



DELINEATION OF FEMALE CHARACTER PRIYANKA SINHA IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *ONE NIGHT @ CALL CENTRE*

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ABSTRACT

Priyanka is a very beautiful, smart and cute girl as well as she is a very sober, clever and bold girl. Chetan Bhagat has presented the angle of beauty and strongness through Priyanka in his novel One Night @ The Call Center (2005). Bhagat's every heroine is adorned with beauty and soberness. Beauty is related with emotions. Beauty magnifies our feelings and it is related with happiness. So he depicts his heroines as much as beautiful to give the pleasure to the readers.

Key words: modernness, empowerment, boldness, beauty, sensuousness, perseverance, persecution, changed equations of relationship, adjustment.

INTRODUCTION

Priyanka is a girlfriend of Shyam Mehra who is the narrator and important male character of this novel. At every step, we realize the beauty and innocence mingled in her with the colours of modernization. When Priyanka travels to Delhi by train, Bhagat meets to her there. He impresses too much by her beauty. She is of mid-twenties and her waist length hair had a life of its own. Bhagat can't see her face due to a strand fall on her forehead repeatedly, though he realizes her prettiness. Her eyes are very attractive which we cannot turn our gaze from them. Bhagat says that when he meets to her in train, he was really stunned by her beauty. Everything about her is perfect. Her face is like a child. Her bindi and eyes look like the same. He can't make difference between them. He expresses his view about her in the prologue of this novel.

"I turned to look at her carefully for the first time. May be it was the time of night, but I kid you not, she was the most beautiful women I had ever seen. Everything about her was perfect. Her face was like that of a child. She wore

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a little bindi, which was hard to focus on as her eyes came in the way.”
(ON@CC, 05).

Priyanka's Nature:

Priyanka is a very kind and sympathetic girl. The girls have been always bestowed the qualities of beauty, love and sympathy. Already Priyanka has all these qualities. She loves to Shyam and she is very sympathetic about him as well as her colleagues and author himself.

Bhagat says that when he was travelling by train and he met to her at first time, without thinking anything, she tried to communicate with him. Though he was unknown for her, when she finds him upset, she enquires about him very softly and Mr. Bhagat feels better. He hides his feelings and nervousness and he laughs only and shows his gratitude to her.

Priyanka doesn't like to short her name and to call her. Girls don't like to shorten their name or to tease anyone deliberately by any name. When Ganesh, her fiancé, calls her as 'Priya', she objects on him and she says her name is Priyanka. It means she likes only to call her as Priyanka.

'Nothing. Just having a rough day...sorry night. And please call me Priyanka,' she said. (Ibid 153)

Again when Shyam says Mr. Microsoft to Ganesh, Priyanka didn't like that. She says that his name is not Mr. Microsoft but Ganesh. Girls wants to call as a full name or by proper name of everyone. Even Priyanka doesn't like sarcasm about anything. That is the characteristic of all girls that they don't like any type of sarcasm.

Bhagat's Sensuousness through Priyanka's Sex:

Like John Keats in his various poems, Bhagat has tried to present here the sensuousness in his female theory. Her eyes, her smile and her beauty elevates us and we feel the real feeling what Bhagat feels. We realize the real gentleness, what he realizes. We visualize the whole panorama or scene in train, what he experiences. Our senses invite us to relish the feast of this sensuality.

Not only about this, but when she makes the sex with Shyam, we realize the real sense of feelings. It caters our senses. Mr. Bhagat has presented the sex as a prominent and inseparable part of our life. So we can't avoid it or hide its spontaneity. He has exalted the sex in his novels and he has tried to give the adorable place to sex in our life. As Western authors have expressed openly about sex in their works, Bhagat has tried to present the sex in Indian English writing. I think, Mr. Bhagat has tried to drag out the sexual concept from the

debris of narrowness and placed it in front of us. He compelled to accept it openly and broad mindedly.

Chetan Bhagat has tried to magnify the sex in his every novel through his female characters. Sex elevates our senses and it gives the pleasure to us. Sex decreases the burden of our brain. It helps us to keep free and fresh mentally as well as physically. As Hunter S. Thompson says, "Sex without love is as hollow and ridiculous as love without sex." (goodreads.com) So Bhagat urges to everyone to expose the sex open mindedly.

