Representation of Hero & Heroines in Pakistani and Indian Dramas

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Abstract

In Pakistan and India media has a great influence on masses, so it is easy to set the mind of people by presenting them what you want from them to accept. There is no second opinion about Pakistani dramas that are much better than Indian dramas. In Pakistani dramas social issues like, domestic violence, rape, family issues, marital issues etc. are discussed. But in Indian dramas romance, love, joint family is presented.

Unfortunately, now some Pakistan soaps are sharing same themes of Indian dramas like typical “Saas” and “Bahu” relation. The present study analyzed both Pakistani and Indian media’s representation of Hero and Heroine and its influence on society. Hero and heroine can influence on people so their representation should be according to reality. The stereotypes about innocent heroine should be changed because now in society girls are in every field of life. Both India and Pakistan has their separate cultures and tradition so, drama industry of both countries should focus and represent their own standards not others.

Key words: Media, Hero, Heroine, representation, stereotypes

Introduction

Drama is the most important medium of entertainment and also a source of information for all community. Drama is basically a Greek word which means “action”. Drama is a kind of play which is presented on television, radio, films and also in theaters. In drama a imaginary characters are represent through dialogue, performance and actions.

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Elements of drama are setting (it describe the place and time for event in which it occur), plot (it is about the basic theme of the drama), style (it is about the viewpoint of writer about life and about the mood of expression of characters), characters (the main elements, the whole drama is presented through characters.). The main element of any drama is characters. In characters the main focus is on Hero and Heroin. Hero is mostly a person who is brave, strong, and very dangerous for his opponents, but on the other hand he is a handsome, most beautiful and a loving and caring person.

The concept of hero was firstly found in Classical literature that was main character in heroic epic poetry. Definition of hero has changed with the passage of time, according to Marriam Webster’s hero is, “a person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities”

**Dramas in Pakistan**

Media has a very vital impact on Pakistani society; most of the people of Pakistan blindly follow media which is a main source of information and entertainment in Pakistan. In Pakistan dramas are very famous among youth, at every place it is easily to find people who will be discussing latest Pakistani dramas. In Pakistani dramas mostly social issues and social habits are raised, which are very common in society. Pakistani dramas are very close to reality, but now some dramas present the same story which is presented in Indian dramas.

Especially the favorite topic of females in Pakistan is discussion about dramas, they discuss about hero and his feelings for heroin, families of hero and heroine, even they predict what will happen in next episode. They are inspired from hero and his beauty and from his loving nature. Same is the case with male, most of the male do not take interest in dramas but now male also discuss about dramas. Most of the young people are inspired from dresses, cars, and luxuries lifestyle of hero and heroine.

**Dramas in India**

In India people are greatly influenced by dramas and movies. They take them as their role models. Indian dramas are consists on action, tragedy, romance and melodrama. They portray a family in which there is always a “Saas” only who has authority for all decision in house. And there is a “bahu” who always sacrifices her personal bliss for her family. On the other hand there
is a “second bahu” who gives very tough time to her “srasal” and especially her “saas”. Indian dramas mostly consist on materialism, the houses which they show are just like fantasy houses whit all the luxurious facilities. Religion is most important element of their dramas. They mainly focus on their religious festivals like “hooli”, “dewali” etc.

Indian people are mostly inspired from the romance of “paati” who is hero and “patni” who is a heroine. In every episode of Indian dramas there is a most romantic song which is picturized on hero and heroine.

**Literature review**

The word Hero comes from Greek hero (ἥρως) means warrior literally protector and defender. In ancient Greek Hero word is used only for male, but in English heroine is used for female character. Classical hero is represented as warrior who lives and dies just for honor.

Every classical hero has to fight in war during his whole life. They are semi divine heroes are skilled, risky and they sometime behave childlike manner. During classical times, people have high esteem and respect for the classical hero’s. “The appearance of these mortal figures marks a revolution of audience and writers turning away from immortal gods to immortal mankind.”

The concept of “mythic Hero Archetype’ was first developed by Lord Regalan in 1936 (2013), in the book “A Study in Tradition, Myth and Drama”. It was set of 22 most unmarked traits that were mostly shared by heroes of different cultures. The quest of hero is a monomythic in all cultures. According to Joseph Combell in his book (2008) “The Hero with a Thousand Faces” describes several ideas that heroes share despite diversity in cultures (Combell Josep1949).

According to Vladimir Propp (1970) analysis on heroes, a hero has some stages in his life the first one is a hero always has to set off for a quest; he has to react to fight for honor. Among noticeable events in the studies of the role of the hero and Great man in history one should mention Sydney Hook's book (1943) ‘The Hero in History’. In the second half of the twentieth century such male-focused theory has been contested, among others by feminist writers such as in The Resisting Reader (1978) and literary theorist Nancy K. Miller (1980) ‘The Heroine's Text’: Readings in the French and English Novel, 1722-1782. With the passage of time the concept of hero is changed, when new technology is introduced the hero is also present to use these technologies. The hero is most common feature of fantasy word then realistic word.
Sprague de Camp. Superhero has extra power and talent that no living human can have. “The superhero genre is a multibillion-dollar industry that includes comic books, movies, toys and video games “The Comic Book Industry”. The superhero often have a super villain who spread crimes in society but a superhero has to fight with him, Superman and Wonder Woman are examples of it.

