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## Love and Sex: Frank and Free Treatment in Chetan Bhagat's Novels

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### Abstract:

The present paper is an attempt to analyse human relation under the perspective of sex, love and marriage in Chetan Bhagat's novels. One of the most important and modern elements imbibed in Bhagat's novel namely – *Five Point Someone, One Night @ the Call Center, The 3 Mistakes of My Life, 2 States: The Story of My Marriage, and Revolution 2020*, is the *Free and Frank treatment of Sex*. He elucidates the importance of sexual inclination and eroticism in life. Bhagat boldly deals with sex realistically and examines sex relations natural and harmonious. He regards sex as a spiritual bond to serve the purpose of the life force and vitality. It is not merely a physical union between the man and woman, but the only way to bless the society with the world citizen. The paper has the modest aim of analyzing the specificities of the sexual relation and intimacy between their characters portrayal by Bhagat in very ardent manner.

**Keywords: Love, Sex, Marriage, Sensuality**

### Introduction:

In the beginning of the 21st century, the educational and sexual revolution had started taking place in India. The revolution has a mass spread all over the country, and it is not only happening in urban India whereas it extends the small cities. India is going through a major change, and the youth is the only representative to driving that change. Due to the pretext of these changes, the modern novel is nowhere seen to better advantage than in the treatment of sex. These novels have completely wrecked from the old values, in the discussion of sex. Sex both within marriage and outside marriage is a common theme of the novel today. Chetan Bhagat is proved bold here in dealing with sex, realistically and exploring sex relations in almost all of his novels. Bhagat's novels give plenty of clues to the readers throughout his novel that the physical intimacy is the most important thing in man woman relationship that provide exquisite pleasure. He regards sex as a great spiritual passion, not merely a physical union between a man and a woman, as the only way for the mingling of two souls. Thus he seeks to sublimate the sexual act. The readers rapidly encounter with the sexual openness enjoyed by the men and women. He explores the pre-marital sex very often in his novel. As Jitendra Kumar Mishra observes in this line, "Bhagat introduces premarital sex as a natural need in the youth."(Mishra, 22)

Chetan Bhagat deals with all the facts of contemporary life. Bhagat's most of the novels deal with a realistic account of the sexual relation and intimacy between their characters. Readers easily find the description of love and longing for each other along with their erotic practice. Bhagat's most of the novel, showed the influence of the healthy and virtuous sexuality, was denounced as obscene by many reviewers. Bhagat's novels have close similarities to D. H. Lawrence because of the fact that he dealt with sex life very frankly and expressed his faith in the supremacy of physical life in his novels. He is the novelist who has always advocated sexual, physical satisfaction and healthy bodily life. D. H. Lawrence defines sex and devoted all his art to the communication of physical sensations. He wrote, "I want men and women to be able to think of sex, fully, completely, honestly and cleanly." (Lawrence, 227) Like Lawrence, Bhagat also wants man and woman to delineate and reconstruct their relationship by reciprocating tenderness. He has often been criticized as a plenty of sex description, have lost noteworthy repute. Bhagat encourages his readers "Clumsy sex is better than choreographed sex. And certainly better than no sex." (ON@CC, 96)

### **Discussion:**

Sexual harmony was an essential condition for the attainment of happiness in life, and so it is seen in his treatment of the physical relationship of his characters. In *Five Point Someone* Hari experiences ultimate delight after sex and affirms, "That was quite amazing" (FPS, 169) and Neha responds with excessive fervor, "Thanks. I liked it too." (ibid) Bhagat's attitude towards life is deeply rooted in his sexual mysticism. Bhagat believes that deepest mysteries of life can be known through sex and so sex is fundamental to organic and complete life. Bhagat carefully distinguishes between the sensual and the virtuous aspects of sex that should be held importance in all human activity. Passionate love affair found between Ganesh and Priyanka in *One Night @ the Call Center*. Here Shyam and Priyanka enjoyed their premarital sex in the back seat of Qualis. After sex Shyam was full of agony and ecstasy of romance. He says, "Amazing. That is simply amazing." (ON@CC 96) and Priyanka perform it with loyalty and reverence, and accepts as her duty, "My pleasure, Sir." (ibid) In *Revolution 2020* there is a love trio between Raghav Kashyap, Arti Pradhan and Gopal. In *Half Girlfriend* Madhav Jha's passion for Riya Somani reflects different shades of love in Bhagat's novels. The passion of love has a universal appeal. This passion arouses emotions and stirs the imagination of every audience and every reader. These love affairs represent the various forms and passion. Each love affair here has a distinctive character of its own, and is by no mean a duplication of any other affair. However, one quality is common to all the love affairs. They are all romantic love affairs. Sex as expressed by Bhagat is much above the animality and his novels adequately express of sex is the experience of the infinite. Bhagat represents it in *Revolution 2020*:

