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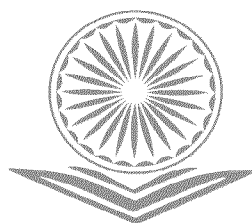
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10. Religion, Politics and Society Depicted in the Select Novels of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

In the contemporary Indian society, religion and politics plays an important role. The researcher has taken the two novels of Chetan Bhagat and they are: *The Girl in Room 105* and *One Arranged Murder*. Both the novels contained with suspense romance. The present study focused on the elements like religion, politics and society depicted in the above mentioned novels. *One Arranged Murder* is the sequel to Bhagat's novel *The Girl in Room 105*. Bhagat skilfully had woven the above mentioned topics in the above mentioned novels. Bhagat now tried to write the novels on the base of suspense and thriller. In the present contemporary Indian society, in the development of every individual religion and politics also part and parcel of his/her life. Different religions, their customs and traditions make impact on the society. Discrimination is spread on the basis of religion. Politics is field in which the politicians take benefit of religion discrimination for the purpose of votes. They are related with each other. In the above mentioned novels Bhagat describes the murder mystery and for solving it religion and politics how creates problems. The role of society and its people is also very important. The above three aspects described in the present paper. Keshav brilliantly solved both the murder mysteries. He faces many challenges during these cases. The paper will give new dimension for the researchers.

Keywords: religion, politics, society, suspense romance, thriller, contemporary, discrimination.

Introduction

Chetan Bhagat is a versatile writer who wrote about the contemporary Indian culture, society, religion, education system, politics, female-self and so many subjects. He is famous among the young generation due to his depth of knowledge of every subjects. He skillfully describes contemporary youth's problems, their struggles and everything related to the young

generation. In the present paper the researcher represents religion, politics and society depicted in the selected novels of Chetan Bhagat. In the society, religion and politics has an immense important. They are become an integral part of society. Literature is the true representative of society. It reflects what was happening in the society. Every individual take interest while reading literature because they feel that they are the part of that characters which are presented in literature. Novel is the story of any individual but the individual is the representative of that contemporary society.

In the present research paper the researcher had taken two novels of Chetan Bhagat and they are: *The Girl in Room 105* and *One Arranged Murder*. Both novels are contained with suspense romance. Both the novels represents the contemporary Indian society. Bhagat wrote about how religion and politics plays an important role in these detective stories. Keshav brilliantly solves both the cases and give justice to the victims. The stories of the present novels contained with thriller and suspense.

Religion, Politics and Society Depicted in Chetan Bhagat's

The Girl in Room 105

The Girl in Room 105 was the eighth novel of Chetan Bhagat and it was published on October 9, 2018. The present story is about an IIT coaching class tutor, Keshav. He goes to wish his ex-girlfriend, Zara on her birthday but unfortunately finds her murdered. It is journey to give justice Zara. The book shows the conventionalized and political issues in India. Discrimination between Hindu and Muslim religion. The novel opens up with the conversation of Chetan Bhagat with a fellow passenger. Both are in a midnight Indigo flight which is from Hyderabad to Delhi. The fellow passenger wanted to tell a story to Bhagat. Bhagat also agrees to listen his story. Then he starts narrating his story to Bhagat.

Keshav Rajpurohit is the name of that fellow passenger. He was a former IIT student but now works as a tutor in a JEE tuition center. Actually he hates his job, but fails to find a new proper job for him. He belongs to the orthodox family. He is from Hindu family; his father is a part of the RSS. Keshav falls in love with a colleague, Zara Lone who is doing her Ph. D. in IIT. She belongs to Kashmiri Muslim family. Their family doesn't ready to accept their love and fight over religious issues. Religion becomes the obstacle among their love. In the contemporary Indian society still the people of orthodox family doesn't accept the love affair between the different religions. Religious discrimination is seen here. Bhagat shows the reality of religious

discrimination. Keshav keeps remembering Zara but she then loves with Raghu who is Keshav's classmate. Raghu is a very intelligent guy. Keshav every time requests Zara to return to him but she never agrees for her proposal. Keshav fails in his love affair with Zara. Due to religious issues his parents are opposed for this relation. His true friend, Saurabh always advised Keshav to forget Zara and focus on his future. But it is impossible for Keshav to forget the beautiful memories of Zara.

On Zara's birthday, Keshav remembers Zara and wanted to call her at midnight. He gets text messages from Zara near about 3 a.m. In it she tells him to meet her in her room immediately. Keshav becomes very happy and get ready to meet her. When he enters in her room he sees the room is dark and Zara is asleep on her bed. When he touches her, he finds that she is cold. When he switched on light, he saw her dead. He informs the police, Zara's parents and Raghu. Police arrested the watchman because he is not at his place during the time Zara was killed. After some days the police closed the case but Keshav continues his investigation. The police inspector Vikas Rana helped him. Keshav suspects on Zara's guide, Prof. Saxena, Zara's step brother, Sikander, he is a part of a terrorist group in Kashmir. It shows the political situation of India. Keshav also search Zara's room and in it he finds gunpowder, pregnancy kits and selfies of Sikander with Zara. Sikander belongs to the terrorist group namely, Tehreek. He runs away when he come to know that Keshav is in search of him. Next day Sikander kills himself and it is clear that he did not kill his sister. Keshav again start finding the truth he sees a picture of an army officer, Captain Faiz Khan in Kashmir with Zara in her Instagram. After proper investigation Keshav come to know that Zara had an affair with Captain Faiz Khan. After the 100th day of Zara Keshav will announce the name of the killer of Zara, so a dinner party is arranged. Before the announcement Keshav goes to Hyderabad and at that time he realizes that Raghu is the killer. Raghu confesses his crime to have killed Zara because she had an affair with Captain Faiz and was pregnant with his child. Captain Faiz tells the truth about him and Zara. He said that Zara didn't want Faiz to leave his family because he was married so their love affair was also ended. And she loved Raghu. In a fit of jealousy, he had taken the revenge on Zara.

