

## Issues of Subaltern Love and Feminist Approach in Chetan Bhagat's Half Girl Friend

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Indian English Literature has come to occupy the centre stage in the world of English Literature with the emergence of writers like Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, Aravind Adiga, Kiran Desai, Chetan Bhagat, Sobha De, Mahasweta Devi, Manju Kapur, etc. They have won international critical acclaim in Indian English Literature. They have mainly focused on the Socio-Cultural Diversity, Traditional and Contemporary Differentiation, Eastern and Western Ideologies and many other social issues of Indian Society. The Post-Colonial study bring out the truth of Modern era. It highlights caste system, religious harmony, political exploitation through exploration and introspection of contemporary society. Among the contemporary writers Chetan Bhagat is an outstanding and popular writer who has made a mark with his best selling novels. He has touched a nerve with young Indian readers. He closely analyses the problems of youth today. He wants to explore the problems and possibilities engendered by the prevailing social realities of gender issue, loss of identity and cultural purity of Indian society. The language of his novels are very common and easy to understand so they have become very popular among readers.

In the Globalised era, India can prosper due to its connectivity with other countries. His keen interests in pulp fiction to create awareness on social issues of the current period. He has used very easy and short sentences to make his novel beautiful and interesting. The present paper focuses on how a subaltern can make love, through his novel, Half Girlfriend. He had made a deep colonial study when writing the novel. He deeply analyses the problems of class-conflict between the Elite English speakers and Non-English eypes in the country. Those who are poor in English develops a feeling of inferior complexity within them as in the case of Madhav jha , the Bihari rural boy, the hero of Half Girlfriend. This novel highlights that English is important, to impress the girls of modern era, aristocratic and educated girls are very confident and they have a control over their feeling. They never allow themselves to cross their limits. They never try to hurt their parents and want to marry with their consents. It presents two different lives: one of Rural India and the other of Urban India. Their feelings are different and anti-thesis of each other.

The title itself is a satire and allures the attention of the readers at first sight. In Indian tradition the relationship between boy and girl is not clear most of the time the boy thinks he is more than a friend with a girl, but the girl is still not girl friend. Half girlfriend is an outstanding love story. Hopefully the book will make people believe in love again and also make them more sensitive and less judgemental towards people those who don't have the best language skill. Half girlfriend is based on a story of a Bihari boy in quest of winning over the girl he loves. It depicts the emotional attachment and linguistic struggle of a backward rural Bhojpuri-laced Hindi speaking boy Madhav from Bihar.

He has taken admission at a prestigious English Medium School Stephen's college and falls in love with a beautiful aristocratic rich girl in Delhi. Riya is very good in her English speaking skills schooled at modern school (New Delhi). when Madhav Jha who is very poor and illiterate falls in love with Riya Somani and wants to marry her but it is very clear that a subaltern boy cannot love due to their caste and class differences. Even Madhav cannot question about his love affair. Both of them are good basketball players and gets admission due to their sports quota. They become close to each other because of their common interest in basketball. Gradually Madhav fell in love but it is not acceptable by Riya Somani. She repeatedly denied to marry him. Finally Riya married her childhood friend Rohan and settles in England.

Madhav settles in home town to help his mother, Rani-Sahiba. There he struggled hard to speak good English. Here Chetan Bhagat describes in the globalized era English is very important. A person gets no status and respect if he/she could not pronounce English properly. Love, sex, live in relationship are also important. When Madhav forced Riya to have sexual relationship with him , Riya breaks their relationship . Riya breaks the relationship because now in the present era girls are not so free and independent to take their decision

without the consent of their parents. After three years Madhav get information about Riya that she is alive and finally reconciled and decided not to leave each other. Madhav jha was a poor english speaker and his English is not English, but 90% of Bihari Hindi and 10% bad English.

Riya-Madhav Jha relationship is a common incident in the Globalized era. Jha who hails from one of the remote village of Bihar loves Riya in his first sight simply because her height. His attraction for her becomes further deep when her communicative skills in English are sugar-coating. Riya's skill in English enslaves him as he is poor in English.

Bhagat describes the feeling of Jha:

*"So in the first day in the college, I was in love. Riya somani, ace football player, english literature student, most beautiful girl in the planet, and owner of extraordinary eyebrow and speaker of wonderful lines had yanked my heart out of its hiding place." (1)*

Whenever, Jha has to communicate naturally he uses Bhojpuri Hindi which is one of the dialects of Hindi language. English is the language of mass in Delhi and rare students communicate in Hindi, especially those who are weak in English. Jha comes in this category as a result his weakness for Riya develops.

She is from a middle class family. Her ambition and plan in life are simple. She wants to live a life of peace sounded by the common people who like her and vice-versa. In the globalized era girls are very independent and they have their own mind set-up as Riya Somani.

Bhagat portrays Riya's state of mind:

*"I don't want to be a famous singer or a rock star. I don't want to marry a billionaire and I just wanted to sing in peace, surrounded by passionate people. I want to own a house in Manhattan, my house filled with books and music CDs's. I want to play basket in weekends. I do not want to check out a dozen lehngas for my engagement." (33)*

Riya weds Rohan but the marriage is simple, a social recognized union which does not root from love. Bhagat shows how the modern marriages do not often get the shape of love and loves are not materialized into marriages due to material and status incompatibility. Jha's heart is shattered going through the wedding cards of his beloved whom he loves most and more than anything else in the world. He consoles himself wandering in the fool's paradise that one day Riya will return to him because both of them are physically and mentally compatible. He decide to serve the weaker sections of the society both in education and social living. His changes were seen after a failure in love. His love was not materialistic.

The literary qualities of Chetan bhagat itself identifying him as one of the best novelist in Indian English literature. He loves to reach every Indian through his novels, film and entertainment media. He is the author of ten novels. Half girlfriend is one of them. He aptly says poor quality of education and lack of infrastructure can lead to incompetence among rural students. Madhav fear can be identified with each and every individual who wants to make love with beautiful girls. The only problem that comes between Madhav and Riya is the inability to speak in English, Riya also is not prepared fully to accept him as his boy friend and finally agrees to be his Half girlfriend. And after many trial and tribulation she agreed to be his wife.

The novel reflects the themes like gender discrimination, domestic violence, poverty in India. Bhagat here tries to make the half complete by his new innovative ideas. It is Madhav's undaunted spirit his Half girlfriend became his wife and another to his son.

#### **Reference:**

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