
A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF FAMOUS HINDI PATRIOTIC FILM SONGS, 1957-2019

Prof. Tapati Basu¹ Dr. Sweta Ghosh²

¹Former Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Former Dean of the Faculty of Library and Information Science, Journalism
and Mass Communication, and Education, University of Calcutta, India

²Guest Faculty, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Jadavpur University, India

Abstract

The paper investigates the various ways emotional and patriotic feelings represented in these 15 patriotic Hindi film songs from 1957 to 2019. Various literatures available on patriotism and Hindi film songs are studied for framing the research questions. Both manifest and latent content have been studied to identify the themes and messages present in these famous sound tracks. For determination of any changes in lyrics and presentation of words over these 75 years, both discourse and semiotic analysis have been performed. Out of the top 33 Patriotic Hindi film songs listed by India.com, only 15 songs are randomly selected. Words are categorised into 9 sub-categories based on their usage and meanings. Apart from content analysis, an interview of an ex-navy officer has been conducted to find out about the feeling regarding these songs. The study reveals that all these patriotic songs show the beauty of the country through the eyes of Indians. The terms related to the country has been used 206 times whereas the terms related to religion have been used 50 times. Both religion and nation play a great role in the creation these songs. Messages provided by these songs are progress, development, peace, love, unity in diversity, and sacrifice.

Keywords: Patriotism, Songs, Nationalism, War films

Introduction

As India is commemorating her 75th years of Independence, we all Indians are getting ready to venerate this *Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav* with great enthusiasm and grandeur. Apart from flag hoisting and distribution of sweets, no Independence Day and Republic Day is said to be complete without playing Patriotic Hindi film songs. As India progressed from the age Analog media to Digital media, the musical devices had changed but the content remained same. Apart from our National Song (*Vande Mataram*) and National Anthem (*Jana Gana Mana*), patriotic Hindi film songs too have brought a sense of happiness and fulfilment in our lives. They have acquired a special place in every Indian's heart. One of the famous non-film patriotic songs that hardly any India will ever deny of hearing is the famous *Aae Mere Watan Ke Logon* (1963). The song was sung by legendary Indian singer Lata Mangeshkar, written by Kavi Pradeep

and composed by C. Ramchandra in honor of the Indian soldiers who died during Sino-Indian war held in 1962. This famous non-film and contextually immortalised song stands out as a ruminating and pathos-filled song (Ranade, 2006, P219). Hindi film songs played an important role in lives of every Indians. We play them during our marriage ceremonies, birthdays, school performances, party celebrations, religious festivals, and other important days like Parakram Diwas, and National Youth Day. Celebration in Indian and Hindi film songs is inseparable. Film in India was introduced in less than seven months after the first Lumiere Brothers' show held in Paris on 28th December 1895 (Bose, 2006, pp 30-37). From ancient period, dance, drama and music are considered to be undividable and interrelated components in Indian culture. With the advent of cinema in June 1896 these cultural components accompanied a special place in the cinematic contents. Hindi film songs have contributed to Indian music at large. Not only the Hindi films, but regional film industries also used patriotic songs to ignite the true feelings of patriotism among the masses. Some of the popular Bengali Patriotic songs are *Ekbar Biday De Ma Ghure Asi* (For once bid me goodbye, O Mother!), *Bharat Amar Bharat Barsha* (India my country) and *Utho Go Bharat Lakhi* (Rise up O Mother Nation India!).

Objectives of the study

The current paper aims at investigating the way emotional and patriotic feelings represented in these 15 patriotic Hindi film songs from 1957 to 2019. Following are the objectives of the paper:

1. To review various literature available on Patriotism, Music and Hindi Film songs.
2. To determine the Manifest and Latent Content present in these patriotic Hindi film songs
3. To execute Discourse and Semiotic Analysis of lyrics used in these patriotic Hindi film songs.

Literature Review

Bromwich (2011, P34) defines the term Patriotism as 'the love for our country'. It is sometimes presented as a profound requirement of human nature; yet it is admitted that some people are more urgently moved by patriotism than others, and that the feeling is acquired and not innate. As the feeling of patriotism is acquired along with National Anthem, the National symbols such as flower and animal, the National Flag and Colours are synonymous to freedom, courage and independence. Hindi Patriotic songs often use these components to move Indian masses with the feeling of patriotism.

