



Multiculturalism and Behavioural Aspect in Chetan Bhagat's Novel: 2 States: The Story of My Marriage

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Abstract:

Literature is an art which expresses writers' thoughts and emotions. Literature travels through the medium of language. It upholds writer's feelings, emotions, imagination etc. It is the artistic representation of the life and society with writer's imagination. It gives readers the deep knowledge about the nature of human feelings and desires. It is observed that the writer, Chetan Bhagat is an author of today's era who wrote several brilliant books that have been published reflecting the changing perspectives, changing paradigms, and changing thematic concerns of society. The arrival of Chetan Bhagat with his debut novel *Five Point Someone* in 2004 proved to be a revolutionary wave in Indian Writing in English. Another work of Chetan Bhagat's "*2 States: The story of My Marriage*" deals with the hardships of the two protagonists Krish and Ananya. To rebel or fight is easy but to convince the parents is tough. The differences in State, Language, Culture and Tradition between them creates chaos and confusion. Finally, after a lot of turmoil they were able to convince their parents. Indeed, love keeps human beings together against threats, breaks the barriers and harmonizes their dissimilarities. Chetan's works are mainly based on the leading struggle of the society. He was considered as a Youth icon rather than an author. His novels are not mere an entertainment tool but it also express his views and opinion about the society. His novels are based on the social problems like inadequacies, marriages and family conflicts in changing Indian psychological problems like anxiety, stress etc. prevalent in modern life style and the relationship of youth middle class to both executives and normal clients and metropolitan culture.

Keywords: Paradigm, thematic concerns, protagonist, Inadequacies, physiological problems etc.

Introduction

Chetan Bhagat (b. 1974), an Indian intellectual, deals with a very serious theme in a light way in his famous novel *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* (2009). This book is also adapted in film version and is released its movie on April, 2014. This novel definitely gives us cultural shocks. The writer is of the view that love knows no boundaries, whether it be of caste, creed, religion, states or countries. It is love that triumphs against all odds. It is a story of inter-state marriage in India. It is a love story of a Punjabi boy Krish, and a Tamil Brahmin girl Ananya in his own style. Chetan Bhagat conveys so well, what happens when two worlds meet. The customs may be uniquely Indian, but the story is universal. Love marriage in American or European context is simple. In that context, a boy loves a girl and a girl loves a boy then they get married. But in India, it is more complex because there are a few more steps. The boy and girl who love each other cannot get married without their family's permission. Furthermore, the girl's family has to love the boy's family and the boy's family has to love the girl's family. *2 States* is a story of Krish and Ananya. They are from two different states of India, deeply in love and want to get married. Of course, their parents do not agree. To convert their love story into a love marriage, the couple has a tough battle in front of them because it is easy to fight and rebel, but much harder to convince.

Human beings have an innate quality of giving and feeling love. Moreover, it is even related with our biological structure. It is this feeling of love, which is responsible for the existence and maintenance of the society. When a baby is born, parents forget about their hunger, sleep, as they are so much in love with their child. The sweet ecstasy of love enables the man to accomplish tasks that would not have been possible without its powers. The enigmatic emotion exceeds all boundaries and has great potential of changing lives of the people. In this connection, James Gilles (1994)[3] claims that;

"Love is a universal feeling, which is felt by every living being on this earth. Do not be surprised when I say 'living beings' because it is not just an attribute of human beings. Plants and animals. Everyone is acquainted with this strange emotion. So strong is the feeling that it is said that it makes the world go around. If you are still wondering why is love so important in our lives, the answer is that it satisfies the emotional needs of human beings." (p. 344)

Sigmund Freud's contributions to the development of psychoanalytical theories are innumerable. His theories, therapeutic methods, to analyse the functions of both conscious and unconscious levels of mind is a boon to the field of psychology. In literature, one may psychoanalyze a particular character

in any literary work using the theories of Freud. Psychoanalytic criticism interpret texts in various ways to analyse the desires, emotions, psyche of the characters projected by the author M.H.Abrams in his "A Handbook of Literary Terms" States the importance of Freudian concepts to analyse literature.

Freud proposes that literature and the other arts, like dreams and neurotic symptoms, consist of the imagined or fantasied, fulfilment of wishes that are either denied by reality or are prohibited by the social standards of mortality and propriety (248)

Sigmund Freud's theory of repression throws light on his urging the patients to remember the past in a conscious state. The past experiences in one's life eventually mixes up with the present time. To decide a healthy future, one needs to hold positive approach towards the life. Human beings bury the past incidents within the mind and voluntarily prevents them to mess in the present. This act of repression is also a defence mechanism to never permit the bitter past to mix up with the present happiness. Freud in his Five Lectures on Psycho Analysis mentions the struggles of his patients to recall the past memories as:

.....there was some force that prevented them from becoming conscious and compelled them to remain unconscious... pushed the pathogenetic experiences in question out of consciousness. I gave the name of repression to this hypothetical process (28-29).

2 States: The Story of my Marriage, Chetan Bhagat deals with various issues like monotonous academic system, corruption and scandals in politics, caste discrimination, gender bias etc, in India, in almost all of his novels. The novel chosen for the study is quite unique, as it focuses on the difference in culture, language, food and identity in two important states in India – Punjab and Tamilnadu respectively.

