind of movie he cannot stand. So, these choice Ordinary people, Crammer versus crammer, Gandhi these are the movies that win a lot of Oscar academic awards, and I cannot stand with, because all that is tough is safe generic, and coffee table kind of this.

Now why do we call genres safe? He says they are generic tough, Gandhi is a very safe breath do not you agree.

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It has a very universal theme individual against society. So, it is Linken. Linken, again goes back to speed bird tried and texted formula is spite of its greatness what is Linken? One man against society alone against society, a person you know who has come up against all arts, and that man against society. So, the sympatric actor for the hero is always death, and thus typically speed bird you say it is all where but, then again if you come down come to a movie if I genre like Once upon a time in America, what happen to Once upon a time in America when it was first release? It was a terrible, terribly, sounding flap why? All these three things it defined category it defined genres so, the non linear plot absence of a very palatable conflict is there but, it is not the kind of conflict. We expect the good versus evil kind of civil conflict, individual versus society kind of conflict.

There is missing and identifiable characters those things are just not there. These people extremely selfish, and the only ambition in their life is to further their own goes further their own ambition so, therefore, they are not the typical feel to kind of heroes they are not the kind of heroes where how to change the society, they are not the Gandhis or the Linkens they do not or even Dancarlyonish, and they do not satisfy any kind of demand. Although the movie you watch it today it has become a class, it may not figure on Rager effort stop and list it may not be a Scarinish movie, but it is a classic if you watch it has the kind of movie which has become a cult. Cult which has all the elements in the right place, and it is a very careful crafted magnificently acted movie. You can see lot of attention has been paid to every single details that kind of.

Now coming back again to Rick altman, and his film genre. So, he gives us 10 tendencies of film genres, and what are those tendencies? He says that genres have a distinct border, and can be firmly identified, a typical genre he talks about, and these genres have a distinct border, and can be firmly identified. Genres here is seek to describe the already existing genres, the internal functioning of genre text is considered entirely observable and objectively describable internal functioning of genre. Can you think of certain example Sandeep? Internal functioning of genres are observable and describable, how genres, how the discrete items exist? I will just give you very good example, how will a typical gangster hero dress up?

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Soon. Always even if you look at a very popular recent 2009 movie Public enemy, black coats as dark as crows feather, they are all there, the dreamy cars. So, the iconography so well established, these are observable items that is what we mean, when internal functioning of genre text is consider entirely, observable you can see are one of the becoming those hairs and those long, those suite with overcoat, designers are certain kinds of cars, certain kinds of settings. These groups can are describable you know that this is what you expect. Now will you find the same tropes in the romantic comedy?

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You will find that the more attention is given to the girls clothes, the boy can be dress any how, I mean if it is rich boy or may be a type one kind of an hero he will be dress likewise but, the girl is equally important. So, in a plenty of attention is paid to detailing

the girls character, girl is a very integral part in a romantic comedy. Women is a girl or a women, but female character extremely important in a romantic comedy, and these can be described. So, you know can you give me some very good examples from a typical romantic comedy, I give you one example you got maid, sleepless in sea acting.

As gone as it gets.

As gone as it gets are the recent one for the Jennifer knowledge of wanted academy.

Silver lining table.

Silver lining table so, do you think thus the good example of romantic comedy, now do you think enough attention is given to both leading character, how to use the guy interties, so both male and the female is I given equal importance, and these films they have a standard views of song. What is view of song? The way we will dress, the sound track, the lights, the setting they are of the setting, then which are observable and describable. So, you got maid, such a feeling good movie, and are you going to find interplay of lights and shadows in, you want to play like a nova? No but, in a typical nova and typical gangster, you will find.

