

2.21 Comparative study of heroic film tradition in Sri Lanka.

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ABSTRACT

In the history of Sri Lankan cinema, which begins with the film “Rajakeeya Wickramaya” there are a number of films based on heroic historical characters. They include films such as “Saradiyel”, “Seegiri Kashyapa”, “Weera Puran Appu”, “Weera Madduma Bandara”. The film “Aba” can be regarded as the latest addition to that list. Similarly, in the Indian cinema, which has provided the inspiration there are many films based on historical heroic characters. This study examines the exaltation of patriotism in these films. Lester James Peris’s “Weera Puran Appu” Joe Michel’s “Weera Madduma Bandara” as well as “Bhagat Singh” directed by Raj Kumar Santoshi and “Mangal Panday” directed by Kethan Mehtha have been selected for a comparative study.

The method used in this study is the method of content analysis.

The Indian film creates patriotic feelings not only through the story but also through sensitive characters situation and handling of music. On the contrary the creative lapses on the part of the Sri Lankan filmmakers keep the Sinhala film at a relatively low ebb in this regard.

Key words : Heroic historical characters, Patriotism, Sri Lankan cinema, Comparative study, Characters situation