Nabeela Chaudhary (2014), Urdu dramas are most watched plays on television. Media is liberalized in 2002 to 2008, in earlier plays heroines were represented on both domestic and professional grounds. In Pakistani dramas the good women gives priority to her home and family. Domestic sphere is main focused on both earlier and present dramas.

Methodology:

The methodology which is used for collection of data is primary source and to some extant secondary data (for this articles, and electronic media is used). This is qualitative data and quantitative data as well; the tool which is used for data collection is observation. The examples of heroes and heroine are collected by primary data and the names of dramas and directors are collected by secondary data. 20 samples are choosing for data collection in which 10 are Pakistani dramas and 10 are Indian dramas.

Data analysis:

Hero and heroine are the main characters of any drama, movie, film novel and story. Whatever the type of drama is whether it is horror, comedy or tragic there is always a hero and heroine is there. No drama or story can complete without hero and heroine. In Pakistan and mostly in India people are inspired from heroes and heroines, they take them as their role models and they want to adopt every fashion or style of them. That is the reason that in both Pakistani and Indian society materialism is increasing day by day. Now a day in dramas hero is presented as the only son of his parents and who fall in love with a poor girl and marry her. Hero has a luxurious house and a car; he wears branded dresses while on the other hand heroine is a beautiful, cute and innocent girl who behaves childlike behavior.
Representation of Hero and Heroine in Pakistani Dramas

Here are some examples from Pakistani dramas and analysis that how Pakistani drama industry portray a hero. There are different types of heroes in Pakistani dramas. One type of heroes in Pakistani dramas is criminal and lover of an innocent girl.

“Tahir_e_lahoti” a drama presented on HUM TV, Directed by: Roomi Insha, Written by: Riffat Siraj, in this drama the hero “Pasha” the main hero is a criminal, landlord and a spoiled boy. Who falls in love with heroine “Mahnoor” who belongs to a middle class and respected family? “Pasha” often follows her and threatens her. “Mahnoor” is an innocent girl. “Pasha” kidnaps “Mahnoor” and gets marry. He always touchers “Mahnoor” but she tolerates with him and in the end the innocence and her character changes “Pasha”.

“Bashir Momin” is a drama presented on GEO TV, Directed by: Syed Ali Raza Usama, Written by: Zanjabeel Ahmed, the main hero of this drama is “Bashir Momin” who is a right hand of Politician, he involves in many crimes like corruption and murder. “Ruddaba” is the main heroine who is very innocent and beautiful. She belongs to a honest family. “Bashir has a luxurious house and Murcidies. He is actually a psycho person, who chooses the way of crimes just to compete with second husband of his mother. Ruddaba is the sister of his brother-in-law. He falls in love with Ruddaba but she is committed with Buland, Bashir Momin is a jealous person he harasses Ruddaba and forces her to marry with him. In the end, he becomes a good person just because of love of Ruddaba. Ruddaba is a loyal wife who loves her husband Bashir even she knows that he is a criminal.

“Mera Saein” is a drama presented on ARY DIGITAL, Directed by: Baber Javed, Written by: Samira Fazal, the main hero of this drama is “Malik Wajahat Ali” who rules on lives of many women. He influences on lives of other people. The hero is the typical feudal lord and politician who have lust of power and wealth. The heroine of this drama is “Shazmeen” who lives and studies in U.K. Shazmeen tries to change Malik Wajahat and decides to marry him but she does not succeed in her effort. Shazmeen becomes a jealous woman when her husband’s marry with her friend. The heroine is traditional woman who get influenced by her husband personality and she does not dare to change her husband and she uses to like her dominated personality. On the other hand there is a second type of heroes in Pakistani dramas is cool and polite hero.
“Humsafar” is a very famous drama of HUM TV, Directed by: Sarmad Sultan Khoosat, Written by: Farhat Ishtiaq. The hero of this drama is “Asher” who is the only son of his parents and who belongs to a rich family. He is very decent and polite man. He is very obedient to his parents. The heroine of this drama is “Khirad” who is cousin of Asher but she was not rich as Asher. They get marry even they don’t love each other. Khirad is very innocent and highly self-esteemed girl. Asher is a man who gives a lot of respect to his mother and he blindly believes his mother and he doubts on Khirad. But in the end, he feels guilty and excuse from Khird, and Khirad who is a typical loyal wife forgive husband. Khirad is the character of totally eastern girl. Asher is the character of a traditional husband.

