MAPPING OF URBAN CULTURE: A STUDY OF CINEMATICSCAPES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DELHI, MUMBAI AND KOLKATA.

Abstract

In my project I plan to analyze how films work as cultural narrative on the Indian social milieu in three major metropolis of India and how these realities, hyper-realities and urban realities of city are reproduced re-assessed, reconfigured and finally represented as a cinematic city in the cinema of India. The cinematic city is a space that is a product of confluence of cinema with the metropolitan life that documents the evolving frame of urban space during the modern times. This cinematic city maps the actual environment of the city through the setting of a narrative and peculiarly through the space captured by the camera. This imagined city in cinema is born at the intersection of mental, physical and social space that uses the iconography of the modern city to represent the behavior of the people residing in a specific area. The visual representation of these spaces is not a straight forward reflection of reality. The image captured is an interaction of the cinematic city with the real city and this relationship is maintained through the juxtaposition of the architecture of the real city with the cinematic city that also reveals the historical and social origins of the city. This cinematic city is symbolic of living social and cultural values in the society and the emerging sub-cultures within the cities are an evidence of this merging of cinema with the actual life. In the context of India, the cinematic city deals with the issues of nationalism, identity and the aftermath of globalization.

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