



DELINEATION OF FEMALE CHARACTER ANANYA SWAMINATHAN IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S TWO STATES

JYOTIRAM U. SONWANE

Ph. D. Research Scholar
Dayanand College of Arts, Latur.
(Affiliated to SRTMU, Nanded.)
[MS] INDIA

DR. B.T. LAHANE,

Principal,
Sambhajirao Kendre Mahavidyalay,
Jalkot. Dist. Latur
[MS] INDIA

ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat has presented the character of Ananya in his novel 2 States (2009). Ananya is presented as a typical South Indian girl and she belongs to Tamil Brahmin family from Chennai. She does MBA from IIMA, Ahmedabad. She is a beautiful and confident girl as other heroines of Chetan Bhagat. There were only twenty girls of fresh batch in her class and she is much dared, attractive and sincere than other girls. Everyone tries to elope with her but she doesn't give the response to anyone. In first ten days, thirty boys propose to her. On this, we can realize her beauty and smartness. In such institute, there is the rarity of beautiful girls. Because in IIMA, girls are not selected on the basis of their beauty, but on their talent. They have to solve the toughest problems of maths in a very short period in the examination and then they are selected on the basis their merit. Ananya falls in the love of Krish Malhotra, a Punjabi boy from Delhi. They try to unite after their degree but their parents are not ready for that. They try to convince to them but their parents don't accept it easily, so they have to struggle for it. Bhagat has tried to unite here two minds, two persons, two cultures, two communities and two states. Through Ananya we realize their journey of love and the connectivity to the people. Bhagat wants to say that though our country is divided into various cultures, various communities and various states, it is connected with the cord of nationality that is all are Indians. For this Ananya performs a very important role in this situation. She is very confident and hard worker girl. Even Krish helps her to reach on the helm of her life. Bhagat has presented her character different than his other heroines. Because she is presented here as a highly educated, talented and persevering girl to achieve her goal and love.

Key Words: *confident, freedom, racialism, discrimination, cultural, grateful and self-respective.*



INTRODUCTION

Really Bhagat has presented her as a confident and dared girl. She is living far from her parents. Her parents are different than the parents of Vidya and Aarti. They are broad minded and aware about their girl's education, career and progress. They never doubt about her as a girl, instead they believe in her. They live in Chennai and she is studying in IIMA, Ahmedabad. There she lives in girl's hostel. She is a fearless girl. Mostly South Indian girls are very confident and fearless. Because such atmosphere is created by their parents in these states. They inspire their daughters to educate and make progress than the other states.

Once Ananya goes in a queue of mess for the meal, she stand there, but she doesn't like the food of mess. It was same for the prisoners as well as for the future CEO's. She raises a question about the tasteless, unhealthy food of that mess and about the cleanliness there. The mess worker says that he has fed it to hundred people and no one has complained about it and again he threats to her to complain anywhere she wants. He gives only one rasgulla to everyone, Ananya wants more but he refuses to give her. Ananya says to him that there is not any limit on disgusting sambhar, but here is the limit on edible food such as rasgulla. The line grows behind her, but no one says anything about it.

Again, when Prof. Chatterjee draws a curve on the board and asks to represent it mathematically by anyone, no one responses to him. He comes near to Ananya, he reads her name on her nameplate and asks her to explain it. It was looking through her eyes, that she had not any clue about that. Though she tries to explain something about it, but he asks to explain it in the proper mathematical formula. Without any hesitation, Ananya replies to him as she couldn't think that such mathematical formula would work in any real life situation.

“No. But I can't think of any real life situation where a mathematical formula like this would work,” Ananya said.” (2 States 10)

Prof. raises his hand and interrupts to her. By giving the sinister smile, he says to the class that the status of economics education is very poor in the country. The top graduates don't know the basics and they ask that why India is economically backward.

