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### REPRESENTATION OF SIKH CHARACTER IN BOLLYWOOD MOVIES: A STUDY ON SELECTIVE BOLLYWOOD MOVIES

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#### Abstract

Sikhs have been ordinarily spoken to in mainstream Hindi film either as courageous warriors or as classless rustics. In the patriot message in which the envisioned was an urban North Indian, Hindu male, Sikh characters were uprooted and made to give entertainment. Bollywood stars have donned the turban to turn Sikh cool, Sikhs view the representation of the community in Bollywood as demeaning and have attempted to revive the Punjabi film industry as an attempt at authentic self-representation. But with the passage of time the Bollywood makers experimented with the role and images of Sikh character. Sunny Deol's starrer movie *Border* and *Gadar* led a foundation of Sikh identity and real image of Sikh community and open the doors for others. This paper examines representation of Sikhs in new Bollywood films to inquire if the romanticization of Sikhs as representing rustic authenticity is a clever marketing tactic used by the Bollywood.

#### Introduction

Bollywood is the sobriquet for India's Hindi language film industry, situated in the city of Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is all the more officially alluded to as Hindi film. The expression "Bollywood" is frequently utilized by non-Indians as a synecdoche to allude to the entire of Indian film; be that as it may, Bollywood legitimate is just a piece of the bigger Indian film industry, which incorporates other creation communities delivering films in numerous other Indian dialects.

Bollywood is one of the biggest film makers in India, speaking to 43% of the net film industry income, while Tamil and Telugu film speak to 36%, and the remainder of the local film comprises 21% as of 2014. Bollywood is additionally probably the biggest focal point of film creation on the planet. Besides, Bollywood is one of the greatest film ventures on the planet as far as the quantity of individuals utilized and the quantity of movies produced. According to Matusitz, J., & Payano, P., In 2011, over 3.5 billion tickets were sold over the globe which in examination is 900,000 tickets more than Hollywood. Bollywood created 252 movies in 2014 out of an aggregate of 1969 movies delivered in Indian film.

### Sikh and Bollywood

Appearance of Motion Picture made a way for an impossible scene: it introduced a period of phenomenal amazing asset, to advance expressions (fiction, verse, music, performing expressions, moving, acting, characteristic magnificence, photography endlessly). Headways right now occurred throughout the years from numerous points of view, innovations, enormous screen, 3D, sound system sound, Imax, energized and so on.

Sadly, Sikhs' choice to totally disregard and avoid this amazing media device. In pre freedom time, Lahore was a significant film creation focus, alongside Calcutta. Bombay was only another conceived infant. Around then, another organization was framed, "Akal Productions." The primary introduction of Akal Productions was a film on Maharaja Ranjit Singh. On its head appear in Lahore, there were brutal fights and the cinema was burned to the ground. The film subsequently was never discharged. From that point forward, the film business has been an all out forbidden to the Sikhs. A few Sikhs, entertainers, on-screen characters, artists who wandered into film business were frightened to the point that they shrouded their Sikh personality. May be no maker needed to face pointless challenge right now chance business either.

After India's segment in 1947, Lahore went to Pakistan. Consequently the film creation industry in Lahore was lost by India. Bengal was additionally separated, so the film Industry in Kolkatta endured a set back. That allowed a chance to the incipient film industry in Bombay to thrive. By chance, it likewise got a substantial portion of "Punjabi Entrepreneurship Blood Transfusion." Most of the stalwarts from Lahore moved to Bombay. The impact of this marvel in early post freedom motion pictures created in Bombay. Prithvi Raj Kapoor and his entire tribe – The Kapoor family and their family members, Balraj Sahni, Sunil Dutt, RajinderKrishan, S. Rajinder Singh Bedi, Kamini Kaushal, Achla Sachdev, Dilip Kumar, Rafi Sahib, so endlessly.

The nearness of such stalwarts additionally empowered various other more youthful Punjabi applicants as well. There was a ceaseless progression of Punjabis to Film Industry in Bombay. Bombay was changed into the universes top most film delivering focus. Raj Kapoor, presumably the primary film maker, who forcefully began spreading the wings outside of India, yet mostly in nations where India had exchanging organizations, for example Center East, Egypt and Russia.

It was the virtuoso of Satyajit Ray from Kolkatta that carried the Indian Films toward the Western Screens just because and earned praise. The contention among Kolkatta and Bombay was warming up. At long last, Bombay won and earned the

notoriety of the capital of Indian Movie Production. Presently Bombay put its focus on Hollywood, and the moniker Bollywood was instituted.

