

## **REPRESENTATION OF MODERN CULTURE AND MODERN TREND IN CHETAN BHAGAT FICTION**

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The name of Chetan Bhagat is highly appreciated in the field of English literature. He is a personality who expresses the present scenario experience as he realized. The main aspect of his presentation is youth and their struggle as they have to face. The social milieu as depicted in the novels of Chetan Bhagat is predominantly of the society in the post globalization era. As we are aware, Indian Literature in English includes contributions of both natives and Diaspora. In fact in the present century, the Diasporic Literature also brings more laurel to Indian Literature in English than the native English Literature. The reasons are obvious. The Diasporic writers of India wield English as their first language and mother tongue. After all, the social scenario is alarming with the crumbling of the value system and utter confusion due to lack of clarification of values with context to the new challenges. The astounding communication technology which today encircles the globe seldom uses its tremendous potential to spread global values and foster a more caring compassionate consciousness.

Hence Chetan Bhagat stresses the importance of redefining the social values. He writes about India as an Indian. He writes about each aspect of India like its culture, its problems, its language and depicts the life of young generation. In his new book *what young india wants* Bhagat discusses about the mentality of people about rich he says; "Becoming rich by unfair means is bad but you can also create wealth by hard work, innovation by creativity that should be celebrated that is my ethos and I think young India wants that kind of message. The answer is very simplistic and that is good,"<sup>1</sup> According to Bhagat today's young India wants a good life, a good job and romance -- "meri naukri, meri chokri"<sup>2</sup>. Bhagat says; "The youth want to first fulfill their own needs and only after that are they willing to support a certain cause. Today's youth wants a good well-paying job ('naukri') and a nice girlfriend ('chokri') in a decent urban city. I

don't think there's anything wrong with that but what is important is to earn that living honestly, with integrity and excellence and without compromising the core values that build our society,"<sup>3</sup>. The traditional Indian society is in a state of metamorphosis. The old practices and customs have not given way to new and hence creates conflict in the life of the characters.

The striking feature of his protagonists is that each one is entangled in a web of challenges, to realize their goals, they have to face it all-religious politics, calamities, unacceptable love, their own mistakes, overcome the frustration of under academic performance, the stabbing pains of executive psychosis, face the monster of corruption, struggle to find their calling in an unfair society but they show a strong will to change the system and not succumb to it. Against all odds they keep their spark alive. Chetan Bhagat's characters seem to follow their writers motto, 'Don't be serious, be sincere. whether we talk about Ryan, Hari, Alok, Shyam, Vroom, Priyanka, or others as Radhika, Govind, Eshaan, Omni, Vidya, Krish, Ananya, Gopal, Aarti and Raghav all epitomize the writers spirit to make change happen.

In this series of new trend in Indian English literature Chetan Bhagat's *three mistake of my life* is a representation of modern culture and modern people. There is story of three friends Govind Patel, Ishaan and Omi. The narrator of this sensational story is govind himself. The three friends have occupied with different life-style- Govind is more obsessed with business. Ishaan has passion of cricket while Omi is more concerned with religion because of his parents' attachment with the city temple. So, 'business', cricket and religion seem to govern the life of these growing people. Govind is man of strong outlook. Now, he is ready to set-up his own business. He projected himself to be less emotional and more practical in his life. He has something different views regarding emotionalism:

As far as I can remember, I was never good with emotional stuff. I love maths, I love logic and those subjects have no place for emotions. I think human beings waste too much time on emotions. The prime example is my mother. Dad's departure was followed by moths of crying with every lady in every poll coming down to sympathize with her.<sup>4</sup>

So, with help of his to intimate friends, Govind Patel started a 'Team India Cricket shop' on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2000 in the presence of some family members. In little time, the shop attached

many kids and their parents because of three obvious reasons: first Ishaan is a popular cricketer of that area and he gives bowling and batting tips to those who come to buy balls and willows; second, Govind Patel is a well-known student and the topper of mathematics and he is ready to provide tuition who need it; third, the shop is located in the temple area where people always come with their cricket-loving kids. Thus, within months their business began to give profits. Govind's dream becomes realized and he now thinks to expand his business. Goods other than cricket items are also available in the shop. The life of these three friends became more happy, as they never dreamt at. They shared the profits among themselves at times.

