

DYSTOPIAN YOUTH IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S FIVE POINT SOMEONE

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Abstract

The present paper entitled “Dystopian Youth” brings out the life style and plight of contemporary tech-savvy youth with positive resolutions as presented by Chetan Bhagat in his fiction *Five Point Someone*. The present postmodern age witnesses grey revolution born out of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) developments. The new life style of today's youth fostered by the excessive dependency on technology is filled with technoculture. Today's youth has their unique tech-savvy culture which is often filled with dystopian attitude that reveals the materialized life and insensible attitude of contemporary youth to whom life is nothing but just a global market. Chetan Bhagat, a social critic presents how today's youth used to live with technology and love synthetic mutant things. He never hesitates to leave plastic and carbon foot prints to futurity which would be full of dystopian life style and virtual reality. Bhagat's unique voice for the sensibility of youth, with their aspirations, dreams, love, pain, exam fear, pressure of assignments, friendship and so on are more natural. The paper aims to focus on the highly potential youth of today who could not find time to stand and stare. They are ready to lose life itself in their strive to live comfortable materialized sophisticated and decent life. The paper analyses the contemporary dystopian youth who are forced to live with technoculture in today's mechanized societies.

Keywords: Dystopian Youth, Technoculture, ICT Age, Postmodernism

Jean-Francois Lyotard says, “We no longer have recourse to the grand narratives; we can resort neither to the dialectic of spirit nor even to the emancipation of humanity as a validation for postmodern scientific discourse; however, the little narrative remains the quintessential form of imaginative invention, most particularly in science” (60). In a nutshell “Postmodernism” stays on every person connected with literature. It defines a wide movement that formed in the late 20th century across the arts, philosophy, criticism and architecture, which manifested a parting from modernism. The most common thematic concerns of post modernism reflected in the contemporary literature are irony, metafiction, playfulness, black humour, intertextuality, pastiche, magical realism, minimalism, faction, temporal distortion, maximalism, technoculture and hyperreality, paranoia and fragmentation.

Cultural artefacts of postmodernism tend to refer to today’s pragmatic youth in dystopian society who are dominated by technoculture. Dystopian societies appear in many fictional works are not new to the world of English literature. Similarly this select novel by Chetan Bhagat pictures today’s postmodern youth in dystopian societies with its own dilemmas and tensions. This present study attempts to identify the dystopian themes prevalent in Chetan Bhagat’s fiction *Five Point Someone* that deals with the techno cultural arena of computer, cyberspace, communication technologies and internet.

Chetan is a symbol of novel India and he has a lasting name in the realm of postmodern fiction. Chetan has become India's famous creator by the execution of the current techno savvy youth. He achieves to keep up humour sense however the issues are real factors of life. Chetan has altered and mirrored the postmodern works. He says that the need of literature is to showcase the inner society. His works have prominent likenesses in protruding good messages, direction and recommendations. The defeat and victories of the youth are usual aspects of Bhagat’s stories with respect to the generation today.

A dystopian youth is a person who imagines or foresees a state or society where there is great suffering or injustice. Government control, environmental destructions, technological control, survival and loss of individualism are the characteristic features of a dystopian fiction like Chetan Bhagat’s *Five Point Someone*. Dystopia expresses the virtues that have been lost in society. If Utopia means a perfect paradise, dystopia means exactly the opposite. Chetan

Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* is a dystopian fiction with dystopian characters who express cultural anxieties.

Today's tragic youth is an individual who is forced to live in a state or society where there is an extraordinary anguish or treachery born out of virtual realities, government control, ecological decimation, mechanical control, endurance and loss of independence are the trademark highlights of a tragic fiction like Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone*. Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* is a tragic fiction with tragic characters who express cultural tensions. He is a light in the present day Indian fiction who spins round expectations and gives up, grins and tears, fears and cheers, satisfaction and distress, desire and affliction, love and division of the young people of new India. With his incredible and entertaining method of portraying stories, he spreads his perspectives and assessment on society and youth.

Five Point Someone: What Not to Do at IIT is based on the real life story of the author in the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, during the years 1991 to 1995. The complete projection of this novel is about the three mechanical graduate students, Ryan Oberoi, Hari Kumar and Alok Gupta, who cannot adjust to the course of action of the IITs inferable from being used to the by -hearting system. Most of the conditions in this book are covered with the countless deeds by the trio to adjust up to the assessing system.

The creator uses an unexpected tone on the unsatisfactory teaching and dull undertakings followed in the professional institutions. There is a ray of hope to all the three with the introduction of Prof. Veera, the new fluid mechanics instructor. Chetan investigates the practice of ragging in the most grand institutions of the nation. Baku and other seniors showed them "Off with your clothes" (3). Such kind of embarrassing events for ragging produces an unprecedented mental effect in their minds. The novel presents dystopian theme in which everything is imperfect and everything goes terribly wrong.

The fiction assaults the Education System of India uncovering the imperfections of evaluating framework. Chetan ties the obligation of the three companions, Alok, Hari and Ryan and their inward thought provoking voice. This fiction shows explicit youth culture like ragging episode, relationship, kinship, their free learning thoughts concerning the current GPA framework and training framework. Everything became serious and that is the reason there is nervousness and instability feeling among understudies of present age. The protagonists are

impressive representatives of today's youth, who are reflecting the issues of public. As Ryan says in the fiction, "This IIT system is nothing but a mice race...It is about mindlessly running a race for four years" (101).

Youth of this age are aware of their profession that is the reason they need to go for advanced education from popular organizations. Better training, relocation of knowledge and work are a few issues concerning youth. These issues are seriously dealt in the novel *Five Point Someone*. Internal voice of the youthful age has been focussed in this novel. Feelings, assumptions and issues of the adolescent are portrayed appropriately to express their dystopian attitude. Chetan has made use of the genre to picture the wayward life of today's youth who prefer to live sophisticated not perfect life. He discusses the current Indian culture in his books.

Dystopian themes expressed by the characters are evidence of how our techno culture can harm our world and our lives apart from its comfort. The youngsters in the novel are not legendary figures but ordinary individuals. By stripping away the comforts of this postmodern life and placing characters in a stark, life-or-death dystopia, Chetan Bhagat sends a message on what kinds of skills really nurture the world. Bhagat, a rationalist who represents the unsatiated longings and never ending need of the younger generation with a real concern for futurity has made use of this novel entitled *Five Point Someone* to express the dystopian attitude of the detached and distorted digitalized youth of the contemporary age.

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