



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

ANALYSIS OF VISUAL/READING IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S NOVELS

RADHA DR¹, Dr. PREMALATHA.S²

¹Research Scholar, ²Assistant Professor

Reva University, Bangalore

E-mail: inchara.ri90@gmail.com; premalatha.s@reva.edu.in



ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat has introduced some exceptional tendencies in the Indian English literature. He has absorbed the interest of the young generation. He has written about their ambitions and he has tried to guide their disposed energies into proper way. There is no astonishment as they acclaim him as the youth writer. His novels trace an emotional harmony of the third generation and it gives determination to the youth, who is diverse with fears and stained with tears. He is not only a book writer he is a film maker and producer in the cine world. All his novels became a huge success and many of them were made into movies. Some movies hit the screen and some failed in their attempt. This research paper is an attempt to analyze the feedback and review of his books and movies. It also compares the reviews of movies with reviews of his books.

Keywords: Chetan Bhagat, books, movies and review.

Five Point someone is a debut novel of Chetan Bhagat, received a mixture of positive and negative reviews from the reader's community. It was published in 2004. Here is analysis of the reviews of people. There are two group of the people one follows him ardently as they see the suffering as their own, and other group considers that the language is almost dead in his novels and it is utter crap of the literature. Mary Mahoney given his review, "A good book should be written so that any age group can enjoy it. And although I'd say I'm older than Professor Cherian, I can remember waiting on test results and definitely having the decision to make about how many hours to study. Also, I've been on the other side of it giving assignments. It's a positive feedback for the book. Whereas Jyoti opines, "I must confess, this book is utter crap! It's an insult to English language. It's even worse than those soppy mushy crappy juvenile novels that I've seen my teenage friends gushing

over! Honestly, did Bhagat ever edit his book???

Perhaps he simply didn't have any idea of what to write". It is a negative review about the content of the book. Though the book *Five Point Someone* by Chetan Bhagat received both positive and negative reviews, the book created a revolution in the Indian Writing in English, the heterogeneous group started reading his book because of his simple narrative skills and heart touching story telling skills. The book was successful to cover up the drawbacks of IIT education system. The entertainment is the mirage of the present situation many can picturize the characters and tend to put themselves and understand their strand or realize accordingly to the situation. Sarvesh Mehtani, gave his feedback for the movie 3 Idiots, "whose father is an officer in the Income Tax department, said it was always his aim to break into the top 10 in the highly competitive examination. Inspired by the Aamir Khan-starrer Bollywood film, 3 Idiots. "The film released when I

was in Class 8. Most of the characters in it inspired me," said the student who considered Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy as his idol. His father Parvesh Mehtani is an Income Tax officer and his mother is a placement officer in the ITI at Panchkula. Happy at his son's success, Parvesh said, "He was always focused on his studies." He also had a suggestion for parents who put force on their children to achieve academic success. "Putting pressure on the children does not help. One should rather help them achieve their dream," he said. The book doesn't preach but it inspire a movie, The movie inspired Rajkumar Hirani to take a film but Ryan Oberoi who come in last minute was played by Aamir Khan, the guy smarter than the professor, in the novel Neha and Hari get separated and whether they get married or not is unclear but in the movie it was shown beautifully where everyone understands the theme and the concept and that gave credit to Chetan Bhagat though he claimed 70% of copyright of the film. The original theme was taken from the novel but subplots and themes were added to the movie and the master work of Rajkumar Hirani's should not be denied. Fundamentally the book and the movie gives the same theme and content but the movie reached the masses and in other way it gave fame to Chetan Bhagat too. Good story has movement, engagement and takes the audience spell bound from beginning to end. The decision taken by director makes the story more viable and visual treat. The book will be read by the bibliophiles whereas the movie was seen by the entire mass and it has created enlightenment about the theme. New genre of language used by Chetan Bhagat was taken in different style by the director. Hutcheon also describes this as flipping back and forth.

"Watching or reading an adaptation as an adaptation invites audience members to test their assumptions, not only about familiar texts project against the new ideas fostered by the adaptation and the new reading strategies it encourages" (2008:116). The movie reflects on Indian education system and is a lesson for the parents who pressurize their children to become doctors and engineers only not anything else this leads to their suicide. Bearing in mind the suggestions of Leitch and other scholars on 'Film Studies' about the

utmost importance of the inclusion of 'Adaptation Studies' as a compulsory component of the syllabus at the Graduate Level even in an L1 (First Language) situation, it may be argued here that it gains much more 294 importance as an effective pedagogical tool in the L2 (Second Language) situation in India. The courses should aim at the students' achieving 'Visual Literacy' or 'Cinematic Literacy'. Film is a language – this is the first fundamental principle the students must bear in mind. It is not simply a showcase of stars. They should understand that visual images can be read like other texts. A film is a whole made up of many parts, the smallest part being the frame. Like learning the basic terminology of literary interpretations as students of literature, they must acquire a vocabulary of film terms, including types of shots and editing techniques. All these will help them understanding, analyzing and interpreting a film effectively. There is another important distinction which the students should know about story and discourse. The story is the continuation of events, plots and technique, whereas the discourse is how the content is communicated. Our culture is the visually dominated culture and thus mass knows about the theme and content of the film. One should make certain whether it is the novel or the film, the information that is essential for the society should reach in any way is appreciated. The second novel of Chetan Bhagat *One Night at the Call Center* was published in 2005, The people expressed opinion on Chetan Bahgat's book *One Night at the Call Center* "This was the first Chetan Bhagat book that I'd read, soon after it was published, and trust me, I totally regret the decision! It is one of the trashiest books ever written, by an author (!) whom I consider to be armed with more strategies on how to sell his book, than on how to write a better story! This one man singlehandedly allowed the standard of contemporary Indian English literature to plummet down to such depths, that now no one can really assign how low it has fallen! He inspired thousands by establishing the fact that to write, you DO NOT need to read. You can just grab a pen and jot down a few stray incidences, add some sex scenes, and voila! You have your best-seller ready".