I kissed her, and she kissed me back with closed eyes. It was not frantic or sexual. It was, if at all, it is possible to kiss like that, chaste and pure. However, we kissed for a long time, our pace as gentle as the rain on the window. I felt her tears on my cheeks. I paused and held her shoulders. She hugged me and buried her face in my chest. It was what Aarti always did, and I loved it when she did that. It made me feel protective. (R2020, 248)

Love is a profoundly tender affection, compassion and sexual attraction for someone, and sex is the only way to consummate love. Love is another important stimulus bond between man and woman. The power of a woman's love can either ennoble a man, or enmesh a man in sensuous slavery. Love is considered as, not only a man's chief happiness, but his chief ordeal. Love provides man with the best opportunity to experience intense moments. Bhagat considered love to be a profound spiritual experience. Love is the quality through which man touches the infinite because it is the quality common to God and man. It is also the moral ideal towards which man strives. Bhagat is on the side of those who commit themselves wholeheartedly to an ideal. To take a positive step is much better than to hesitate in indecision forever. Bhagat's optimism was partly a result of experience – his own joyful personal life and zest for life. Bhagat proves bold enough to express obscenity in his novels. But the fundamental fact remains that with all his obscenity, Bhagat is not only readable but also lovable. It does not mean that he is facile or blind optimism, for it does not ignore the evil, the doubt and the ugliness of the life. The optimism is based on life's realities, and it is justified according to Bhagat realist views. That Bhagat introduced an element of love, marriage, and sex emancipated. They sign of the novelist's happy married life with his wife Anusha Bhagat. His novel entitled *2 States* speaks of the intensity of his passion for his wife.

Various love affairs have been depicted by Chetan Bhagat in his different novels. The love of Hari and Neha deserves to be considered as first of all in *Five Point Someone*. Their love is naturally a mature kind of love. It is not a reckless or extravagant passion. Women use their obsession with the men to avoid their pain, emptiness, fear, and anger. Neha uses her relationships as drugs, to avoid experiencing what she would feel if she held still with her. It was not Neha sexuality, she was expressing as much as her feelings of being validated by his sexual responsiveness to her. The more responsive Hari was the more gratified Neha felt, because she was actually much more in touch with his sexuality than with her own. She interpreted the time he stole from his other life to be with her as the validation of her worth for which she hungered. "We kissed, and then we kissed again. Then she held my hand and did something that she had never done before; she put it on her breast." (FPS, 168) There is the love affair between Gopal and Vidya in *The 3 Mistakes of My Life*. Vidya and Gobind realise "stars around and heard sweet, music during their first kiss". (3MML, 184) Vidya did not hesitate to express her own love and longing towards Gobind. This was not the limit of their influence on one another; their intimate correspondence crept beyond the borders of their private lives into their social relation.

We kissed during almost every class since the last month, so it wasn't a big deal. Sometimes we kissed every time she solved a problem. At other times, we took a kissing break every fifteen minutes. Once, we didn't kiss at all as she did a mock test. However, we made up for it in the next class where we spent the first ten minutes kissing and the rest discussing her mistakes. When we felt desire, we kissed. (3MML, 197)

Sex is not only the way to fulfill chief creative functions of man and women, but the sexual experience is a door to new realms of consciousness, and initiation into divine mysteries, the mystery of the other world that is close behind us. Vidya expresses her first encounter with



sex as a great delight, “Wow, I am an adult and am no longer a virgin, so cool. Thank God.” (3MML, 201) A sense of reality stuck as the passion subsided. Gobind has a deep realization that being physical with a friend’s sister feels his guilt. “I didn't know why, but I had tears in my eyes. Maybe I felt scared. . . . Maybe because I had betrayed my best friend. I normally never cried, but with so many reasons at the same time, it was impossible not to.” (3MML, 202)

