



Critical Analysis of Chetan Bhagat's Novels

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ABSTRACT

With his reputation as an Indian young role model, Chetan Bhagat is a household name when it comes to fiction writing. He has penned six novels and one non-fiction book, and in nearly every one of them, he expresses his genuine concern for today's youth.

He has written about young people's aspirations and focused their attention. He's made an effort to channel their fertile energies in the right way. It is not surprising if the readers praise him as the best young author. His books have a profound emotional impact on the third generation. This demonstrates the youthful ambition combined with worries and sorrow. His men and women uphold morals in the cordial nature of interpersonal relationships. Because of this, they enjoy life.

Chetan Bhagat has sparked a lot of conversations and disagreements on one specific subject: himself. About his work, a lot has been said and written. The former investment banker turned author has written a few novels about some of the most significant issues facing our nation, including casteism, corruption, inter-state marriage, and a host of other issues. Even though he has been able to sway a large audience with his novels, the issue of "how has Chetan Bhagat got so far" is raised because his plots and characters have always been clichéd.

Keywords : Immortal, aspirations, emotional chord, warm heartedness, corruption, casteism, inter-state marriage etc.

Introduction

Literary works besides being a medium of education, social control, rebellion, it also functions as a message to the public for all polemic issues that exist so we can have an idea of what we must do when we have to face problems that are similar to what happens in a work literature (Novel) for example. Literary works are very influential in our lives even though they are fictitious – imaginary, recognized or not.

Literary work are the imaginary results that created by the author through their imagination, even though the literary works created are high-imagination or an imagination from the author, but their works still come from the life. Author is the member of the community who are bound by social status, therefore the resulting work also describes the life of the community in their environment

Chetan Bhagat is said to be reader's author. He made his debut way back in 2004, with the novel 'Five Point Someone'. The book sold more than a million copies, and also influenced the blockbuster film '3 Idiots'. It narrated the simple story of 3 friends in an engineering college. Though it was a simple story written in straightforward language, the book resonated with millions and was a huge hit. Bhagat had arrived in the scene. He followed the book with many other huge successes such as *The 3 Mistakes of My Life*, *2 States*, and *Revolution 2020*, though his novel *One Night At The Call Centre* was critically panned. But Chetan Bhagat hit a new low when he released *Half Girlfriend*. The man literally wrote a Bollywood movie script, with an illogical ending, and over the top scenes. He followed it with *One Indian Girl*, which received mixed responses.

Chetan Bhagat is the most popular contemporary author in India. He has written so many novels but 'Five Point Someone: What Not to Do at IIT' is the best among the collection of his novels. Though this novel isn't untouched by his flaws, the usual and traditional Chetan Bhagat flaws, it has content that can mitigate the faulty impressions that his techniques and other technical elements create. The author has presented vivid colours of ambitious students' aspirations and campus life. As its subtitle suggests apparently, the author has provided a different set of the notion that works as a guideline on what not to do at IITs. And this is why leading book review websites in India have all praised the book. Unlike his other publications like *Half Girlfriend* and *One Indian Girl*, this novel is almost flawless.

This is the story of three friends who are pursuing engineering from one of the prestigious institutes of India, IIT. It is worth noticing that it is a common conundrum among the Indian novelists that they seek to find, in their plots, a resemblance with their upbringing, education or emotional anxieties. Chetan could not think of any other thing rather than putting his own experiences at stake for his continuing debut in Indian English fiction writing. This is good in one way and in another context, limiting his imagination because he can only write what he has been through – so, the strength and the weakness run

hand in hand. He further brings the plot of the novel close to his past by settling the storyline in IIT Delhi campus, his own alma mater. There are three hostel mates Alok, Hari and Ryan who are more interested in cracking jokes rather than actively participating in the lectures. They fail to understand the system of IIT and settled for a bad start. Their performance is not up to the mark and they pass, somehow, with a low CGPA. This is the major theme of the novel where the author has tried to suggest whether the underperformers have a right to live with dignity or they are mostly doomed to infamous, uncalled for and unjustified criticism. The story goes on and they settle with good positions in their life, the three IIT friends. Apart from this, they have their love battlegrounds as well and it is a well-known fact that Bollywood movies and modern novels cannot be done without a love story and some heroic scene by the protagonist. There are many episodes of humour and wit, sarcasm and realism, romance and ugly, crass events.