Instantly a recognizable feature that is what we mean describable you look at certain kind views of song, and you say, this type of romantic comedy. You watch a melodrama the other day we were talking about the glaciers return on the wind all that having along then we discussing classic Hollywood, and we says melodramatic womens picture, the melodramatic womens picture will also have certain kind of views of song, which is instantly recognizable you will have statue of Venus and Venin in the statue of Cupid, a little Cupid marbles, and quepid in another end. Will you find that in a gangster movie? Cupids and Venuses, no, you will find whatever is related in the girls dress. So, those are the externally observable features.

Rick altman for they says, the text with similar characteristics systematically generate similar readings, similar meanings, and similar uses again we are talking about genres, and genres at text to similar characteristics. They generates similar readings, similar meanings, and similar uses. So, when you talk about an action genre or subgenre in the super hero movie, and super hero movie can be described, and be compared only with another super hero movie. You cannot compare super hero movie with the romantic

comedy. When you make a super hero the Dark night kind of super hero movie then you can compare with film Nova or film or even gangster, because certain similarities do exist, because of the way the Dark night character has been constructed by Nova.

The way he interrupts. So, you know that this is a Christopher Nolan, he is the author this is the kind of movie he makes we know his hero **we know his hero**, who is always modernly, ambivalent he has shown as earlier in smaller films in Salomia, Memento. We know that Christopher Nolan, we cannot expect a very straight, very feel good kind of a hero very clean cut hero. When you watch a Christopher reeve superman hero, you know that what to expect from? This so therefore, similar characteristic, similar systematically generates, similar readings, similar meanings think of more examples. Similar text generates similar meanings.

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Very good example you know, I would like, think of two classic romantic comedies of the 80s and 90s, Northern hill and Forwardings and Funeral both starring you grant. Forwardings and funeral you grant an interment novel and Northern hills Julia Robert and Hugh Crane, and you works starting the same British actor you have all the characteristic of very charismatic Hugh Crane. When he was in his early 20s and early 30s what kind of, he was a classic romantic hero in the Contraband movie. You know what to expect from it? Forwardings and Funeral will always be compare to Northern film, because similar kind of movie, similar text, and similar means can be derived similar means of song.

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We had the romantic comedy, George Luney started off earlier that was alien it be 90, he was a major television actor anyway but, then one of his earlier successful movie thus the leading man was one find it, we shall find it, and if you want the movie again, it has all the characteristic of typical romantic comedy, boy mix girl there is a women I think a mother meets recently divorced father. Both of them have a child each, and how they interact, and if the entire movie takes scores within the span time. One fine day, they start of dating each other, at the end of the day guaranty so, they for relationship with them. So, we know now you understand the certain meanings can be read. I am also now going to talk to you about our own gangster cinema. We have been talking about

gangster cinema there the public animation Scarface, what are the Little Caesar, and the Guard father, Once upon a time in America these are classic gangster films.

Do we have the category of gangster cinema in our country?

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We have military largely about Ram gopal varma, Sathya company some part earlier Amitabh bachchan played gangster hero in a couple of blockbusters, what are they? Sholay is not, Sholay is a buddy movie is a western curry and...

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Don comes under the category, and you just gave me an example baneofplugging a town. He rides a way into the sunset, the way Shahrukh khan Don but, since Don is very different. The gangster hero dies, and he looks a like kids displaced, and his job is to finish of the gang. So, he is actually a good gang. In Shahrukhs version the good gang is killed, and which this is the suspense, which is released to the at the end of the movie good the gangster hero is still alive, and then we have the sequence to that movie where the gangster hero comes its highest and again rise the way to the sunset that the girl.

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Don 2 is more like a highest movie but, the first Don again start in Shahrukh, and the director Farhan Akhtar but, the same team comes back together in second Don also but, the first Don is the a literal we need but, as Don, because release in the 70s which are feel good gangster drama but, Shahrukhs Don ends very different similar readings were done its called as worked on that remake also because it is a very interesting take, on the original version. We also have classic gangster The war against their in better in which replaced against we also we oscillate we had a movie Once upon a time in Mumbaai our own version of gangster, and what about Agneepath would did you call that is a gangster movie among the movie such as are Hrithik Roshan thank you very much.