



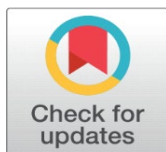
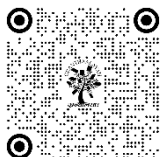


EFFECTS OF SOUND AND HOW AUDIENCES PERCEIVE'. A SPECIFIC REFERENCE STUDY USING THE MALAYALAM FILM "JALLIKATTU

Salin Dhas C S¹  , Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar²  

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Journalism and Science Communication, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-21, India

² Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Science Communication, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-21, India



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Corresponding Author

Salin Dhas C S, salindhas12@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

In the world of cinema, audio is more important than visuals. According to the Academy Award-winning sound designer, "sound in cinema is a subconscious craft." In movies, the emotions, mood, story, and feelings are produced using music and numerous forms of sounds. The three types of sounds employed in the creation of movies are human voices, music, and sound effects. These three types of noises need to be present for a viewer to interpret a movie as genuine. The Aurangabad Film Festival's best sound award went to Lijo Jose Pellishery's film 'Jallikattu', which revolutionised Malayalam cinema and was formally nominated for India's Oscar submission. The focus of the researcher in this study is on how sound affects how viewers perceive the plot and violence in the chosen film.

Keywords: Malayalam Film, Sound Designer, Film Festival

1. INTRODUCTION

Lijo Jose Pellishery, who has inspired Malayalam cinema with his unique themes, directed the 2019 Malayalam film [Jallikattu \(2019\)](#). For his film 'Jallikattu', he received the Silver Peacock Award for Best Director at the 50th International Film Festival of India. He also won the Best Director prize at the 48th Kerala State Film Awards and Winner of the Aurangabad Film Festival's award for best sound [Film Companion \(2019\)](#).

The screenplay for 'Jallikattu', which was adapted from S. Hareesh's short tale "Maoist," was written by S. Hareesh and R. Jayakumar.

The lead actors are Antony Varghese, ChembanVinod Jose, SabumonAbdusamad, and Santhi Balachandran. A buffalo escapes shortly before being killed in the middle of the night in a hill town, and the village tries to catch it in the course of the story. Although there are many elements in the realm of cinema that go into making a good film, the images and sound are the most crucial. The first motion pictures were silent, and as the industry evolved gradually, sound recordings were introduced in the 1927 film THE JAZZ SINGER.

Human voice, which is included for the actors' voices and dialogues presented by the people who are involved in the screen, and the music help the movie to feel the atmosphere of cinema and variations of the music which create the anticipation of the audience and it creates the mood of cinema. The film sound included the three types of sound, which are Human voice, Music, and Sound effects these are recorded, Edited, and arranged for the particular scene and sequence in the film. "What cannot be stated in words can be articulated via sound and song," claims A R Rahman. The sound effects that give a movie its reality is recorded by the foolish sound, mixed, and added to the film's sequence of sound effects that give the actors on screen life.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

[Gousis and Anestis \(2015\)](#) Studies have been done on how moviegoers perceive sound in motion pictures. For this study, different film sequences were chosen, and three different types of sound tracks were composed, then screened to the audience. The study's findings show that while different sequence parameters are affected by sound, they are not all affected equally. Depending on their field of expertise and gender, different people have been affected by the sound in different ways.

[Gopakumar and Sudheer \(2020\)](#) did some research on the movie's depiction of "Beastliness" as an atavistic human quality. The film's 'Jallikattu' semiological study demonstrates how the filmmaker expertly used a variety of symbols, metonyms, visual cues, and noises to represent the idea of beastliness. In the study, it was found that cinematic customs could relate to and produce profound meaning for engaged film spectators regarding the beastliness of the nonlinear narrative structure. The wild buffalo hunt serves as a mirror for the characters in the film to recognise their own beastliness as the movie's premise transitions to the "man is wild" preposition, progressively constructing the realisation about who is the genuine beast in the true sense.

[Joy and Gokul \(2020\)](#) Politics, ecology, and social relations have previously been studied in the movie's narrative structure and visual vocabulary. Additionally, it displays a sexual dominance and the use of violence to obtain sex. Through its production design and narrative, film also critiques the anthropocene world from a profound ecological perspective, opening up the possibility to re-evaluate the status quo of existing power structures.

3. METHODOLOGY

A qualitative study with integrated descriptive content analysis was the research methodology employed. Because it requires adding up phenomena to support more qualitative studies, content analysis is frequently referred to be quantitative. In an effort to understand how the director generated meaning through the use of sound in the film, researchers attempt to analyse the impact of

sound using a combination of semiotic analysis, syntagmatic analysis, and paradigmatic study of film texts.

