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A CRITICAL COMMENT ON CHETAN BHAGAT'S SELECTED NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to bring out the Critical comments on Chetan Bhagat's novels. He is one of the most popular contemporary Indian novelists in English literature. Chetan Bhagat's writing along with the way in which he presented his characters and also discusses the concept of social reflection and concept of modernity. As a writer, he is gifted with an extraordinary ability to deal with various facets of human life. His popularity as a writer rests basically on his intimate understanding of human nature. He is an outstanding writer who concentrates on the passion of the people and deals with them from different perspectives. His novel deals with different colors of passion such as love, anger, hatred, and faith, which makes it more relevant to our regular life. This novel explains that the characters unnoticeably become part of our own life. Its amusing style and easy language charm our mind. He holds a mirror to society which ultimately reflects society. He deals with the harsh realities of life and problems forced by the young generation in his work. He writes for common people. His language is very lucid and easy to understand. He writes on dark topics; still hold some humor in it. The present paper analyses the role played by the excitement in shaping the lives of the characters in his novel

Keywords: Education, call centers employees, corporate culture political conflict, family issues, technology and social message.

KY PUBLICATIONS

CHETAN BHAGAT LIFE & WORKS

Chetan Bhagat was born in Delhi on 22nd April 1974, has captured the voice of an entire generation through his novels. In the notable part of his teenage life, Chetan Bhagat did his schooling in Army Public school, Delhi from 1978 to 1991. After passing class 12th from Army Public school in 1991, Chetan Bhagat got admission in IIT, Delhi and graduate Mechanical engineering in 1995. After that, he got admission in India's most important B school IIM Ahmedabad and he did post-graduate MBA in 1997. He received a medal for the 'best outgoing student award'

After finishing MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, Chetan Bhagat joined a job in Hong Kong as Investment Banker with Deutsche bank. He worked there for 11 years and later quit the job and settled in Mumbai in 2008. Besides being a novelist, he is a journalist in Hindi daily DainikBhasker.

Chetan Bhagat's wife is his college mate from IIM Ahmedabad. Her name is Anusha. Chetan Bhagat has twin children named Shyam and Ishaan. Writing was his favorite hobby of Chetan Bhagat since from his childhood. According to him, he became very excited seeing his name as printed. Currently a top of Indian writer, Chetan Bhagat guide as India's youth icon and the author of

immensely popular novels Five Point Someone, One Night @ The Call Centre, The 3 Mistakes of my life and 2 states: The Story of my Marriage.etc. There's something special about him, as instances of bankers turning authors are rare. He started as an international investment banker who would write books. But seeing the success of his books he quit international investment banking as a career and became a full time writer.

An IIM graduate turning into an author is an unbelievable gamble. The investment banker turns into not just a writer, but India's bestselling writer! In March 2008, the New York Times called him the "biggest selling English author in India's history". His first fiction speculates Five Point Someone which won him the 'Society Young Achiever's Award' in that year and the Publisher's Recognition Award in 2005. With his books being lapped up by a varied cross section of India's countless population, he has achieved a huge fan following by now and editorial of various newspaper across the country about national and development related issues.

INTRODUCTION

Chetan Bhagat popularity lays his ability to hit the right chord in youth. The major attractions in his books are the theme that students all over the country can relate to. From a literary point of view, he does not belong to the league of Vikram Seth or Arundhati Roy. So far he writes these books which the youngish take to as fish would to water. Chetan Bhagat has truly been a trend setter giving rise to the culture of campus novels in India. Hence, the Indian English novel has gained a viability, enthusiasm and vitality, attracting a remarkably wide readership and universal praise, to which the new novelists have made a positive contribution.

CRITICAL COMMANDS ON CHETAN BHAGAT'S NOVELS

Chetan Bhagat is a far cry from the typical author image that lies in the minds of the common men. He deals with the harsh realities of life and problems faced by the young generation in his work. Chetan Bhagat's most outstanding quality as a novelist is his simple, transparent, and plain language which even a secondary grade student can simply comprehend. His language is so enjoyable

that it flows smoothly without any burden of metaphysical or existential philosophies and even a layman can follow his world of fiction where reading does not become a boring make an effort which only the academic choice can participate.

The novels of Chetan Bhagat turn around the middle class those applications ambitions, worries, as well as the sad predicament of the middle class are described with an omniscient insider's view in his novels. Being a member of the same level of the society, he is enlightening what he or people familiar to him have experienced in real life and the margins of fiction and real life shape in his novels. The corruption, unemployment, the grasping attitudes of the elder generation, the superficial love- hate relationships amongst the youths are some of the various themes that he has discussed in his novels. The chief principles and ethics of Indian democracy which are really on the cross roads at present because of the all distributing corruption and self-critical tendencies in the society and the protest of middle class for the sorry state of relationships of the country can also be seen in his novels.

The quality of the author towards his readers is also worth mentioning. He shows a conversational understanding towards his readers throughout the explanation. He is not unknown in the tale, but in all of his novels can identify the presence of a man who went through all of the parallel situations what he describes. The lack of distance between the reader and author is one of the reasons for the greater fascination for his novels among the readers.

