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The Satirical Approach of Love, Sex & Marriage in Chetan Bhagat's 2 States an Autobiographical Novel

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ABSTRACT

The reader of fiction in contemporary Indian English literature is incomplete without the contribution of Chetan Bhagat, if not mentioned. Being an immortal name in this field; he has acclaimed a wide reputation among the youth and has enriched the Indian literature with appropriate use of humour and satire through his fictions. He is on the rise among the younger generation and has been titled as the biggest selling Indian novelist in India's history. Every aspects of life and society i.e. problems, hopes, aspirations of the youth, love ,sex and marriage etc. have been reflected through appropriate use of humour and satire. In 2 States, a fictional version of love story he has tried his best level to raise his voice against so called traditional and orthodox views on marriage. In true sense Chetan Bhagat has revolutionized the ideas against the malady lingering and deep seated in the Indian society and that afflict the society at various levels of life and living in terms of comic mode of burlesque and satire.

KEY WORDS: Satire, humour, fiction, life, love, marriage

The renowned novelist Chetan Bhagat is a towering literary figure in the panorama of contemporary Indian English fiction who has produced novels namely Five Point Someone, *What not To Do at IIT* (2014), *One Night at the Call Centre* (2005), *The Three Mistakes of My Life* (2008), *Two States*, *The Story of My Marriage* (2009), *Revolution 2020*, *Love, Corruption, Ambition* (2011), *What young India Wants*, *Half Girl Friend* (2014) etc. He has endowed with healthy humour and sanguine approach to life. Unlike R. K. Narayan, he has chosen characters and personnel from real

life metropolis. His novels go round the life of youth. He exactly depicts their real life pictures and entertains all classes and cadres of people. His writings are specially youth centered. It is rightly remarked that he is in the lips of most of present youths. If anybody can exploit the stereotypes in the name of literature, it is Chetan Bhagat.

2 States is an autobiographical love story of the writer in which two love birds from two states of India, namely Ananya Swaminathan (his wife Ananya) a Tamil girl and Krish Malhotra (Chetan Bhagat) a Punjabi were in deep love. It is a lovely, heart-warming little gem in contemporary Indian literature. The story starts from IIT Ahmedabad where two came in contact with each other. Being the prettiest and attractive girl in the campus Ananya remains in the hearts of most of the IITians. But eventually both Krish and vivacious Ananya came in close contact and spent many evenings together for study and fell in deep love although they are from two opposite cultural communities. In spite of their romantic attachment and seer longing to lead a conjugal life things do not happen to their expectation. In the course of events they have gone through hardships and difficulties in motivating their parents. Both of them had to convince their orthodox family. Krish, a determined boy to get his love finally got it. The story is being narrated in a first person point of view in humorous tones that intends at easing pain and creates laughter among the readers with an appropriate use of satire.

The author needs to be appreciated that the novel is dominated with proper use of humour. The novel is a romantic journey of a culturally opposite couple Krish Malhotra a Punjabi boy and Ananya Swaminathan a Tamil Brahmin girl. Both of them meet each other over the quarrel of Ananya with the adamant mess worker on the issues of disgusting breakfast. Eventually the matter is interfered by Krish when he realizes to lessen the intensity of quarrel by offering his own rasgulla to the prettiest girl in the campus but feels that sacrificing own rasgulla may go to be useless and brings no fruit to him. Young Krish languishes and repents over losing his own for nothing.

A good sense of humour runs through the readers when a doubt is created on the possibility of getting love from the heart breaking girl in the campus. "Give mine to her, she is never date you, it is a rasgulla down the drain. I scolded myself". Krish senses a faintest hope of sign of having the cause of attraction in his lap and dating with her. The seer seeker of love, representation of Indian youth, a desperate only appreciator of beauty in the prettiest and vivacious girl Ananya he loses his concentration in mere conversation. "I had lost interest in the conversation anyway. If there is nothing as attractive as a pretty girl, there is nothing as repulsive as a cocky chick"

His characters are dominated and haunted with dreams and passion. Krish dreams of Ananya and her never ending beauty and repents over losing and wasting time in conversing with her with no advance in love. A just friend deal doesn't satisfy his indomitable instincts. He questions himself of the usability and profit of conversation creating a sense of humour among the readers. "Why would any guy want to be only friends with a girl? It's like agreeing to be near a chocolate cake and never it. It's like sitting in a racing car but not driving it?"

Ankur and Aditya, two other characters who had already proposed Ananya never consider the embarrassment over their rejection. After being rejected they sit the whole session with the rejecter. In fact the two youths are bit careless over their dismissal of their invitation and are repentless.

More over through perfect use of satire Chetan Bhagat satires at the educational system of the nation when Prof. Chatterjee, a two-decade veteran gives a sinister smile over the answer of an inquisitive girl in the class. Its the clear indication of the deteriorating and faulty educational system of our country.

“Notice, class, notice. This is the state of economics education in the country. Top graduates don’t know the basics. And then they ask—why is India backward?”

With an intention of advancing intimacy or contact with Ananya Krish gives a proposal of studying together but at the same time tries to hide his inner instinct and pretends to be that he never wants to be included in the list of her proposers.

“Hey, I have no interest in being number eleven. This purely for study reason.”

Certain amount of intimacy let them study together and in the course of conversations Ananya introduces her family to Krish. Instead of praising her parents photos Krish finds it as the symbol of rudeness in them and again compares their snaps at the beach as the standing obeying and hearing the national anthem. The novel again catches the attention of the readers when Chetan Bhagat satires at the womanly tendency of deep attraction towards jewelry. He discovers the women members of Anaya’s family wearing plenty of ornaments in a wedding ceremony. “All old women wore as much gold as their body could carry”.

