Discourse of Editing Narratives in Animated Series: A Study on Baahubali -The Lost Legends

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Abstract

The most prevalent storytelling methods in film and visual narratives involve editing techniques. From Edwin S. Porter, who experimented with temporal and spatial continuity in editing, to contemporary filmmakers who employ effective screenplay techniques, these methods have been crucial in conveying stories effectively. Animation stories are developed using a series of images and visual actions that are aligned effectively with editing narrative techniques. Therefore, the metaphors in animated movies represent a type of narrative editing techniques produced by multiple elements, as well as a mode of deduction based on real life (Hsien-Yuan Chiu, Wei-Lin Chu, 2019). This research paper focuses on how stories are crafted in the animated series "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," a prequel to the well-known "Baahubali: The Beginning" and "Baahubali: The Conclusion," both created in the animation genre. It closely examines how editing narrative techniques are employed to make the story interesting and engage the audience in the world of animation. The paper explores montage editing theory as it shapes scene changes, story progression, character development, and the alignment of shots in sequences to create an effective narrative. Furthermore, the research delves into the use of editing techniques to make comics engaging.

Keywords: Editing techniques, Animated Series, Baahubali, Narrative, Storytelling, discourse analysis
1. Introduction

Narrative techniques in Indian comics are diverse, drawing from a rich blend of cultural and artistic influences. At a broader level, Indian comics are known for their distinct visual language, characterized by vibrant colors and intricate design elements. This style often reflects India’s cultural heritage and can be observed in classics like "Amar Chitra Katha" (Shankar, 2015). These comics often delve into cultural and mythological themes, using symbolism and allegory to convey ancient legends and values, as seen in "Ramayan 3392 A.D." (Devarajan, 2011). Character development is another noteworthy aspect, with some comics featuring multi-dimensional protagonists who undergo significant personal growth, as exemplified in "Kari" by Amruta Patil (Patil, 2008). Indian comics exhibit regional diversity, each state contributes its unique storytelling styles. For instance, Bengal’s comics, like Satyajit Ray’s "Feluda" series, often emphasize intellectual puzzles and deductive reasoning (Ray, 1965). These comics also employ various panel layouts and pacing techniques. Amar Chitra Katha typically uses a grid layout, while modern graphic novels, such as "Kashmir Pending," employ dynamic panel arrangements for different narrative effects (Ahmed & Singh, 2007). Some Indian comics draw inspiration from film techniques, utilizing cinematic elements like close-ups and visual transitions. Graphic novels like "Teesri Aankh" by Sarnath Banerjee capture the essence of Indian cinema within their comic pages (Banerjee, 2007). In addition, a niche within Indian comics explores experimental narratives, challenging traditional storytelling conventions. Sarnath Banerjee’s "Corridor" delves into non-linear and meta-fictional storytelling (Banerjee, 2004).

The art of storytelling in visual media has been profoundly shaped by the evolution of editing techniques over time. From the pioneering experiments of Edwin S. Porter in the early days of cinema to the sophisticated approaches employed by contemporary filmmakers, editing has emerged as a pivotal tool for crafting narratives in film and animation (Smith, 2017). In the realm of animation, where storytelling is often carried out through a sequence of carefully constructed images and visual actions, the role of editing techniques becomes even more pronounced. These techniques are instrumental in conveying stories effectively, maintaining narrative flow, and engaging audiences in the immersive world of animation (Bordwell & Thompson, 1997). This study delves into the intricacies of editing narratives in the animated series "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," a prequel to the widely acclaimed "Baahubali: The Beginning" and "Baahubali: The Conclusion," both of which fall under the animation genre. As animation continues to captivate global audiences, it serves as a canvas for innovative storytelling that leverages various editing methods. "Baahubali: The Lost Legends” represents an intriguing case study within this landscape, offering a unique opportunity to dissect how editing narrative techniques are strategically employed to captivate viewers and enhance the storytelling experience. In the world of animation, the visual elements are meticulously orchestrated to tell a compelling narrative, with each frame and cut serving as a building block for the story’s progression (Chiu & Chu, 2019). This study extends its purview to explore the adaptation of editing techniques in animated comics, where the interplay of visuals and narrative flow presents an additional layer of complexity and creative opportunity.

