

A Study of the Evolution of Female Roles in Science Fiction Films and Modifying Society’s Stereotypical Thinking”

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Abstract:

We have hitherto only considered the viewpoint of men, but now it's time to give women a fair shot as well. Every human being has the potential to learn about and advance science and technology, thus it is not only a field that is exclusively open to one gender. In movies, women play a supporting role for the men. An examination of the ways in which culture affects the evolving discussion of gender portrayals in cinema. Science fiction films are the ideal medium for discussing human habitation in the future because their content is an imaginative representation of civilization. Under the premise of a science fiction theme, it is necessary to re-examine and reinterpret the connection between genders considering modern technology. It has taken a while for the representation of women in movies to improve after years of under representation. Redemption of women altered significantly as nations advanced in modernity. The media had a significant impact on the modernization of societies and the perception of women in the contemporary world. Women are portrayed in modern movies as being more autonomous, self-assured, and career-focused. For example, *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), *Avatar* (2009), *Mission Mangal* (2019). As movies are a mirror of social structural changes, the goal is to connect the evolving roles performed by women in movies with the rising status of women. The hegemonic discourse of cinema that prescribes what constitutes appropriate gender roles. In order to achieve this, we will adopt a critical poststructuralist viewpoint on how body images are portrayed in well-known science fiction Movies that have been released in recent years. How women are portrayed throughout their development history using famous English-speaking science fiction films. The reflection and feedback of the sci-fi film as a social and cultural phenomenon on the reality of the

western world. Sci-Fi movies can instruct and influence viewers in a useful way, such as by portraying positive female characters to encourage more women to shatter the stereotype and actively engage in science-related job or study.

Key Words: *Science Fiction Films, Film Studies, Social Feminism, Redemption.*

Science fiction movies are a subgenre of fiction movies that combine elements of science, technology, and fantasy to create fictitious societal contexts. Science fiction movies present people's expectations for the future and their views on the new interpersonal relationships as a concept of the "utopia" of the real world. However, there are still some gender stereotypes in their environment even as science fiction works demand more cutting-edge concepts. Many works misread women and treat them as "the other". While this was going on, there was a growing expectation that sci-fi movies would defy gender norms and provide fresh examples. This essay contends that well-known contemporary science fiction movies, whose stories are based on realistic development, try to present a realistic and vivid image of female characters to pique the interest of the viewer. This specific film genre can aid in extending the limits of the conception of gender in general.

The public anticipates that new connections will be redefined for the current period when science fiction themes go beyond the bounds of reality and start to explore potential developments in the future. The inclusion of more realistic and representative parts for women in science fiction movies is eagerly anticipated by feminists. It makes sense to have these expectations: First off, the absolute strength disparity between the sexes has been lessened in science fiction films due to widespread employment of robots and advancements in technology. Second, there has been an ongoing call for more egalitarian sexual relations as feminist movements have grown. This ideological movement had an impact on the movies, which started to modify their original stereotypes. However, it takes time for an ideological tendency to mature to the point where it starts to alter social reality. Even though science fiction movies are viewed as an idealized societal setting for discussing the evolution of gender issues and the direction of

the future, they still need to advance in order to better represent and display women's roles. In the over a century-long development of science fiction films, female characters have steadily risen from male-dominated discourse power, from being misunderstood as "irrelevant" to being safeguarded and cherished as "dolls," under the influence of social movements. Finally, they depict women's roles in society at the time more extensively by displaying their traits and social ideals from a wider range of angles. These female characters in movies undergo transformations that reflect their evolving values and status in society.

Female characters were viewed as the embodiment of sin and the source of dread in early 20th-century science fiction movies:

For instance, female characters were all portrayed as wicked in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931), *The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935), and *Frankenstein* (1910). In the former, a bride was spliced by a scientist and turned into a zombie; in the latter, a debauched woman mirrored the violent nature of the main character. In the western world, liberal feminism was in vogue during this time. Women went to battle to defend their legal and political rights. In actuality,

their efforts led to the creation of numerous legislation that safeguards women's rights. Hollywood movies had grown at the turn of the 20th century, and the action-packed, exciting movies had taken over. These shifts from the early style of dread to adventure stories are also seen in science fiction. The partners of the male characters in these tales were however women. They show up with male characters as a housewife or a lover.

The first *Star Wars* movie was released in 1977, and *Leia Organa Solo*, a stunning woman, made a lasting impression on many viewers. *Princess Leia* plays the role of a goddess in this movie. She no longer has her own unique story significance since she has been reduced to a power symbol in the bilateral struggle for wars as a lovely "prize".

In 2015, *Mad Max: Fury Road* film was released and the subject of this film, Charlize Theron, called "*Fury Road*" a "amazing feminist movie." She addressed the unfair portrayal of women in movies by claiming that actors play "either a really nice mother, or a pretty excellent hooker", implying that the "Madonna/whore complex" still affects how women are portrayed in movies. In other words, women are unable to play as many different roles as males do. Theron has also discussed the

necessity for gender equality, not just in the movie industry. She emphasized the importance of teaching girls that feminism stands for equal rights for all people and that “being a feminist is a wonderful thing.”

The 2009 movie Avatar told the tale of an exotic planet. Neytiri, a Naami princess and warrior who plays the main character in the movie, is tall and muscular. She defends the Justice and rights for her kind are what many other female soldiers in this movie depict. These pictures show mature roles full of strength and understanding rather than simply one single image of a youthful, idealized woman. Instead of highlighting their gender, Avatar concentrates on showing off their goodness and intelligence and defying the spirit of authority.

These female characters and female viewers seem to be at a distance from one another. These roles are the representations that fit the stereotype’s description. They are neither reliable nor typical. In actuality, women’s roles in the family and in society have evolved. Some women are willing to enter the workforce more independently and compete fairly with men instead of content to remain at home as housewives. The second wave of feminism also started to advocate for

bettering the status of women in all spheres of society, including equal pay for equal work at home. These “doll” female figures also don’t seem to be able to please the spectators. More realistic characters that are no longer the acolytes of male characters are demanded by the audiences. Movies and reality are inextricably linked; viewers can see mappings of actual events and social issue criticisms in movies and other works of art. In a same vein, movies will influence reality and usher in a fresh school of thought. Many female students, who are typically thought to be less successful in science studies, can also learn from science fiction movies, which will pique their interest in the subject. And make it quite evident that more women opted to work in science because of the influence of science fiction movies. The number of women working as laboratory technicians and scientists has significantly increased since the turn of the century, and they have been more or less inspired by the portrayal of female scientists in science fiction films and ultimately decided to dedicate themselves to scientific research. In this instance, science fiction movies explicitly encourage women to pursue careers in science.

Conclusion:

Even if science fiction movies have flaws, it is

indisputable that they actively explore how women are portrayed in the genre and feature many powerful, accomplished female professionals. Modern women are more determined to engage in science or pursue scientific majors as a result of the performance and promotion of these positive roles. In this way, social reality has been influenced by cultural occurrences. It's encouraging that science fiction movies still have potential to depict female characters more accurately and to give audiences more varied and vivid views of what women can do.

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