



The Irony of Human Relationship: A Social Satire in Chetan Bhagat's Novel *2 States* and *Revolution 2020*

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ABSTRACT

Human beings are gregarious animal. Out of all the creatures, human being is the best because of many reasons. They like to live in society and keep relation with each other related by blood or by other ways which is rare among other animal beings. But human beings are so complicated and can be different in appearance and heart, can say something by mouth but keep something different in mind. The relationships among people are not the same as they seem because they can expose something different than their inner feelings and thoughts. So, many times the relations of them become more ironical. The relations between wife and husband, father and son, mother and daughter, lover and beloved, the friends also can come to this category of relation. Chetan Bhagat, a predominant postmodern Indian author presents this trait of human beings in most of his novels. His autobiographical novel '2 States' and 'Revolution 2020' are two such novels in which he has depicted ironical human relationships with a touch of satire.

Keywords: complicated, ironical, satirised, human, relationship

INTRODUCTION

Human beings are gregarious animal. Out of all the creatures, human being is the best because of many reasons. They like to live in society and keep relation with each other related by blood or by other ways which is rare among other animal beings. But human beings are so complicated and can be different in appearance and heart, can say something by mouth but keep something different in mind. Therefore, one's individual relation towards society and to another person has to be considered sometimes doubtful. Among the members of same family, the existing relations to each other is not always very good, and some good relation of today proves very bad tomorrow. Like wild animals they may attack one another even to death and commit some unsocial things which is beyond thought of human society. To say simply the relations of human beings is

sometimes very ironical. In literature, many writers describe this in their writings often satirizing human relations. In the world of post-modern Indian English literature, Chetan Bhagat is a novelist who is so much concerned in this matter. He presents ironical relationship among people and satirizes the excessive display of it. In most of his novels this trait of human nature is present in lesser or larger scale. In this present paper the researcher has taken Bhagat's two famous popular novels *2 States* and *Revolution 2020* to study irony of human relationship and social satire on the same.

As the subject of the study is narrative, usually the method of narrative analysis is observed throughout the paper. The study is based mainly on primary data, collected from the novels *2 States* and *Revolution 2020*. A lot of secondary data have also been collected from some reputed articles and books. These sources of data are found from both physical and digital library and studied thoroughly. To establish the study more logical and reasonable, some texts are quoted directly from the novels as it is. The aims and objectives of this study is to raise awareness that Chetan Bhagat tries to spread among readers through the novels against ironical human relationship with a touch of satire. The researcher will try to do it depicting the events concerning human relations. This study will help the researchers who will research in future on this fact of human relationship through the novels of Chetan Bhagat.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Chetan Bhagat's novel *2 States* deals with complex human relationship: the relation between father and son, mother and son, husband and wife, husband's relation with wife's relatives, two families of both lovers etc. The novel is an autobiographical work of the novelist Chetan Bhagat. The protagonist Krish represents the novelist himself. The novelist portrays the picture of various relationships like the relationship between Krish and his father, Krish and his mother even between his father and mother. Krish's father was an ex-army officer who wants to control the family with military ruling. As none of Krish and his mother likes this, he doesn't like them also. He even doesn't like the people from his wife's side while Krish and his mother likes them so much and involve them in every task related to their own family. This involvement of father-in-law's family keeps Krish's father far from both Krish and his mother. Krish loves Ananya, a south Indian Brahmin girl which is not supported by both his parents. Even, Ananya's parents also don't support that their only daughter should marry a non- Brahmin Punjabi boy. As both Krish and Ananya loves each other truly and wants to marry having the consent of both the parents, therefore, they have to work hard and undergo hard management system. Chetan Bhagat says:

Love marriages around the world are simple:

Boy loves girl. Girl loves boy.

They get married.

In India, there are a few more steps:

Boy loves Girl. Girl loves Boy.

Girl's family has to love boy. Boy's family has to love girl.

Girl's Family has to love Boy's Family. Boy's family has to love girl's family.

Girl and Boy still love each other. They get married. (2 States, Cover Page)

Though throughout the story it is found that Krish and his mother are in good relation and his father is in bad relation with both mother and son, surprisingly and ironically Krish's mother and her relatives were opposite of their (Krish and Ananya) love and marriage but it is only his father for whose role they can come to matrimonial alliance. For the wedding ceremony, there were two options for Krish laid by his father- if mother's relatives go, he will not go and if he has to go mother's relatives cannot go. Krish wants mother's relatives' presence, therefore, his father who parts the main role for their matrimony is left ignored. But everybody surprises and the amusement becomes pale when the news of the sudden presence of Krish's father at Sangeetha Residency in Mylapore is spread among the persons of Krish's side; the relatives of his mother. Though Krish's father wanted to be away but could not absent from the wedding of his only son. It proves that he has a hidden love for his son in the corner of his heart which was not understood by Krish, his mother and even by the readers. Krish is also very happy seeing his father appearing in his wedding, it shows that like his father he has also an un-expressible love for him.

The relation of two lovers is also complicated. The cultural and geographical difference make their sweet relation so complicated. Krish's father was adamant that he himself would choose bride for his son. His mother was quite opposite of Madrassi girl (Ananya) who let her dear son suffer in love agony than marrying her. Ananya's parents were very orthodox and conservative; quite opposite of even thinking their only daughter marrying a non-Brahmin Punjabi boy. Ananya's father opposed Krish of marrying Ananya even before his proposal of it. However, it was possible for their extra labour to convince their parents. The sweet relation between Krish and Ananya becomes sour sometimes due to misunderstanding. Krish left hope of getting Ananya after meeting her at her workplace where she misbehaves Krish and makes him pessimistic about their love. Later, Ananya herself calls Krish at dawn informing him with the good news of his imminent wed-lock with her. Shakespeare says, "The course of true love never runs smooth" (A Midsummer Night's Dream- William Shakespeare) and this happens to Krish and Ananya. Chetan Bhagat supports the view that love knows no boundaries of caste, creed, religion, states or countries. It's love that wins against all odds.

