



CULTURAL ISSUES IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

Literature is a form of art that communicates the author's innermost ideas and emotions to the reader. Literature is transferred from one generation to the next through the medium of language. It lends credence to the author's feelings, emotions, and imagination, among other things. The author uses their creativity to depict life and society in a way that is unique and original. The reader is left with a comprehensive comprehension of the dynamics underlying human feelings and desires as a result of reading it. Chetan Bhagat is a modern author whose exceptional works have been published and symbolise the evolving social mores, shifting paradigms, and shifting thematic concerns. This has been brought to people's attention, and it has also been noticed. In 2004, with the release of his first book, "Five Point Someone," Chetan Bhagat brought about a seismic shift in the literature that Indian authors produce in the English language. Another one of Chetan Bhagat's books is centred on the challenges that Krish and Ananya, two of the characters from "2 States: The Story of My Marriage," face in their lives. It is not difficult to act defiantly or struggle against authority, but it is challenging to convince one's parents of one's point of view. Their different states, languages, cultures, and customs all contribute to the anarchy and ambiguity that exists between them. They ultimately prevailed in their efforts to convince their parents, despite the many challenges they faced. In point of fact, love can break down barriers, bring individuals of many backgrounds together, and keep communities cohesive in the face of peril. The predominant societal strife is the driving force behind the majority of Chetan's writings. Instead of being recognised as a writer, he was revered as a legendary figure among young people. His writings are more than just a form of



entertainment; they also communicate his views on how society should be organised. His works are centred on developing Indian psychological concerns such as anxiety, stress, and other issues that are frequent in modern life styles, as well as the interactions of young middle class people to both executives and normal clientele and urban society. His works have been exhibited in India and the United States. Inadequacies, marriages, and conflicts within families are all examples of social problems that fall under this category.

Keywords: *cultural issues, chetan bhagat's, novels*

INTRODUCTION

Chetan Bhagat, an intellectual from India who was born in 1974, tackled a very serious topic in a hilarious way in his book "2 States: The Story of My Marriage," which was published in 2009 and became a New York Times bestseller. A film adaptation of this novel was released in theatres in April of 2014 after having been adapted from the book. This book will have a significant impact on your understanding of other cultures. According to the author, love does not have any boundaries, not even those that are established by caste, creed, religion, states, or nations. Love is what ultimately triumphs over everything that stands in its way. It's a story about an Indian couple getting married across state lines. Krish recounts the love story of a Tamil Brahmin girl named Ananya and a Punjabi boy named Krish in his own inimitable fashion. Chetan Bhagat does an excellent job of describing what occurs when two different worlds intersect in his novels. The narrative has stood the test of time despite the fact that the traditions are uniquely Indian. Marriages based on romantic attraction are not frowned upon in Western societies like the United States or Europe. A young man and a young lady meet, fall in love, and finally get married as a result of this scenario. It is more harder in India because there are additional phases in the process. A young man and a young woman who love one another but cannot get married because their families do not agree is not possible. In addition, the families of the boy and the girl must appreciate and adore one another and be friendly towards one another. The story of 2 States revolves mostly around the characters of Krish and Ananya. They come



from two different states in India but have decided to be married because of how much love they have for one another. Naturally, their parents hold a different viewpoint. It is easy to defy authority and put up a struggle, but it is far more challenging to convince someone of your point of view, which is why the couple is having such a hard time turning their love story into a love marriage.

The capacity to both give and receive love is hardwired into the human brain. In addition to this, it has ties to our fundamental biological make-up. This love-related emotion is responsible for both the establishment of society as well as its continued existence. When a new baby is born, a mother and father fall head over heels in love with their little bundle of joy, to the point where they neglect their own needs for food and sleep. The man is able to perform his responsibilities as a result of the exquisite joy that comes from being in love, which possesses supernatural qualities. The unexplainable sensation defies categorization and possesses the potential to bring about profound personal change in other individuals. In this regard, James Gilles (1994)[3] maintains that the emotion of love is something that is shared by all species that occupy the earth. You shouldn't be surprised when I use the term "living beings," because that phrase can apply to a very broad category of species. Animals and vegetation both. This peculiar sensation is something that everyone has experienced before. It is asserted that the sensation is what keeps the planet going due to the fact that it possesses such great force. If you're still confused about why love is so important in our lives, the answer is because it satisfies people's emotional needs. If you want to learn more about this topic, check out the links below.