Culture is a challenged wonder which is comprehended to mean distinctive things by various gatherings. Culture is the "incorporated example of human knowledge, conviction and conduct". Culture typifies language, ideas, beliefs, customs, taboos, codes, institutions, tools, techniques, works of art, rituals, et cetera. Culture comprises of shared values, beliefs, knowledge, skills and practices that support conduct by individuals from a social gathering at a particular point in time. It is innovative articulation, skills, customary knowledge and assets. These incorporate, art and outline, oral and recorded history and literature, music, show, move, visual arts, festivities, indigenous knowledge of organic properties and therapeutic applications, structural structures, chronicled locales, and customary advances, conventional mending techniques, customary normal asset administration, festivities, and examples of social association that add to gathering and individual welfare and character. It is for the most part acknowledged that culture encapsulates the manner in which people live with and treat others and how they create or respond to changes in their surroundings.

The primary characters slice their umbilical string to get appended with another rope, the material line, "Everything is great, in adoration and war", said Shakespeare. The converging of two spirits is the name of affection. There is a mixing of two cultures, religion, languages, convention and practices. In this manner, the significant characters shed their umbilical line. Their maternal personality and require another character. 2 States is isolated into 5 Acts, being set in the urban areas of Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai and Goa. It starts with the primary character Krish Malhotra in critical straits, harassed from all sides his Punjabi family, his girlfriend and her South Indian (Tamil Brahmin to be exact) family. Chetan Bhagat in 2 States: The Story of My Marriage manages an intense subject of cross culture, convention and multi-culture permit softly. This novel certainly gives us the social stuns.

Chetan Bhagat has contacted a portion of the touchy issues of social contrasts, father-child relationship and a sweetheart cherished relationship, corporate abuse and two unique cultures. He is of the view that adoration knows no limits whether it be of rank, doctrine, religion, state or nation. To some degree this story is by all accounts of Chetan Bhagat, however he never asserted it. It's unquestionably love that triumphs despite seemingly insurmountable opposition. 2 States, it is an account of interstate marriage in India.

To convince the parents is an unending task for both Krish and Ananya in which they fail often. The reconciliation between the two families in Goa fails and results in a kind of disgrace to Ananya's parents. Ananya's sudden breakup in relationship puts Krish in severe emotional turmoil. Bala, his friend takes him to a psychiatrist Dr. Iyer. During the counselling session, Krish exercises wide range of emotions like frustrations, anxieties, depressions and sudden unpredictable emotions. His sleepless nights and longings for love disturbs him a lot. Krish understands the tight situation in his house. This restricted communication results in a serious mental disorder known as 'split personality' (*Dictionary of Psychopathology* 57) within.

To live a normal life in this complicated world is a dream. The primary instinct of any individual to lead a life with tolerance and liberty needs energy to balance the emotions. The world offers different emotions, different experiences to all of us. The basic understanding of all these variations is necessary for a peaceful life. Krish and Ananya tries to pacify the differences between the families. Mr.Malhotra, the father plays a significant role in convincing the elders. To resolve the problems, he makes secret moves for his son. The final chapters show a major twist in the relationship between Krish and his father Mr Malhotra. In the contemporary world, all are playing crucial roles in multiple ways. To settle as a normal is a probability, which Krish admits as:

Why does it have to be a choice? Why can't mom get her relatives and you come as well? Why can't we be a normal family for once? I thought. I guess there are no normal families in the world. Everyone is a psycho and the average of all psychos is what we call normal (247).

Bhagat raises the contemporary history of Indian society in humorous way. When Krish and Ananya fail to convince their respected parents, they make a strategy to exchange the visiting procedure in each other's family. So Krish chooses Chennai for his job placement where his parents deny selecting. Even Ananya's father threatens him not to come again their home. Finally, with hard efforts, Ananya's parents are ready to accept the love relation between Krish and Ananya. From their side, they are ready to marry their daughter to Krish:

'If you promise to take care of my Daughter,' Ananya's father said, 'then it is a yes from me'. He bent forward and picked up his box. Ananya hugged her father. 'Thanks dad,' she said, 'I love you.' Ananya's father blessed her with a hand on her head. Ananya's mother said, 'it is not that we don't like you. But our communities . . .' (p. 184)

The history uncovers that religiously at various times of our nation assumed an exceptionally negative job and now let us trust the duty of keeping up public congruity to the youth of our nation. India is a place that is known for different religions and three contrasts of religions surrender a disdain and severity among the supporters of various religions. Youth can get a positive change controlling turmoil surrendered by the religious severity of various cultures.

Presently the situation is changed. Youth has taken the front of this distinction and endeavour to limit and take care of these issues. Youth may stir the country so every individual turns into a genuine country of our nation. Our nation ought to recognize the reasons for turmoil among youth and take tremendous endeavors to scatter this. My examination makes reference to that it isn't significant to individuals from any state in India to be better or second rate than another state. Indeed, even researcher does not have any desire to hurt through this examination but rather this paper endeavors the striking quality about the states, their cultures and how they are not quite the same as one another at the end of the day the hearts of the general population dependably stay same.

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