

Exploring Madness as a Manifestation of Psychological Trauma: An Analysis of Vishal Bharadwaj's *Haider*

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Abstract

Film studies and literature have taken an inter-disciplinary turn in research today with the development of film studies as an academic discipline in the past few decades. Adaptations form the major thread that weaves a highly potential connection between literature and films. Vishal Bharadwaj, the renowned Bollywood director, has made a trilogy that includes *Omkara*, *Maqbool* and *Haider* which are adaptations of Shakespearean tragedies - *Othello*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* respectively. His attempts to bring the 16th century plays to the 21st century contemporary Indian setting has given the films an independent creative identity as they prove equally worth for research even when they are placed out of the Shakespearean construct. The purpose of this study is to analyse *Haider*, the Hindi adaptation of *Hamlet*, released in the year 2014, within the framework of trauma studies with an emphasis on psychological trauma. The film portrays psychologically complex characters who are caught between two worlds; world within them and outside them. The study focuses on how madness is a manifestation of psychological trauma and how betrayal and revenge become its causes. The paper adopts a quantitative method of study to voice the unspeakable and unrepresentable traumatic experiences of *Haider*.

Keywords: Psychological Trauma, Madness, Trauma, Shakespearean, Adaptations