Ananya Advocates Freedom:

As Ananya is talent and beautiful girl, she is an amusing too. She doesn't like to be very serious. She likes to be playful and fresh as other girls like. No one likes boring persons. Ananya doesn't like the food in the mess, so she wants to go to restaurant with Krish by dumping the lectures, because she hasn't fed her stomach on the mess food. Though she has born in the upper class Tamil Brahmin family, she doesn't hesitate to eat non-veg. Mostly



Brahmin families avoid to eat non-vegetarian foods. But Ananya don't think about it and orders tandoori chicken with roomali rotis. Not only has this but she asked about the beer. The waiter frightens and goes from there. As a modern girl, Ananya hurls all the restrictions which have been imposed on her as a girl and she advocates the freedom. She says that if we have become free from the bondage of British, then why we should be in a chain of such restrictions, we should feel the freedom. Bhagat wants the same thing that though we have got the freedom, our woman has not become free. She is chained everywhere.

*“‘But Gandhiji won us freedom,’ She said, playing with the little onions.
‘What’s the point of getting people free only to put restrictions on them?’
‘Point,’ I said, ‘so you are an expert on rasam and sambhar. Are you south Indian?’
‘Tamilian, please be precise. In fact, Tamil Brahmin, which is way different from Tamilians. Never forget that.’ She leaned back as the waiter served our meal. She tore a chicken leg with her teeth.” (Ibid 6)*

Bhagat has attacked and criticized the hypocrisy of castism, provincialism and their unique existence. He wants to eradicate all such discriminations through Ananya. Though she has born in a pure family as she says, she is not ready to follow the rules and principles of it. She throws all these restrictions and tries to live like a modern girl.

Ananya as a Beautiful Girl:

Bhagat has presented his every heroine as a beautiful girl. His all heroines are different from one another, no one is the same. He has become succeed to depict them through the different angles. When we read about his every heroine, we feel the sense of her beauty, her talent and her culture. Bhagat is obsessed too much about the beauty. Bhagat has given the importance to the beauty through his heroines in his novels. Because he knows that life is tedious without beauty. So, it enhances our interest in every field of life. Ananya is a beautiful South Indian girl. But, I think, South Indian girls are already beautiful. Because God has bestowed them the beauty as a gift. Bhagat says that she has the perfect features of a beautiful girl. Her eyes, nose, lips and ears are of proper size and on proper place. Her tiny blue bindi matches to her sky-blue and white salwar kameez. She looks like any heroine. Really she is very beautiful.

Like other girls, Ananya looks very beautiful in her own marriage. She looks very beautiful in her Kanjivaram sari with a mustard yellow-gold border. Her tightly braided hair made her to look like a cute school girl. Her face had make up and she looked prettier than any girl like on any Tamil film poster. Her eyes looked deep, due to the kajal around it. For a few second, Krish doesn't recognize her as his Ananya. She looks like as an accessible Goddess. Krish doubts that she was the same girl who was fighting for sambhar in the mess line.



Through this, we can realize the beauty of Ananya. She was not only a beautiful girl but she was a talent and brave girl.

Ananya's Clothing:

Ananya is a girl of modern thinking. She likes to wear various kinds of dresses and shorts. She never thinks about it or she never shies, though all look towards her. When Krish tries to convince her, she doesn't listen and says that it is not Delhi thing or Punjabi thing to control women. Through this, we can realize that in some regions women have been put many restrictions, they are not allowed to go out of their home with open faces, and they are obliged to cover their faces by their sari or by their dupatta. So Bhagat wants to say that though we have got the freedom from the British rule before seventy two years, but we are not become free in real. So Ananya says that she likes to wear it and she doesn't care about people, customs and traditions. Even she doesn't want to attract to anyone. But it is not the matter of only clothes or the culture of India, but the matter is of freedom, liberty and respect to be given to the women. So through Ananya, Bhagat wants to put his opinion about the indifferent treatment to be given to the women. So, sometimes we realize that Ananya is representing the whole Indian women. Ananya tries to revolt against the social protocols and she throws away the male dominating tendency of the society.

