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Emerging Trends in Revolution 2020

Abstract

Indian writing in English has largely changed in its content, characterization and language. There is a significant shift from writing about serious and dark issues to narrating stories about common people. Writing about the day-to-day monotonous lifestyles seems to be the new ‘mantra’ in the Indian style of writing. One of the first authors to write about such type of stories is Chetan Bhagat. His writing has revolutionized and mirrored the postmodern literature. Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition is a novel by Bhagat. Revolution 2020 happens in three stages in Chetan Bhagat’s novel and is listed as love, ambition and corruption. All these three stages are played by Gopal, Aarti and Raghav characters in the novel. The ambition of Gopal’s father is to make his son an engineer but
Gopal’s passion is different. He meets a politician and opens a technical institute, initiating corruption. Raghav is from a middle-class family and cracks the IIT entrance test but his passion is to be a press reporter writing against corruption and how it has polluted the whole education system from top to bottom. Finally, the most beautiful girl friend of his, right from school days, aspiring to become an air hostess the daughter of the District Magistrate loves Raghav. This paper analyses how the emerging trends of revolution as love, ambition and corruption play a crucial role in the lives of Gopal, Aarti and Raghav.

Keywords: Love, Ambition, Corruption, Education system, Revolution, Passion

The Indian literary canon has seen all the transformations in the previous years - from writing about serious and dark issues to narrating stories about common people, from the informative to the informal and from critically applauded to successfully read Indian novels. The Indian Writing in English has mostly changed in its content, characterization and language. However, a significant shift could be traced in the past few years. Today, the writing industry in India is flourishing with young talent. Writing about the day-to-day monotonous lifestyles seems to be the new ‘mantra’ in the Indian style of writing.

One of the first authors to write about such stories is Chetan Bhagat. His writing has revolutionized and mirrored the postmodern literature. According to him, the purpose of literature is to showcase the society. Talking about the informal college life, expressing sweet and practical love stories and keeping the content exemptionally simplistic and conversational is the new trend in the publishing industry. The changes that occur in the literary genre are simultaneous with the changes in the way a society thinks.

Chetan Bhagat is a distinguished Indian author, a prolific writer, a noted columnist, a well-known screenwriter, and a motivational speaker, recognized for his English – language
novels about young urban middle-class Indians. Chetan Bhagat is a luminary in the post modern Indian fiction which revolves round hopes and despairs, smiles and tears, fears and cheers, happiness and sorrow, ambition and tribulation, love and separation of the youth of new India. Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition is a novel by Bhagat. The word revolution comes from the Latin word ‘revolvere’. It means a change in the way a country is governed. Revolution 2020 happens in three stages in Chetan Bhagat’s novel and is listed as love, ambition and corruption. All these three stages are played by Gopal, Aarti and Raghav characters in the novel. Their journey starts from the sacred city of Varanasi. The ambition of Gopal’s father is to make his son an engineer but Gopal’s passion is different. He meets a politician and opens a technical institute, initiating corruption. Raghav is from a middle-class family and cracks the IIT entrance test but his passion is to be a press reporter writing against corruption and how it has polluted the whole education system from top to bottom. Finally, the most beautiful girl friend of his, right from school days, aspiring to become an air hostess the daughter of the District Magistrate loves Raghav.

The story deals with a journey of self-discovery. The novel has addressed the issue of how private coaching institutions for courses like IIT JEE exploit aspiring engineering students. How parents put their hope and desires on relying these coaching institutions so that their children can crack professional tests and change the fortune of their family. The novel unearths the stark reality of this coaching industry which thrives on scams, corruption and all kinds of criminal activities.

The three heroes have a place with various classes. Gopal is poor, Raghav has a place with a white collar class family while Aarti is fortunate. All the three important characters have solid aspirations in life. Both the male heroes begin to look all starry eyed at a similar young lady. Gopal needs to gain cash and Raghav sustains greater thoughts
and needs to make a transformation which requests relinquish of individual emotions. Gopal has experienced the cruel realities of life due to poverty, aspires to become rich. He says, “Politicians, businessman and educationist – power, money and Respect – perfect combination.” (256). Gopal’s friend Raghav is a boy from a well-off yet simple Indian family who desires to revolutionize India by fighting against corruption. “To dream for Revolution among society and the people is not a simple job, but revolution can be successfully achieved only with the discipline and respect among each other’s” (89). As the heroes grow older, they get estranged from each other and are busy with their individual lives. But Aarti somehow binds them together being their mutual friend. Both of them are in love with the same girl and this lends the novel an aspect of romance.

*Revolution 2020* stands for the revolutionary spirit of Chetan Bhagat. Raghav disregards the suggestion of his father to get admission in IIT, even though he was eligible for it. He determines his profession. He serves the downtrodden of his city by communicating their pains through the media to the responsible authorities. He emerges as a successful journalist. He continues to serve the wretched even after his printing press is destroyed. He writes the daily news on the papers and distributes them to the social activists. It was quite a challenging responsibility but he does not quit or resign from his service. Nevertheless after seeing what Raghav has gone through due to the joint revenge taken by the MLA and Gopal himself yet supporting his determination to bring the revolution, Gopal decides to change something on his part and help his friend anonymously. He sacrifices Aarathi also for his sake. He stops the affair he has with Raghav’s girlfriend Aarti despite his unconditional love for her. He also asks Dainik to hire Raghav back. Things slowly improve for Raghav economically as he can now work on his articles, while Gopal is shown to slowly become a better person towards the end. Although in the end we see Gopal is alone and prefers to be
isolated, he is indeed rich and successful as he wanted to be and Raghav who is now married to Aarti and almost the MLA sees his dream of bringing about change as well.

Chetan Bhagat uses metaphorical language to suggest that strong determination, sincere persistence, earnest attachment, courageous initiative and ardent commitment are the key ingredients for securing success in life. *Revolution 2020* is an attempt to bring to the fore the inherent corruption rooted in India’s education system and to bring out the anomaly of non-profit organizations and commercialization of education. Through the character, Shuklaji, the MLA the author depicts the role of politicians who are not very literate but still holds the courage of opening an institute of higher education. Chetan says, “Stupid people go to college but smart people own them....” (123).

Thus by presenting the problems of modernised and pluralistic society, Chetan Bhagat expects to change the attitude of young modern minds and to elevate their lives. Chatterjee in *Globalization in India: Effects and Consequences*:

> Though India is getting a global recognition and slowly moving towards to become a major economic and political strength, still many basic problems like rural poverty, corruption and political instability remained unsolved. (02)

It is our predominant duty to work for integrated development of our Nation. The Y and Z generation through destroying the prevailing cultural inhibitions, religious hegemonies and gender bias should pave the way to create united India. In the novel, Chetan Bhagat depicts a reasonable picture of current India by recording the changing over Indian social and political scene with mindfully developing the invented characters for creative capacities to trade India inside the new way. It’s far a kind commitment by the author, in the domain of fiction.
To conclude, the Indian writing in English has considerably changed from earlier times till today. Chetan Bhagat’s work today has a lot of differences in the form, technique and style of language and words. The characterization differs and amid this, the fact is that Indian Writing is yet rising in the pedestal.
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