A comic comparison is made again when Krish compares Ananyas parents looking scary and wonders that how can these scary looking parents create so cute? Ofcourse Chetan Bhagat with a blend of humour and wit tries to evoke laughter among the readers.

“How can such scary looking parents create something so cute?”

When the two love birds want to fly high plenty of remarks poured in on the developing intimacy between Ananya and Krish. It’s a vivid example of Bhagats skill of satirizing the Indian youth of giving their valuable time and giving unnecessary remarks on others .Writers like Chetan Bhagat has tried to touch the real life condition of the youth in hostel, where Krish is bit reluctant to maintain aesthetic appeal that represents the carelessness of educated youth.

“Unlike her room, there was no aesthetic appeal to mine. I had left the red bricks bare, and they looked like prison walls; my originally white bed sheet had turned grey after being washed in acid in the IIT hostels. My desk had only books, unlike Ananya who always had cut flowers from campus lawns or arty incense holders or other objects that men

never put on their shopping lists.”

The eager readers again glimpse a taste of humour through the appreciation of moles that are below the lower lip of Ananya. The moles are just fifty percent market share in the mind space of Krish who had appeals to the sensuous beauty of Ananya.

“It may be tiny, but it at least has a fifty percent market share in terms of mind space. But hey, I am just a friend. I don’t get the mole .I only get the full stops. She laughed.”

At present the Indian youths are on the cross roads of building their career and reaching at their destination. In this context Krish is in search of getting a job that suits to his interests. He was eager to join in CITI BANK, the important bank in India. He is at the critical juncture and turmoil of his life. At the interview the interviewers asked some extraneous questions. Many urprising thoughts came to the mind of the interviewees mind. Krish tries to answer in a humorous way but stops.

“Finally they asked a big question.” Why Citi bank?

“I want Citi bank because none other banks worked out, I sucked in my breath along with my stupid thoughts.BS time buddy, I thought, the ten seconds that will determine your career start now.”

In fact Chetan Bhagat has not left no stone unturned to express humour and satire throughout the novel. His hero is really bored on just-friend deal with Ananya rather aims at more than that. He gets surprised of only friendship.

“Why should any guy want to be only friends with a girl? It’s like agreeing to be near a chocolate cake and never it. It’s like sitting in a racing car and not driving it?”

The heart breaking story moves on. Both of Krish and Ananya eventually get their job suit to them respectably. Apart from that they have their serious plan of marriage. To get their dreams materialized they have convinced their parents to introduce each other’s parents and Goa is the destination but reaches at a sour note of relationship between Krishs mom and Ananyas parents. Here Bhagat, with a mixture of wit and humour satires at the orthodox and so called traditional views of both parents towards their children. They are in fact more interested on their own happiness rather than the happiness in their children.

“From biscuits to brides, if there is anything that their children really want, parents have a problem, I said.”

The novelist tries to portray his character that seems on a rampage to break every shackle imposed by the conservative society and upbringing through perfect use of satire.

In a pleasant surprise Krish finds a job in Chennai, the home town of Ananya and aims to ease and smoothen the relationship with Ananyas parents. Chetans humours get unleashed in full force as he talks about various aspects of

Tamilian living; he finds puzzling. He finds it curious that how every Tamilian wants to be up at the break of the dawn. He compares of sparse, functional homes of Tamils to ostentatious homes of the Punjabis.

At his workplace Chetan finds certain element of sycophancy in his boss named Bala; even found in the Tamil community. The novelist satires at the financial management of corporate banks in true sense the authors penchant for humour make his books immensely readable. The novel again bounces back in the final section when krish goes through a depression over motivating his parents for their marriage. After a number of attempts by both Krish and Ananya have come to be successful with a lot of hardships and struggling. Krishes boisterous family come to attend the wedding at Chennai and are shocked that that they have to be ready by six in the morning. It makes them that the rituals are generally funny.

“It’s a marriage or torture “

Bhagat did a fantastic job of introducing the readers to the both characters are from two different states and two opposing cultures get mingled to indicate the oneness of India. Again this novel is very much about the Indian family and how important to get the families approval before embarking on something with significance.

“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’s family. Boys’ family has to love girls family.

Girl and boy still love each other. They get married.”

After all it’s a novel of lot of laugh and light moments for the readers which is loosely based on the life of Bhagat’s own life. It’s a story about a couple coming from two different states of India and face hardships in order to be united. The novel is written by Indians and for Indians it’s basically written for Indian audience. The language is typically Indian with a mixture of local language that seems more interesting. Major characters are college goers. It’s natural that there is lot of humour in the novel as the novel is based on the youngsters. The novel has humour as an undercurrent and its black humour. It’s quick to read and understandable easily which makes it more enjoyable and interesting. In fact Bhagat is being criticized that he writes the issues that appeal to the masses and writes very light subjects it’s hard to minimize the scale of his reputation in Indian literature. Rather he doesn’t make it esoteric which might perhaps alienate the readers from him. The book is written in simple style and laymen’s language that creates much laughter among the readers. The novel touches the theme of intensity of love through educated and intelligent youths, it touches the issues of intense relationship predicaments, it touches the problems related to dowry and again it touches the egos and eagerness. The novel reflects the crisis of relationship and crisis of social identity. It talks about

that how genuine love can minimize the gap between differences and detachment in life.

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