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Post Modern Aspects in the Works of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

Post modernism in Indian English Literature Refers to the works of literature after 1980. If Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* (1938) Marks Modernism, Salman Rushdie's *Midnight Children* (1981) And Nissim Ezekiel's *Latter-Day Psalms* (1982). Chetan Bhagat is an icon of new India and he has an enduring name in the ground of postmodern fiction. He has opened the floodgates for a new movement of Postmodernism in Indian Writing in English. His name doesn't grace any awards list, but he is familiar to every college student in India. While the global literary dwell on the fiction of India's past, Chetan Bhagat has become India's well known writer by embracing the present. He manages to retain his sense of humor even though the topics that is actually harsh realities of life. His writing has revolutionized and mirrored the postmodern literature. According to him, the purpose of literature is to showcase the society. This paper show cases and justifies how Chetan Bhagat is considered to be the postmodernist writer which is clearly documented by his own works.

Keywords: Reader involvement, reader response, contemporary elements, real life situations and Post Modernism.

Objectives:-

- ❖ To study Chetan Bhagat as a postmodern novelist.
- ❖ To study postmodern aspects in Chetan Bhagat's works.

Introduction: -As on date he has compiled six fictions and two non-fictions and in fact in every work he has highlighted his profound concern for the youth of today; i.e. the problems and despairs, hopes and aspirations of the youth. In spite of dealing with the unsympathetic realities of life his works administer to retain the pure sense of humor. His works have striking similarities with parables in projecting moral messages, divine guidance and technical suggestions. Along with that his works can better be defined as postmodern projection of parables due to

the above reasons. The victories and defeats of the youth are common aspects of Chetan's stories with respect to the present generation and era. Hence, the present paper is based on those issues only.

Post Modern Aspects in Chetan Bhagat's

➤ *One Night @ the Call Center:*

Chetan Bhagat's second fictional work *One Night @ the Call Center*, published in the year 2005, revolves around a group of six call center employees working at the Connation's call center in Gurgaon, Haryana, India. The theme of this novel is the anxieties and insecurities of the rising Indian middle class, including questions about career, inadequacy, marriage, family conflicts in postmodern India. The backdrop of the novel is at the call center, describing one of the events that occurred at night....it was night and there was a phone call from God. It is a romantic comedy set in an office where bored young Indians try to resolve the mindless inquiries of Midwestern American Technophobes. Sam works right beside the girl who has just deceived him. Esha is just short of becoming a model; two inches, to be precise. Vroom wants to change the world. Radhika is trying to manage her mother-in-law and hold down her job. Military uncle always thinks about his family his grand-children. Though he wanted to live with his son and daughter in law they won't allow him to live together. All these characters are shown and narrated as suppressed characters due to their personal problems. Every one of them considers his or her problem as a storm in the tea-cup.

In course of a time, a phone calls from God to preach them on high spirit and motivation to lead a happy life. In fact it is an innovation in this of Chetan Bhagat. No novelist has presented God using mobile phone to guide his devotees in the crisis. Herein God advises his friends-cum-devotees how to escape from the iron web of death. The phone call encourages the survivors to settle account with their boss. With the surprising call from God on Shyam's phone Bhagat inputs the spiritual interlude and modernism in the novel.

➤ *Five Point Someone*

What not to do at IIT! Is the debut novel by Chetan Bhagat, an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology? The total backdrop of the novel is set in the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, during the years 1991 and 1995. The whole concept of this novel is about the three mechanical engineering students, Hari Kumar, Ryan Oberoi, and Alok Gupta. This book is narrated by Hari, along with his friends Ryan and Alok, as well as a letter by Hari's girlfriend Neha Cherian. Most of the situations in this book are covered with the innumerable deeds by the trio to cope up with the grading system as well as Hari's fling with Neha who just happens to be the daughter of Prof. Cherian, the domineering head of the Mechanical Engineering Department of their college. While the tone of the novel is humorous, it takes some dark turns every now and then, especially when it comes to the families of the protagonists.

The book not only deals with engineering students' problems but also it focuses on their hardships to clear the entrances; It focuses on the fact that no matter how hard it is to get into an IIT is, it is even harder to survive if your heart's not in it.

➤ ***Three Mistakes of My Life***

Bhagat focusses on passionate zeal in delineating hopes and aspiration as well as failure and frustration of his generation in a remarkable manner. The novel ironically unfolds some of the bitter truths of human life which is now more influenced by passion rather than emotion and ambition. Chetan Bhagat is more vibrant in this novel because of his magnetic maturity and sharpening sensibility. It delineates the passionate ambition of three growing boys- Govind Patel, Ishaan and Omi.