Govind is more conscious about the expansion of business than his two friends. He has idea to buy a new shop at Navrangpura Char rasta by saving money. But his friends have different idea on the other hand. Ishaan wants to buy a coloured television set in order to see the cricket matches in the shop without any difference. Govind and Omi also succumb before the obstinacy of Ishaan and a new television set was bought. They began to celebrate the success of their business. The novel contains only one love story of govind and Vidya. Govind has been requested by Ishaan to teach his sister who is preparing for medical entrance examination. Unfortunately, she is too weak in chemistry and mathematics. Anyhow, Govind spared some time in the evening to teach Vidya. But Vidya. But vidya is something else. She is in search of something else in her life. She does not care at all about her studies. It has been observed that Govind has been attracted by Vidya right from the beginning. Both of them show their shyness to take the the initiative. One day, govind responded emphatically. Govind is in search of suitable opportunity to dive deep into Vidya's heart. Vidya gives opportunity but he is too shy to grasp it. When Vidya talks about the role of tutor Govind remains silent to say anything except these words; "Some, I respect only some girls, measure the strength of their friendship by the power of the emotionally manipulative games they could play with each other".<sup>5</sup>

The portrayal of govind, Ishaan and Omi is quite realistic because such characters are visible in our society everywhere. So, the novel seems to be the realistic presentation of the events and incidents occur in their lives. It seems to be the story of their struggle for survival. Govind and Ishaan succeed in their mission while Omi scarifies his life for the noble cause. He was less influenced by the fanaticism of his Bittoo mama and more impressed by the secular outlook of his friends- Ishaan and Govind. Three friends are the symbol of modern society. In

this way the presentation of chetan bhagat seems original. There is some real incidents like- earthquake on the Republic Day, the Test Match between India and Australia at Iden Garden in which India wins marginally. These portrayals give a unique kind of realistic touch to the novel. so chetan bhagat blends the Socio- political motive with psychological realism in a brilliant way of story telling.

*2 states* written by chetan Bhagat is a story of his Marriage It is published in 2009. The story is narrated in a first person point of view. There is a description of two cultures first Tamil and Punjabi. Ananya Swaminathan a Tamilian from Chennai and the Punjabi hero Krish. Both are the student of IIM Ahmadabad. Ananya a beautiful and best girl of the fresher's batch. Krish says :

She stood two places ahead of me in the lunch line at the IIMA mess. I checked her out from the corner of my eye, wondering what the big fuss about this South Indian girl was. Her waist-length hair rippled as she tapped the steel plate with her fingers like a famished refugee. I noticed three black threads on the back of her fair neck. Someone had decided to accessorize in the most academically-oriented B-school in the country. 'Ananya Swaminathan--- best girl in the fresher batch,' seniors has already anointed her on the dorm board.<sup>6</sup>

Ananya was tagged as the "Best girl of the fresher batch". They become friends within a few days and decide to study together every night. In mean time, they become romantically involved. They both get jobs, and have serious plans for their wedding. Krish propose Ananya during her interview he Says:

‘I, Krish Malhotra, am deeply in love with you and want to be with you always. Apart from where we go to office, of course. Will you marry me?’ Ananya’s mouth fell open. She alternated her glance between the panel and me. ....I whispered again. My knees hurt as they rubbed against the rough classroom floor. ‘What now?’ ‘Is that a yes? Will you be with me, always?’ I asked. She tightened her lips to hide a laugh. ‘Yes, you idiot. I will be with you. Just not right now. So, go!’<sup>7</sup>

At first Krish tries to convince his girlfriend Ananya's parents and at last and convinces them by helping Ananya's father to do his first PowerPoint Presentation, her brother, Manju, by giving him tuition and later convinces her mom by asking her to sing in a concert organised by Krish's office, i.e Citibank. She was convinced as she had her biggest dream of singing in a big concert come to be true. She sang along with S.P. Balasubramaniam and Hariharan. Then they tried to convince Krish's mom. But the problem was Krish's mother's relatives who don't quite like this, they say that Krish should not marry a "Madrasian."