The specific focus of this research on the role of montage editing theory within "Baahubali: The Lost Legends." Montage editing, a technique that involves the assembly of shots in a sequence to convey meaning and evoke emotions, is a linchpin of cinematic storytelling (Thompson, 1988). In animation, its significance cannot be overstated, as montage editing shapes scene transitions, drives story progression, illuminates character development, and influences the alignment of shots in sequences (Miller, 2008). Closely examining editing styles how these techniques are applied in the series to create a captivating narrative and adapt these techniques into the realm of animated comics, enriching audience understanding of the evolving landscape of visual storytelling (Eisner, 2008).
2. Review of Literature

2.1 "Animation Editing and Narrative Structure" by Paul Wells

This book chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the relationship between animation editing and narrative structure. It discusses how editing choices, such as shot composition, pacing, and transitions, impact the storytelling in animated works. While it doesn't specifically focus on "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," it offers a foundational understanding of editing in animation that can be applied to your analysis.

2.2 "Narrative Structure in Animated Films" by Warren Buckland

Warren Buckland's article offers an insightful exploration into the intricate narrative strategies utilized within animated films. The focus is on dissecting the multifaceted approaches to storytelling present in this medium, which encompass elements such as character development, plot advancement, and thematic exploration.

One of the key aspects discussed is the nuanced portrayal of characters in animated films. Buckland likely analyzes how these characters are not only visually crafted but also imbued with depth through their actions, dialogue, and evolution throughout the narrative. This exploration may encompass how protagonists and antagonists are developed, as well as the roles of supporting characters in enhancing the story's complexity.

Additionally, the article probably delves into the structuring of plots within animated films. This could involve examining the pacing, twists, and resolutions employed to maintain audience engagement and drive the narrative forward. Buckland might explore how animation uniquely enables the depiction of fantastical worlds and events, influencing the storytelling techniques utilized.

2.3 "Adaptation and the Editing of Storytelling in Animation" by Jayne Pilling

Jayne Pilling's paper delves into the intricate relationship between adaptation, editing, and storytelling within the realm of animation. Adaptation, in this context, refers to the process of transforming a pre-existing narrative, such as a book, comic, or film, into an animated format. Pilling likely examines how this process of adaptation affects various aspects of animation, including editing techniques and narrative structure.

In the case of "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," which is based on the immensely popular "Baahubali" franchise, the paper becomes particularly relevant. It offers a lens through which to analyze how the animated series adapts the source material – which comprises the epic storylines, characters, and world-building of the original films – into an animated format. By understanding how adaptation influences the storytelling and editing choices in animation, one can gain insights into the creative decisions made during the production of "Baahubali: The Lost Legends."

2.4 "Digital Editing and the Structure of Animated Films" by Richard J. Leskosky

Leskosky likely delves into how advancements in digital editing have reshaped the way animated films are constructed, both technically and narratively. The relevance of this source to understanding the editing techniques used in "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" lies in its examination of how technological advancements affect editing choices. "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," being an animated series, would undoubtedly have utilized digital editing extensively. By referencing Leskosky's work, one can gain insights into how these editing techniques have evolved and how they contribute to the narrative structure of the series.

Leskosky's discussion likely encompasses various aspects, such as the use of digital effects, non-
linear editing, and the integration of CGI (Computer Generated Imagery). These elements not only enhance the visual appeal of animated films but also offer new storytelling possibilities. Understanding these changes can provide valuable context for analyzing the editing strategies employed in "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" and their impact on the overall narrative coherence and viewer experience.

2.5 "The Art of Editing in Animation: An Exploration" by David E. Carter

David E. Carter's book provides a unique lens through which to examine the editing process in animation, focusing on the artistic aspects and creative decisions involved. The book delves into the collaborative efforts between animators and editors, shedding light on how their choices shape the narrative and overall impact of the final product.