Here he presents the sexual intercourse of Priyanka and Shyam. When they reach at 32nd Milestone Disco, they drink there, they watch dance and come outside into Qualis. They drink Bacardi again in Qualis. Priyanka remembers their last time love made by them at her home. She wants to make it again. There was proper atmosphere. That was the desolate spot, silent darkness, music of disco and they had very plenty of time. In such atmosphere, if there is anyone with us, it awakens our senses. The same thing happened about Shyam and Priyanka. So Priyanka asks to Shyam to go to Qualis and express their feelings. Bhagat presents here the scene of sensuality by creating such atmosphere in Qualis. When we will read and visualize the Qualis scene, we pause our breaths for a while. Chetan Bhagat has appealed our senses through the Qualis scene. Mostly in sex, boys have to take leading role, but here Priyanka performs that role. Dr. Sachinkumar Pandya says about Priyanka, "In this scene, also Bhagat gives the command in his lady's hands". (Vol.-I, Issue-2, 2015) She unshirts and kisses to him, even Shyam kisses to her. She asks about condom, he has it in his valet already. Bhagat tells us that girls want to do sex but with safety. They are aware about the forth coming calamity, because of it, Priyanka asks about the condom. They laugh and he pulls out her towards him. They make sex near about twenty minutes. Then they dress themselves and Priyanka asks him that he does love to her or not.

'By the way, do you have a condom?' she said.

'Yes sir. We live in constant hope,' I said as I pulled out my wallet.

We laughed as she embraced me. She started kissing my face. I kissed her shoulders. In a few moments I forgot I was in the company Qualis.

'Twenty minutes later we collapsed in each other's arms on the backseat.

'Amazing. That is simply amazing, Ms Priyanka.'

'My pleasure, Sir,' she said and winked at me. 'Can we lie here and talk for a while?'

'Sure,' I said reaching for my clothes. (Ibid 95)

Priyanka as a Dreaming Girl:

Bhagat says that every girl has a right to see the dreams of her bright future and of her golden career. Because dreaming is not only the priority of males but also of females. They are equal

to men in every activity and right. He wants to discard such discrimination on the basis of sex between the men and women. They are not weak and incapable but they are equal to men in everything. So Priyanka has a right to see the dreams of her life. She has the perseverance to bring her dream into reality. Bhagat presents here another quality of woman that is 'perseverance'. They have an ability to struggle in their life. Priyanka wants to open her nursery school. She had to do B.Ed. after college, but because the lack of money, she works in that call center against her wish. She decides that after collecting some money, she would do her B.Ed. and then she would open her nursery school.

Through Priyanka, Bhagat has tried to present the woman's empowerment and to give the education to them. Because education is the only way to make their progress and their empowerment.

Again Bhagat says that girls are very enthusiastic and interesting to dream about their married life. They like to think too much about their future plan. They like to learn various dishes and embroidery work to make happy to their in-laws. They think that there should not be any complaint about them. So, mostly girls take care of it before the marriage. Even Priyanka likes all these things. So she asks to Radhika about mother-in-law tips. Because girls are very eager to know all these things. The girls always think to be wellbeing in their in-law, so that they would treat them respectively as a member of their family.

Priyanka's Daring and Her Boldness:

Bhagat has presented here the character of Priyanka as a bold, strong and fearless girl. Sometimes he wants that every woman should behave like her in the society. Though he has not argued about their rights of women in the society on the platform of modernization, but indirectly he has tried to raise their voices and tried to reach it towards us.

Though we are living in 21st century, the persecution and harassment of woman is not stopped. The dowry and child marriage have become a curse upon our society. If any father is not able to give something as the dowry, his daughter is not treated well by her in-laws. If any woman is not bearing a child or bears only girl child, she has to face many difficulties in the society. She is persecuted by her in-laws and she has to suffer from the domestic violence. Sometimes it results in the divorce of her divorce or condemning her suicide. So Bhagat has tried to attract our attention towards such problems in his various novels. The same instance has been given here by Bhagat. When Priyanka and Shyam go to Havemore Restaurant and after finishing their meal, while coming out of restaurant, they listen the grumpy families' voices. The old woman was saying to her daughter-in-law that since she has come in their family, their fortunes have been ruined. Others were ready to set up full clinic to her son, but they didn't think about that, at that time. The daughter-in-law has tears in her eyes. She didn't touch her food, but her husband was eating nonchalantly. Mother-in-law was cursing her as

she has not brought anything from her father, but instead she dumped two girls like curses on her family. Those little girls were looking very cute and innocent. They sat beside catching their mother's hand each. They were very scared.

"Look at her now, sitting there with a stiff face. Go, go to hell now. Not only did you not bring anything, now you have dumped these two girls like two curses on me," the mother-in-law said." (Ibid 78)

When her mother-in-law was asking about that who will pay for these two curses (two girls), Priyanka says that she would answer to her. That family astonished by her interfering in their family matter. Priyanka scolds to her husband who was listening quietly without uttering any word to the opposite of his mother. His mother asks to Priyanka that why she interferes in others matters and says today's young girls have no manners about how to talk and how to behave. Priyanka says that it is the need of old ones who need to be taught a lesson. Priyanka says to her that those were her grand-daughters and she was saying that they were curses for her.