The complicated relationship of human beings is observed also in Chetan Bhagat's another novel *Revolution 2020*. The complicated relation between two brothers-Gopal's father and uncle, between client and advocate-Gopal's father and his advocate, triangular love relation among three main characters Gopal, Raghav and Aarti, political and business relation between Gopal and MLA Mr. Shukla are noteworthy. There is a long fight running in the court on the matter of paternal property share between Gopal's father and uncle. Gopal's uncle is occupying a lions' share of paternal property cheating his brother with a little portion only. Therefore, Gopal's father to have his right goes to court. Years after years, the case is running without any result. When Gopal's father dies suffering from illness, his uncle and aunt comes and shed crocodile tears. An advocate

comes to Gopal and informs him that his uncle is going to help him in this misery. His father is indebted to some money lender and his uncle wants to save Gopal from their hand giving Gopal money to repay the loan. But for this Gopal must sign a deed of land sale. From the disproportionate ratio of amount, he wants to pay and the land he wants to purchase makes Gopal clear that it is not help but soft corruption. The advocate who takes initiative was Gopal's father's advocate for the case against his brother over paternal property share. It becomes clear to Gopal that the advocate took money from Gopal's father during his life but worked for his uncle. Here lies the irony of advocate-client complex relationship. Gopal's father became loser fuelling the advocate with money to do work for him to have justice against the injustice done by his own brother but the advocate he himself did injustice to him working hiddenly against him.

Most complicated human relationship is observed in the novel in the triangular love among Gopal Mishra, Raghav Kashyap and Aarti Pratap Pradhan. All these three were classmates. They all had good relation as friends. But unknowingly Gopal begins to love Aarti in course of time. When Gopal goes to Kota for coaching of AIEEE and JEE far from Aarti, she begins to visit BHU campus, the college campus where Raghav is enrolled. The frequent visit to the institution and meeting much between the two brings each other closer. They begin to love each other. In the meantime, Gopal's love for Aarti was very clear to her. She begins to enjoy dual-love hiding about one from the other. It is crystal clear from the following statement of Gopal.

I gave her a two-minute summary of what had happened, making her swear that she would never tell Raghav I told her. She told me she hadn't even told Raghav she was meeting me, so there was no question of telling him anything. That's what human relationships are about - selective sharing and hiding of information to the point of crazy confusion. (p. 184)

But as Raghav was brilliant who cracks AIEEE, therefore she sees future with him. Later when after the completion of Raghav's study, he becomes journalist of very less income but Gopal with the help of MLA Mr. Shukla opening a college becomes the director of it and earns a lot of money, Aarti turns to him. She not only begins to love him but also has sex with him in the hotel where she works. She comes back to Gopal but doesn't cut off with Raghav. On a birthday of Gopal when Aarti comes to him for wishing him birthday wish with a cake box and scrapbook, she discovers him naked with two prostitutes. She becomes surprized and furious on him. Throwing her birthday gifts on the ground she turns to leave when Gopal tries to stop her, she slaps on his cheek. From that day Aarti leaves Gopal forever and goes back to Raghav concluding her perplexed state of mind on the thought of future life partner between Gopal and Raghav. But Gopal could not forget Aarti till last; the day Aarti marries Raghav is a memorable day for him. He booked a room of upper storey of the hotel where the wedding ceremony of Raghav and Aarti would take place. He witnessed all everything of the wedding and becomes frustrated at the marriage of Aarti, his dream girl to Raghav. He could not stay in the hotel or leave it. He called his men to take him out of the hotel. All these things prove how much he loves Aarti. But it is also difficult to understand why he called two prostitutes and goes for evil performance with them when he knew that Aarti would be present at that moment.

The friendship relation between Gopal and Raghav is also very complicated one. They are friends from their very childhood but it turns to half-friend and half-enemy when Raghav becomes journalist, investigates and reports against Gopal's college which is established by ill-gotten money of MLA Mr. Shukla. He looks more enemy to Gopal because his dream girl Aarti likes Raghav and at last marries him. Aarti says to Gopal, "*I spoilt your friendship with Raghav.*" (p. 184) In the real sense Raghav is a true journalist who fights against corruption but Gopal, with his business partner Mr. Shukla is indulging corruption. This is the great difference between two friends. Mr. Shukla helps Gopal getting back his grandfather's property for which his father ran years after years to court but with an addition of the whole share of his uncle also. Gopal's uncle, with his wife and son came to Gopal one night to request him for his share but he becomes heartless towards them as they were once to his father and him. Mr. Shukla makes Gopal a director of a reputed college and a rich man but not a good man. Once Mr. Shukla demands Gopal as his son but he shows Gopal the way how to have prostitute for enjoyment. The actual relation between Gopal and Mr. Shukla is of business one. Each of them is using the other for self-benefit.

CONCLUSION

Chetan Bhagat, well known as a postmodern social reformer and humorist is successful depicting ironical human relationship with the touch of satire in both of his novels *2 States* and *Revolution 2020*. Ironical relationship among kith and kins is depicted in both the novels but in *Revolution 2020*, commercialized relation is also added. His presentation of ironical human relationship aware the readers to be careful when they deal relation with other and gives a lesson that others relation with them should not be judged at the very first stage. Mostly it is seen relation forms with some selfishness and last on it. Of course, there are selfless relations also but it is very rare. Ironical selfish human relation is satirised in both the novels of Chetan Bhagat

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