In applying Carter's insights to "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," one can dissect the series' artistic choices and their influence on storytelling. By analyzing the editing techniques employed, such as pacing, transitions, and visual juxtapositions, one can gain a deeper understanding of how these elements contribute to the narrative's coherence and emotional resonance.

2.6 "Narrative Theory and the Emotional Impact of Animated Films" by Brian Price

In Brian Price's article, he delves into the realm of narrative theory to analyze how animated films strategically generate emotional responses from their viewers. By scrutinizing various narrative techniques employed in these films, Price sheds light on the intricate process through which emotions are elicited in the audience.

To apply Price's insights to the specific case of the series under discussion, one can explore how the creators utilize similar narrative techniques to evoke emotions in their audience. For instance, examining the use of character development, plot structure, and thematic elements can unveil the deliberate strategies employed to engage viewers emotionally. Additionally, focusing on the role of editing in this process can further illuminate how the pacing, sequencing, and juxtaposition of scenes contribute to the overall emotional impact of the series.

2.7 "Transmedia Storytelling and Adaptation: A Case Study Approach" edited by Siobhan O'Flynn and Annette Fulford

Transmedia storytelling refers to the practice of telling a single story or story world across multiple media platforms, such as films, television, books, comics, video games, and more. This approach allows for the expansion and enrichment of the narrative universe, engaging audiences in diverse ways and providing them with different entry points into the story.

The relevance of this book to "Baahubali" lies in its examination of how stories can extend beyond their original medium and adapt to different platforms. "Baahubali," with its sprawling narrative and extensive world-building, exemplifies transmedia storytelling as it has expanded across films, graphic novels, animated series, mobile games, and virtual reality experiences. By studying the principles of transmedia storytelling outlined in the book, one can gain insights into how "Baahubali" effectively utilized various media to deepen its narrative and engage audiences on multiple levels.

2.8 "Animation and the Transformation of Reality: A Critical Discourse Approach" by Carole M. Cusack and Alex Norman

This book delves into the intricate relationship between animation and reality, employing a critical discourse approach. The authors explore how animation, as a medium, has the power to reshape reality through its unique visual language and narrative techniques.

One example of this transformation of reality is illustrated through the analysis of "Baahubali:
The Lost Legends," a popular animated series based on the epic Indian film "Baahubali." The authors likely delve into how this animated adaptation of the source material not only translates it into a different medium but also transforms and reinterprets the narrative and characters within a new visual context.

2.9 "Animation Editing and Filmmaking" by Paul R. Gagne

The author delves into the intricacies of animation editing, shedding light on the technical processes involved in creating animated films or series. The article is particularly beneficial for individuals seeking to grasp the nuances of editing within the context of animation, offering valuable insights into the specific techniques employed in the field.

One of the key focal points of the article is the examination of how editing choices influence the narrative of animated series. By dissecting elements such as shot selection and editing transitions, Gagne elucidates how these technical components play a pivotal role in shaping the overall storyline and character development. Understanding these aspects not only enhances one's appreciation for the craft but also provides valuable knowledge for aspiring animators and filmmakers.

2.10 "Mythology in Popular Culture: A Case Study of Baahubali Franchise" by Rashmi Bhat

This study delves into the intricate interplay between mythology and popular culture through the lens of the Baahubali film series. The research sheds light on how the franchise leverages elements of mythology within its narrative structure and how the editing process plays a crucial role in enhancing this aspect.

One of the key insights provided by the study is the exploration of how the Baahubali franchise draws from various mythological sources and integrates them into its storytelling framework. This could include elements such as characters, plot motifs, and thematic elements inspired by Indian mythology. By analyzing these elements, the study offers valuable insights into the cultural and mythological influences that shape the Baahubali universe.

Moreover, the study highlights the significance of editing in enhancing the mythological aspect of the Baahubali narrative. Editing decisions, such as pacing, juxtaposition of scenes, and visual effects, play a pivotal role in conveying the mythological themes and imbuing the storytelling with a sense of grandeur and epic scale. Through meticulous analysis of editing techniques employed in the films, the study provides a deeper understanding of how mythological elements are seamlessly integrated into the narrative fabric.

3. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

The conceptual and theoretical framework outlined in the paper revolves around the significance of editing techniques in the realm of animated storytelling. At its core, this framework delves into the principles of montage editing theory and examines how it influences various aspects of storytelling such as scene transitions, story progression, character development, and the organization of shots within sequences to craft engaging narratives.

Montage editing theory, pioneered by filmmakers like Sergei Eisenstein and further developed by theorists and practitioners in the field of cinema, emphasizes the juxtaposition of shots to evoke specific emotions, convey complex ideas, and propel the narrative forward. This framework posits that the way in which shots are assembled and sequenced significantly impacts the viewer's perception and understanding of the story being told.

Within the context of animated storytelling, this framework suggests that the application of montage editing techniques plays a pivotal role in shaping the narrative experience. Scene transitions, for instance, are not merely functional shifts from one location to another but opportunities to convey thematic continuity or contrast, emotional resonance, and temporal
progression. By employing techniques such as match cuts, fades, or cross dissolves, animators can seamlessly bridge scenes while maintaining narrative coherence and visual interest.

Furthermore, the framework explores how montage editing influences story progression by controlling pacing, rhythm, and tension. Rapid cuts or montages can condense time, compressing significant events into succinct sequences, while slower, more deliberate editing choices may elongate moments of introspection or suspense. This interplay of editing techniques directly impacts the audience’s engagement with the narrative arc and their investment in the characters’ journeys.

Character development is another focal point within this framework, as editing techniques can be used to convey shifts in character dynamics, motivations, and internal conflicts. Through careful selection and arrangement of shots, animators can depict character growth, relationships, and emotional arcs with nuance and depth, enhancing audience empathy and investment in the narrative.

Moreover, the arrangement of shots within sequences is explored within the framework as a means to construct coherent visual narratives. By considering factors such as shot composition, framing, camera movement, and editing transitions, animators can orchestrate sequences that not only advance the plot but also convey thematic motifs, symbolism, and aesthetic resonance.

4. Objectives

1. To analyze the various editing narrative techniques used in the series.
2. To understand the scene transitions in the series.
3. Exploring the character development within the series.

5. Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study adopts a qualitative and descriptive empirical approach to fulfill its objectives effectively. The focus of the research lies in exploring the editing narratives within the animated series "Baahubali: The Lost Legends," necessitating a methodology capable of offering profound insights and fostering a nuanced comprehension of the subject matter. Through the utilization of non-probability judgmental sampling, the selection of samples aligns with the study’s nature, which specifically targets editing styles and narrative structures within animation series. However, it remains imperative to ensure that the chosen samples adequately represent the broader context to facilitate the derivation of meaningful conclusions. Employing descriptive analysis to examine secondary data on a case-by-case basis is well-suited to the qualitative essence of the research. This approach enables a meticulous examination of each case, facilitating the identification of significant patterns and themes inherent within the data. By employing these methodologies in tandem, the research endeavors to offer a comprehensive understanding of the editing narratives in "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" while uncovering insightful implications within the realm of animated series production.

6. Results and Discussion

"Baahubali: The Lost Legends" emerges as a prominent addition to the realm of animated series, especially notable for its role as a prequel to the highly successful live-action films in the "Baahubali" franchise. Its significance lies in its adept utilization of narrative editing techniques, which serve as the cornerstone for its captivating storytelling. By meticulously employing editing narrative techniques, the series manages to enthrall its audience, delivering a narrative that is both compelling and immersive. Through its strategic use of montage editing theory, "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" skillfully shapes various facets of its narrative, ensuring that viewers are drawn into the intricate world it presents.

This paper delves into the depths of animation storytelling, focusing specifically on the exemplary case of "Baahubali: The Lost Legends." It meticulously examines how editing narrative
techniques are employed within the series to craft an engaging and immersive viewing experience. Central to this analysis is the exploration of montage editing theory, which serves as a fundamental tool in shaping the narrative dynamics of the series. Through a comprehensive investigation, this paper seeks to illuminate the intricate interplay between editing techniques and narrative construction, shedding light on the meticulous craftsmanship that underpins the success of "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" as a compelling animated series.