The secret success for Chetan Bhagat is the selection of topics that are common. He chooses theme that the readers can associate with his novel with a mix of sentiment, romance, relationship, religious and politics, Indian sentiments, Passions, Friendship, Love, Cricket and happy ending, and also has social message that the unique thing about his fictions are sensitive issues are addressed in the most normal way. His strong narration has people relating to situations, incidents and characters in a neutral way. His novels talk about dreams and aspirations of all characters and characters seemed more real and simple genuine fears. He has written

in simple English with no trimmings. Chetan Bhagat has some kind software, which he uses to write his novel. He just puts new character's names, situations in the software and the characteristic of his protagonist is parallel, their thoughts procedure is also like. One more thing which recommend that Chetan Bhagat is working on well thought format is that he included numbers in all the title of his book 'Five', 'One', 'Two' and 'Three' or may be it in his superstition to add number in the titles, who don't use heavy duty English instead he used just simple spoken English in India. India is well known for it is varied cultural heritage as it is known for the sparkling and traditionally different matrimony. Chetan Bhagat explored indifferent ways in all the four books. He highlights various aspects of the country. He has followed a pattern with his books by naming the protagonists. After "Lord Krishna" Hari, Syam, Govind and Krishna and also has used number in the titles of each books. His writing style is basically similar in all his novels, till date, however, it is seen that the seriousness of the novels gradually went on increasing in each novel has set the basic character. The central character is a very ordinary type of young man with whom any Indian teenager can easily reacted to his moderate in terms of thoughts and view and is not too firm. The protagonists of friends are also of very general nature. The girls' character of his novels are shown in virtual bondage by their respective families and the girls can be simply compared to an average Indian girl. Thus, the novel has no supernatural characters and is really set in a typical Indian setting and also all typical neighborhood characters. This admixture of humor and pathos, hopes, aims and fears and success and failure brands his work.

His two novels has become story line for two blockbuster movies: "Five Point Someone" in the name of "3 Idiots" and "One Night @ the Call Center" in the name of "Hello". We can expect more such wonders from him.

His novels have great quantity of that quality which is generally absent in many of called infamous authors. His books may not rank as the greatest; "Five Point Someone" is Chetan Bhagat's first novel which was published in 2004. This novel has fictionalized experience of his IIT with handle of

love and comedy. By the first attempt itself, he could complete spot in the realms of Indian English literature. Chetan Bhagat focuses on the lives of three friends of IIT (Delhi) Hari Kumar (the storyteller), Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi. The trios go through ridicule of the teachers as well as the colleagues. While, they want to reform the old system of educational training, they hate the teaching technique, which is as old as the academy itself. The pupils are asked to mug the subject matter in order to score good grades. Chetan Bhagat puts stress on the study. The author believes this technique must help the students in receiving clear of mugging. It must support them to capture perception the natural way. His novel deals with the life of the three friends whose relation on making it to one of the best engineering colleges in Indian. It is quickly depressed by the firmness and monotony of academic work.

His second novel, "One night @ the call center", the analysis and troubles of the life of call center employees. He exposes harsh truth life about call centers employees by this novel. It is a dark park which can't be seen by anyone else even they can relate to regular life to any characters in this novel. The story described in such a way that it looks more like a film rather than a novel and is a flashback in the book. The writer chooses to describe it through the eyes of central character. He brings about a great shift in the style of writing wants to explore globalization. The entire novel is divided into two parts. All characters live mechanized lives. The novelist describes family issues, problems of work place etc., in a genuine and interesting way. 'One Night @ the Call Center' brings modern culture in India. The themes involve the anxieties and insecurities of the rising Indian middle class people, including questions about profession, family conflicts in a shifting India attitude, and the friendship of the young Indian middle class to both executives and ordinary clients whom they serve in the U.S.A. It's the story of a group of people working at a call center. All of them have individual troubles in life, however, they are friends rather than colleagues working together. Their call center is under the threat of closure mainly because of the economic slowdown and other reasons. 'They are

our country's most productive western culture'. It is true in the context of Bhagat's novel too. Even after the fall down of the British Empire, the domination of the Whiteman continues most prominently the American call centers dominate India. As seen in *One Night @ Call Center*, the Indians at call centers work all night for their white masters on the other side of the globe. Bill Gate's Microsoft has given a new avatar to the third countries especially India. Now these computers have colonized as Indian people. Chetan Bhagat narrates the episode of 'God' when all characters are at climax when they are near to death. The characters apparently listen to their inner voice and suggest them the way on that they are moving irresponsible and not successful. There is no network but there is a call from God and after that there is a radical change in everybody's life. The end novel deals with reformation of all characters.