I whispered, 'Get up. Let us introduce ourselves.' 'They are Madrasian?' my mother asked, shocked. 'Shsh, Tamilian,' I said. 'Tamilian?' my mother echoed even as Ananya continued the introductions. 'Mom, this is Krish, and this is Krish's mother.' 'Hello,' Ananya's mother said, looking just as stunned as my mother. 'Isn't this cool? Our families meeting for the first time,' Ananya cooed even as everyone ignored her. 'Krish's father has not come?' Ananya's father asked. 'He is not well,' my mother said, her voice butter-soft. 'He is a heart patient. Advised not to travel.' My mother faked it so well, even I felt like sympathizing with her. Ananya's parents gave understanding nods. They whispered to each other in Tamil as they took their places. 'I better go, I'm one of the first ones.' Ananya giggled and ran up to join the line of students. I sat sandwiched between my mother on one side and Ananya's mother on the other. 'You want to sit next to Ananya's mother?' I asked my mother. 'Why? Who are these people?' she frowned. 'Don't panic, mom. I said it because I have to join that line soon.' 'Then go. I have come to see you, not sit next to Madrasian. Now let me watch,' she said.<sup>8</sup>

but ends up agreeing with them when Ananya tries to help one of Krish's cousin to get married and succeeds to do so. Now as they have convinced both their parents they now try to make their parents meet and know each other.

We sat down for lunch under a tree in the ashram complex, looking like we were on death row. Everyone ate in silence as Ananya dropped the news. 'We like each other.' Everyone looked at each other in confusion.

Most people did not like each other in this group. ‘Krish and I, we like each other,’ Ananya smiled. ‘I told you. I smelled something fishy.....’ My mother tore her chapatti.<sup>9</sup>

But this dream of theirs ends as Ananya's parents finds something fishy between Krish's mom and him. Ananya's family end up deciding that Krish and Ananya will not marry each other.

But at last Krish's father, who was like an enemy for Krish, helps Krish and Ananya to get married as he convinces Ananya's family well. They really do very hard to convince each other parents and finally get married. By the interruption of Krish's father (actually who was a enemy of his son) help both of them married them.

His eyes met mine, he said, ‘Because I am your father. A bad father, but I am still your father.’ He continued, ‘And even though you feel I have let you down in the past, I felt I should do my bit this time. A life partner is important. Ananya is a nice girl. You shouldn't lose her.’ ‘Thanks, dad,’ I said, fighting back tears. ‘You're welcome,’ he said. He gave me a hug. ‘I'm not perfect. But don't deprive me of my son in my final years,’ he said. I hugged him back. Tears slipped out as I let go of any self-control. The world celebrates children and their mother, but we need fathers too.<sup>10</sup>

The story is narrated in a first person point of view in a humorous tone, often taking digs at both Tamil and Punjabi cultures. The novel ends with Ananya giving birth to twin boys. They say that the babies belong to a state called 'India'; with a thought to end inequality.

‘Be careful,’ she said as I took one in each arm. ‘You are from two different states, right? So, what will be their state?’ the nurse said and chuckled. ‘They'll be from a state called India,’ I said.<sup>11</sup>

This is a real story of two states. This is also mentioned as a real story of author. The novel also denotes the reality of Indian marriage system. This accepts arrange marriage system except love marriage. It may be seen as the man trend of modern Indian English topic. The

particular novel denotes the Indian typical marriage system the theme of inter caste marriage is dominating in Indian tradition marriage system the acceptance of love marriage and others are highly criticized by the real experience of real world chetan Bhagat highly influenced and encourage to write down something in respect of marriage system.

Except caste marriage system the author has encouraged different marriage system in this novel undoubtedly has been taken as the new trend of modern English writing highlighting the Indian marriage system. He has poured and depicted life line character and narrated real love of his own. It may be seen in modern culture and modern college life the theme of this novel is marriage Panjabi and Tamil culture in the perspective of marriage. This novel is highly heartfelt description of Indian middle class for the sake of name of name and success the girls sacrifice their virginity and son left their relation unity their parents because of their law standard and married women work for support of their family and number of things happens for sake of nothing. The novel highly depicts the middle class struggle for sake of job for success and for love this is the changing scenario of modern idea.

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