In an advent of post-modern era; India is evolving as a new country in their lifestyle, career orientation, relationships, and many others. Like every other phenomena marriage system is also changing although the importance of marriage is still deeply down in Indians veins. In this period when technology is growing so fast and people are connected by means of cyber even though they are thousand miles away. The relationships are forming and breaking in this place and period simultaneously. One such relationship we also witness in his novel '*One Indian Girl*'. Chetan Bhagat had very meticulously presented the dilemma of a young Indian girl who is about to get married and what her mini-me tries to allude her to her inner self. Hustle and bustle of marriage in Indian families. The story is all about Radhika Mehta, an investment banker at Goldman Sachs in New York. The whole story revolves around the protagonist's life and marriage. Chetan Bhagat's keen projection of women's inner self is commendable in every sense; he displayed turmoil of Indian Bride in a comprehensive way that every Indian girl feels connected to Radhika's abeyance. His novel '*One Indian Girl*' highlights all the ingenious effort is to bring in light all the aspects which makes Radhika to cancel her destination wedding.

The plight of working women has been pasteurised through Radhika's character, in which Radhika married Anju three years ago, after a whirlwind courtship in college. She lives with Anuj's orthodox based parent, who burdens her to look after them with all house hold works. She works at connexions to let herself grants with the troubled milieu. She bared all the complaints about her by her mother-in-law to Anuj.

"I am old, if the pieces are too big they will choke my food pipe. May be Radhika is trying to kill me". (Chetan Bhagat: 2005: 81) [1].

Even though her mother-in-law shows hatred on her, Radhika shows her affection through knitting the scarf. The affection which she holds for her husband reflected on her mother-in-law too. But Anuj always supports his parents instead of standing towards justice.

Message sent by Radhika's husband sounds as, "show elders respect, act like a daughter-in-law". (Chetan Bhagat: 2005: 82) [1].

The novel is finally stands against the traditionally followed social concepts such as dowry system, socio-economic status and wastage of human resources for the work which is not related with their passion and educational background, which is the main plot of this novel.

In *One Night @ the Call Centre*, the author has alienated the aspects of mechanised approach which affects the life of the common people in the present society. The six characters, who are main protagonists in this novel, who work at the connexions call centre, work hard for their livelihood with the income and accept the sufferings of the life without turning against the silent atrocity practised against them. It causes disintegration of families, alienation and frustration and makes them feel anxious about life. The dowry back grounded Society of India really frustrates the peaceful wellbeing of Women. The main protagonist of this novel Priyanka, acts like a CBI officer of women cell, threatens the family in which Mother-in-law scolds the daughter-in-law for less dowry and Titles as curses about the granddaughters.

"Three years. Harassing women is punishable. Quick trial no Appeal", Priyanka said and stared at the mother-in-law. (Chetan Bhagat: 2005: 70) [1].

By pointing their car number she continues as,

"Shut up! We have your records now. We will keep track if you Mess around, your son and you have lots of meals together-in Jail". (Chetan Bhagat: 2005: 80) [1].

His next novel is content with a great theme about the cricket, which is named as *The 3 Mistakes of My Life*. This is a novel of the dark passion. It records the sexual audacity of the women protagonist. It unites the three friends to preserve the national talent. This is the first time when Indian English writer have elevated his characters above the trifles of the society such as caste, religion. Govind, Ishaan and omi are the major characters. The trio has vowed to portray Ali as the approved cricket talent of India. Govind is the narrator in the novel. He is the strategy maker. He is the artist-man in true sense. He believes in himself and his potentiality. He loves to do what his conscience allows him. He has been the city topper in mathematics in his board exams. He drops his further education and goes with business. He emerges out a true businessman. Bhagat portray his characters as decision makers. Unlike other writers, Bhagat advises the Youth not to follow every word of their parents and the boss blindly. Revolutionary spirit of bhagat thus appears in his comment. Bhagat says "Humanity wouldn't have progressed if people listened to their parents all the time". This is a message to the Youth for taking decision personally for their own welfare and for the humanity as well. Bhagat keeps humanity far above caste, religion etc.