Ananya as a Straightforward Girl:

When they were studying together in Ananya's room, Krish was looking towards her quietly. He was feeling something and getting attracted towards her, but he was fearing to be added in her proposer's list. So he stops to go there and studies at his own room. Even he was avoiding her eye contact in the college. If there are only a boy and a girl in a single room with boring books what would happen there with them. Surely it is the possibility of sparking something there. But Ananya didn't realize the reason of his quietness. When she realizes that she goes at his room and asks to him about the reason. Krish says that he wants that they should be a couple. Ananya thinks a while and looks in his eyes and then kisses him, and says no more than it. But in the next week, she becomes ready to make the sex at first time. As Woody Allen says, "I don't know the question but sex is definitely answer." (goodreads.com) So Bhagat wants to say that the sex is the solution on any dilemma of love. Because Ananya didn't want to lose him, as Ken Blackman says, "Men barter love to get sex and women barter sex to get love....something like that." (goodreads.com)

When they were getting their placements, she comes at his room and again they make the sex at second time. After sex, first she sits up and wears her top and then rest of her clothes. When she leaves to go, she wants to say something, Krish stops her by seeing her thoughtful



face and asks. She says that they would leave the campus in four weeks and they would be in different cities. This would not be done again. She was more serious. She says to him to wear his clothes and she wants to discuss on serious topic. Then she asks to him that what the future would be of their love. Krish says that he couldn't speak anything on that topic right then and he wants some time to think about it. She asks him that two years were not sufficient to think about her, then Krish keeps quiet. Ananya says that men need too much time to think about the commitment, but they have no need of time to think to decide to sleep with them.

“‘You know it baffles me,’ Ananya said, ‘how you men need so much time to think about commitment, but how you need no time at all to decide when you have to sleep with the girl.’” (Ibid 32)

She is a straightforward girl. Bhagat says that Ananya raises a question on the purpose and morality not only of Krish but of all men who try to use girls for their self-purpose and then they leave them without thinking anything about their future. As Laurie J. Watson says, “Many women find the sex to be the deepest form of love and connection, but men find sex as only physical need.” (psychologystudy.com). According to Watson, Ananya seems right, so she takes the doubt about Krish's intention.

Ananya as a Dashing and Convincing Girl:

When Ananya comes to Delhi to convince Krish's mother, she disapproves to Ananya and blames her as she has trapped her son. She attends Krish's cousin, Minti's wedding with Krish. His mother puts a condition on Krish that he would tell to all that Ananya is his only friend but not a girlfriend. But when Ananya goes there, everyone asks and behaves with her like Krish's girlfriend. Minti was a daughter of Rajji Talreja who was a brother of Krish's mother. In the ring ceremony, he has given a Hyundai Santro car to the groom's family, but they want a Hyundai Accent car. So, in the ceremony, groom's family becomes upset and they do not perform any ceremony or they do not eat any snacks. Rajji requests them to accept a cheque instead of cash, but they don't believe in him and they demand only the cash on the spot. Rajji tries to collect, but he fails. Then Rajji's sisters give him their ornaments to put as a deposit to them until giving the Accent car. Ananya looks this drama and when Rajji goes to give a bag of ornaments to groom's father, she stops him. She wants to call the police but she doesn't. As she was educated, she was against the dowry. She was aware about her duty. So instead of drinking wine as a guest, she decides to be with Minti and her family to support them in such critical situation. Then she collects all Duke's cousins and Krish's cousins. She puts this problem before them and says to Duke that is all unfair to expect from the bride's father. Then she convinces to Duke to get marry. All of them becomes very happy. It's all credit goes to Ananya. Then Krish's mother and all his relatives praise her and approves to her.