There was a solid Sikh nearness in Bollywood, however they never went to the fore front as Sikhs, on account of characteristic taboos imparted and fortified that somehow, motion pictures are taboos for Sikhs.

It additionally brought forth an unwarranted observation that perseveres that the Sikhs in Bollywood motion pictures are introduced as "clowns". Bollywood has been making personification of minorities. They have done it to Madrases, Parsees, Christians, Anglo-Indians and till as of late, Muslims. Then again, the Sikhs themselves, in print media, have been making most exceedingly terrible jokes of Sikhs. For example, S. Khushwant Singh's compositions. In any case, S. Khushwant Singh consistently referenced that the vast majority of the Sikh Jokes have been made by Sikhs themselves and that solitary a dynamic and self-assured network can make kids about itself.

Since 1984, in any case, Sikhs have gotten very distrustful and delicate about such jokes. Have they lost their famous self-assurance? Then again, they themselves are, in any case, not satisfactory about what is a Sikh Identity? Is it Hair and Turban? Is it Punjabi Language? Is it Alcoholism? Is it just Bhangra Dance?

In post freedom and pre 1984 period, not overlook Maheshwari film, "Nanak Naam Jahaza Hai." what was his inspiration to make such a magnificent film? He obviously knew about amazingly negative mentalities of Sikhs on Movies. He more likely than not known about the destiny of "Akal Productions". He ventured to every part of the additional mile and got his content pre-endorsed from the Sikh authority at Akal Takhat Sahib and SGPC. Truth be told in its exposure and trailers, unequivocal endorsement by these Sikh specialists was featured. His methodology worked and the film was not reprimanded and hooted.

Coming to Punjabi Culture, Is Punjabi culture to be enclosed just Bhangra Dance and boisterous rhythms? Indeed, even Bhangra was brought to Silver Screen by Raj Kapoor, in his film, "Jagte Raho". Shockingly, the film was a dismal critique on various ills tainting the general public; however film didn't drag Sikhs in that introduction. Bhangra (might be with fresher ensembles) and even changed advances and development isn't just all over India, yet additionally, getting well known everywhere throughout the world, the explanation is power.

Bollywood maker Yash Chopra and his entire domain has done superb occupation in advancing Punjabi culture (though Urban Punjabi Values and culture, for the most part of Punjab). All his movies has Punjabi contacts, yet most likely Sikhs will repudiate it as it isn't simply Bhangra.

The development of Dances as well, and advancement of move developments, the most famous Dance Sequences, all is by all accounts Bhangra based. Is it not engendering of Punjabi Culture.? Presently, Punjabi Dhaba has been raised to a Dining Experience.

Over the most recent two decades, under the attire of "Commerical Cinema", various first rate makers and chiefs are thinking of high spending films that are

depicting Sikh Character in the number one spot job or a solid and amazing character

### Bollywood Sikh: A Fresh Perspective

In prior Bollywood films a turbaned character was depicted from a humorous perspective to add some humor to the film. In any case, with the evolving situation, Bollywood have sense that a Sikh character is not any more a showcase or sham or a character of jokes. Presently a turbaned legend brandishing a whiskers is appeared as a focal character in the film and late discharges are the obvious of this reality that Bollywood Directors are paying attention to Sikh Characters more and they put them as a lead character in the film.

The look has been embraced in Bollywood and acknowledged by crowds across India. Hindi movies have prior had Sikh heroes however the occasions have been not many. The impact of the Punjabi language and its qualities are without a doubt developing quickly all through the world and this credit goes to modernizing Punjabi film.

Turbans and the Punjabi language are picking up noticeable quality in both Bollywood and Hollywood. Other than observing the hero of the film donning a turban, one can discover a Punjabi tune or incorporation of Punjabi discoursed to add shading to the film.

The turban has its all inclusive intrigue as one can locate a turbaned Sikh in each niche and corner of this world. So it is an endeavor by Bollywood film makers to pick up the consideration of watchers around the world. And yet Bollywood producers ought to be careful to keep up the respect of the turban while depicting it on screen.

### Significance of the study

The study is significant to know the representation of the sikh characters in Bollywood. It is also to know the Bollywood makers are taking the sikh characters in movie seriously. It is also to analyze the relation of the script of the movie with the sikh character. The study is based through content analysis of selective 8 Bollywood movies. The content is thoroughly study to understand the depiction of the sikh characters.

### Objectives

1. To find if the representation of Sikh characters in the movies are appropriate.
2. To analyze the Sikh character in Bollywood movies.
3. To understand the relation of the movie's script with the Sikh character.

### Research Methodology

Research methodology is the specific procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about a topic. In a research paper, the methodology section allows the reader to critically evaluate a study's overall validity and reliability.

