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### Post- Modern elements in the novels of Chetan Bhagat

#### **Abstract:**

“Postmodernism is a Western philosophy, a late 20th-century movement characterized by broad skepticism, subjectivism, or relativism; a general suspicion of reason; and an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology in asserting and maintaining political and economic power”. Post-Modernists are independent while expressing their ideas, they never drop their statements and theory. It is more personal than identify with some other categories. The post-modernism was started in America around 16th century later it extended to Europe and other countries. Post-modern civilization fails to accept the modification between high and low class. There is a little place for modernism, originality or individual thinking. Bhagat has concentrated on the preconceptions of toppers, however there is more to life than these things your family, your friends, your internal desires and goals and the grades you get in dealing with each of these areas will define you as a person. The post-modernism has defused the difference between good and bad, moral and immoral, right and wrong. If there is a choice to select modern generation would not hesitate to go for one which is traditionally named as bad. Bhagat imbibed all these qualities in his writing. His characters go against the traditional customs and values. Bhagat represents intricate, deeply engrained socio-cultural complications of multicultural India, light-heartedly. He wishes readers to giggle at themselves, at their stupidities, their partialities, and their wrong-actions; not as a member but

as a distant observer. He doesn't bout them directly, but through fiction he attempts to understand their errors and gives a chance to rectify in the real life. Bhagat's linking story telling method and the funny situations appeal readers.

**Key Words:** Post-Modernism, Society, Novels of Chetan Bhagat

**Post- Modernism in India:** Post modernity has two important elements, one is informational mode of improvement and the second is social and cultural transformation. With the help of these two elements, post-modernity came into India. There are several maternities and post modernists. The post modernity of Calcutta is unlike Bombay or that of a small rural area. It is found in levels. It has a procedure. The modern India has done so many researches to become a post-modern country, since the grades are changing the process is still going on. There are many encounters facing by post-modern society. The revolution is happening in culture, tradition and literature. It's leaving behind satire and cultural activities. Postmodernism is a difficult term or set of ideas, one that has only appeared as an area of theoretical study since the mid-1980. Postmodernism is hard to describe because it is a concept that appears of study, containing art, architecture, music, film, literature, sociology, communication, fashion and technology. It hard to locate it temporally or traditionally because it's not clear exactly when Postmodernism starts.

### **Post Modernism elements in the novels of Chetan Bhagat**

A novel written by Chetan Bhagat in 2004, the story revolves around three students, Hari Kumar, Ryan Oberoi and Alok Gupta. The story speaks about the flaws of education system and how SGPA taken prominent role rather than student's creativeness and innovativeness. The novel can be analyzed with post-modernist theory. In chapter 1, Ryan asks questions to the professor by breaking the stereotypes, they wanted to beat the defects in education system, they were attempting to break the conventional education system and they were often making fun of defects of education system, numerous assignments to test the student's intellectual ability and uninspiring teachings made them to go against the system, Ryan propounded 'Mice theory' to prove the nothingness of the system. Neither he praises India nor does he comment on it. His revelations of the idiocies of the Indian youngsters in order to elevate country and the Indian young generation. His concern for Indian young people and India is true and the *FivePointSomeone* novel stances as an evidence to it.

Prof. Cherian was treated students like mindless machines, his son's suicide introduces the cruelty of technical institutions, if a student cannot pass IIT entrance, and everyone thinks he

