

Film Review of Bride and Prejudice

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A 2004 movie directed by Gurinder Chadha, "Bride and Prejudice" is less of a romantic drama film but more of a collision of cultural and traditional differences of the West and East. It portrays the importance of love and respect for different people belonging to different places and cultures. The movie is an adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen in Bollywood-style.

The idea of the movie is somewhat different from that of the original movie "Pride and Prejudice" which portrays only the class differences. But this movie particularly focuses on cultural tolerance and respect that is shown by both the families belonging to the West (American) and the East (Indian).

Based on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the film is centered around Lalita Bakshi (Aishwarya Rai), the protagonist of the story, who plays the role of a young and intelligent woman living in Amritsar, India with her family which consisted of her father Mr. Bakshi (Anupam Kher), her mother Mrs. Bakshi (Nadira Babbar), her elder sister Jaya (Namrata Shirodkar) and her two younger sisters, Lakhi (Peeya Rai) and Maya (Meghna Kothari). Mrs. Bakshi was determined to get her daughters married to wealthy and reputed families for which she could do anything.

Psychological analysis: All the four daughters were so different from each other. Also Mr. and Mrs. Bakshi were different in every aspect.

The Bakshi family was an Indian middle class family and perhaps Mrs. Bakshi was opting for a shortcut to get equalized with the richer section of the society and that was by getting her daughters married to wealthy and reputed families. Jaya the eldest daughter was into a wealthy guy named Balraj (Naveen Andrews), he was a British-Indian barrister, they met on a friend's wedding and instantly fell in love.

Mr. Will Darcy (Martin Henderson) was a handsome and wealthy American who was a good friend of Balraj. Mr. Darcy was against the idea of Balraj getting married to Jaya, since he felt that their class didn't match and also he felt that Mrs. Bakshi was quite selfish in her motives.

Such instances shows the artificial barrier that is made by the people of the West upon the East. They looked at the East as backward and ignorant.

Cultural analysis: The movie included two sets of culture, one of the Indian culture and the other of the Western American culture.

The Bakshi family adored and had respect for the Western group of people who visited India i.e Mr. Will Darcy, his family and his friend Balraj, which shows the democratic nature of the Indian people. But on the other hand Mr. Darcy saw the Bakshi family as not being a match for their standards. But in course of time he fell in love with Lalita, because she was unlike her naive mother. Lalita was smart and intelligent beyond his imagination. So that completely changed his perception about India and it's people.

Differences and Similarities:

The major difference that is shown in the movie is that of the standard of living between the West and the East. But nevertheless the ending portrayed a positive side by reflecting a major similarity in the minds of the people that where there is love there is no place for differences such as upper class or lower class, rich or poor.

This movie thus provides a positive moral for all the people across the world.