
EXAMINING SOCIAL CONCEPTUALIZATION IN THE NOVELS OF CHETAN BHAGAT

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Abstract: Indian literature has been greatly influenced by the western genre, because of its accessibility and facility to the average literate's interest towards literature. Writers started to represent the common man's real life pertaining to his period. The new phase of postmodernism has related art, history, culture, society, psychology in literature, highlighting the set of social structures and characters of everyday life has become the subject of Indian novels.

Most of his themes revolves around love, religion, corruption, ambition etc, through which he tries to discuss about the controversial issues or the burning issues such as changing trend in education, natural calamities, human disaster, religious disparities, depressed state of mind, suicide attempts etc which are prevailing in the society. Bhagat reveals the attitudes of different characters in the social cultural context of the narratives in the early 21st century. He uses simple language, deal with the lives, incidents and psyche of the new generation. The writer belongs to middle class and writes about same which makes them popular among the mass readers. They are read by non-elite groups and consequently make their work an integral part of popular literature. Society and social changes often throws up challenges against the writers since ancient period.

Key words: Western genre- the phase of postmodernism-social cultures and challenges-conceptualization of social issues

Introduction: Literature follows a systematic pattern of rules. Literary language figures men and women in a systematic pattern. While language is an act of construction, literature reflects the truth. The varying strands post structuralism, deconstruction, feminism; post modernism became an all embracing contemporary culture. Indian literature has been greatly has been greatly influenced by the western genre, because of its accessibility and facility to the average literate's interest towards literature. Writers started to represent the common man's real life pertaining to his period. The new phase of postmodernism has related art, history, culture, society, psychology in literature, highlighting the set of social structures and characters of everyday life has become the subject of Indian novels.

As this era marked changes in the norms of language, culture and man the new generation of writers arose with new norms, aesthetic sense in arts and literature. This was evident in post colonial writers in using the language and modes of expression. Recent novels narrate the stories of ordinary people whose voices need to be heard. Irreconcilable with the inner self and the outer world, the characters construct social structures, cultural contexts and language codes. As language cannot be isolated, literature becomes an expression of the social-cultural milieu. While the writers condemn social differences in the post modernist era, society chooses to marginalize certain social groups and elevate the other. It is a novelists concern to show them how relationships, need to be created and expressed in particular social and cultural contexts to recover the underrepresented groups of society. The new learning calls for an exposition of the workings of domestic

fiction with a detailed explanation of its social conceptual developments. Now, the novelist concentrates on the burning social issues in the society. This had given birth to a new genre novel which included all the aspects of a human life. Novels became universal, when the novelist gave response for the issues in a best way to the people.

According to Chakarvarty, "Literature is said to be a reflection of the society in which it was born, Different periods and styles of literature reflect the changes that took place in that particular society at various points in time. Political and economic changes affect the psychology of the people and since literature is created by human beings, it cannot help being influenced by such changes".

Literature deals with the period and its problems, hopes and fears. A novel is not merely a photographic picture of society but a reflection of social facts and conditions of the particular moment in which it is written. The sufferings and problems of people are the sufferings and problems of the characters. The unique features of 20th century writers are mostly related to family economy, religion, education, culture etc which shows that the contemporary society is passing through a crucial period in the era. Among these features are included globalization, consumerism, fragmentation of authority and the commodification of knowledge. As this era marked changes in the norms of language, culture and man the new generation of writers arose with new norms, aesthetic sense in arts and literature. This was evident in the 21st century writers in the way of language and modes of expression. Deconstruction of the prevalent socio-cultural norms perhaps is the most important aspect of the writers.

Chetan Bhagat the new emerging writer of this century, the most admired writer by the millions of people, who has made India to read a lot. He uses simple language, and deals with lives, incidents and psyche of the man of new generation. Chetan Bhagat characters try to converse the contemporary situations by gaining abrupt success. They transmit the middle class and the capitalistic values with a purpose to progress them. In *One Night @ The Call Center* the writer has depicted the aspect of materialistic approach which affects the life of the common people in the society. The six characters, who work at the connection call centre, tires hard to supplement their lives with the income, and accept the sufferings of the life without turning against the hardships of life. It causes disintegration of families, alienation, frustration etc. and makes them feel anxious about life. The world of materialistic approach towards life has made Shyam, the main protagonist to join in Connexions quitting the job in an ad agency which paid him less.

"In fact, the only reason people somewhat talk to me is I have a job and get a salary at the end of the month. I saved myself by joining Connexions, as with money in your wallet the world gives you some respect and lets you breathe."(15)

"Radhika tied her knot with Anuj three years ago after a whirlwind courtship in college. She lives with Anuj's ultra traditional parents, who burden her with all the household stuff. She works at Connexions to let herself gratis with the troubled milieu. But her poise on Anuj's love was hit hard when she hears her husband recommend her ex girl friends Payal, to be his most loved person on the earth. She feels frustrated when she comes to that her husband had betrayed her.

"No my friend, no payment at all. So are you ready with your special person's name and address?"