Researcher carried out content analysis.

It is a method of studying and analyzing communication in a systematic, objective procedure for the purpose of measuring variables.

#### Data Interpretation

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|---|---|
| Date of Release                                   | 13 June, 1997   |
| Day   | Friday  |
| Name of the Movie                                 | Border  |
| Production House                                  | J P Gene  |
| Director  | J.P. Dutta  |
| Genre   | War   |
| Actors in Lead role                               | Sunny Deol, Suniel Shetty, Akshay Khanna, Jackie Shroff, Punit Issar, Tabbu, Pooja Bhatt,   |
| Name of the Sikh Character                        | Sunny Deol as Major Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri and Puneet Issar as Rattan Singh  |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie/Polpuarity | Sunny Deol remarkable exhibitions in Border as Major Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri proved that Sikh charaters which were prior used to add bit to comic scene can likewise undeniable standard genuine lead job |

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| Date of Release                        | 15 June, 2001   |
| Day                                    | Friday  |
| Name of the Movie                      | Gadar- Ek Prem Katha  |
| Production House                       | Zee   |
| Director                               | Anil Sharma   |
| Genre                                  | Action Drama  |
| Actors in Lead role                    | Sunny Deol, Amisha Patel, Amrish Puri, Suresh Oberoi, Vivek Shauq   |
| Name of the Sikh Character             | Sunny Deol as Tara Singh and Vivek Shauq as Darmiyan Singh  |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | Sunny Deol role as Tara Singh do justice to sikh character. The character is showcased as strong and youthful. It actually depicts that Sikhs are as brave as any community. His character also gained popularity because of his famous dialogues in the movie. |

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|----------------------------|---|
| Date of Release            | 24 December, 2004                                 |
| Day                        | Friday  |
| Name of the Movie          | Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathyio                   |
| Production House           | T-Series  |
| Director                   | Anil Sharma, Sanjay Sharma                        |
| Genre                      | War   |
| Actors in Lead role        | Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Bobby Deol        |
| Name of the Sikh Character | Amaitabh Bachchan as Major general Amarjeet Singh |

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| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | His extraordinary acting nailed film. His depiction of Sikhs was adept for the class of movies that he played it in. His sikh character legitimize his turban symbol like his different symbols also. His character as Sikh was the most stunning one and he advocated with his character as Major General Amarjeet Singh. |
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| Date of Release                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> September, 2006  |
| Day                                    | Friday   |
| Name of the Movie                      | Lage Raho Munna bhai   |
| Production House                       | Vinod Chopra Productions   |
| Director                               | Rajkumar Hirani  |
| Genre                                  | Comedy Drama   |
| Actors in Lead role                    | Sanjay Dutt, Arshad Warsi, Vidya Balan, Boman Irani, Jimmy Shergill  |
| Name of the Sikh Character             | Boman Irani as Lucky Singh   |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | Boman's character in Lage Raho Munna bhai was particularly intriguing considering his on and off tiff with Sanjay Dutt in the film. His job of a sikh widens the meaning of adaptability for him. Most definitely, his depiction of a Sikh was clever no doubt |

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| Date of Release                        | 8 August, 2008   |
| Day                                    | Friday   |
| Name of the Movie                      | Singh Is King  |
| Production House                       | Reliance Entertainment   |
| Director                               | Anees Bazmee   |
| Genre                                  | Action Comedy  |
| Actors in Lead role                    | Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Om Puri, Kirron Kher, Sonu Sood, Javed jaffari, Neha Dhupia  |
| Name of the Sikh Character             | Akshay Kumar as Happy Sikh   |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | Akshay Kumar role as Happy Singh is not a true description of a sikh character. His cap sized turned and trimmed beared as thoroughly criticize by the sikh communities cross nation. Moreover the character is treated as a joke. |

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| Date of Release     | 11 Decemeber, 2011   |
| Day                 | Friday   |
| Name of the Movie   | Rocket Singh   |
| Production House    | Yash Raj Films   |
| Director            | Shimit Amin  |
| Genre               | Comedy Drama   |
| Actors in Lead role | Ranbir Kapoor, Prem Chopra, Mukesh Bhatt, Gauhar Khan, Manish Chahudhary |

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| Name of the Sikh Character             | Ranbir Kapoor as Harpreet Singh Bedi as Rocket Singh   |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | Harpreet Singh in the film, echoes the sentiments of a clique of turbaned salesmen. But the real fondness for Rocket comes from his street smartness, a trait most of real life Sikhs have been waiting for. |

