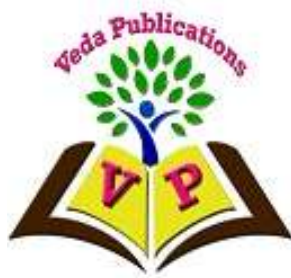


**THE EMERGENCE OF CHETAN BHAGAT**

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**ABSTRACT**

In Indian English Novel, the barrier between the best-seller and high-brow has been demolished with the entry of New Generation Realist Chetan Bhagat, Whose works are highly entertaining, very slick, real and sophisticated. He is a different writer from others to an extent. Moreover, he has introduced different trends in the Indian English literature especially in the area of fiction. He has mainly concentrated the interest of the youth in a way that he addresses their everyday concerns through the language they can relate to. The success of his narration in his writings is mass appeal. He categorically analyses the day to day issues of youth and how they overcome their difficulties in order to make their dreams true.

**Keywords:** *Indian English Novel- Chetan Bhagath Writing Style- Themes of Fiction.*



In Indian English Novel, the barrier between the best-seller and high-brow has been demolished with the entry of New Generation Realist Chetan Bhagat, Whose works are highly entertaining, very slick, real and sophisticated. He is a different writer from others to an extent. Moreover, he has introduced different trends in the Indian English literature especially in the area of fiction. He has mainly concentrated the interest of the youth in a way that he addresses their everyday concerns through the language they can related to. The success of his narration in his writings is mass appeal. He categorically analyses the day to day issues of youth and how they overcome their difficulties in order to make their dreams true.

Another major reason for his success is the choice of the theme. He writes about what he knows the best. In this respect we remind Jane Austen, who made her aim to write about the life she knew the best. Her canvass is marriage and man-woman relationship in the 19th century England. Bhagat too follows the same formula which brought him this mammoth success. 'Get going or Get out of the way' seems to be the motto in life of the young people. It is very clear that his understanding about the young society is taken into a proper direction. It will not be a surprising issue, if he is acclaimed as the writer for youth and their day to day issues. He gives voice to the voiceless and voice to the youth's feelings, emotions, opinions, and thoughts. He motivates the youth to lead a life as they dream it based on their personality and nature but not as a blind follower. He wants to see a change in how a youth in India thinks – about politics, culture, and education. Most of his novels highlight the emotional corner of the younger generation. Moreover, they show the determination of the youth, blended with fears and shaded with tears.

Bhagat puts stress on the liberty of women. His woman characters are to be believed in a perfect, an uncontaminated and a noble freedom, that clearly can be witnessed through the narration of the character of Aarti.

His well made characters of women and men display the human relations of the present contemporary society. They are like the images of the mirror in the society. The intention of the characters

mainly focuses on the changes of education system as well as the sociopolitical conditions of present contemporary society. All these characters in his writings suggest that the success will follow the people who sincerely work in order to reach their aims in their life.

He has provided new scope, new dimensions and new life because of the diversity of themes related to go different aspects of human life. He has opened the floodgates for a new movement in Postmodern Indian Writing. In his writings, Bhagat uses the language that is understood to majority section of people in Indian society. His narration is quite different to others because it is in the form of dialogue and mainly in the colloquial style.

The success of his first novel clearly shows that the majority section of readers in Indian society are seeking newness in their readings as they do not understand the mainstream literature. Moreover, they have been waiting to read the fiction in their days to day language. Sarcastically, Bhagat's first novel is sidelined by the mainstream novelists, as it is written in a colloquial language. After his stunning and outstanding success, Chetan is labeled as 'Bhagatification' of Indian English literature.

Chetan Bhagat has produced a new class of readers in India who actually didn't have the habit of reading the novels that are written in the English language. But the same section of the people has become regular to read Chetan Bhagat's novels. It is quite interesting point. Chetan is good at recognize that what his readers' needs are. Like the proverbial Pied Piper; he attracts the young readers by weaving a magic charm with his words. Through his writings, he is not looking for literary awards or glory, but he wanted to enthrall is young readers. He had started as an entertainer but what he writes or says is much what the youth thinks in our country today.

Chetan Bhagat imparts the literary flavor for the young book lovers since the first day of publication for his very first novel. His first novel, Five Point Someone; What Not to Do at IIT (2004) deals categorically regarding the life style of the three friends Ryan, Alok and Hari who is the narrator, It's about love and friendship at IIT scenario, with action, dialogue and fun among Hari, Ryan, Alok and his girl friend.



His second novel *One Night @ the Call Center* (2005), shifts from the campus of IIT to the close of a call centre. Indian middle class apprehension and vacillation are mirrored in the changing India including doubts about career, marriage, and future life.

The third novel, *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* (2008) is a complex work where he expresses his views on various social and political issues. The novel is of brawny relationship of three friends who have three different backgrounds with different views towards their future and their struggle and passion to achieve it. In this popular novel, the author discloses the controversial subjects of religious politics in India and Godhra riots and also about natural calamities like Gujarat Earthquake.

