

Thematic Studies of Chetan Bhagat's Novels

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Abstract

Indian English Literature today is an independent discipline, though certain forms of it still remain undeveloped. Indian English fiction, in particular is acclaimed from every corner of the world. The achievement of Indian English novel is unsurpassed. From the famous trio of Indian English novelist R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao to the young writers like Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai, Chetan Bhagat etc., have all dealt with different aspects of Indian life and society. Chetan Bhagat is slightly different from all those writers because he not only talks about the typical Indian life and society but also presents the problems of the youngsters.

Keywords: Young Generation, Faulty Exam System, Mistakes, Inter Caste Marriage and Ambition.

Introduction

Literature always reflects the present situation of the society. Most the literary works of the great writers have shown the real situation of the society. We can see that through literature we come to know what society really is. In this way literature is the most important thing in the sphere of the writing. Literature in India has been survived only because of the interested readers, curious critics, encouraging publishers and above all, talented writers like Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Khushwant Singh, Aravind Adiga, Pankaj Mishra, Raj Kamal Jha, Kiran Desai, and Chetan Bhagat. These writers have presented Indian scenario in different perspectives- changing society from orthodoxy to modernity, traditionalism to scientific views and modification of various conventions. In this way a new concept of "A New India" has been projected everywhere in modern Indian English literature by the above mentioned Indian English writers in their fictions.

Chetan Bhagat is the writer of the modern young generation. All his novels show the burning problems of the Indian society. He has presented young and enthusiastic characters to convey the message of the society. He writes for the young generation and their problems. In his each and every novel he has keen to present his knowledge about the young generation.

Chetan Bhagat who began his journey as a writer in 2004, with *Five Point Someone* after graduating from IIT Delhi in 1995 and IIM from Ahmedabad in 1997, represent the new generation of writers writing in English about a mass of people living in highly urbanized settings, enjoying myriads of ultra-modern facilities and facing the pressure of hyper fast, competition oriented life at one and the same time. All the novels of Chetan Bhagat via "*Five Point Someone*", "*One Night at the Call Centre*", "*The three Mistakes of My life*", "*2 States*", and "*Revolution 2020*" describe the pros and cons of the life of rich highly intellectual. Chetan Bhagat admits that when he travels for his talks as a speaker, he gets a chance to see what's happening at the private colleges in the country. He sees corruption at almost every level. The characters which he portrays in a leading role living in major cities of the country in major cities of the country in his novels are very well aware of the fact about corruption in every manner. Chetan Bhagat observes in his book review on speaking in an interview, "One can make money-everybody makes money, but the moment one enters into a corrupt mind set, it has dangerous consequences- especially in education. If there is a corruption in education, one ends up with a whole generation that is not trained properly".¹

Chetan Bhagat has explored youth culture and their issues in *Five Point Someone* and "*One Night at the Call Centre*". Hari, in the first novel and Shyam, in the second novel revealed their imperfections. In both



B.M. Vaghela

Associate Professor,
Dept. of English,
S.D. Arts & Shah B.R
Commerce College,
Mansa, Gujarat, India

novels Bhagat depicted youth's word, their culture, challenges, problems, addictions, parties, fast foods, fashions, tastes, interests, attitudes, relationship, love, expectations, responsibilities, nationalism, rebelliousness, stress and their various complexes. In addition, there is college- life culture, sick education system, stressful exams, and GPA, canteen chats, moving- goings, ragging and fresher-senior classification. In all his novels there is identity crisis, youth's unrest, their alienation, chaos, their ambition and their broadened views.

Aim of the Study

Among the different genres of literature, the form of novel writing is in force to represent the real situation of Indian society. In fact today's young and enthusiastic writers like Arvind Adiga, Pankaj Mishra, Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat are inclined to write the burning situations and problems of today's young generation.