After the case solving, Keshav and Saurabh opening a detective agency namely 'Z Detectives'. Keshav faces many political crises during this investigation. Politics is a field which helps as well as destroys the social system.

Religion, Politics and Society Depicted in Chetan Bhagat's***One Arranged Murder***

One Arranged Murder was the 9th novel of Chetan Bhagat and it was published on September 28, 2020. It is the sequel to Chetan Bhagat's novel, The Girl in Room 105. The genre of both the novels is a Suspense, thriller. The story of this novel begins after a one year later when Keshav and Saurabh had successfully solved Zara Lone's murder mystery. Saurabh's is now going to marry with his girlfriend, Prerna. She met him from the matrimonial site. The common thing between them is food. Now Keshav and Saurabh are not talking with each other because Keshav's habit of fat-shaming Saurabh's fiancé, Prerna. Keshav always comments on her weight. But on the other hand both, Saurabh and Prerna are a romantic couple and always thinking about each others. On the occasion of Karva Chauth, she decides to fast for Saurabh. The story of one arranged marriage turns into one arranged murder. This suspense journey was depicted by Bhagat. Readers enjoyed the story.

On the day of Karva Chauth, Prerna is waiting for Saurabh to come and break her fast. She sends messages to him. When he enters from the back gate and meet her on the terrace of her three-storey house, he becomes shocks. When he didn't find Prerna on the terrace, he looks down from the roof towards the ground and finds her lying down on the garden. Police interrogate Saurabh. He calls Keshav there. Inspector Singh investigates the case of Prerna. Keshav requested Inspector Singh to ask Inspector about them because they solved the Zara Lone's case with him. But Inspector Singh informed that Inspector Rana now became ACP Rana. When they contact with ACP Rana, he also advice Inspector Singh to take the help of both of them to solve such high complicated case. Now both the guys started investigation. In Prerna's house her sister comes from America, her name is Anjali. They ask Prerna's uncle, Aditya, they suspect on him as Prerna's ring is found. Apart from it they also come to know that they take drugs. But when next day police comes t arrest her uncle, they find him killed. The new suspense is opened that Prerna's mother tells that Prerna has another sister. Her mother tells the story in detail. She said that she had an affair with a boy when she was not married, but the boy left her pregnant. Prerna's father now Malhotra forces her to drop the child but Prerna's mother refuses to do this. She has twins. Then Malhotra says that he should keep only one child with him and warns her mother to send another child to America. The reality of society, religious impact on the society's people is described in the present novel. Every human being is bonded

with society. Prerna's parents want to close the case due to the defamation of the family status. Slowly the investigation is in progress and Keshav and Saurabh come to know that Prerna's father has 50 crores loan and he asked Prerna for money. Prerna has 5 crores life insurance whose nominee is Malhotra. Keshav and Saurabh tell the truth to Inspector Singh and in this way police arrested Malhotra.

After few days Malhotra released because of his political connections. In the present novel author describes the reality of politics. Political connections help to grow violence and crime in the society. Malhotra also takes benefit of political connection and released from the custody. During this period Anjali and Keshav grow close with each other, they fall in love with each other. Keshav convinces Malhotra for this relationship to everyone in the family. When all family members gather together then Keshav says that I come to know that that the real murderer is. When Anjali hears that, she starts misbehaving and Keshav announced that the real murderer is Anjali. Then Anjali confesses her crime that she has killed Prerna because Prerna gets everything that Anjali never got. She is always neglected by her family members. She confesses that that's why she hit Prerna so that she gets all the attention which she is waiting in her whole life. In this way Keshav and Saurabh solved the murder mystery of Prerna.

The novel also comments on the reality of the things that are wrong with society. The things like big fat Indian weddings though the money is tight, they only to show off their status. Some people take dowry, but some thinks that it is a token of love. In Prerna's case we observed that her father is thinking only about his family honour, even when it comes at the cost of justice. The other thing is that the business tendencies of people in the society to work unethically. They borrow funds which will make them bankrupt also. Wrong customs presented in the society will destroy the lives of human beings. It's our duty to throw away such rigid customs which will prove harmful to us. Bhagat thrown light on these things and tried to make aware to the people. We must respect our religion but if it became harmful to us we must try to make change in our society. Politicians must be aware that they must use their power for the betterment of our society and not to destroy the society.

Conclusion

Chetan Bhagat explains the truth of the society, religion and politics in the above mentioned novels. It shows that he is keen observer of the contemporary Indian society. Both the female protagonists of the novels become victim and died. It's really horrible that the close ones kill them which are impossible to think. But Keshav and Saurabh gave them justice and the

murderer get punish for their deeds. Zara's story is not a love story it is unloved story. Though Zara and Keshav have breakup in their relations due to different religions, Keshav faithfully tried hard for giving justice to Zara. He is a true lover. In the case of Perna, Keshav and Saurabh didn't talk with each other because Keshav make fun on Perna. But when Saurabh calls Keshav he immediately came at the victim's place and helped Saurabh. It shows that Keshav is a true friend. Bhagat journey from love stories to suspense romance, thriller is really admirable. His above mentioned novels are the detective stories. His next novel 400 Days is also contained with suspense and thriller. In the building of society how religion and politics plays an important role is defined by Bhagat. The present research paper is focused on the above all elements presented in Bhagat's novels.

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