The narrator of this novel is Govind who has an aptitude and penchant for business. Ishaan has passion for cricket while Omi is more concerned with religion because of his parents' attachment with city temple. So, business, cricket and religion seem to govern the life of these growing people. Bhagat studies the characters of these three with ironic detachment because he never takes the sides of anyone. His characters are young, ambitious and passionate and have the same moral, social and religious dilemmas as many of the young Indians have today. The book is based on real life events. This novel depicts sentiment, social message, business, relations, religion and of course cricket.

➤ ***Two States***

It 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 story begins in the IIM Ahmedabad mess hall, where Krish, a Punjabi boy from Delhi catches sight of a beautiful girl, Ananya, a Tamilian from Chennai. They become friends within a few days and get romantically involved. After their employment they make serious plans for their engagement. At first Krish tries to convince Ananya's parents by helping Ananya's father to do his first Power Point Presentation, her brother, Manju, by giving him IIT tuition and later convinces her mom by asking her to sing in a concert organized by Krish's office, that is Citi Bank. She is convinced as her biggest dream of singing at a big concert comes true; she sings along with S. P. Balasubrahmanyam & Hariharan. Then they try to convince Krish's mom. But the problem appears when his mother's relatives reject the idea of their engagement. They opine that Krish should not marry a Tamilian but ends up agreeing with them when Ananya tries to help one of Krish's cousins to get married and succeeds to do so. Krish has had a strong hatred for his father. He neither shares his feelings nor keeps a harmonious

attachment with him. Now as they have convinced both their parents they now try to introduce each other's parents. They go to Goa. But this dream of theirs shatters as Ananya's parents smell something suspicious between Krish's mom and him. Ananya's family ends 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 successfully. Now Krish realizes his father's love for him. The novel is narrated in a first person point of view in a humorous tone, often taking digs at both Tamil and Punjabi cultures.

➤ ***Revolution 2020***

This story deals with a love triangle, corruption and a journey of self-discovery. The novel has addressed the issue of how private coaching institutions for courses like IIT JEE exploit aspiring engineering students. How parents put their hope and desires on relying these coaching institutions so that their children can crack professional tests and change the fortune of their family. The book unearths the stark reality of this coaching industry which thrives on scams, corruption and all kinds of criminal activities. This book narrates the story of two friends alienated by their ambitions and passions yet attached by their love for the same girl.

➤ ***What Young India Wants***

It analyses some of the complex issues facing postmodern India, as well as offers solutions to make our country better. It provides inspired solutions to the country's most intractable problems—poverty, unemployment, corruption, violence against women, communal violence, religious fundamentalism, illiteracy and more. Bhagat has introduced some unique trends in the Indian English literature. He has focused the interest of the youth.

➤ ***Half Girlfriend***

It reveals the sentiments and linguistic struggles of a backward rural Bhojpuri-laced Hindi speaking boy from Bihar as he enrolls himself at the prestigious English-medium St. Stephen's College, New Delhi, and falls in love with a high class English speaking rich Delhi girl, Riya Somani. The girl, not really interested in a relationship, agrees to be his —half girlfriend.

The story begins with Madhav Jha, a boy from Dumraon, Bihar. At the very beginning, his troubles commence after he entered St. Stephens because he is from a village, his English was quite bad. But his being a good basketball player, Madhav Jha manages to get admission through his sports quota. *Half Girlfriend* is an interesting novel which not only motivates the youth to achieve success but also encourages them to be confident and rational whenever they

are faced with pressing problems of time. For Chetan Bhagat, temporary failure in life has also a meaning because it hides the secrets of success. According to Bhagat, money is not the be-all and end-all of life. Life involves things much greater than money. Respect is one among them. One can earn respect if one lives with dignity and when he lives for others.

Conclusion: -In this way, Chetan Bhagat has portrayed his characters as decision makers. Other writers of the past have delineated their protagonists who are subjected to the will of their parents or their boss. Unlike other writers, Bhagat advises the youth not to follow every word of their parents and the boss blindly. They should know and think about that what is right or wrong. Revolutionary spirit of Bhagat thus appears in his comment: —Humanity wouldn't have progressed if people listened to their parents all the time. To read all novels of Chetan Bhagat on postmodern aspects the result is that here is a big gap between two generations due to technology. So we can't say that parents are wrong, but their suggestions can work in this era of technology or not, we will have to think on it.

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