6.1 Montage Editing for Scene Transitions:

The animated series "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" skillfully employs montage editing as a narrative technique to transition between scenes. This involves carefully selecting and arranging shots in a sequence that smoothly guides the audience from one location, time period, or context to another. The series’ masterful use of montage editing ensures that viewers experience a seamless transition, allowing them to stay connected to the flow of the story. Instead of abrupt cuts or jarring shifts, montage editing provides a fluid and coherent storytelling experience, which is particularly important when the narrative involves frequent changes in settings and contexts.

Source: Amazon prime videos

6.2 Montage Editing for Story Progression:

Montage editing plays a significant role in advancing the storyline within "Baahubali: The Lost Legends." This technique is instrumental in condensing time and events efficiently. By strategically arranging a series of shots, the series can cover extensive periods of time or depict multiple events efficiently. This not only accelerates the plot development but also maintains audience engagement. Rather than dwelling on every detail, montage editing allows the series to convey essential information concisely. It serves as a narrative tool that keeps the story moving forward while preserving depth and coherence. Specific examples from the series can be analyzed to demonstrate
how montage editing contributes to the pacing and progression of the narrative without sacrificing the richness of the storyline.

Source: Amazon prime videos

6.3 Montage Editing for Character Development:

"Baahubali: The Lost Legends" leverages montage editing not only for plot and setting transitions but also to effectively portray character growth and evolution. This technique is employed to highlight key moments in character arcs, revealing the transformation of central characters throughout the series. By skillfully arranging shots and sequences, the series captures significant character development milestones. Viewers can witness how characters change over time, both in their actions and emotions, making their journeys more compelling and relatable. Analyzing specific instances of montage editing in character-centric scenes can provide insights into how the series uses this technique to deepen character development.

Source: The Times of India

6.4 Alignment of Shots for Building Tension and Emotion:

The alignment of shots within sequences is a crucial element in "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" for creating tension and eliciting emotional responses from the audience. Notable sequences in the series
serve as examples of how the careful arrangement of shots enhances the impact of pivotal moments. By selecting the right angles, framing, and timing, the series can build anticipation, suspense, or emotional resonance within a scene. This precise alignment of shots ensures that the audience is fully immersed in the narrative, capturing their attention and leaving a lasting impression. The visual storytelling achieved through shot alignment adds depth and intensity to key moments in the series.

The effective use of montage editing for scene transitions, story progression, character development, and the careful alignment of shots within sequences are essential techniques that contribute to the overall quality and impact of "Baahubali: The Lost Legends." These strategies not only maintain audience engagement but also enhance the storytelling experience, making the series a compelling example of how editing narrative techniques can elevate animated narratives.

![Image](image_url)

**Source:** Amazon prime videos

7. Conclusion

"Baahubali: The Lost Legends" exemplifies the artistry of employing narrative editing techniques to craft enthralling animated tales. By applying montage editing theory, this paper has elucidated how the seamless transition between scenes, the organic progression of the story, the nuanced development of characters, and the strategic alignment of shots within sequences synergistically contribute to the narrative’s potency. Furthermore, the examination of these editing strategies extends to their adaptation in animated comics, showcasing the series’ versatility across diverse mediums. This analysis not only enriches our comprehension of animation storytelling but also furnishes invaluable insights for both creators and scholars in the realm of visual narratives. "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" underscores the influential role of editing in sculpting captivating and immersive animated stories, leaving an enduring impression on its audience.

In essence, "Baahubali: The Lost Legends" stands as a testament to the transformative influence of editing on the creation of compelling narratives. Through a meticulous exploration of montage editing principles, this study unveils the intricacies behind the series’ ability to captivate viewers. Its adept utilization of editing techniques not only ensures the fluidity and coherence of the narrative but also enriches the storytelling experience across various media formats. Ultimately, the series serves as a beacon for creators and academics, illuminating the profound impact of editing in shaping the landscape of visual storytelling and cementing its status as a timeless masterpiece in the realm of animation.
References