Bhagat wants to speak here against the dowry. It is very bad tradition. Because Krish's Rajji mama takes debt and fulfils their wish. So everyone feels that a girl is the burden on her parents. So Ananya says to Duke that his salary is of ten thousand and Ananya's is of twenty five thousand per month. The price of Santro car is three lakhs that is Duke's two and half year's salary. Then how he can expect such things from bride's father. So she performs a leading role to convince him and saves Minti's wedding. So Cecile J. Priya says about Ananya's dashing role,

"In Bhagat's opinion girls are in no way inferior to boys, they are equal to them in all respective". (Vol.-5, Issue-15, 2016)

Ananya as a Self-respective Girl:

Bhagat has presented here Krish's mother as very expectant from daughter's father. Even she was against of Ananya and she was not ready to accept her as a daughter-in-law. When Ananya comes to convince them at her home, she doesn't give the respect to her. Krish's mother Kavita was insulting her always and looks down to her. Ananya becomes upset and decides to go to live in hostel. But Krish reminds her that she has to win his parents. Ananya says, "You can win over normal people. Not rude, insensitive people who insult guests," she said. (Ibid 190)

When Krish's mother and Ananya's parents meet in Goa, Krish's mother gives a sari to Ananya's mother and she expects too much from them. Though they give three saris for her, three shirts for Krish and some pockets of dry fruits, she was not satisfy in it. She brags about her boy and tries to look down upon them. She says that they have landed her son, but it doesn't mean that he has no value. Kavita says that others are ready to give him the dowry. She says that Ananya's parents have trapped him and argues with them on the time of dinner. Ananya's father looks very distracted and he faces breathing problems. Ananya wants to be apologized by Krish's mother, but she doesn't. His mother wants to put Ananya under her toes after marriage. So she was not ready to apologize. Ananya listens the conversation of Krish and his mother and she leaves from there with her parents without speaking anything to Krish.

Then Ananya neither does pick up the phone of Krish nor does she speak with him. He gets very frustrated. He apologizes to her but she doesn't accept it. Even he goes to Chennai to meet her, but she doesn't speak to him there. Ananya wants that her parents should be treated as equal. She doesn't want to feel them small, so she avoids him. That is the thinking of a modern girl to give the respect to her parents and equal status by the people of groom's side.



In this way, Bhagat has raised the question about our marriage system through Ananya and he opposed to it.

Ananya as a Grateful Girl:

Bhagat has poured all qualities as possible as much into Ananya. Bhagat has tried to present her as a typical as well as a cultural girl. Ananya has very manners to speak. She struggles and suffers too much for her marriage. She overcomes all the barriers of race and region and got her love without thinking anyone. She shows her true religion as a “nationality” which is greater than all discriminations. In their marriage reception, there were all relatives of both sides. Ananya takes the mike to express her feelings at last and she pays thanks to all for coming there. She says that she was so grateful to all of them because they decided to share their happiness. She kindly expresses her gratitude about others. About Ananya’s attitude and broad thinking Priya J. Cecile says-

“Ananya the woman of 21st century is ready to overcome cultural differences, pride and prejudices, diversities, age old traditions for the one she loves. For her caste and cultural differences do not matter over her preferences.”

(Vol.-5, Issue-15, 2016)

Bhagat has become successful to present her as a perfect South Indian girl. She has a very proud to be as a Tamilian and of Tamil culture. Through her, Bhagat takes us away in South culture. We realize and visualize the every moment and aspect of it. Sometimes, we feel that we were living with Ananya and we were a part of Tamil culture. In India, there are many cultures, Tamil and Punjabi these both cultures are of them. Through Ananya and Krish, Bhagat has tried to unite these two cultures and to show that we are all Indians and we should not divide our country on the basis of race, region and religion.

WORKS CITED

- Allen, Woody, Tags- *Life*. [http:// www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)
Allen, Woody, Tags- *Sex*. [http:// www. goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)
Bhagat, Chetan, *Two States: The Story of My Marriage*, New Delhi: Rupa and Co. Publication, 2009.
Blackman, Ken. Tags- *Sex*. <http://www.goodreads.com>
Priya, J. Cecile, *Women of 21st Century: Analysis on the Novels of Chetan Bhagat*.
An article, IJSETR-June, 2016.
Watson, J. Laurie, ‘*What Sex Means to Women*’, an essay.
www.psychologystudy.com