

EXAMINING CHETAN BHAGAT, A YOUTH ICON WHO FORMED A NICHE OF HIMSELF IN INDO-ENGLISH FICTION.

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Chetan Bhagat a youth icon, a cult, a role model for many fresh writers- who has made India read a lot through his writings. The New York Times called him *the biggest selling English language novelist in India's history*. Times Magazine named him as *one of the 100 most influential people in the world*. Chetan Bhagat has reached the top with a short span of time because of his theme, colloquial use of language, grammatically sound, story enthralling young readers in the form of a commercial fiction. His novels give out an unambiguous solution to the problems of the youth in contrast to the changing trends in the society. He is a man of future vision who scrutiny the problem in the daily life and gives out an instinct solution to it at the end of his novels. He is very selective in his themes- love, friendship, ambition, sex, illusion, passion compassion, corruption; marriage etc. Chetan Bhagat's methodical approach in building up the characters, themes pertaining to the living style of the people engrossed some of his novels into Hindi movies too. The fast changing trends in the society with the new technology has made the human being to live with computers, cellphones, ipads, tablets or browse through internet than to share his or her feelings with others. Recent day's human contact is over taken by machine. But Bhagat's writing has influenced most of the college students, who ought to be seen with cell phones is seen with his novels. Today traditional culture, respect towards others, sociality, humanity and love for others have been evacuated from the society. Chetan Bhagat has concentrated on these factors in his third novel *Three mistakes of my life*. Youngsters hurdling problem to achieve things in life within a short span of time, but get fretful to overcome hurdles, reach dreadful ends in life. Aspects like self consciousness, helpfulness, trustworthiness, truthfulness have been wiped out. These conceptions have been brought out remarkably by Chetan Bhagat in *Three mistakes of my life* – through the three main characters Govind, Ishaan and Omi. The story happens to start from the writer in Singapore, who happens to receive a suicide mail from one of his reader in Ahmedabad. The writer makes a detective approach within a short span of time traces the sender's address through his teacher in IIM Ahmedabad. The story is semi autobiographical in nature where the Govind the main character is the protagonist and the

writer himself happens to be the second narrator. The writer has picked out three characters that lived in Ahmedabad for about 15 years, having different aspirations, views, thoughts, problems, plans, education level, status, faith etc but all have been correlated by the writer with a single weapon friendship. The whole of the novel linked with three aspects in the society –Religion, Cricket, Business which are the crucial things in present India. The story encompasses events in the lives of three close friends in 21 chapters. The characters have been well built; Govind the first narrator retells his story as a first person to the writer. Govind, Ishaan and Omi hails from three different family backgrounds, especially Govind the poorest of the three leftover by his father and mother runs a sweet shop to make both end meet together. Govind the most intelligent boy becomes popular after his score of centum in maths; wants to become a businessman against his mothers wish to become an engineer. Ishaan the X captain who headed the winning District level cricket match hails from the same place in a middle class family- father employee in telephone department supports the family. Ishaan the sports champion is the runner from NDF academy for army officer who shattered the ambition of his father to see his son as an officer. Omi the son a priest of a Hindu temple and obviously the richest, whose interest is food, exercises for body fitness and not interested to walk in the footsteps of his father. He never has any objective in life but is religious and has much faith in God. Govind, Ishaan and Omi starts a retail shop named as Team India cricket shop near the premises of the temple given by Omi's uncle Bittoo mama for rent. Ishaan happens to meet Ali – a boy with hyper reflex ability to see the ball in slow motion when thrown by a fast bowler. Chetan Bhagat has used the imaginative technique in his novel. Ishaan undergoes a tough situation with Ali who is fond of playing marbles and not interested in cricket which makes him tried after six balls. He wish to give training to Ali by an Australian player, so he dissimulate himself as a owner of reputed cricket goods company and makes his way towards Australia with the help of an Australian cricket player.

Govind the top tuitions master for maths happens to teach Vidya, Ishaan's sister a cute little girl's aspiration is to fly away from the hometown to a place where she can lead her own life. Govind undergoes a tough situation in teaching her maths which she hates a lot but Govind being besotted by her has illicit relationship with her and it is an unanticipated turn in the story. The writer creates a parallel love story which gives way for some love scenes (200-202) and also he thrown foreign scenes in Bondi beach Australia (pg 165-167). Genre fiction, is also known as popular fiction, is plot-driven fictional works written with the intent of fitting into a specific literary genre, in order to appeal to readers and fans already familiar with that genre. Chetan Bhagat fiction is more a genre fiction than a literary fiction as it is narrative driven, provides entertainment, happy endings, current ideology, real life, love scenes etc.