In *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* the romantic, passionate love can also be seen between Krish and Ananya. They are representing the romantic love of youthful lovers with full of natural affection. Bhagat expresses that first kiss has exquisite memory and can be experienced with convention of two souls. There are several descriptions of the heavenly sexual moments when Ananya enjoyed with Krish, and experienced it first time in the boys’ dorm “We kissed for three seconds.”(2S, 25) According to Bhagat, love aspiring to, consummated in, marriage or a harmonious relationship within marriage. Ananya and Krish, struggle to articulate their desire and to resist the social pressures that work to repress women’s desire altogether. Krish and Ananya were engaged in a collaborative project – a partnership – in which they decided to spend their whole life with each other. The love of Punjabi boy Krish with Tamil Brahmin girl Ananya Srinivasan which was found its fulfillment in marriage, also figures in the novel. “*Ananya Swaminathan, I, Krish Malhotra, am deeply in love with you and want to be with you always. Apart from when we go to office, of course. Will you marry me? . . . Will you be with me always? . . . Yes, I will be with you.*”(2S, 38) The intention of the sexual relation is procreation and it is sanctified only in marriage. In this book, readers have enjoyed the shared fantasy they created because of this promise. Author Ira Trivedi remarks on the matter of love and sex, “I think there is a lot of tension. I think that love and sex are definitely mutually inclusive. Marriage though is exclusive,” and she experiences that India’s youth leading a sexual and cultural revolution, “They are exposed, hungry, creative, and more than anything else, they are desperate for freedom. They are leading the sexual revolution and will continue to lead it in the future. I feel India will move towards a western model of marriage.” (Shah)

Chetan Bhagat’s preoccupation with sex and hot-life naturally gave a vitality and fervor to his work. After his great achievement, Bhagat produced *Two States* in which he once again concentrated his attention on the relation between man and woman. Certainly, *Two States* depicts the autobiographical element with the utmost reality where he deceives the story about his college life. He half admits it, but only in discussion, it is never enacted. This book was suppressed as it was considered many obscene and immoral segments. Bhagat believes that deepest mysteries of life can be known through sex, and therefore sex is fundamental to an organic and complete life. He felt that for the attainment of happiness in life, sexual harmony was essential. Sex is not merely a functional act, but creative and revelatory of life and of the beauty of being alive. He also seems to believe the nature of sex experience is same as that of a divine experience in that both experiences are revelatory of the hitherto unknown mystery. To him sex is chief creative functions, but the sexual experience was a door to new realms of consciousness. George Bernard Shaw considered that the instinct and wills of females are more determined than male and he has presented women as the chief

contrivance of the force. Shaw emphasizes, "Sexually woman is Nature's contrivance for perpetuating its highest achievement. Sexually man is woman's contrivance for fulfilling Nature's behest in the most economical way" (Epistle, 126).

### **Drawbacks:**

There are many obstacles can be seen in most of Bhagat's novels as their characters are leading a sexual life without approve of the very institution of marriage, is complete defiance of the conventions of society and the code of conduct which all members of society are expected to follow. Perverted sexual act always decay spiritual sanctity and impairment virtues and moral principles. Marriage is the only association in which purpose of sexual function sanctified. When the sexual act is disunited from the procreation there is spiritual degeneracy. There is an atmosphere of moral ambiguity, diminish of faith in the established patterns of social relationships and a quest for new patterns. With regard to the relation of man and woman we are imitating the west. Marriage is no longer considered to be as sacred as was. Still, there is a tendency to treat a woman as an object of satisfying lust.

Modern generations have lost all faith in moral and religious values. Meritorious and ethical values are no longer regarded as absolute. These days sex has become a matter of conspiracy, manipulated by men and women for selfish intention. It has become a mere source of pleasure and has lost its spiritual significance. Well-known author Khushwant Singh said, "Actually, you have hit upon the cause of the trouble. It is sex. We agree that most of the world's troubles were due to sex."(Singh, 175)

Traditional taboos on sex are no longer effective and there is free and frank discussion of sex. There is a no longer existence of the out dated dictatorial pattern in family relationships; the opinion of the associative roles of the sex has changed, the woman has come into her own. The greater mobility results in rootlessness and has also weakened the authority of the man-woman relationship. This rootlessness has increased tension and frustration in relationships. An aberrant sexual practice causes numerous nuisances in modern society. Youth must be keen to maintain chastity and purity and adhere to secret limits in their relationships.

### **Conclusion:**

In spite of the fact that Bhagat's reputation has undergone numerous fluctuations in the course of time, he will continue to enjoy popularity with his readers for a very long time to come. The credit goes to his method of conveying that is based on realism. Therefore Bhagat's treatment of nature is realistic. Although he breaks the social protocol, Bhagat is considered as one of the most daring writers among his contemporaries who has dealt with sex, the most profound manifestation of humanity, the ultimate factor of creativity. Bhagat's handling of emotions and passions depend upon how one lives in actual life and not how one feels in imagination. While talking about love or sex, he relates it with day to day life and makes his readers feel the pervasion of the binding of relationships in his novels. This unconventional attitude certainly shows Bhagat's exceptional courage and boldness.

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**Keys of Abbreviations:**

FPS: Five Point Someone, 3MML: The 3 Mistakes of My Life, 2S: 2States: The Story of My Marriage, ON@CC: One Night@ the Call Center, R2020: Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption and Ambition