Diegetic vs. non-diegetic sound: Diegetic sound takes place within the world of the story, such as dialogue from actors, the sound of glass breaking, or the horns of taxis. Diegetic sound can either exactly match the action scene on the screen or someone who is acting outside the scene but still within the world of the story.

The world of the story does not include non-diegetic sound. This can include the soundtrack, a narrator, or accents that are used in the movie for effect.

The Malayalam film 'Jallikattu', which was directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, received numerous awards at film festivals for various categories, including sound, and was formally nominated for an Oscar in 2021. The soundscape at 'Jallikattu' is one of the main talking points. Both Renganaath Ravee's thundering sound design and Prasanth Pillai's unique, primarily accapella-based background score are a perfect match for Lijo Jose Pellissery's uncontrolled chaos filmmaking style.

There are 12 people working in the sound department of 'Jallikattu', according to IMDB. The buffalo and night sound from the main layer were among the most difficult sounds to record for 'Jallikattu'. They were captured using 360-degree microphones and processed to the necessary codes, and the foolish sound plays a significant role in the film.

Music "without instrumental accompaniment" known as a cappella is created by howling voices and tapping on the skin. Acappella is a style of music that is frequently and effectively employed in the movie 'Jallikattu'.

4. ANALYSIS OF SOUND'S IMPACT

The audience is struck by the creation of sound from the opening scene of Lijo Jose Pellissery's film, "Jallikattu," according to the researcher's investigation of how sound contributes to the impact of the film. The group discussion method and content analysis are the research methods used in this study to gather data. Particularly, the majority of viewers share the same views on how the sound is distributed throughout the movie. [P T Prime \(2020\)](#)

The movie effectively communicated its message through diegetic and non-diegetic noises. Diegetic noises, such as animal sounds, are used early on in the movie to evoke the original beauty of nature. The background soundtrack (non-diegetic) by Prasanth Pillai is an acapella-based background score with "JeeJiJeeJi" and "UFFF" noises representative of primitive or tribal human lives.

The opening short of the movie, which creates the sound effect of "anti-lock smart," is what the audience perceives as the movie's representation of the previous generation's view that humans and animals are inherently evil when they interact. The audience compares human breath sounds to animal breath sounds when they hear human breath sounds. When others contact, the human makes a merging sound with their breath, indicating that they are in charge of the social situation. [The Mallu Analyst \(2019\)](#)

The sound in the building relates to the sounds of people cutting and sharpening knives as well as other ambient sounds that depict the circumstances of stories that often take place in the town. In the conversation, the researcher examines the night time ambient sound that transports viewers to a real forest town and gives them the impression that they are a part of the story.

Acappella sound, in the opinion of the sound designer, serves to increase the impact for feeling exhilarating and hallucinating the audience's mind. When a honey

bee is attacked by one person, the entire colony of bees join forces and attack at once, the video director says the metaphorical sound of bees in the scenario before the human throng. The conflict sound generated by *Kuttachan* and Antony illustrates how when people become angry, they act like animals by howling and fighting. [UnniVlogsCinephile \(2019\)](#)

During the scene where Antony violently kisses Sophie, the sound of human voices transforms into the growls of animals. The case against the animal-versus-human binary is strengthened by the use of sound. When Antony and *Kuttachan* fight, this time motivated by personal vengeance—which, when boiled down to its most basic form, is sexual rivalry—the binary is once again put to the test. *Kuttachan* insists to others that the bull attacked him despite Antony repeatedly stabbing him. By trading positions, Antony, and Bull show that people and animals are alike.

One of the most prominent sounds in the 'Jallikattu' movie is "JeeJiJeeJi" which was created by accapella sound and is based on African Tribal Traditions. The movie critic Mallu Analyst explained how this sound affects the viewers' perception of the movie they are viewing.

5. CONCLUSION

The sound and music in this film truly gave viewers goosebumps and kept the plot moving forward till the very end. As the movie progresses, the spectator is given the impression that they are actually living in the same community thanks to the sound design. The phrase "*Avanmaarurandukallelodunundelum, mrigamaamrigam,*" which means "they may move about on two legs, but they are animals," is represented by this movie. This film beautifully and cinematically depicted the real story. According to reports, the novel "Mavoist" by author Harish served as the inspiration for this film's plot. Our moral and societal foundations are exposed as brittle in Pellissery and his collaborators' post-apocalyptic cinematic symphony. We are susceptible to nature's unpredictable whims and have hidden dark urges. The film comes to an explosive conclusion where violence breeds its own brand of ecstasy. In conclusion, the movie 'Jallikattu' is a healthy eye delight for moviegoers.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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