



A STUDY OF MODERN YOUTH CULTURES IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *2 STATES: THE STORY OF MY MARRIAGE*

S.RAJAPRABU MA., B.ED., M.PHIL., PGDELT.,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

MUTHAYAMMAL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

RASIPURAM.

ABSTRACT

Every country has a unique culture with a variety of cultural values. The human world is adorned with a wide variety of cultures. India is a secular nation with a wide variety of cultures and traditions. The fact that India is a nation with unity in diversity is a given. This diversity, cultural, linguistic, and religious—makes us stand apart from the rest of the world. India is viewed as the world's best example of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism refers to the recognition and advancement of various cultural traditions in a specific area. The diversity of cultures and subcultures serves as a link between people, however occasionally they generate anxiety. Political skirmishes and disputes are occasionally brought on by the diversity of cultures. Chetan Bhagat's writings better depict the socio-cultural concerns of cosmopolitan India. He lets the reader laugh at the foolishness and biases of traditional Indians. Through his writings, Bhagat seeks to dismantle all barriers and establish an all-encompassing culture that would embrace all diversity by disseminating the benefits of love and brotherhood.

Key Words: Multiculturalism, Indian diversity, Culture, and Religious.

Introduction:

Chetan Bhagat's novel is undeniable proof that he wants to inform his readers about the diversity and depth of Indian culture. India is a cosmopolitan country made up of a variety of civilizations, and this cultural diversity is sometimes to blame for political conflicts. India's diversified society consequently faces numerous social and cultural issues. Chetan Bhagat accurately depicted these issues in his work. Chetan Bhagat's *2 States* focuses on

issues related to culture and society. The novel describes cross-cultural contacts and the experiences that result from them. The book's title refers to the stories of characters from two different states. The novelist has provided in-depth information about living in Northern and Southern India through these individuals. The novel paints a realistic picture of the stark differences between the inhabitants in both locations. The main protagonists of the stories seek to cut the rope that connects them so they can live lives of independence and comfort. These variations shouldn't be obstacles in their lives, according to them. They work hard to get past these obstacles and live their lives in accordance with their goals and desires.

North and South Indian Culture:

In this novel, Chetan Bhagat reveals the cruel mindset of Indians, who are highly rigid and won't let their children do new things or live their lives according to their goals. They maintain the boundary line and forbid them from crossing it. Inter-caste marriage continues to be stigmatized in society. Indian love marriages require a great deal of effort because they are so complicated. In the majority of countries, it is common knowledge that if a boy and girl fall in love, they can get married without anyone's consent, but this is not the case in India:

Love marriages around the world are simple:

Boy loves girl. Girl loves boy.

They get married.

In India there are few more steps:

Girl's family has to love boy.

Boy's family has to love girl.

Girl's family has to love boy's family.

Boy's family has to love girl's family.

Girl and Boy still love each other.

They get married. (2 States, back cover).

Punjabis and Tamils differ from one another in terms of their cultures, traditions, lifestyles, etc. Due to their language and cultural heritage, Punjabis are referred to as Aryans, while Dravidians refer to South Indians. In comparison to South Indians, those from the North of India are taller and fairer. Their sense of style in clothing is entirely different. The South Indian women wear saris, while the North Indian women wear salwar Kamiz and big dresses. While South Indian men wear dhotis, those in the North wear salwars. Chetan Bhagat portrays the opulent lifestyle of Punjabis and the relaxed South Indian way of life with amazing authenticity since he thinks that both groups have extremes in their cultures. Punjabis are more drawn to and impressed by riches, while South Indians are more taken with racial and educational accomplishments. South Indians are fairly simple in their eating habits compared to Punjabis, who prefer hearty, robust cuisine. They always prefer simple food, and plates are replaced with leaves.

2 States: The Story of My Marriage:

In *2 States: The Story of My Marriage*, the difficulties faced by people in heterogeneous societies are the primary subject matter. The book's title, which reflects the diversity of people from many cultures rather than the lives of people in two states, is used. It's humorous to see how the cultural distinctions between families from the north and south of India are portrayed. The narrative demonstrates the steps to take in persuading one's parents to approve of intercultural marriages. India's population is traditionally inclined and resistant to change. Therefore, interacting with individuals from other cultures is not always simple.