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Ganti (2013) studies that the post independent era has witnessed the proliferation of patriotic films, when India liberated herself from colonial rule and faced subsequent wars with China and Pakistan. Films at this period emphasised on the unity of the nation despite of its tremendous religious, ethnic, linguistic, and regional diversity. Films at this period sought to unify the vast and diverse population under a single nation category 'India'. Films continually valorized a pan-Indian identity above more specific linguistic or regional identities through songs, dialogues, and characters. The upsurge of nationalism or patriotism is one the important thematic trends in Hindi films. Earlier cinema used stereotype-images about West as immoral, individualistic, materialistic and lacking in cultural values in contrast to morality, spirituality and cultural superiority of India. Nationalism is a discourse of contrasts and boundaries between insiders and outsiders, citizens and foreigners. Director J.P.Dutta's *Border* was significantly different from earlier war films as it depicted external threats to the nation openly. Since 1997 to 2021, filmmakers are able to explicitly name Pakistan as the enemy and instigator of the country's troubles. Morcom (2016, pp 39-40) states that in modern film songs, lyrics are written after the melody. Previously all Hindi film songs along with the patriotic songs are composed on lyrics. From 1970s to 1980s lyrics are composed on tunes. The music is written on lyrics in case of the songs where lyrics are important or if the songs are very wordy. Two patriotic Hindi songs such as *Zindagi maut na ban jaye* (Let life not turn into death) in *Sarfarosh* (1999) and *Sandese Aate Hain* (Messages come) are example of such. *Sandese* has a prose like lyrics and is also very wordy, so lyrics have to be given more importance. *Zindagi maut* is a patriotic qawwali that uses the term patriotism directly in the line *Sarfarosi ki sama dil mein jalao yaaro* (Light the flame of patriotism in your hearts, friends!).

Research Questions

Following research questions are created after performing a vigorous review on the previous literature available regarding Bollywood films and Patriotic songs.

RQ1: Do lyrics of these patriotic Hindi film songs changed with times?

RQ2: What theme or message is expressed through these songs?

Research Methodology

The present paper's Research Methodology performs Content Analysis of 15 patriotic Hindi film songs. Initially in Communication Science, Content Analysis was developed to examine huge textual components in a quantitative way (Mayring, 2014, P17). Content analysis is widely used for determining the content's characteristics,

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development of the idea regarding the content and determination of content's effects on its audiences. In social research process, content analysis has been used for identification of the features and concepts present in the content (Feliciano, 1967, pp 16-18). For examining the manifest content one can use content analysis process by identifying the themes and messages present in the content. It can also be used to examine the latent content present in these patriotic Hindi film songs for forming the underlying meanings (Hsieh and Shannon, 2018, P 394).

Analyses and Findings

To investigate about the Latent and Manifest Content, these 15 patriotic songs have been examined. For finding out the change in presentation, Discourse and Semiotic Analyses are conducted. The way the beauty of the country is represented can be examined by investigating the words and the shots used in these songs. Discourse Analysis aims at characterising the manifest language and word usage in the content. Semiotic Analysis aims at digging out the deep structure and latent meaning of the content. It focuses on the deeper meaning of message content (Neuendorf, 2002, pp 5-6).

Sampling

Out of the top 33 Patriotic Hindi film songs (Table 1), which are remembered during the India's celebration of freedom, only 15 songs are randomly selected for analysis in present research paper. According to India.com, Kumar (2019) has listed following top Bollywood patriotic tracks that represent the true beauty of Indian culture. Though this list missed many important film songs *Mere Desh ki Dharti* (Upkar, 1967), *Sarfaroshi ki Tamanna* and *O Mera Rang de Basanti* (Shaheed, 1965), and *Ab ke Baras* (Kranti, 1981), still this list contains most of the important and popular patriotic sound track of Hindi film industry. From 1947 to 2021, the entire era of 75 years has been systematically categorised into three groups. 5 songs have been randomly selected from each group.

