

Construction of Identity and Multiculturalism in Novels: A semiotic and Psychoanalytic Study of '2States' by Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

The construction of novels is a creative process that involves putting signs together that evoke certain signifying meaning emerging from the psyche of the author. How the meaning is assembled in text and how different identities are erected is a topic significant to study about. This paper attempts to study this aspect by analysing the novel '2 States' by Chetan Bhagat using the tools of Semiotic and Psychoanalytic analysis. The findings of the study revealed that different strategies are used to construct a particular culture. Code-switching is one of them; it allows use of two or more linguistic varieties in the same conversation or interaction. Another strategy deduced is Cultural representation and signifying practices that is representation of culture through signifying practices. The paper finds that in any novel, the construction of identity and multiculturalism is not as simple as putting few words in one sentence. It demands using precise words in a precise structure of sentence with more precise direction to do that so as to communicate the desired meaning. This paper also attempts to decode and analyze latent meaning encoded in act of communication as made out in the novel.

Keywords: Code-switching, cultural representation, identity, multiculturalism, psychoanalytic analysis, semiotic analysis.

1.Introduction

Contemporary social scientists have defined the phenomenon of the coexistence of different cultures in the same geographical space as 'Multiculturalism'. Culture, the term is important to understand in order to interpret Multiculturalism clearly. A.L. Kroeber and Clyde Kluckhohn (1952) in their work, "Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions" cited 164 definitions of culture, ranging from "learned behaviour" to "ideas in the mind", "a logical construct", "a statistical fiction", "a psychic defence mechanism", and so on [1]. If culture is behaviour, apparently it becomes the subject matter of psychology; therefore, Kroeber and Kluckhohn concluded that culture "is an abstraction from concrete behaviour but not behaviour in itself". Waldron (1995) has given a more flexible view of culture stressing that cultures are dynamic in nature; they are continuously over-lapping, creating and interchanging each other [2]. According to this view, "there is a melange of cultures as people move between cultures by enjoying the opportunities that each provides" (Waldron, 1996) [3]. The concept of '*Multiculturalism*' is defined in two ways- first, as a descriptive concept it describes a society where a variety of cultures coexist. And, second as a policy it aims at either addressing the different normative challenges that arise from minority groups

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or at providing the means by which individuals can pursue their cultural differences. 'Identity' as a concept lies deep in cultural history, including notions of soul, body, and social belonging in mythological and classical literature. According to the *Oxford Dictionary of English*, the word 'Identity' originated in the late sixteenth century from the Latin word 'idem' which means 'same'. Apart from denoting "the fact of being who or what a person is," the term also stands for "a close affinity or similarity". Taking psychological base in account, two types of identity is formulated: - Personal and Social Identity. Personal Identity is a unitary and continuous awareness of "Who One Is". A person's identity is his or her own sense of self whereas social identity is a person's sense of who they are based on their group membership(s). There exists interdependency among social and personal identity, especially in reference to continuity of identity in spatiotemporal background.

Stories as in novels make sense of the world; by making sense they provide us with models of experience to guide our actions in reality. As Bruner (2003) puts it, "encapsulating experience in the form of a story enables it to make sense in the interpersonal sphere [4]." With the support of context that a novel develops through construction; it becomes easier to relate to human experience and the contradictions that it entails. This construction holds value even in the construction of Identity and Multiculturalism. Designing characters in fictitious time & space has the potential of opening up territory for exploring identity, reaching beyond traditional boundaries, and testing out original identities. Literature with multicultural elements reflects the world's myriad voices and provides readers with a range of perspectives. Story telling/narratives, as Novels not only build 'Identity' and 'Multiculture' but it also helps in accepting the reality of these two terms by being in the shoes of others in an imaginative way. Through this paper, an attempt has been made to study how with the use of words, identity is constructed and used as a tool to construct community, culture, religion, gender or social issue etc.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Semiotic and Psychoanalytic Analysis of Fictional Novels

"Semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign" (Eco, 1976) [5]. Anything can be a sign as long as someone interprets it as "signifying something – referring to or standing for something other than itself". An analysis based on semiotic guidelines look for deep meaning that is inherent in a 'sign'. Harinder Kaur, (1991a) in her PhD thesis titled "A Semiotic Analysis of D.H.Lawrence's novel, Sons and Lovers", states that signifiers have a number of semantic features, and the signifiers keep on getting transformed with the introduction of new relationships and new contradictions, thus, creating a new structuration [6]. Semiotics provides an efficient way of assessing the meaning in a text, as it decodes the sign in each possible way that ranges from connotation to denotation, syntagmatic to paradigmatic and synchronic to diachronic. Kaur in her analysis of the narrative of "Sons and Lovers" begins with the summary of the narrative in which the main sequences are delineated. Entire text is divided into fifteen signifying ensembles and then further divided into sub-ensembles or micro ensembles, depending on the requirement to present a detailed syntactic analysis.