"The Three Mistakes of My Life", his third novel, centers round politics and religious riots which is not unfamiliar to India at any point of time. The novel '3 Mistakes' mainly focuses on the innovative ideology and the motives of 3 friends. It is touching an emotional triad of the third generation of India. His novel displays the ambition of the youth which is mixed with fears and tinged with tears. The storyteller sees mass destruction as the enormous loss of national assets. The Three Mistakes of My Life depicts Gujarat and Gujarati youth representing not only a particular region but also making a youth representing a whole country and its enthusiastic folk. Chetan depicts how the mind of the modern youth has been affected by some problems of the country and contemporary issues. It deals with the young Indians' trial and troubles in their life. Modern young generation and its reactions to the political, social and personal issues are the main concerns of the novelist. Youth is the important section of the society who is supposed to build the nation. Govind, Ish and Omi are the three best friends and are the central characters in the novel that represent the developing part of Ahmedabad and have different passions in their lives namely business, cricket and religion. Business, Cricket and Religion are the three crucial factors which play a pivotal role in Indian scenario. This is the virtue of the novel that

distinguishes it from others that the novelist finds only a human being in the people of all religious. This admixture of humor and pity, hopes and fears and success and failure brands his work blockbuster but dark comedies of third generation in India. Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* is a novel of the dark passion. It records the sexual boldness of the woman protagonist. Three friends unite together to preserve the national aptitude. The first time an Indian writer has elevated his characters about the touch of the society such as asterism, religion and worship.

In the fourth novel "2 States: The story of My Marriage", describes the true patriotism, it is support on the social order and idealistic performance of two main characters Ananya Swaminathan and Krish Malhotra. This novel attempts to bring together two states and civilization and society. These activities to point out the people of the country only as Indians not as community, religions, society, culture and circumstances etc., "2 States the story of my marriage" is a own life story of author. The problems of central character had presented to face to marry a girl from the south Indian that clearly give details the south – north Indian divided into culture and attitudes of people although how much they are civilized. '2 States the story of my marriage gives absolutely cultural shocks and serious theme. Chetan Bhagat touched some of the sensitive issues of cultural variation, father-son relationship, cross-culture conflict and corporate utilization and love know no limitations, whether it is to be statement of belief, community, religion, state or country. It's a story of inter-state marriage in India, a love story of a Punjabi boy Krish, and a Tamil Brahmin girl Ananya. Many families go through this situation in India. This novel is about love marriage and difficulty between two main characters and is reflections his wife faced coming from different regions of India. The novel is interpreted in different perspectives and of love marriage and its problems in Indian context with other social problems. Chetan Bhagat's writing along with the way in which he presented his characters. It also talks about the concept of realism and concept of modernity and how through the delineation of the various characters Chetan Bhagat

portrays the contemporary reality. Chetan Bhagat's novels touch an emotional chord of the modern generation of India. Young generations are stayed from morality and their only motto in life is – eat, drink, and enjoy life. Behind their happiness, existential trouble is hidden about their future and unrelenting presence of their past. Two generations after independence, one of the essential characteristics of the new India is that the educated middle class who once turned to English for trade applications now see it in a dissimilar culture. He has bare thoughts and expose to harsh realities of life and modern life of young generation and problem faced by the young generation in his works etc. He brings about corporate culture is a term used to describe beliefs and a value system that provides its unique taste and attitude to a friendship in Cosmo-culture the condition of youth is very pathetic. In this world of Cosmo-culture, everybody is involved in an extra marital relationship. He carefully selects subject which the reader can associate with modern culture.

Each of his novels has the basic character set. The Protagonist is a very normal kind of boy whom any Indian teenager can easily relate to. He is moderate in terms of thoughts and views and is not to assertive. However the atheist attitude of the lead character in Three Mistakes is an exception. Besides, a special importance to sex is given in each of his books. The friends of the Protagonist are also of very common nature. The girls in the novels are shown in virtual bondage by their respective families. Yet even the girls can be easily compared to an average Indian girl. Thus, his novel has no peculiar characters and is really set in a typical Indian setting.

CONCLUSION

Chetan Bhagat has always tried to touch upon something new. His writing always seen close to reality, he has spoken himself in a way that is understood by all and every generation can connect itself to it. His thoughts are said to be a statement in such a clever way that they are understood by readers right away. Chetan Bhagat has always presented a true picture of life in India by him novels. He is one of the most popular contemporary Indian novelists in English. Chetan Bhagat's writing

along with the way in which he presented his characters. He also discusses the concept of social reflection and concept of modernity and how through the delineation of the various characters chetan Bhagat portrays the contemporary reality. As a writer, he is gifted with an extraordinary ability to deal with various aspects of human life. His popularity as a writer rests basically on his intimate understanding of human nature. He is an outstanding writer who concentrates on the passion of the people and deals with them from different perspectives. His novel deals with different colors of passion such as love, anger, hatred, and faith, which makes it more relevant to our regular life. This novel tells us that the characters unnoticeably become part of our own life. Its amusing style and easy language charm our mind. He has always expressed himself in a way which is understood by all and every generation can connect itself to it. His thoughts are worded in such a skillful way that they are understood by readers instantly. Chetan Bhagat books have always presented a true picture of life in India.

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