The novel *One Night @ the Call Centre* is about the youth's dreams, their hallucination and their nightmares. Shyam is a daydreamer always been thinking of his past days spent with his ex- girlfriend who had rejected hi not because her mother wants Shyam as Priyanka's husband but also of their struggle in relationship. Priyanka dreams her intended husband Ganesh. He earns a lot in America but he cheats Priyanka. Vroom reveals the truth from the online information through internet with the help of Shyam and Priyanka's husband is bald and hiding this fact from Priyanka. Vroom's dreams of worked to unite Shyam and Priyanka at last. Ganesh's dream al the marrying Priyanka remains unfulfilled as she comes to know all the fact about Ganesh through Shyam. Esha face rejection after sleeping with a man to fulfill her dream of becoming a model. She repents later on and finally she gave up her dream of becoming a model.

Bhagat has tried to expose facing day to day problems of youth through "Three Mistakes of My Life". Youth is the main focus of Bhagat's novels. Bhagat who believes in a proverb, "Where there is a will, there is a way", where the problems can be minimizes or maximized by fun, madness and craziness of youngsters. The young generation has its dreams sparked with the glitters of hope as well as bruised with the tales of inabilities of achievement and helplessness against the system. Even though the youth force is said to be able to dislocate mountains and block the flow of rivers, it faces its own problems when it fight the age old red tape and corrupts infrastructure. Such victories and defects of the youth are exponents of Chetan Bhagat's novels.

Chetan Bhagat's third novel, *The Three Mistakes of My Life* is about a young boy in Ahmadabad called Govind Patel dreamt of having a business. Govind along with his friends Ishaan and Omi open a cricket shop. The novel is about the struggles and mistakes of these friends commit top realize their goals.

Bhagat also reveals the feelings of love between Krish and Ananya in *2 States*. Thus autobiographical novel shows the true love of Ananya and Krish. It is a well-known fact the marriages in India are more of a family affair where the bride and groom's

approve of one another before the couple ties the knot. The feeling of Krish is the feeling of eh today's young where he feels about love. Why would any guy want to be friend with a girl? It's like agreeing to be near chocolate cake and never eat it. It's like setting in a racing car but not driving it".²

Revolution 2020 stands for the revolutionary spirit of Chetan Bhagat. Raghav disregards the suggestion of his father to get admission in IIT, even though he was eligible for it. He listens to his heart. He serves the downtrodden of his city by communication their pains through the media to the responsible authorities. He emerges as a successful journalist. He continues to serve the wretched even after his printing press is destroyed. He writes the daily news on the papers and distributes them to the social activists. It was quite tough job but he does not abandon his service. In the end, the exploiters yield to the revolutionary spirit of the journalist. Gopal, the big exploiter of the students as well as Raghav's archenemy surrenders to the latter's vitality. Gopal sacrifices his love, Aarti to the saviour of the poor and wretched. The writers often portray their characters killing each other for woman, property and egoism. They portray their women giving up their mates due to the lack of physical facilities. On the opposite, Bhagat's women get away from their partners due to the lack of time. Aarti of *Revolution 2020* craves to borrow some time of her mate, Raghav but she fails. She depicts her pain thus, "I am lonely too. Raghav has no time". She feels uncomfortable with the revolutionist. Turmoil in Aarti's mind equals the misery of the lady Chatterley, "The point is what sort of a time a man can give a woman? Can he give her a damn good time or can't he? If he can't he's no right to the woman".³ Thus, Bhagat is different from other writers to an extent. He reposes humanity in his characters more than any mundane aspiration. They do not die for the failure in love. Instead, they live for the sacrifice in love. Bhagat's men attempt suicide not because they fail in love. On the opposite, they fail to keep promises with their friends.

Conclusion

Chetan Bhagat in almost all his novels highlights the problems faced by the youth. He presents before us a world which is full of optimism and comic elements. The themes of all the novels are very simple and convincing one. The study of all the novels of Bhagat's, it claims that each novel has something new to tell society. The conclusion of all the five novels is very good. The writer Chetan Bhagat wants to show the fault is not lying in the system but in the way how to use the system to achieve the good result. Bhagat's novels are the reflection of the society. The conclusion of the Bhagat's novels is increasingly bold attempts to discover the meaning of life. Bhagat suggests a different solution in each of this novel.

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