1. Group I - 25th years of Independence Era (1947 to 1972)

- (a) Yeh Desh Hai Veer Jawaano Ka
- (b) Chhodo Kal Ki Baatein
- (c) Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathiyo
- (d) Jahan Daal Daal Par
- (e) Hai Preet Jahan Ki Reet Sada

2. Group II - 50th years of Independence Era (1947 to 1997)

- (a) Dil Diya Hai Jaan Bhi Dege

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- (b) Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyaara Hai
 - (c) Mera Mulk Mera Desh
 - (d) I Love My India
 - (e) Sandese Aate Hain
3. Group III- 75th years of Independence Era (1947 to 2021)
- (a) Mera Rang De Basanti Chola
 - (b) Aisa Des Hai Mera
 - (c) Tu Bhoola Jise
 - (d) Aye Watan Watan Mere Abaad Rahe Tu
 - (e) Teri Mitti Me Mil Jaun

Coding

Each song is individually coded to examine the viewpoints or feelings of patriotism present in the content. Each line is examined and placement of words is studied. Instructional variables including song titles and words are used for examination. Words have been categorised into 9 sub-groups:-

1. Hindutani/Hinduatan/Watan/India/Bharat/Desh/Janmobhoomi/Mulk/Watna representing the country.
2. Nit representing the regularity regarding our feelings towards our motherland.
3. Kal representing the past experience i.e. India's existence during the British colonial period.
4. Naye/Nayi/Unnati representing the newness, progress or development that India faced during post-independent period.
5. Mandir/Masjid/Holi/Diwali representing various religions or festivals.
6. Ram/Krishna/Sita/Gautam/Mahesh/Brahma/Mohan/Guru representing our feelings regarding religious characters or the way Indians intimate their morality and ethics.
7. Fida/Nisar/Qurbaan to study the feeling of sacrifice or give away our lives for the sake of the nation.
8. Ganga/Yamuna/Ajanta/Taj Mahal for studying both natural and artificial landmarks of the country.
9. Words like *ahimsa* (non-violence), *Karma* (karmic conditioning), *dharm* (religion), *Prem/preet/pyar* (love), *mamta*(motherly love), *itrata* (glorified for nation's achievement), *rang* (colour), *shaad* (happiness), *veer* (courageous),

sajaan/jaanemaan/lover), *shanti* (peace) etc. are studied to analysis our feeling regarding our country.

Interview Findings

Mr Abhijit Dutta, retired Junior Commissioned Officer of the India Navy (1998-2018) feels patriotic Hindi film songs are essential for portraying a sense of patriotism among the masses on silver screen but in reality these songs are not so essential for defense personnel like him. He also states Indian civilians remember the armed forces only during the Independence Day and Republic Day. He thinks as 15th August 2021 is approaching; now everybody will change their Display Pictures (DPs) of their social media accounts but on the next day all will forget their patriotic feelings and will change their DPs to the normal one. His favourite patriotic non-film Hindi song is *Aae Mere Watan Ke Logon*, whereas *Sandese Aate Hai* and *Bharat Humko* are his favourite Hindi songs that ignite his patriotic feelings towards his Motherland. According to him, the content of the song *Sandese Aate Hai* is quite realistic though he thinks in the present era of mobile such emotional attachment towards letters and postal mails is becoming obsolete, still this song is quite relatable for all arm forces who stay away from their homes for the sake of their motherland. During his initial years of work the song was very appropriate as it expressed his feelings towards his family. The song *Bharat Humko* is another favourite as it expresses the true feelings of all Indians irrespective to their castes, creeds and religions.

Result and Discussion

At the Manifest level, content analysis has been used to study the presence of patriotic feeling or theme in songs.

RQ1: Do lyrics of these patriotic Hindi film songs changed with times?