There are an infinite number of ways in which Sigmund Freud contributed to the development of psychoanalytical views. His contributions to psychology include important theories and therapeutic approaches, as well as an ability to comprehend how both the conscious and unconscious mind operate. Any piece of written work can be subjected to psychoanalysis by applying Freud's ideas to the process of character analysis. M.H. Abrams, in his work titled "A Handbook of Literary Terms," underlines the significance of Freudian notions by noting that psychoanalytic criticism reads texts in different ways to evaluate the desires, feelings, and



psyche of the characters that are projected. He does this by saying that psychoanalytic criticism is a form of literary criticism.

According to Freud's view, dreams and neurotic symptoms, as well as literature and other forms of art, are the imagined or fantasised fulfilment of impulses that are either rejected by reality or are banned by social norms of appropriateness and mortality (248). Freud also believed that literature and other forms of art are the product of the same process.

The concept of suppression that Sigmund Freud developed for his theory helps to explain why he counselled his patients to bring up the past in a conscious manner. The past experiences of a person progressively become intertwined with the present ones. A positive view on life is required in order to make decisions that are beneficial to one's future health. People tend to repress their recollections of significant events from the past in order to prevent those memories from influencing the present. This act of repression serves as a protective mechanism to keep the joyful present from ever becoming polluted by the distressing recollections of the past. It does this by suppressing the feelings associated with those memories. According to Freud, who discusses this conflict in his Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis, there was some power that kept them from being conscious and pushed them to remain unconscious. Freud addresses this conflict in his lectures. eliminated from conscious consciousness the disputed pathogenetic feelings. I came up with the term "repression" to describe this fictitious process.

The Two States The Detailed Account of My Beginnings, Chetan Bhagat addresses a wide range of issues in the majority of the novels that he has written. These issues include the tedium of the Indian educational system, political scandals and corruption, caste discrimination, and gender bias, among other things. Because it compares and contrasts the cultures, languages, cuisines, and identities of two key Indian states—Punjab and Tamilnadu—the book that was chosen for the research stands out as being particularly unique.

Culture is a multifaceted phenomenon, which various individuals and communities understand to mean a variety of different things. "incorporated example of human knowledge, conviction, and



conduct" is what is meant when we talk about culture. Examples of culture include things like language, ideas, concepts, norms, values, taboos, codes, institutions, procedures, creative creations, and rituals, among other things. Culture is the sum of a social group's shared values, beliefs, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that serve as a model for how its members conduct themselves at a certain point in time. It includes the capacity for creative expression, specific knowledge, and the availability of resources. These include conventional means of fixing things, customary and usual asset administration, celebrations, and other forms of social interaction that contribute to the overall well-being and character of both groups and individuals. In addition, they comprise art and outlines, oral and written history and literature, music, show, move, visual arts, celebrations, and native knowledge of the therapeutic applications of organic substances. The majority of individuals believe that culture comprises people's ways of interacting with one another, how they treat other people, and how they either influence or are influenced by changes in their surrounding environment.

The principal characters quote William Shakespeare's famous line, "Everything is great, in adoration and war," when they sever their umbilical cords at the beginning of the play. Affection can be understood as the coming together of two separate spirits. Two distinct cultures, religions, languages, customs, and practises are merged into a single one through contact and interaction. Because of this, the significant characters were severed from their umbilical cords. Because of their maternal nature, they need a character who is very different from them. The narrative known as 2 States is broken up into five acts, each of which takes place in a different city, including Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, and Goa. In the beginning, we see the main character, Krish Malhotra, in a difficult situation where he is being harassed by both his Punjabi family and the South Indian family of his girlfriend. More precisely, the South Indian family is composed of Tamil Brahmins. Chetan Bhagat approaches the controversial topic of multi-cultural tolerance and cross-cultural practises with delicacy and tact in his novel 2 States: The Story of My Marriage (also known as "The Story of My Marriage"). This book unquestionably gives the reader a jolt to their social norms.



Chetan Bhagat has written about a range of difficult subjects, such as societal disparities, father-child relationships, valued love relationships, corporate mistreatment, and two major cultural divides in his works. It does not matter to him where a person stands in terms of society, philosophy, religion, state, or country; worship, in his view, is unrestricted in its scope. Despite the fact that Chetan Bhagat has never acknowledged being the writer of this novella, all indications point to him being the author. Without a shadow of a doubt, love conquers even the most seemingly insurmountable challenges. According to *2 States*, it is the account of an interstate marriage that took place in India.