Chetan Bhagat has used the element of truism in his novel quoting the serious issues of Godhra massacre and the attack of the terrorist of the twin buildings relating to his novel and bringing out a tragic ending is really surprising plot built in. Muslim activist burning a train carrying the Hindu devotees and the Hindus group led by Bittu mama who has lost his only son in the

massacre takes revenge activity against Muslims, leads a group of riot targeting Ali the Muslim boy's blood for the sake of his son's death. The final part of attack takes place in the Bank building is full of suspense and thrill as in a Hindi masala movie. Bittu mama's thirsts for blood takes the life of Omi who gives his life while saving Ali. Govind and Ishaan become helpless and feel sorry for the death of their friends but have a thirst for vengeance towards Bittu mama. Both the injured friends try to save Ali from the mob and the way Ishaan guides Ali to hit the ball to mama's temple twice and the collapse of mama is something which recollects the endings scenes in the Hindi films.

Chetan Bhagat brings the concept of idealism winning over materialism through reconnecting the break up friendship between Govind and Ishaan, later they both arrange money for the treatment of Ali in a foreign hospital. Govind getting back Vidya quotes a happy ending for the story – writer himself giving a special appearance at the end reconciled the readers to believe the story as being real. Chetan Bhagat being an investment banker's love for money is exhibited in his novel title numbered as one, five, three, 20 20 etc. The novel title *Three mistakes of life* alights curiosity in the readers to identify the three mistakes from the story. Govind the main protagonist admits as investing huge money in an upcoming shop is his first mistake in life (pg 107), involving himself in illicit relationship with his best friends sister is his second mistake in life (pg 200) and being a bit late in saving the life of Ali due to which he has wrist injury is his third mistake (pg 246).

Bhagat has used sarcastic phrases in his novel can be well seen as in Ishaan's dad commented, "Cut a cake today to celebrate one year of your uselessness" (pg 3) and in Govind's comment on Ishaan "But now, when he had no life ahead, he wanted to insure other people's lives" (pg 14) which brings out the lively aspects in the novel. Being a banker becoming a writer Bhagat has never left the mathematical concepts even in his novel too. The words like gossip theory, weirdest theory, formula (pg 48) injected in the novel shows his inevitable relation with mathematical numbers. Chetan Bhagat dialogues simple and remain eye catching too. His use of simile is very apt in the situations. The division of two groups of people is told by Govind like this "Like a shoal of fishes, the saffron separated from the whites and sat down in two neat sections."(pg 41) Govind comparing the behavior of Ishaan's sister like "How can I tame a wild best" (pg 46) Govind said," Hey, what are you doing? Omi said as he emerged from the waves like the word's ugliest mermaid" (pg 171) Bhagat use of simile along with the literary techniques, is used to express the quality of a piece of writing and involve the reader deeply in the novel.

Humour is the pre-requisite of any good novel. It exists at the levels of appearance, in behavioral pattern of a character or in a situation. Chetan Bhagat's wit in using the humour makes the reader flourish the different aspects in his novel. Humorous aspect made silly when Ali asking about, "Why do people run between the wickets to score runs?"(pg 74) Bhagat usage of humour in romantic situation too has made the readers amused.

”She opened her mouth and brought it close, her lips were eight millimeters apart from mine.... The mosquitoes on our respective heads rejoined “(pg 183-184)

Chetan Bhagat’s use of philosophical observations in politics in the novel is another aspect which makes the readers to think about it. Ali’s father’s description about politics and the party leaders is like, “It is like two customers go to a restaurant and the manager gives them only one plate of food. And if you want to eat, you must fight the other guy. The two guys get busy fighting, and some people tell them to make amends and eat half plate each. In all this, they forget the real issue- why didn’t the manager provide two plates of food?”(pg 70)

The writer has used the colloquial language according to the reader’s intellectual mindset of the mass readers. The use words like *dil chahata hai, panditji, mama,karma,oops,ouch,tilak*, makes the novels very close to the readers choice. Australian dialect brings in the novel make the readers to introduce to the new language. “As the day progressed, so did my Aussie vocabulary. onya was short for ‘good on you’ which meant well done. An easy ball was a ‘piece of piss’, while a good one ‘packed a wallop’. The mosquitoes were ‘mozzies’ and soft drinks ‘coldies’.(pg 198) His use of the F word in the beginning of the story and in many parts has paid way more criticism. Recent informal language SMS messaging famous among the youngster has caught the view of the writer too.

Chetan Bhagat has been the biggest sellers of novels, gained the interest of mass readers through his writings, has been marked as an icon who inspired many novelist of recent writers .The main concept of satisfaction and contentment is missing aspect in today’s generation, where people make a wish and try to achieve it within short span of time without wasting time and money like plucking the fruit before it gets ripen and searching different modes to make it eatable one. Failing in the process makes, they do drastic things which don’t benefit the society. Obviously the writer has left the contentment aspect before his readers but doesn’t satisfy the pure element of satisfaction in his readers.

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