fit for nothing. Chetan Bhagat used an American slang by using few words like buzz off, heck etc.... that shows the impact of globalization on his novels. The young people would think, getting admission in reputed IIT institutions is a big deal otherwise they think they are losers. The valueless education made youth, incapable of taking proper decisions. They behave like a frog in the well. It's a basic lesson for the teaching institutions, who follow the same old traditional method for teaching, 'I teach, you learn', the students should be confident in what they are learning by doing it. Each student is gifted with unique talent, the education system should bring it out. The system which swallow two to three students every year due to its strictness is exactly what he wanted to unleash. Chetan gives a clear view of the predominant system. It is worthy novel which makes positive impact on the Indian education system. Five Point Someone debates the predicament of Indian educational system and methods, and how students are affected from this system. Today, the students are deceived by the view that education is only a way to lead a comfortable life. It seems only way to improve their life status. The only intention of students is to get higher ranks and to get a high salary job. The parents and teachers hassle their mind to score higher marks, and it takes them to an illegal way. It is a problem for the students because of its excess patterns. It takes them in a deep mental stress, which they cannot tell to their parents. Although the three friends are intelligent and smart students, they can't cope up with IIT patterns. It produces a high academic burden for them as it gives primacy for grades and not for creativeness. Finally in the end the writer exposes that the real purpose of education is not to remember the syllabus without interest and the true intension of it is to improve a good behavior, good concentration to analyze things which are good and bad. The students should be confident; they should not let a GPA grade or job position to define them. As Swami Vivekananda remarked "Education means that which gives ability for a person not to depend others for anything." Five Point Someone is a book that criticizes the delusory perception of education and expresses the authentic objectives of it. The novel explains the plight of Indian educational system and methods.

The novel is really a great inspiration for the learners as well as for the teachers to adopt a new technique which will suit the psyche of the new generation. The time has come for the professional institutes to shun the traditional style of learning. This will stale the students growing ability and creativity. The institutes must develop the technical skills; enhance the potentiality of the student, and apply the practicality of the knowledge. Teacher should take the students outside the boundaries of the text and motivate for self-learning.

Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* consists of a profound story decked with beautiful rhymes. It is an example of an ideal novel, which has ventured to include all the genres of the literature'. Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* is a novel of the dark desire. It bonds the three friends to preserve the national talent and to express their patriotic feelings, probably this is the first time when an Indian English writer has created his characters above the trivialities of the society such as casteism, religion and idolization. Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* portrays the terrible veracities of the partition. It ventures the Hindus and the Muslims fighting with each other in the name of religion. Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* depicts social humiliation, Bakha suffered due to inferior caste. The roles are young, determined and fervent and have the same moral, social and religious predicaments as many of the young Indians today. At the same time, their setting and sensibility too is unabashedly Indian. Now-a -days in India business has a fundamental role in the lives of people, predominantly from Gujarat. There are people who think that, if they make business, they are in no need of study well and in the novel the protagonist himself thinks that "being a Gujarati business is in his blood". "There is something about Gujaraties, we love business."(Bhagat: 2008:1) People like Govind, who are over determined and do not have enough knowledge make lots tactics for future. They only go with their aspirations and the result is failure in life. Very commonly, business benefits get mixed with personal benefits and the problem begins. Outside factors are additional thing one always has to fight in any business. The novel primarily focuses on the project of three friends –Govind, Ishan and Omi. The trinity have vowed to depict Ali as the official cricket icon of India. Govind is the storyteller in the novel. He is the plan maker. He is an artist. He is confident and his capable. He loves to do what his inner voice allows him. He was the topper in mathematics subject in 10+2 exams. If he had made up his mind to pursue an engineering course, he could have done it successfully. But, he has interest in business. He quit his further education and takes up business. He appears out a successful businessman. Bhagat has depicted his characters as decision makers. Other writers of the previous have outlined their protagonists imperiled to the wish of their parents or their boss. Unlike other writers, Bhagat recommends the youth no need to follow every word of their parents and the boss blindly. Radical spirit of Bhagat thus exposes in his comment: "Humanity wouldn't have progressed if people listened to their parents all the time" (Bhagat: 2008:20). This is a lesson to the young people for taking decision on their own welfare and for the humankind as well... They decide the future of their children for the sake of their so called social image. They least bother to invite advice from their kids even in

the essential matters of the life like Education and Marriage. Bhagat disdains this behavior of the parents towards the young people.

The novel written by Chetan Bhagat, published in 2009, a story of a couple, a Punjabi boy Krish Malhotra from Delhi, and tamilain girl AnanyaSwaminathan. The novel set in the IIM Ahmadabad. They come from two different states, met each other and get romantically involved but faced many problems to persuade their parents to agree for their marriage, the story is more or less based on Chetan Bhagat's life. The differences in language, color, race, culture, dressing sense were the reasons for their parent's disapproval for their marriage.