One more review says, "Very mixed feelings about this book. Start with the good things (which I am afraid are outweighed by the bad things). Bhagat writes well, characters are varied and resonate with real life. It gives a fascinating and others have said accurate insight into the world of the Indian Call Center, which encapsulates the change that the new urban young are experiencing."

The book was received both positive and negative feedback still the book reflects the dangers of call center jobs and its side effects. The book is attempting to picturize the effects of globalization on the modern world. Compared to a movie the book has a good feedback form the public.

The novel *One Night at the Call Center* adopted as a movie called 'Hello', released in 2008 and directed by Atul Agnihotri. 'The Times of India entertainment reviewed the Hello movie and given the feedback. "Wonder what went wrong? For, boy wonder, Chetan Bhagat's pulp fiction page- turners literally read like a Bollywood masala flick. Reading his recent *Three Mistakes...* was almost like watching a Hindi film, complete with a fire and brimstone climax that belted out all the right messages about bhaichara (fraternity), ekta (unity), dosti (friendship) and humanism. *One Night at a Call Centre* too has the mandatory ingredients, including a brush with divinity. And the devil too! Not forgetting the break-ups, link-ups and patriotic pulp that generally assures foolproof drama. Not this time, however. The problem lies not so much in the performances as in the turgid screenplay and the tedious plot development which transform the film into an uninspired celluloid adaptation of a successful book".

The Three Mistakes of my life, the third novel written by Chetan Bhagat published in 2008. It highlights friendship, the differences of Caste system and love emotions of younger generation. Both a book and a movie received good feedback from the public. The readers felt that the book has many incidents and readers believe and understand that it's the real story. Based on Chetan Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* adopted as *Kai Po Che*, in his second outing, Abhishek Kapoor (Director) raises the bar by giving us a thoroughly enjoyable film that showcases the strong emotions between the three

protagonists who are boisterous, ballistic and at times plain bored. The film captures their trials and tribulations in the post-college, pre-what-career-to-pursue period. They have two passions -- cricket and their camaraderie. And two of them (Ishaan and Omi) also have concerned parents who want them to find direction quickly. They find temporary succor when they turn their passion for the sport into a business venture; opening a store selling sports equipment. The rebellious Ishaan (whose *raison d'être* is cricket) sobers down a bit as he lands an opportunity to impart cricket coaching to the neighborhood Muslim boy, Ali." Chetan Bhagat felt that *Kai poche* disappointed as the film as he expected more and the director deceived him by not keeping the sex scenes which is very much major in his novels as he openly acclaimed that he writes for the young India and they expect from him. The novel thus differs from the movie, where the novelist has freedom to express rather than the director as there is Censor board to pass through and he has to worry about the family audience. His targets are young minds and not the old age people. The fourth novel of Chetan Bhagat is *Two States, The story of my marriage*, based on a true story of Chetan and Ananya's marriage. It also acclaimed as autobiographical novel of Chetan Bhagat. He has given authenticated picture of inter-caste and inter-state marriages as Krish and Ananya felt that they feel like marrying with the consent of their parents. Intricacies of Indian culture and lovers in Bhagat's novels inclined more towards physical. According to Hofstede, it is our culture that distinguishes one type of people from another. He thinks that Culture is the collective programming of the mind which distinguishes the members of one category of people from another (51). This novel definitely gives us cultural shocks. Chetan Bhagat has touched some of the sensitive issues of cultural differences, father-son relationship, and corporate exploitation. He is of the view that love knows no boundaries, whether it be of caste, creed, religion, states or countries. The novel is ponderous and impressive as felt by the readers, the reason by changing the leaflet they felt impressive but the movie is like the same stuff as ordinarily happens in Indian movies that the common conflict happens between parents of the

boy and the girl. While reading the book the imagination has to go on but in movie that is not required but some scenes go unnoticed. The reading creates attention to each line and you fall in love with the soul of the character but in movie the beauty captivates the audience. The books play positive role in making a person creative by improving their imagination but that lacks in the movie and makes you curious, creative, imaginative and terrified. Reading is the imaginative and mental process but the movie is the spoon fed through the visual treat, maybe that's the reason behind success story of the Chetan Bhagat books and film.

References:

Bhagat, Chetan, *Five point someone*, Rupa Publications, 2004

Bhagat, Chetan, *One Night at the Call Center*, Rupa Publications, 2005

Bhagat, Chetan, *The Three Mistakes of My Life*, Rupa Publications, 2008

Bhagat, Chetan, *Two States- The Story of My Marriage*, Rupa Publications, 2009

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/movie-reviews/kai-po-che/movie-review/18588869.cms>. 13/06/2017

<http://www.desimartini.com/movies/hello/md380.htm>-13/06/2017

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/105576.Five_Point_Someone. 13/06/2017

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/105578.One_Night_at_the_Call_Center.13/06/2017

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6969361-2-states>. 12/06/2017