

Existentialism in Chetan Bhagat's Campus Novels

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Chetan Bhagat, a popular Indian author, is known for his campus novels that often explore contemporary issues faced by young people in India. While Bhagat's works are not explicitly rooted in existentialist philosophy, one can identify certain existential themes in his novels.

Existentialism, a philosophical movement that emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries, focuses on individual freedom, choice, and responsibility. It often explores the anxiety and meaninglessness that individuals may experience in a seemingly indifferent or chaotic world.

In Chetan Bhagat's campus novels, such as "Five Point Someone," "One Night @ the Call Center," and "2 States," characters grapple with personal choices, societal expectations, and the consequences of their actions. The protagonists often find themselves at crossroads, facing dilemmas that force them to question their beliefs and make decisions that shape their destinies.

The pursuit of identity and authenticity is another existential theme that resonates in Bhagat's novels. Characters strive to break free from societal norms and expectations to discover their true selves. The novels explore the tension between conforming to established norms and pursuing one's individuality, a theme that aligns with existentialist ideas.

Chetan Bhagat is a social writer who writes for the societal upliftment. He is not a writer who is committed to Art of school of writers for whom—Aesthetic Value the core of their writings. A writer like Chetan Bhagat is non-aesthetic with his commitment to political, social, educational and religious aspects. The effort to writer's commitment on his work has to be judged on the light of its utility to the society. In This aspect, we can judge Chetan Bhagat as "a social writer" rather than an "aesthetic writer".

Indian authors writing in English have made the most crucial commitment to the circle of the literary genre novel. It spread through the country in mass and development. What started as a minor low plant has at present earned an astounding development and fan out in various headings. The occasion of Indian novel takes after bound unmistakable examples, and it is not difficult to follow its slow progress from the imitative phase to the sensible, to mental,

and to the tentative phase. Recent years are the proof for an honest assortment of Indian novel writers who have astonished the world literature with their writings. Their writings have enriched the world literature, which they're awarded with honors and prizes among the sphere of literature. They are accepted with English vernacular and have advanced English with their ingenuity. In spite of the actual fact that taking care of Indian sensibility; these writers are not any longer the passive imitators of English. Indian students have utilized English thus creatively that the novelty turns into a conspicuous element in their accent. They have attempted various things with the accent and melded Indian spirit in the other dialects. They have invented new words and idioms in English and supplemented new essence in English language. Some of these terms square measure currently accepted as English words. The West delighted it with relish and they have their everlasting place in the world literature. Indian fiction in English has return a protracted means from the triumvirates of the thirties to the fashionable recent English fiction writers.

The language that was once treated as a language of the foreigner or the language of the elite category is viewed in different way. As the range of readers of Indian English fiction has enhanced significantly, the standard of writing has conjointly improved. The writers square measure currently not active users of English however they need English as their maternal language (Lingua franca). They spoke themselves with native proficiency. They are writers who imagine and write in a single language, which is English. They have passed through many continents and they have one thing substantial to inform their readers. Indian English fiction is currently a part of world literature. It has afforded and endured indifferences of the West and now finally materialized as a plain winner among the recent fiction writers across the globe. The researcher has taken the new young writers and talented writers to examine his select works as a part of research. the Story of My Marriage (2009), Revolution 2020 (2011), and Half Girlfriend(2014), he has single handedly reshaped the Indian English novel.

Chetan Bhagat's campus novels, such as "Five Point Someone," "One Night @ the Call Center," and "2 States," one can observe existentialist undertones in the characters' journeys. The protagonists often grapple with societal expectations, the pressure to conform, and the quest for personal identity.

Freedom of Choice: Bhagat's characters often face critical decisions that shape their destinies. The freedom to make choices, whether in academics, career, or relationships, reflects existentialist themes. For instance, in "2 States," the protagonists Krish and Ananya choose to defy cultural expectations and pursue their love despite societal norms.

Search for Meaning: Existentialism involves a relentless search for meaning in life. Bhagat's characters often find themselves questioning their purpose, especially in the context of societal and familial expectations. In "Five Point Someone," the protagonists question the traditional education system and societal norms, seeking a more meaningful and authentic life.

Individual Responsibility: Existentialism places a strong emphasis on individual responsibility for one's choices. Bhagat's characters often confront the consequences of their actions and must take responsibility for their decisions. This is evident in the characters' struggles in "One Night @ the Call Center," where they must confront their personal and professional challenges.

While Chetan Bhagat's novels are not direct adaptations of existentialist philosophy, they do echo some of its core themes. The characters' journeys of self-discovery, the emphasis on personal freedom, and the questioning of societal norms all contribute to an existentialist undertone in his campus novels.

It's important to note that Chetan Bhagat's novels are primarily works of popular fiction and may not be explicitly philosophical. The analysis of existentialist themes in his works is a subjective interpretation and may vary among readers.

Furthermore, Bhagat's characters often confront the uncertainties of the future and the unpredictability of life. They experience moments of crisis that prompt introspection and self-discovery, echoing existentialist concerns about the inherent anxiety of human existence.

While Chetan Bhagat's works may not be overtly philosophical or academic in their treatment of existentialism, the themes of individual choice, personal responsibility, and the search for meaning in the face of uncertainty are recurrent elements that align with existentialist thought. These novels offer a contemporary, accessible lens through which readers can engage with existential themes in the context of Indian youth culture.

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