"Yes, she is my girlfriend. She lives in Delhi. She is a modern type of girl, so please make the bouquet trendy..." Anuj said (147)

The novel is set against the back ground of the economic scenario of the past two decades. In the novel *Five Point Someone* the writer has depicted the importance of student friendly education system against the burdened education. The novel deals with the fears and insecurities of the students especially students in one of the country's top institutions. The narrator takes up the issues of three students who have joined in IIT Delhi-a prestigious engineering college for pursuing their studies. The traumatic condition of the students, their agony against the education system and their psychological conditions of perturbed students is well brought about in his novel. Alok, Hari and Ryan understood that the IIT college atmosphere is filled with strict rules and regulations. They were in the clutches of agony,

sorrow and suffering between the seniors and the professors.

In *Three Mistakes of My Life* the brawny relationship of three friends with three different backgrounds, having diversified views towards their future and their endearment to achieve it, are delightfully brought out in this novel. The story brings out the struggle, sacrifice and achievement of three friends for the goodwill of the nation. As Aristotle has rightly said, "happiness consists in achieving, through the course of a whole lifetime, all the goods-health, wealth, knowledge, friend's etc- that lead to the perfection of human nature and to the enrichment of human life. This requires us to make choices, some of which may be very difficult. Often the lesser good promises immediate pleasure and is more tempting, while the greater good is painful and requires some sort of sacrifice." The writer has clearly inculcated the words of Aristotle and brought out the story with all the elements necessary for enrichment of human life. The story is told through the main protagonist Govind. Bhagat has the usual style of beginning the main plot of the story with the male characters, suffers from psychological problems due to love failures, friendship breakup or business loss.

Revolution 2020 stands for the revolutionary spirit of Chetan Bhagat. The novel mainly focuses on corruption, ambition and love, a three tier structure linked with three main characters Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. Each one on the earth has an ambition in his life, which enhances him to pick up the race along with the other to achieve one's goal. A crucial stage occurs in one's life to decide the next step to pick up the opportunity or leave it. Achievement, success and wealth never make a man successful in life unless it is shared with other. Chetan Bhagat has picked up the most crucial point corruption and has shown how it affects the life of a common man in the society. Raghav the man with new philosophical thoughts about life makes a new approach in eradicating corruption in the society through his writings. Raghav has started revolution among the youngsters and makes a call to the people of the society to look ahead of it.

"People will realize who is fooling them. It could take ten years. I call it Revolution 2020, the year in which it will happen, the movement that will finally shake the muck off India."(206)

He has raised his voices against it through his novel *Revolution 2020*. His novel *Two States* is the story about a couple coming from two different states in India, who face hardships in convincing their parents to approve of their marriage. The novel is said to be inspired from the real life story of the author and his wife Anusha Suryanarayanan who are from Delhi and Tamil Nadu, respectively. The main theme in this novel is love, friendship, religion, spirituality. Krishna

Malhotra a Punjabi meets Ananya Swaminathan a Tamilian, and falls in love with her and both undergoes a sturdy time to convert it into an arranged marriage with two states united as India. Krish's reason for not to elope is to serve for a greater purpose. In his own words "I imagine our kidsThink about this- they won't be Tamil or Punjabi. They will be Indian. They will be above all this nonsense. If all young people marry outside their community, it is good for the country. That is the greater purpose"(103).

In his latest novel *Half girl friend* the main theme of this novel is love, which is the very essence of our livelihood and the main instinct for human bondage in the society. The concept of love has always been one of his themes which could be seen in all Bhagat's novels, through his main protagonists' Shyam-Priyanka, Hari-Neha, Govind-Vidya, Gopal-Aarti, Krishna-Ananya, Madhav-Riya. . It brings into memory the famous immortal lovers like Ambika-Amaravathi, Romeo-Juliet, Shah Jagan-Mumatz etc... In Bhagat's latest novel *Half Girl Friend*, he has shown a new angle of love, an unison love story – an instinctual feeling of bondage in the process of human relations.

Love has built confidence in the Bihari boy Madhav, and him reminiscent a new life in St.Stephen's College, New Delhi. "If she had been four inches shorter, my eyea may never have met hers and everything would have been different. If I had not been bored and arrived at the basketball court an hour earlier, it would have been different. If someone had not missed a pass and the ball had not come out of the court and hit me on the head, I would have had a different life. Tiny bumps in time shape our lives, even though we spend hours trying to make long-terms plans. I had not plan to meet the love of my life on a basketball court" (14). "I didn't know if I was a real prince or not, but I had found my princess."(28) Love towards others always bridges a healthy

bondage for years of survival. Rani Sahiba the Queen of Dumraon, a lost empire, without power and wealth but still has the pride and respect among the people for the King's off springs.

"Live with dignity. Live for others, that is how one earns respect,' she used to say. She was right. Dumraon's people loved her. Not because she was the Rani Sahiba, but because she was the Rani Sahiba who cared. For the past fifteen years, she had given her all to the Dumaraon Royal School in Nandan village, on the outskirts of Dumraon"(96).

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