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| Date of Release                        | 12 July, 2013   |
| Day                                    | Friday  |
| Name of the Movie                      | Bhag Milkha Bhag  |
| Production House                       | Alvernia Studios  |
| Director                               | Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra   |
| Genre                                  | Sports Biopic   |
| Actors in Lead role                    | Farhan Akhtar, Sonam Kapoor, Divya Dutta, Pawan Malhotra  |
| Name of the Sikh Character             | Farhan Akhtar as Milkha Singh   |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | The film, depicting the life and achievements of the "Flying Sikh", Milkha Singh who overcame personal tragedy to represent India three times at the Olympics. This movie is real description of Sikh traits. |

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| Date of Release                        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2015  |
| Day                                    | Friday   |
| Name of the Movie                      | Singh is Bling   |
| Production House                       | Grazing Goat Pvt. Ltd  |
| Director                               | Prabhu Deva  |
| Genre                                  | Action Comedy  |
| Actors in Lead role                    | Akshay Kumar, Amy Jackson, Lara Dutta, Kay Kay Menon & Yograj Singh  |
| Name of the Sikh Character             | Akshay Kumar as Raftaar Singh  |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | Akshay Kumar role as Raftaar Singh justified his character. The movie depicts the real image of the Sikh and Punjabi Culture. Yograj Singh has played the role Raftaar's father. The movie showcased the real bravery of a Sikh for which the Sikh community is known for. |

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| Date of Release     | 17 June, 2016  |
| Day                 | Friday   |
| Name of the Movie   | Udta Punjab  |
| Production House    | Phantom House and Balaji Motion Pictures                             |
| Director            | Abhishek Chaubey   |
| Genre               | Crime Drama  |
| Actors in Lead role | Shahid Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Diljit Dosanjh, Kareena Kapoor, Manav Vij |

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| Name of the Sikh Character             | Diljit Dosanjh as Sartaj Singh and Manav Vij as Jujhar Singh  |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | Diljit Dosanjh in plays a lead role in the movie. His character of Sartaj Singh as 'An extreme Sikh Cop' cop reveal that the real identity of sikh character. |

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| Date of Release                        | 21 March, 2019  |
| Day                                    | Friday  |
| Name of the Movie                      | Kesari  |
| Production House                       | Dharma Productions  |
| Director                               | Anurag Singh  |
| Genre                                  | War Drama   |
| Actors in Lead role                    | Akshay Kumar, Parineet Chopra, Surinder Vicky   |
| Name of the Sikh Character             | Akshay Kumar as Havildat Ishar Singh  |
| Perspective of Sikh Character in movie | The movie depicts the valour of 21 sikhs fighting against the 10,000 Afghans in the Battle of Saragarhi. The movie is the real portrait of the Sikhs. On the other hand Akshay Kumar justified his role in the movie. |

### Conclusion

The researcher found over the time period the Sikh representation in Bollywood movies have changed. Whereas earlier the characters were taken as an object of mockery and to create humor. Despite the fact that Bollywood stars have wore the turban to turn Sikh cool, Sikhs see the portrayal of the network in Hindi film as belittling and have endeavored to resuscitate the Punjabi film industry as an endeavor at credible self-portrayal. The makers are taking the Sikhs in the real serious role where they show case the actual identity of the Sikh community and other hand it has deliver a strong message of the authentic representation of Sikhs.

The study also found that presently a turbaned character in Bollywood motion pictures is not any more depicted from an entertaining perspective to add some humor to the film. The current scene is a complete change, Bollywood have sense that a Sikh character is not any more a 'Joker'. Bollywood films are thinking of that content which has turbaned saint donning a facial hair and is appeared as a lead character in the film. The ongoing motion pictures and their examples of overcoming adversity are obvious of this reality that crowd are just stick to one specific sort or character however they love to see explore. Also it is matter of significance that now a genuine nature of Sikh and their characteristics are appeared on the Silver Screen. What's more, that is the explanation that Bollywood Directors are paying attention to Sikh Characters more and they don't stop for a second to place them in lead character in the movie. The look has been received in Bollywood and acknowledged by crowds across India.

The research also analyzed that scripts are penned down keeping in mind the turban sikh actor. Diljit Dosanjh role in Uda Punjab, Phillauri, Arjun Patiala and Good news Diljit Dosanjh is welcomed by the Bollywood Directors with his turban and

Beard look It is not wrong to say that many directors have started looking for sikh actors and characters in their movies in the lead role. Audience loves the experiment and they are accepting the actor with turban and beard. Even many web series has come with a “Turban Sikh” in the lead role. The best example is ‘Sacred Games’ where Saif Ali Khan is playing a role of ‘Sikh Cop’. This web series was a great hit.

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