Both Krish and Ananya put forth a lot of effort to try to convince their parents of something, but most of the time they are unsuccessful. When the two families in Goa are unable to come to terms with one another and make an accord, Ananya's parents are put in an embarrassing position. As a direct consequence of Ananya's unexpected departure, Krish is going through a great deal of mental anguish right now. Dr. Iyer, a psychiatrist, is recommended to him by his close friend Bala. During the course of the counselling session, Krish communicates a diverse array of experiences, including frustrations, worries, depressions, as well as unexpected and spontaneous feelings. His yearnings for love cause him a tremendous deal of distress, and his sleepless nights only exacerbate the problem. Krish is well aware of the challenging circumstances that exist at home. This breakdown in communication is the root cause of a serious mental illness that is referred to as "split personality" (Dictionary of Psychopathology 57).

In this chaotic setting, living a normal life seems like nothing more than a pipe dream. It takes effort and energy for a person to keep their feelings in check so that they can fulfil their intrinsic desire to live a life distinguished by tolerance and freedom. Everyone has the potential to experience a wide range of emotions and objects as they navigate the world. A fundamental understanding of all of these differences is essential in order to live a life that is pleasant. Both Krish and Ananya make an effort to defuse the tense atmosphere that has developed between the families. In order to successfully convince the elders, the father, Mr. Malhotra, plays a pivotal role. He employs clandestine methods to help his son deal with the problems at hand. The final



chapters of the book bring about a fundamental shift in the dynamic that exists between Krish and his father, Nr. Malhotra. All of these things, in their own unique ways, play important roles in the modern world. Krish admits that it is likely to become a permanent state and then wonders, "Why does it have to be a choice?" Why is it that your mum has such a hard time inviting you and the rest of her family? Why can't we just pretend that our family is a normal one for a change? I thought about it. It's possible that there are no typical families anywhere in the globe. Every single person is insane, but the typical psychopath is the one that society considers to be normal.

In a humorous manner, Bhagat discusses contemporary events in the history of Indian cultural traditions. When Krish and Ananya discover that they are unable to convince their deeply religious parents of anything, they come up with a scheme to swap the visiting protocol in their respective houses. Because of this, Krish decided to complete his job placement in Chennai despite the opposition of his parents. Even Ananya's dad threatens to call the police on him if he steps foot in their house again. After much back and forth, Ananya's parents have indicated that they are finally prepared to acknowledge the romantic connection that exists between Krish and Ananya. According to Ananya's parents, they are ready to wed their daughter to Krish. "If you are promise to take care of my Daughter, then it is a yes from me," Ananya's father observed. "If you are promise to take care of my Daughter, then it is a yes from me." He bent forward and picked up his box with a forward bend in his body. Ananya enveloped her father in a warm bear hug. She expressed her gratitude to her father and then told him, "I love you." Ananya received her father's blessing as he laid his palm on her head. Ananya's mother made the remark that it's not that they don't like her daughter. Nevertheless, our local communities.

The lessons of history teach us that at various moments in our nation's history, religion has played a very negative role. Let's hand the burden of preserving public congruity up to the younger generation in our country today. There are many distinct religions practised in India, and because of three significant differences between them, the devotees of these diverse religions feel anger and hatred for one another. Young people have the potential to make a significant



contribution towards alleviating the suffering caused by the stringent religious legislation of many countries.

The circumstance has recently evolved into a different state. The younger generation is currently in the driver's seat when it comes to the endeavour to limit and address these concerns. It is possible for youth to invigorate the population, thereby transforming each individual into a genuine representative of our nation. Our nation needs to make significant efforts to understand the factors that contribute to the discontentment of our young people and to address those factors. According to the findings of my research, it does not make a difference to the people living in a state in India whether that state is considered superior or inferior to another state. Even if the researcher has no intention of offending anyone with this examination, the primary focus of the study is on the remarkable aspect of the states, their cultures, and how, despite the fact that they are not exactly the same as one another, people's hearts always remain the same.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study cultural issues in chetan bhagat's novels
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Corruption: A Deep-Rooted Poison