The song *Yeh Desh Hai* of Naya Daur (New Era) is a 25 lines patriotic song featuring Dilip Kumar and Ajit Khan, which describes the country through words of Mohammed Rafi and Balbir. It describes India as a country of energetic and courageous youths. The song uses metaphor for describing India (*Yeh Desh hai duniya ka Gehna*). Similar kind of metaphor can be seen in the song 'I Love My India' from the film Pardes, where the world is compared to a newlywed bride and India is described as the *bindi* of the bride's forehead (*Yeh duniya ek dulhan, dulhan ke maathe ki bindiya*). The gap between these two songs is 40 years still both songs carry the same emotional feeling for our motherland; the feeling to create an auspicious identity in the face of world through our national achievements. The film Naya Daur was released only after a decade of our

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Independence Day, when India was facing a change to develop her economic and social condition. The term *Pardes* means foreign land. When this film was released India was suffering from the fever of idolizing NRIs after the release of *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* in 1995. In *I Love My India* children of the village are requesting to their grandfather's NRI friend to take them to America (We want to go America). At that period Indians developed a soft corner towards foreign land and culture. Children and youths were highly influenced by the music of Elvis, Michael Jackson and Madonna. The song praises Indian's own Rag Malhar and Deepak and encourages new generation to sing the song that matches the true essence of the soil (*Geet voh gaao jisse is mitti ki khushboo aaye*). Metaphors are used to compare India with our birth land, lover, work and religion (*Watan mera India, sajan mera India, karam mera India, dharam mera India*). Since ages, our motherland has been personified as *Mata* (Mother). As we worship India as *Bharatmata* same way we do worship our culture and music (*Hum apne bhagwan ko bhi kehte hai baansuriwala*). Religion and patriotism are the two side of same coin. Almost all 15 songs use religious terms such as Mandir, Masjid, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isaai, Dharm, Ahimsa, Sita, Ram, Gautam, etc (Table 2). The song 'Tu Bhoola Jise' from the film *Airlift* uses patriotic terms *Vande Mataram* (I praise thee, Mother) for six times at the end to show a NRIs praising and respecting his forgotten motherland. *Airlift* is based true story of a Kuwait-based Indian business man Mathunny Mathews who was involved during the safe evacuation of Indians during Iraqi invasion in 1990.

The song *Hai Preet Jahan Ki* of the film *Purab aur Paschim* give a brief introduction of India through the eyes of Bharat (Manoj Kumar), when Sharmaji (Madan Puri) asked him to state something about India as Harnam (Pran) insulted his motherland (*Gali mat do. Jo desh dusro ke raham aur karam pe pal raha ho wo desh mera nahi*) calling India as a big zero (*My dear boy! Tumhare desh ne kuch nahi diya. India's contribution is zero*). Through this song Bharat speaks about various things that India has provided to the world such as zero for mathematical calculation (*Jab zero mere Bharat ne duniya ko tab ginti ayi*), language of stars/ astronomy (*taaron ki bhasa Bharat ne duniya ko pehle siklaayi*), and first civilization (*sabhyata ahan pe pehle ayi*). A similar kind of interaction can be seen in the film *Namaste London* (2007), where an elderly person of Brown family insults India telling it as the land of snake charmers, rope tricks, chicken tandoori and goons. Arjun Singh (Akshay Kumar) tells John about various achievements of India: many English words such as Mother, Brother, Trigonometry, and Geometry are

derived from Sanskrit words Matr, Bhratr, Trikonomiti and Giamiti respectively; India is the land of 5000 years old civilization; and India is 3rd position in rank in making doctors and engineers. Both the film depicted India as the land of love and tolerance. Bharat singing about love that India shows in conduct (*Hai Preet jaha ki reet*) and Arjun telling that despite of India being the 3rd largest Army in the world, he is showing respect to John by folding his hands as Indians don't believe they are above or beneath others (*Duniya me tisri sabse bari fauz humari hai apki aha nahi fir bhi mein apko jhukke apko pranam karta hun kyun ke hum kisi ko apne se chota ya bara nahi samajte*) show similar kind of reaction Indians often face in foreign countries. Film Haqeeqat, as the name suggests 'reality.' The film uses real footage from the battlefield in the song *Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathiyo*. This song is one of the beautiful poems of Kaifi Azmi that depicts the sacrificing nature of soldiers. It also inspires and encourages the next generation to do so. It depicts the real life of a battlefield through the eyes of a soldier. Picturization of the movement of Indian soldiers despite of freezing cold and slow breath (*saans thamti gayi, nabz jamti gayi, phir bhi badhte kadam ko na rukne diya*) can be witnessed through this song. Border, LOC Kargil (2003), Lakshya, Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran, Uri: The Surgical Strike and Bhuj: The Pride of India (2021) are names of some war-films inspired by Haqeeqat. The song *Sandese Aate Hain* penned by Javed Akhtar is one of the heart-touching patriotic songs which show the loneliness of soldiers and other armed force personnel in absence of their homes and families (*likho kab aaoge ki tum bin ye ghar suna suna hai*). This song bears a similar kind of optimism as the song *Ab Tumhare Hawale*, when soldiers sing in chorus "We will return back to our villages" (*Main Vaapas Aaonga Phir Apne Gaaon Mein*).

