



The Hero and Power

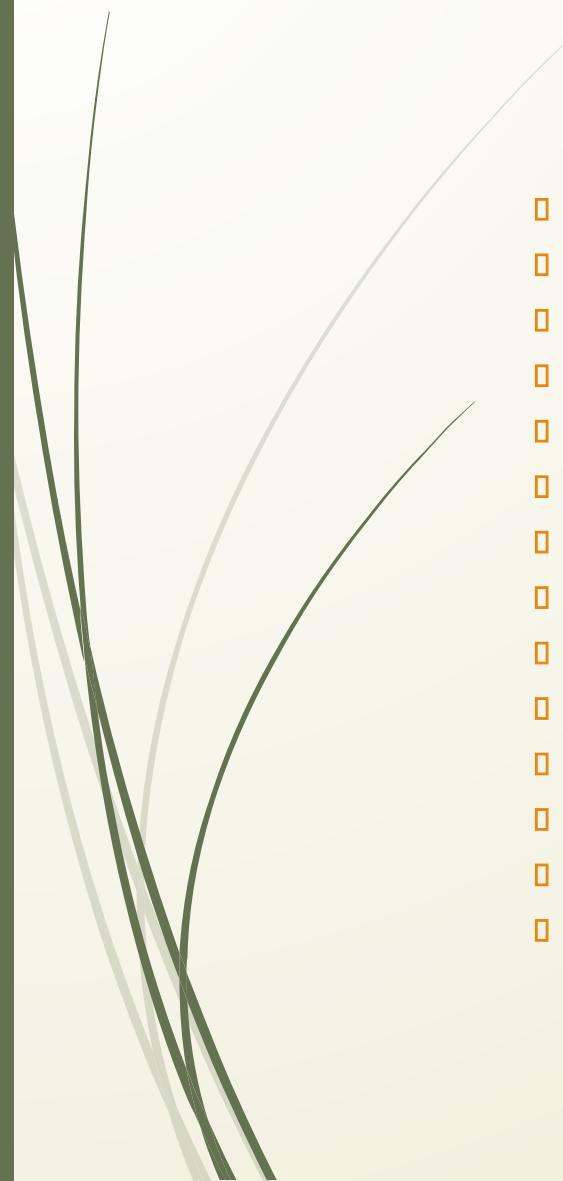
Culture and Gender Performativity

Dr. G. Sujatha

What is the Hero?

Hero as a person vs Hero as a concept

- From “Who is a hero?” to “What is a Hero?”
- Hero is not a person but a concept or a phenomenon which has all or most of the qualities that are listed in the last slide

- 
- 
- Handsome,
 - Courageous, brave
 - Strong, physically fit,
 - Intelligent, sharp, witty,
 - Successful
 - Morally upright, ethical,
 - Selfless, sacrifice
 - Caring, lovable, kind, helpful, protective (protector/saviour), supportive, sympathetic
 - Trendy, smart
 - Honest,
 - Passionate,
 - Vengeful,
 - Modern (not conservative)
 - The heroine fall in love with



I. What sort of power does a hero possess in Indian Cinema?

- Physical
- Mental/intellectual
- Emotional
- Social
- Cultural
- Moral/ethical
- Political

The hero is the epitome of all these powers – Hero is a power house by himself



II. The power ‘the hero’ enjoys within the film narrative

- How the concept hero functions as the axis around which/in relation to which other characters gain their identity or even their very roles?



What is a heroine?

- **For whom the hero falls for**
 - Pretty – sexy/glamorous
 - Good, moralistic
 - Helping, tender/kind-hearted
 - Individualistic tastes
 - Artistic
 - Portrayed as beautiful, sensitive, dependent and timid, must be fair and must have a good sense of styling and dressing, not so strong-both physically and mentally, some one who love materialistic things, shown as some one who is reserved for hero and prioritizes hero over family, some one who is more connected to father, some one who always have to strike a balance between family and career



Who/what is a Villain?

- Who is in opposition to Hero or his aims/qualities or dreams



Who is a Comedian?

- Someone who is not bad as a villain but though good does not have the necessary capabilities and qualities that make a hero
- – **who tries to perform the hero but fails**

What is a Hero in a film narrative?

- From our discussion we understood that a hero is not just a person who possesses the capabilities and qualities that we listed above but also someone who acts as an axis around which, or in relation to which all the other roles like the heroine, villain, a comedian and others are defined or gain their identity in a film narrative.
- That is, all the other important roles in a film narrative gain their existence only in relation to the Hero.
- SO THE POWER OF A HERO IN A FILM NARRATIVE
 - Lies NOT JUST in the fact that he possesses the LIST OF QUALITIES AND CAPABILITIES.
 - BUT IT LIES IN THE FACT THAT **HE ENJOYS THE POWER TO DEFINE OR OFFER AN IDENTITY OR EVEN AN EXISTENCE TO OTHER CHARACTERS/ROLES.**

III. The Hero and the 'real' Power

The Power the one who casts the role of hero enjoys in India

- Social
- Political