The novel can be read in a post-modernist angle. The plot of the story broken the stereotypes of traditional society in India, the marriage should happen within the caste or community, if a boy or girl from different caste or race, the society and parents will not approve that marriage, but in the *2 States* novel, Ananya and Krish crossed all the conventional boundaries, succeeded to convince their parents and got married finally. Chetan Bhagat states, more than caste or race, the individual choice is very important, mutual love, respect, couple's financial security and how will they manage their responsibility, these things come into account, the boy should know how to take care of his family and girl should aware how to manage the house, the differences in caste and community never be barrier for the love marriage. Chetan Bhagat suggests young generation to follow their heart.

*Revolution 2020* portrays the state of matters of Indian education system, loaded with corruption and not helpful in any way to the commonalities. A critic of the books properly identifies the chief purpose of the book which is to "uncover...the corrupt education system, the profit making private engineering colleges, issue of corrupting etc." thus giving "the book a present-day touch." Further, the reviewer says, "Probably it wasn't destined since he started writing the book 2 years back, but the issue of corruption has been reignited by Anna Hazare. And for the same reason a lot of readers would associate with the issues mentioned in the book pretty well." (Transition) Another analysis of the book identifies "how corruption is prevalent in the education system, how bribes are taken and given at every nook-n-corner, how anyone and everyone are eligible to open educational institutions – if you have adequate land. The book also touches upon the plight of students in India and how important it is to get into one of the "top" colleges." (Views paper), the section titled 'Bihar' in *Half Girlfriend*, poor arrangement and lack of capital to improve the village school, initiatives Madhav and his mother from native MLAs to Bill Gates Foundation. Bhagat's novel may have estimated a

happy end to the fights of Madhav to gain basic facilities, such as lavatories and drinking water, but it is clear that his luck cannot be the clarification to the real life difficulties faced by many in his conditions. Eventually, a large section of our rural countryside still faces same problems which disturb the overall literacy rate of India. Bhagat's novels are many a time observed as 'one-time' or 'past-time' reads, not actually regarded as serious literature to be considered for academic activities. However, a detailed study of his books reveals quite a different situation. The people are materialistic in the modern world. Young generation thinks 'Money makes everything' and 'Money is everything', they believe if they have money they will be very powerful otherwise nothing will be possible, it may be right for some extent but not completely right. Gopal, one of the main characters in the novel, wanted to use his intelligence in order to make money. He involves into many corruption activities. Though we can buy everything but not love and affection of the people which is very precious. But the folk are failing to accept this reality in the post-modern world.

A novel written by Chetan Bhagat which published in 2014, the main characters are MadhavJha from a small village of Bihar and Riya Somani from Delhi. The story deals with the linguistic barriers of MadhavJha. The novel inspires youth and motivates them to be optimistic to chase their dreams. Positive attitude will take a person to the greater heights irrespective of their barriers. Temporary failure is not a failure, it is a stepping stone for a success. In the climax, MadhavJha suggests his son- "Don't quit. It will happen one day" (Bhagat: 2014:260)

*Half Girlfriend* represents the clear differentiation between the countryside Indians and the metropolitan Indians, where English has a prominent role to play in spotting ones social class and position. Mentioning the real situation in present India, Bhagat in an interview says, "It isn't just the English versus Hindi class divide anymore....The new class divide is varying degrees of English....A lot more people are in the English fold, but with varying levels of proficiency. The elites laugh and sneer at their country cousins who are trying to learn English in India, and that is what *Half Girlfriend* is about." (The National). "The novel finds the attempts and struggles of Bhagat's protagonist, MadhavJha from a village in Bihar, and his worries to make a place for himself in the elite class of Delhi sphere. His grief roots chiefly from his incompetence to express himself in English. The Delhi society to which he goes to is specific about responding in English. Bhagat's plan of St. Stephen's college, where Madhav gets entry through his sports quota, is inexorable for the people who have not skilled of communicating in English. Madhav gets humiliation because of his incompetence to

express his ideas in 'Selected language'. The novel also portrays the different grades of spoken English in India, generating a strong division between the city people and the Hindi speaking crowd, for whom English is as tough as Greek and Latin. Traditional logic and objectivity are rejected by postmodernists. They believed in opinions rather than facts and scientific methods. These are the points can be taken into consideration, if a novel analyzed as a post-modern novel.

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