RQ2: What theme or message is expressed through these songs?

The theme of the song *Yeh Desh Hai, Jahan Daal Daal* and *Aisa Des Hai* is depiction of India's beauty. The messages given by the songs *Chhodo Kal Ki Baatein*, *Mera Mulk Mera Desh*, *Dil Diya Hai*, *Aye Watan Watan Mere*, *Bharat Humko* and *Mera Rang De* are prosperity, development, sacrifice and unity (Table 3).

Conclusions

These songs focus on the glory and pride of our motherland. India is the land of unity in diversity. All these patriotic songs show the beauty of the country through the eyes of Indians. The terms related to the country has been used 206 times whereas the terms related to religion have been used 50 times (Table 2). Both religion and nation play a great role in the creation these songs. Messages provided by these songs are

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progress, development, peace, love, unity in diversity, and sacrifice. The colour *Basanti* or *Kesari* (saffron) stands for strength and courage, which is used in two songs to portray the fearless image of martyrs like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and Havildar Ishar Singh. The audio and visual elements are skilfully blended when Bharat sings *Jeete hon kisi ne desh to kya* (so what if someone conquer other countries) and *Nari me abhi tak Seeta hai* (Sita exists within each women in India). Shots of English flag and Two Indian women with blonde hair smoking cigarettes are shown respectively along with these two lines in the song. Interview of an ex-naval officer also supported the fact that songs like *Sandese* and *Bharat Humko* depict the true feelings of patriotism. These songs are quite relevant and realistic for every Indians who love their country. These songs are an important part of our celebration of freedom.

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Appendix

S.N	Name of the Film/Album & year	Song Name
1	Naya Daur (1957)	Yeh Desh Hai Veer Jawaano Ka
2	Hum Hindustani (1960)	Chhodo Kal Ki Baatein
3	Kabuliwala (1961)	Ae Mere Pyare Watan
4	Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon (1963)	Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon (1963)
5	Haqeeqat (1964)	Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathiyo
6	Sikander-e-Azam (1965)	Jahan Daal Daal Par
7	Purab Aur Paschim (1970)	Hai Preet Jahan Ki Reet Sada
8	Jagriti (1977)	Hum Laye Hain Toofan Se Kashti Nikaal Ke
9	Karma (1986)	Dil Diya Hai Jaan Bhi Dege
10	Roja (1992)	Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyaara Hai
11	Diljale (1996)	Mera Mulk Mera Desh
12	Pardes (1997)	I Love My India
13	Vande Mataram (1997)	Maa Tujhe Salaam
14	Border (1997)	Sandese Aate Hain
15	Dus (1999)	Suno Gaur Se Duniya Walo
16	Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani (2000)	Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani
17	Lagaan (2001)	Chale Chalo
18	The Legend of Bhagat Singh (2002)	Desh Mere Desh Mere
19	The Legend of Bhagat Singh (2002)	Mera Rang De Basanti Chola
20	Lakshya (2004)	Kandho Se Milte Hain Kandhe
21	Veer-Zaara (2004)	Aisa Des Hai Mera
22	Swades (2004)	Yeh Jo Des Hai Tera
23	Rang De Basanti (2006)	Luka Chhupi Bahot Hui
24	Rang De Basanti (2006)	Rang De Basanti
25	Fanaa (2006)	Des Rangeela
26	Chak De! India (2007)	Chak De! India
27	Slumdog Millionaire (2008)	Jai Ho
28	Airlift (2016)	Tu Bhoola Jise