Psychoanalysis is a way to help people understand themselves, their relationships and how they behave in the world. It is based on the idea that we are frequently motivated to act by

impulses that we don't recognize as their origin is in our unconscious mind. Psychoanalysis is guided by the theory of personality organization and the dynamics of personality development, which is termed as "Psychoanalytic Theory". Criticism based on psychoanalytic analysis adopts the method of 'reading' employed by Freud (1905) [7] and later theorists like Erikson (1950, 1959 & 1968) to interpret the literary texts [8] [9] [10]. It argues that texts, similar as dreams, express the secret unconscious desires and anxieties of the author. And a literary work is a manifestation of the author's own neuroses¹.

One may psychoanalyze a particular character, but it is usually assumed that all such characters are projection of the author's psyche. It validates the importance of the literature, as it is built on a literary key for decoding. This critical endeavour seeks evidence of unresolved emotions, psychological conflicts, guilt, ambivalences, within a literary work. Psychological material is expressed indirectly, disguised or encoded through the principle of Defence Mechanism² (Freud, 1894, 1896) such as symbolism, projection, regression and displacement etc. [11] [12]. The concern of a psychoanalyst is not with what has been said or with its latent meaning but with what the author never intended. The unconscious material is censored by the censoring conscious mind. Researcher Wenjia You, (2009) in his research paper entitled "When Sherlock Holmes and Freud Meet: Psychoanalysis and the Mystery Story" states that analogy between the mystery story and psychoanalysts is that a mystery writer can tap many resources in psychoanalysis [13]. In a mystery story, crime makes the mystery, questions like "what really happened?" and 'whodunit?' is solved at the end. Quite alike, in a psychoanalytic procedure, the neurotic symptoms make the mystery, why these have developed is revealed at the end with the success of treatment. As in the mystery story, the clues may distract; in psychoanalysis, dreams may distract, moreover the analysand³ intentionally blurs the reality, running parallel to the false clues in the mystery story. Both the dreams and the clues must not be taken at their face values.

Analysts psychoanalyze the author by focusing on his literary work as product of his psyche. Morris Wei-hsin Tien (1990) in his research paper titled "Literature or Psychoanalysis: Poe's personality and his works", puts forward that the melodrama in his life was in part created by himself and the rest by his critics [14]. In this study, the researcher has taken into account psychoanalysis of Poe's life and his works by different psychologist specially Krutch (1926) and Bonaparte (1949). Krutch (1926) first of all pointed out that "Poe was a social outcast, who had no social relations with any other writers [15]. According to Krutch, "Poe 'had no ancestors and no real descendants' in America". Krutch with his good yet incomplete knowledge of Psychoanalysis has presumed Poe to be suffering from morbidity. His presumptions and assumptions are based on his beliefs, or his diagnosis, that "Poe's position as the first of the great neurotics has never been questioned". Krutch based "Poe's desire" for literary fame to 'compensate' his real life losses. Analysis like these warns upcoming psychoanalysts to be free from the shackles of stereotyping or being reductionist in approach. Bonaparte (1949) in her work assures credit to Poe's literary capabilities but gets into oversimplification of his life journey [16]. The confusion between literature and psychoanalysis is the trap most critics have fallen to. Stovall (1967) criticizes that "Psychoanalytic studies, such as Krutch's and Bonaparte's are not literary critique at all, but

clinical studies of a supposed psychopathic personality” [17]. Stovall stresses on the “conscious art”.

2.2 Reading Fiction improves Theory of Mind

Psychologists David Comer Kidd and Emanuele Castano (2013) in their research paper entitled “Reading Literary Fiction Improves Theory of Mind” (ToM), (appeared in Oct. 3, 2013 issue of *Science*, at the New School for Social Research in New York) have proved that reading literary fiction enhances the ability to detect and understand other people’s emotions, a crucial skill in navigating complex social issues [18]. In the research, the researchers have employed five experiments to measure the effect of reading literary fiction on participants. Based on experts’ advice, researchers chose three types of writing for their study: literary fiction, popular fiction and non-fiction. ToM in its proficient form can bring a huge difference in the way an individual addresses his/her role at personal, social and cultural level.