Therefore, the most repulsive accusation that can be levelled at the population of any nation is likely that their educational system is corrupt. Education has the potential to either make or break the future of a whole nation. Unrest 2016 is an extremely realistic and up-to-date book that uncovered all of the flaws in the educational system that we use today. If the current system remains in place for an extended period of time, a significant number of young people will be unable to find employment. The graduates of these schools will undoubtedly receive the best degrees possible, but in the end, such degrees will be completely pointless to them. In the same way that the legislators do, Bhagat encourages his audience by adding, "I don't have anything against the commercialization of education. There are many reasons to be thankful for business



and commercial activity. Regarding education, regardless of the circumstances, there must always be a strong emphasis on morality and good standards. Encouragement of great people is necessary in order to create colleges. Fix the state's plan with a straightforward tactic, such as allowing private enterprises to make a profit. Companies like Infosys and Reliance may decide to open universities, maybe on a global scale, if investors are willing to make the massive financial commitment required. In any event, the colleges that these organisations decide to open will have to fulfil a number of requirements. The presence of competition has the potential to ensure that the capacity to obtain benefits does not ever morph into avarice. If the business model can be made to work, then a significant number of the most influential players in the sector will be attracted to it.

The unethical practises have also had an effect on the way people think in the posts. However, in today's society, people maintain higher positions not for reasons of dignity but rather for purposes of financial gain, which is ironic because higher positions reflect prestige, responsibility, and ability. In this instance, the posts are unfinished since they were purchased with the intention of turning a profit rather than displaying the owner's level of skill. Bedi shares with Gopal the following information regarding the examiners for the UGC and AICTE: "college lecturers from government colleges are named as overseers." Because teaching is such a rewarding profession, it is only natural for teachers to encourage their students to pursue teaching certifications.

The pessimism that pervades Indian society is, in Bhagat's view, the result of societal faults, acts of neglect, and crimes of varying colours. Upheaval 2016 provides a thorough analysis of the various ways in which the government of India fosters graft and criminal activity. The book written by Bhagat investigates the inner workings of politicians and government officials, as well as how their behaviour contributes to rampant corruption. Corruption, a murky facet of Indian society that the majority of Indians are familiar with, serves as the primary inspiration for this piece of writing. In addition to the widespread dishonesty and acceptance of bribes in public life, one of the most obvious signs of corruption is the deterioration of the educational system. The



main character comes from a humble upbringing but has to contend with a great lot of pressure in their everyday lives. In the novel, he is described as an average guy with just a little bit of a gut. As for the rest of him, he was said to have a pale complexion, to stand barely five feet seven inches tall, and to have hair that was reassuringly typical. Both he and his father had a limited amount of money on hand, and his father did not give him any pocket money. The protagonist was only four years old when his mother passed away, and his father had just recently purchased a farm when she passed away.

Similar to Samir in *Five Point Someone*, the main character in *Revolution 2016* is under intense pressure from his father to enrol in an engineering programme and earn his degree. Bhagat brings up the point that students in India are not coerced into selecting majors or jobs based on their interests or decisions, which is something that is not the case in the United States. Or, it's possible that the desire of the parents is the thing that's squeezing their throats so tightly. "I would be one of those heartbreaking cases who had progressed nicely, yet not right," the protagonist argues in the narrative.

Corruption In Chetan Bhagat Novels

In his book "*Revolution 2016*," Chetan Bhagat argues that traditional schooling is now obsolete and pointless. In any case, it highlights the fact that life in general isn't all that sad, which is something that is important to keep in mind. The book *Upset 2016* examines not just how young people react to aspiration and sentiment, but also the desire of a young person to live their life hidden from the corruption that exists in Indian culture. This desire is the central theme of the book. Bhagat does an excellent job of depicting the challenges that contemporary Indian society poses for young people through the characters in this book:

The author provides the reader with an interesting perspective on individuals as well as the many social institutions through the use of a variety of characters and situations that contrast with intricate sociocultural practises. There are now more opportunities for social critique, and these



opportunities exist regardless of whether the social practises being criticised are the practises themselves or the people who are even marginally reforming them.

CONCLUSION

Every single one of Chetan Bhagat's books revolves around a young person as the main protagonist. The fact that he is able to include into his novels everything that is happening in modern India from the point of view of a young person has brought him a great deal of reputation in this segment of Indian society. He can concurrently grab the interest of the reader by stressing the different obstacles that young people face, such as animosity, competition, resentment, romance, sacrifice, and impulsive basic leadership. The theme of social authenticity is extremely prevalent throughout *Unrest 2016: Love, Corruption, and Ambition* (2011). It illuminates shady social undercurrents as well as unethical activities and practises. The author has demonstrated the effects of social stratification by using the main characters.

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