Chetan Bhagat's book *REVOLUTION 2020: LOVE, CORRUPTION, AMBITION* was released on October 5, 2011. *Revolution 2020* is a fictional love novel that has 296 pages in its original copy and is published by Rupa publishers. A type of fiction having a close societal relation is *Revolution 2020*. It describes how our nation's private coaching facilities take advantage of driven kids. While in our society, parents place all of their demands on their children. Additionally, they even invested all of their savings without giving the students' wants or needs any consideration in order to put pressure on them.

The story of *Revolution 2020* features a lovely love triangle, as well as friendship, the ups and downs of emotions, treachery, and the admission of wrongdoing. The three friends Gopal, Raghav, and Aarti are at the centre of the narrative. One of these three pals had a poor financial situation, while the

other two were rather wealthy. Despite this, they become friends with the unfortunate man after learning of a tragedy he had as a young child. Everyone of them had lofty goals in mind for their lives. Although one friend engages in corruption and systemic fraud in order to realise their dreams.

Varanasi, sometimes referred to as Kasi, is a sacred pilgrimage site where the entire narrative takes place. Gopal wants to use corruption to become wealthy, Raghav wants to work as a journalist to expose national dangers like corruption, and Aarti loves Raghav and is Gopal's best friend. She also wants to work as an air hostess. The three primary characters in this entire work are childhood buddies. A hand-in-hand knot connected with a difficult circumstance, involving love, corruption, and ambition, where one person is trying to win over another. All of the connections were severed at some point, and everyone was standing up for themselves.

Raghav's desire to reform the country was on the way by running for MLA, and by persistent lawlessness and corruption, Gopal became a wealthy man. But, the love of Aarti love has triumphed. In the end, Raghav triumphs because of his determination to expose local Lawmaker Shukla ji's involvement in the Ganga river cleaning project's corruption and his concern for the victims, who ultimately overwhelm, humiliate, and undermine Gopal's confidence.

Even while cheats must pay for their actions at the end of the novel, this does not always occur in reality. Coaching institutions frequently rob students under the guise of providing them with education. Yet once more, it's not the only truth; there's another side of the story that actually helps kids develop and achieve their goals. Yet, in *Revolution 2020*, just one perspective has been presented. *Revolution 2020* is a work of fiction, and works of fiction are not at all true. While being a reflection of our everyday society, the novel. Children may relate to it and grasp the idea behind this book with ease. Without being aware of the politics involved, millions of students enrol in private educational institutions and spend money there. On the other hand, students are hesitant to listen to their intuition because of outside influences. This book encourages us to trust our gut feelings and keep trying till we succeed. *Revolution 2020* makes us aware of our duties as citizens of this nation. It inspires us to take decisive action to combat the corruption that is rife in our society. It urges one to be trustworthy and accountable.

Conclusion

In almost all the novels of Chetan Bhagat, the readers can observe how the middle class youth facing the choices and frustrations. All the novels are echoes of the Young generation problems. Chetan Bhagat is more vibrant in this novel because of his growing maturity and sharpening sensibility. The writer has the power to show the characters which represents the entire society in one way or the other. In terms of the Plot, the story is unexpected with twist and turns. There are more than a few surprises which keep the pages turning. No matter how much Chetan Bhagat is panned by critics and the public, he sure has succeeded in making millions of Indians read. People say that his language is simple, but it is the main reason why hundreds atleast pick up his books and give it a read. Most of the people in India actually frown at the very mention of a novel. Initially, he was indeed successful in conveying social messages to his readers. But that doesn't mean that Chetan Bhagat is a good writer. There is no doubt that the quality of his work has declined considerably in the recent years. He is usually seen as a reality show judge these days, and his books are also written keeping Bollywood in mind. No doubt his fans are eagerly waiting to catch a glimpse of the Chetan Bhagat of the old times.