29	Raazi (2018)	Aye Watan Watan Mere Abaad Rahe Tu
30	Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran (2018)	Kasumbi Rang
31	Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran (2018)	Thaare Vaaste
32	Kesari (2019)	Teri Mitti Me Mil Jaun
33	Uri: The Surgical Strike (2019)	Challa
Table 1. List of Top 33 Patriotic Hindi film songs according to India.com		

S. N	Song Name	Hindu tani/ Hindu atanW atan/ India/ Bharat/ Desh/	Nit	Kal (Past)	Naye or Nayi	Mandir/ Masjid/ Holi/ Diwali	Ram/ Krishna/ Sita/ Gautam/ Mahesh/ Brahma etc.	Fida/ Nisar/ Qurban	Ganga / Yamuna/Ajanta/ Taj Mahal	Ahimsa/ Dharma/Karma/Prem/ Mamta/ itrat/ Rang/ Shaa d
1	Yeh Desh Hai V	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Chhodo Kal Ki	-	-	10	22	-	2	-	4	-
3	Ab Tumhare	13	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	-
4	Jahan Daal Daal	44	-	-	-	4	13	-	4	8
5	Hai Preet Jahan	18	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	8
6	Dil Diya Hai	23	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	11

7	Bharat Humko	7	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
8	Mera Mulk Mera	12	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	15
9	I Love My India	14	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	4
10	Sandese Aate	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8
11	Mera Rang De	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
12	Aisa Des Hai	41	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
13	Tu Bhoola Jise	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Aye Watan	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
15	Teri Mitti Me	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Total		206	9	10	23	8	42	13	13	104
Table 2. Statistics about various important words related to patriotism used in songs										

S.N	Song Name	Hindi	English	Message
1	Yeh Desh Hai	<i>Raaho me kataaren phoolon ki</i>	Roads full of flowers	Beauty
2	Chhodo Kal Ki	<i>Humko Kitne Taj Mahal Hain aur Banane, Kitne Hi Ajanta Humko aur Sajane</i>	Indians have to build many Taj Mahals and decorate many other Ajanta	Prosperity and Development
3	Jahan Daal Daal	<i>Jahaan daal daal par sone ki chidiyaan karti hain basera</i>	where golden birds make nest on branches	Beauty
4	Dil Diya Hai	<i>jaan bhi denge</i>	Indians can sacrifice life for the sake of their motherland	Sacrifice
		<i>Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isaai, Humwatan humnaam hai</i>	We are one nation.	Unity
5	Bharat Humko	<i>Hindu yahan muslim yahan, Milate rahe ham</i>	Hindus and Muslims are staying	Unity

		<i>pyar se</i>	together.	
6	Mera Mulk Mera	<i>Is chaman ko swarg hum banayenge, Kona kona apne desh ka sajayenge</i>	We will make this garden of love to a paradise of love and decorate each and every corner of the country.	Prosperity and Development
7	Mera Rang De	<i>Kismat walo ko milta aise marne ka mauka</i>	Only the lucky ones can get a death like this.	Sacrifice
8	Aisa Des Hai	<i>dharti sunehri ambar neela ho o dharti sunehri ambar neela har mausam rangeela aisa des hai mera'</i>	my country has golden land blue sky and colourful seasons	Beauty
9	Aye Watan	<i>aabad rahe tu</i>	Urging the nation to remain prosperous	Prosperity and Development
10	Teri Mitti Me	<i>Talwaaron Pe sar Waar Diye</i>	Swords will bear memories of our blood	Sacrifice
Table 3. Messages and themes expressed through Patriotic Hindi film songs.				

S.N	Patriotic Songs (Lyrics)
1	Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathiyo. Kabuliwala. Accessed on 12 th August 2021 from https://www.dailybhajan.com/singer/mohammed-rafi-bhajan-lyrics/kar-chale-hum-fida-lyrics
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8	I Love My India. Pardes. Accessed on 12 th August 2021 from https://www.bollywoodlyrics.com/lyrics/i-love-my-india
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List of the websites from which Patriotic Hindi film songs were chosen for analysis of the lyrics.	