*The Story of My Marriage* (2009) is his fourth one and it captures the complexities involved in inter-community and inter-state marriages in India. It deals with complex human relationships, exploitation of corporate sector and about cultural differences among the Indian society. His remarkable fifth novel, *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* (2011), deals with some major issues of contemporary India corruption, rotten education system and the love conflict in the youth. It has got the honor of the biggest selling Indian English novel in India. He presents the growing disintegration in the social order and exposes the corruption which is the part and parcel of the Indian political system. He anticipates that the prevailing corruption and misuse of power would lead to numerous agitations like those run by Anna Hazare.

*Half Girlfriend* (2014), his sixth novel, is a rural-urban love story about a boy from Bihar who falls in love with an English educated urban girl. It's a simple love story with the issues related to English in the country today. Bhagat always delivers current sociopolitical issues in his writings. Apart from that, he projects the true face of modern India. He discusses realistic issues through his well made characters. Moreover, his main intention is that all his characters in his writings have to be connected to the younger generation. The narration of his understanding about the society is very peculiar that can be recognized by his readers immediately. For

that reason, most of the younger generation is attracted with his novels.

Chetan Bhagat's first non-fiction book *What Young India Wants* (2012) brings out the positive and constructive thoughts of the author in resolving ever troubling problems of India as a nation. It is a compilation of his articles, published in news papers on multiple issues ranging from education, poverty, corruption, politics and student suicide. This book gives a whole new perspective to the readers about all these problems. In the title the phrase 'Young India' refers to India itself as a young or developing country, not the young Indians or youth which is a very cleverly conceived line. The book opens up with an autobiographical note which spans up to pages together about the author's early days and what brought him up as a full time writer. It was interesting to read his odyssey from a student to a bank employee to a novelist and eventually a columnist. His readers find it insightful as few facts of his personal life have been linked. In the end, there are two short stories and author's note on the great Indian dream. And the book ends with a personal note of authors to his readers; It has articles over education, women-empowerment, political accountability, and Indian-American comparison, Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade and Anna Hazare.

Bhagat delivers an inspiring speech to the youth in India and abroad as Swami Vivekananda's youth calling approach, gives awareness to young Indians to arise, awake and to reach their ambitions as desired to elite themselves in life, not looking back to failures and frustrations in life. The writer-novelist looks around the world, the men, their behavior and the fast developing nations and wants his country young men to aspire for high standard of living and to live a balanced life, acquiring the best education in the good hope that it would keep them in steady fast. Bhagat advises not to worry about any adverse effects in life and instead one should always foster confidence in oneself to go ahead towards the comfortable journey in life. Bhagat wanted corruption free India and everyone should inculcate good values. He has turned himself as a thinker, opinion maker and a writer. "When Anna movement started, I tried my best to mobilize a youth through



my writings as well as the social network. It was obvious let alone the morality of it; without reducing corruption, we could never hope to become a rich country.

He is a columnist also and writes for the Times of India in English and Dainik Bhaskar in Hindi, where he writes about the youth, career development and current affairs. All his books remained to be the best selling in India since its release and have been taken up in Bollywood films too. The New York Times called him, "They youth Icon of India." Chetan Bhagat revolutionary writer is the pioneer for young writers, who had created a revolution in the literary world through his writings. Bhagat's writing has been a valuable insight into the needs and aspirations of a large readership whose engagements with literature is still at the root level.

Chetan Bhagat has always tried to touch upon something new in his writings. Chetan Bhagat books have always presented a true picture of life in India. His writing has always been close to reality. He has always expressed himself in a way which is understood by all and every generation can connect itself to it. His thoughts are worded in such a skillful way that they are understood by the readers instantly. And, that has been one of the major reasons, why his books have captured the minds of the younger generation. Chetan Bhagat's first non-fiction book 'What Young India Wants' (2012) brings out the positive and constructive thoughts of the author to resolving ever troubling problems of India as a nation.

Chetan Bhagat comes from that pool only. It certainly means the reforms and sociopolitical practices that India as a young, contemporary & ailing country deserves but not the aspirations and ambitions of an Indian Youth. The book opens up with an autobiographical treat which spans up to certain pages being descriptive over the author's early days and what brought him up as a full time writer. It was interesting to read his odyssey from a student to a bank employee to a novelist and eventually a columnist. His readers find it insightful as few facts of his personal life have been linked. He looks at the young people of India in the current scenario, and explains what their dreams and aspirations are. He writes on topics like brain drain,

the need for educational system reforms, and the communication gap between the old and new generation. What Young India Wants also contains two short stories. It present his ideas on what needs to change and in some cases he also suggests how these changes can be brought about.

Bhagat has acted to be a very rational person throughout the book. His choice of taking up these issues defines the problems faced by contemporary India. The language of the book is ultra simple. Chetan writes sincere and thought provoking articles in such simple English than any other regular newspapers that carry things in a not easily understandable way. He succeeds in making the young men and women openly accept the reality in the contemporary society in India and deals with it for betterment of the society. His characters are driven by instincts like sleep, food, fear, sex, self and foolishness. Chetan Bhagat does not believe in the "Classical concept of the art of characterization that highlights the good in a character" Chetan Bhagat the youth icon, is on the forth front to catch his readers with his easy writings, and brings out the ways India has to develop and prosper and guides them in establishing themselves.

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