The other type of heroes in Pakistani dramas is passionate lover. “Pyar e Afzal” is one of famous drama of Pakistan, presented on ARY DIGITAL, Directed by: Nadeem Baig, Written by: Khalil Ur Rahman Qamar, the hero of this drama is “Afzal” who is very innocent lover of a girl names “Farah” who is very rude and proud girl. To some extant the character of Afzal is a disobedient son, Afzal is the son of an “Imam Sahib” but he never follows his father instructions. He is very passionate in his love that he is ready to do anything for “Farah”. The character of heroine “Farah” represent eastern girl who loves but does not show. Farah is a confused personality, but in the end she exposes her love for him.

**Representation of Hero and Heroine in Indian Dramas:**

In Indian dramas mostly hero and heroine are husband and wife. Who live in a joined family and wife has to face several problems from other females of family. In Indian dramas there are also different types of heroes, most of the Indian heroes are landlord, millionaire and have luxurious bungalows and palaces. They are very decent and polite, handsome and romantic. The heroines of Indian dramas are always wears heavy jewelry with heavy make over.

Here are some examples of Indian dramas and their heroes and heroines. “Meri Ashiqi Tum se Hi” is one of Famous Indian drama on Colors TV, Directed by: Anil V.Kumar and Rishi Tyagi, Written by: Sonali Jaffar, the hero of this drama is “Ranveer” who is very handsome, smart, and romantic but he is a poor guy but later he becomes millionaire when he works hard. “Ishani” the heroine of this drama is daughter of a landlord but she is very kind, and pretty. She is a very devoted girl who loves every relation of her. Ranveer is a typical man.
who loves Ishani but at the same time he tortures her just for pleasing himself. Another type of hero in Indian dramas is rude, strict and a man with no feelings. Example of this type is the character of “Maan” in “Gheet Hui Sab Se Prai” on Star One, Directed by: Nisar Pervaiz. In this drama “Maan” is the character of a man who is responsible and the owner of factories. He always busy in his works actually he is a professional man who just think about his business. “Gheet” the heroine of this drama is an innocent girl who lives in a village. Her innocence and childish behavior inspired “Maan”and he brought her with him. The character of Gheet represents the loving and caring nature of girls. “Maan” is also a kind person he cares a lot about “Gheet”.

Another example of hero in Indian dramas is “Samraat” in drama “Mile Jab Hum Tum” on Star One Directed by: Ravi Bushan and Nisar Pervaj, the character of Samraat represents high ailed class of society, he is the only son of his parents, he is very popular in college, social and very friendly to everyone. He is irresponsible and immature person. The heroine of this drama is typical innocent girl who cares about everyone and who has first sided love for Samraat. She always helps Samraat in every task. Samraat is a cool dude of his college. He does not care about his studies because he belongs to a rich family but Gujaan is very hard working girl who has to support her family.

And there is a famous type of hero and heroine in most of dramas of India a husband who is very loyal with his family and a wife who can do anything for her family. “Eshta” and “Raman” in “Yeh Hain Muhabatain” and “Nehtik” and “Akshra” in “Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai”, and “Sooraj” and “Sandiya” in “Dia aur Baati” all characters in these dramas represent a hero who belongs to a high class and who face many problems to secure his family. And all heroines of these dramas are very devoted wives who always support their husbands.

Discussion
Here is a comparison of some aspects of Indian and Pakistani dramas about representation of hero and heroine like politeness of hero, and innocence of heroines.
In Pakistani dramas 50% heroes are polite and 50% are rude, mostly the single person or who is in any relation is shown as polite. The hero who is a husband in drama is mostly rude.
Politeness of hero as unmarried person

In Pakistani dramas mostly social issues are raised and mostly Pakistani dramas are based on domestic violence on females. That’s why in Pakistani dramas a husband is always rude and strict but on other hand dramas in which husband is polite are also presenting on TV.

But in Indian dramas mostly unmarried person is rude and a husband is very polite to his family.

In Indian dramas mostly family life is presented and in every family of Indian dramas a female has power in house who is mostly grandmother or mother. That is the reason that in their dramas a husband is always very polite and humble.

In Pakistani dramas heroine does not wake up with heavy make up as heroine do in Indian dramas.
Pakistani heroine when she wakes up            Indian heroine when she wakes up

Pakistani dramas are closed to reality that’s why the appearance pf heroine in drama is also simple and real as compare to Indian dramas in which heroine all the time wears Saari even when she works in house or kitchen.

**Conclusion:**

In Pakistan and India media has a great influence on masses, so it is easy to set the mind of people by presenting them what you want from them to accept. There is no second opinion about Pakistani dramas that are much better than Indian dramas. In Pakistani dramas social issues like, domestic violence, rape, family issues, marital issues etc. are discussed. But in Indian dramas romance, love, joint family is presented.

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