The two main characters in the novel *2 States*, Krish and Ananya, cross paths at IIM Ahmadabad. They become friends, and their friendship develops into love. Being forward-thinking in their thinking, they do not want to be prevented from making decisions about their future by cultural boundaries. But the real test of life comes when their parents meet at university convocation and become acquainted. Krish invites his mother to see Ananya, which causes her to react unexpectedly. Students assemble in the morning for the convocation event, where Krish presents his mother, Ananya, and her parents. Strange things happened during the meeting. Nobody speaks with poise and serenity. The mother of Krish exhibits the attitudes she has toward individuals from the south of India in both her actions and words. In front of Ananya's parents, she vocally displays her emotions as follows:

I whispered, 'Get up. Let us introduce ourselves.'

'They are Madrasi?' my mother asked, shocked. 'Shsh, Tamilian,' I said.

'Tamilian?' my mother echoed even as Ananya continued the introductions.

'Mom, this is Krish, and this is Krish's mother.'

'Hello,' Ananya's mother said, looking just as stunned as my mother.

'Isn't this cool? Our families meeting for the first time,'

Ananya cooed even as everyone ignored her.

'Krish's father has not come?'

Ananya's father asked.

'He is not well,' my mother said, her voice butter-soft.

'He is a heart patient.

Advised not to travel.'

My mother faked it so well, even I felt like sympathizing with her.

Ananya's parents gave understanding nods.

They whispered to each other in Tamil as they took their places. (*2 States* 46).

It appears to be exceedingly difficult for the two families to get along. They see each other suspiciously because of their diverse cultural backgrounds. Ananya and Krish both work really hard to persuade their parents not to hold traditional views against one another. Inter-caste marriage is still frowned upon in India, which explains

why their parents are reluctant. India's population does not view child marriage outside of their culture as appropriate or pleasant. Between their parents, the differences in language and culture are insurmountable obstacles. After the placement, Krish's mother wants him to work in Delhi and be married to a Punjabi girl for cultural reasons. Krish chooses Chennai above other cities for his career because it is closer to his loved ones and removes obstacles in their path, while going against his mother's wishes. He has a lot of pain when working in Chennai because of the unfamiliar surroundings.

Krish encounters many difficulties in Chennai's unique culture. He becomes caught up in Tamil, a strange language. The cab drivers speak Tamil to him and try to extort more money from him, but he has no idea how to conduct business with them in such an unfamiliar setting. Fortunately, Sardarjee saves him when he finds himself in a hostile circumstance:

'No five hundred. Fifty,' I said.

'Ai, another driver yelled.

The four of them surrounded me like baddies
from low-spending arrangement Kollywood film.

'What? Just give me my luggage and let me go,' I said.

'Illa luggage. Payment...make... you, '

The Shakespeare among them spoke to me.

They started moving around slowly.

I wondered why on earth didn't I choose to work in an air conditioned office in Delhi when I had chance.....
(2 States 79).

Krish experiences the distinct differences in South India's culture firsthand during his brief stay in Chennai. He has already learned a lot about the uniqueness of South Indian culture, and now he is seeing it all with his own eyes:

I saw the city...first the sign in every shop was in Tamil. The Tamil font resembles those optical illusion puzzles that give you a headache if you stare at them long enough. Tamil women, all of them, wear flowers in their hair. Tamil men don't believe in pants and wear lungis even in shopping districts. The city is filled with film posters.... (2 States: 77-78).

Ananya struggles with the same difficulties in North Indian culture. Although she currently resides at Krish's Delhi home, she was compelled to leave due to Krish's mother's inhumane treatment of her. Though she eventually overcomes all the difficulties presented by the new culture. Her vigilantism and wittiness at one of Krish's relative marriages helped her win the affection of Krish's mother and other family members.

Conclusion:

The novel does an excellent job of capturing the traditional Indian attitude that opposes inter-caste unions. It also reflects those who hold archaic, unrealistic notions. From a cultural perspective, they consider themselves to be the guardians of their culture. Marriages between various cultures, castes, religions, or geographical locations are prohibited by people's rigidity. The novel's couple has a lot of trouble persuading their parents. The whole novel provides ample evidence of the foolishness and prejudices that people have for members of other civilizations. The author hopes to expose their flaws through this book and provide them with the opportunity to make amends in real life.

Work Cited

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