Her husband firmly asks to Priyanka about her business, she fumbles her bag and shows her identity card in a nanosecond as 'Priyanka Sinha, CBI, Women's Cell.' Again she asks his car number and pretends to call to police station and asks to retrieve records on 'DGI463, Santro'. She threatens him that he would be punished for three years jail for the harassment of women. He quivers and pleads and he says that it is his family matter. Even his mother's voice comes down and says that they had come just for meal and she doesn't let her make meal at home. Priyanka says that she has her records, if they harass her daughter-in-law again, they would eat together in jail. Her husband says sorry by folding his hands and by paying bill quickly, they move from there.

There are many people who think that a boy is a boon and a girl is a curse upon them. They think that a boy is an heir of their property and their family. But they don't realize that both are the gifts of God, nothing is in our hand. Even girls are not less than boys in everything. There is only the difference of biological matter, but not of the strength and intelligence. There are so many women who have achieved the great peaks of success in the society. So girl is not weak or dull than boys.

Through this incident, Bhagat has tried to present the real condition of women in the globalized world. Though we are living in the modern and technological world, our tendency is not changed about them. They are treated like the old age. Bhagat says in his interview given in BLF (Bangalore Literature Festival), "Women need to be respected and that is what I do". (Nagaraj Nikita, 2014) So he says that there is the need of such girls like Priyanka to teach the lesson to such people and to transform their mentality. Shyam likes her style too

much and he says that he loves too much on her boldness and her daring. He impressed really too much by her attitude.

Priyanka's True Love:

Bhagat presents another quality of girls that their love is true and to whom they love, they love from the bottom of their heart. They don't keep anything in their mind. Though she had decided to marry with Ganesh, she still loves to Shyam. So she pleads him and tries to show that but Shyam doesn't believe in her and he thinks that he is not able for her. He wants to become more deserve for her in his life as committed to God. Though he loves to Priyanka and he wants her, he denies her last proposal. Priyanka says that even she is a person and she wants to love like him. He astonishes on her statement. He shows that he has no need of love, though he still loves to her.

Bhagat presents here the philosophy of love through human need. When Shyam tries to deny the re-proposal of Priyanka, she says to him that if man is hungry, he expresses his hunger publically, if man is tired and he needs sleep, then he says that he wants to sleep, but when he needs of love, he can't say that just he needs some more love. Because love is that thing which we cannot buy or demand to anyone, and it is not offered on our demand by anyone. It is not achieved, it is got by creating the same feeling in the mind of others. Everyone is in a want of love. Love is the basic need of human being. As Jane Austen says, as already used, in the opening line of her novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), "It is truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife". (Austen 01) Though it is said hypocritically and on the basis of different ground, but it is the universal fact and the need of human being who can't live without the good companion.

Even Shyam wants Priyanka but for achieving his goal and self-respect in life, he rejects her love once again. Priyanka pleads him but he couldn't listen. She says again and again to him how much she loves to him but he doesn't accept. Here she tries to chase him.

Sometimes Bhagat tries to present that his heroines are behaving like a modern girls through their thoughts and gestures but their modernness is rooted in the past. Because Priyanka could have get everything from Ganesh, she could have live in foreign country, she could have live the elite and luxurious life, but she wants the true love and she had not the guaranty and security of it from Ganesh. Already Ganesh has cheated to her by hiding his baldness in his photographs. Now a days, there is the era of online matrimony, everyone finds his or her pair through internet, but Priyanka doesn't believe in this. She wants to follow the old culture that she should know her suitor by herself. She thinks that both should love to each other.

But at last, when Shyam realizes that he couldn't live without her, she runs him behind her and accepts his proposal in the mid-way.

Her mother shows three fake heart attacks but it doesn't affect to Priyanka. She neglects towards it and she tries to find her happiness herself. At last about their tying Dr. Pandya says,

"Finally, after all said and done, they come together and decide to marry, but the things that happen meanwhile show us the changed relation-equations of our time." (Vol-1, Issue-2, 2015)

Priyanka as an Adjusting Girl:

Priyanka's love for Shyam was true. When Shyam says that he is not able for her and he couldn't afford the facilities neither Lexus car nor elite life for her like Ganesh, Priyanka says that she is ready to sit in his Maruti 800, then it may be with AC or non-AC. If girls get their love, they are ready to do anything for it. They are ready to adjust anything and anywhere and they try to be satisfy in it. The same thing happens about Priyanka. She says that she is ready to adjust everything and wipes the tears from his eyes.

Bhagat here tried to present sympathy and empathy at a time. He tried to present the real love never fades away as John Keats says in his poem, *Ode on Grecian Urn*. He poses the beauty and immortality of young dancers on that urn. Like Keats, Bhagat has become successful to present the feelings of today's youth.

So Bhagat wants to present here, today's girls' attitude about love, marriage and career. He has shown the new equation of relationship between Shyam and Priyanka. They have got too much confidence and freedom in their personal life and personal matters. But for that, his heroines chase to his heroes first and then they run his heroes behind them for their own pleasure at the end of his every novel. He wants to present here that girls work as a magnet and boys are as an iron. They stick to each other as they have made for themselves forever.

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