Lisa Zunshine (2006) in her book titled “Why We Read Fiction: Theory of Mind and the Novel”, proposes that making inferences regarding other people’s mental states is so natural to human beings that we do it automatically, whether those people are fictional or real, actually present or just being spoken about [19]. Reading a fictional novel brings us in direct contact with the character’s emotions and thoughts, not only from our point of view but also from the point of view of the character itself. The reason why we read fiction, she contends, is because it exercises our mind-reading ability.

2.3 Identity and Multiculturalism

It has been seen in novels that a particular kind of Identity is developed, which carries diverse traits all through the novel and thus end up conveying the theme of the novel to the readers. These themes could range from thrill to comedy or simply from a social issue to a personal dilemma. Multiculturalism in novels is also constructed and developed by the use of particular identities. Fatima Felemban (2012) in her research paper titled “Linguistic Strategies and the Construction of Identity in My Name is Salma by Fadia Faqir” contends that Faqir in her novel "My Name is Salma" has constructed and represented her identity as an Arab Bedouin Muslim through her major character, Salma [20]. Using the reference to a Second Language Learner, Fadia has constructed the identity through Language Appropriation, which justifies the identity in an excellent way. Linguistic strategies used to construct and express identity in the novel are analyzed under the categories “Interlanguage⁴ and Code switching”, with additional sub-categories. Fatima while quoting Norton (1997) in her research paper argues that Language and Identity are inseparable; identity constructs and is constructed by language [21].

Further, researcher Collin Jerome and Su-Hie-Ting (2015) in their Conference Paper “Diverse Construction of Identities in Contemporary Malaysian Literature: Challenges in deconstructing and Teaching Literature” assert that issues pertaining to identity have always been salient in ethnically and culturally plural nation states such as Malaysia [22]. Construction of Identity focusing on multicultural aspect is difficult and if it is done in a

context where the writers are facing dilemma given the socio-political conditions affecting their crafts, professions, freedom of expression, and identity, it brings a special concern.

Michelle Loris (2007) in his scholarly article "Using the Novel to Teach Multiculturalism" affirms the use of novels based on Multiculturalism in evoking awareness regarding issues germane to multicultural education [23]. While educating people and for that matter especially the students, reading such novels develops a realization of common humanity with all the people, as well as understanding of and respect for multicultural society.

3. Research Objectives

3.1 To decipher the construction process of Novels, especially with regard to Identity and Multiculturalism.

3.2 To identify the type/s of Defence Mechanism used by the author for Psychological gratification.

3.3 To investigate the construction strategy adopted by the author in the creation of Identity and Multiculturalism in Fictional Novels.

3.4 To evaluate the difference between manifest and latent meaning in the Novel.

4. Research Methodology

It is a Qualitative Research involving two important tools: Semiotic and Psychoanalytic Analysis. Semiotic analysis of a contemporary novel '2 States' by Chetan Bhagat has been done. Psychoanalytic analysis of the same novel has been made to assess the 'Psyche' of the novel so developed. In addition, Psychoanalytic analysis to decipher the personality of the author has been done so as to investigate its role in creation of vivid character sketches in the novel. The matter/data of the novel has been analyzed at different levels in relation to construction process of novel. Varied levels, namely, semantic, paradigmatic, syntagmatic, synchronic, diachronic, thematic levels, and psychic levels etc. have been used to decode the novel in a holistic way.

5. Findings

Construction of identity and multiculturalism is intertwined. Culture is reflected in the actions and opinions of those who follow it and those who have created it over period of time and space. Manifestation of culture or multiculturalism is possible by knitting it into the threads of identity construction. And thus using various culturally active words, the author in the novel has tried to construct 'multiculturalism'. The construction of identity and multiculturalism can be seen taking place together as the pages of novel are unfolded.

5.1 Construction of Identity

Although the identities are not shown carrying any extra-ordinary characteristics, the construction of distinct identities is done on fine lines. Author has ensured proper justification to each character by providing minute details of their personality.

Ananya's character has been shown to be modern, non-traditional, feminist, sensible, confident and strong. Her attitude towards life and difficulties is practical, open-minded and courageous. Following extracts from the novel reinforces this characterization.

'I didn't say I am a practising tam Brahm' ss (7)

'Don't patronise me' (20)

'For my own sake, I can't make my parents feel small. (232)

I am not sulking (232)

Her role in solving the dowry-drama is one of the finest symbols of her strong and sensible personality in the novel. Even the break-up is taken very bravely by her; she doesn't lose her control and refuses to accept anything compromising her parent's respect.

'I can't. I have work. Besides, it is not good for my parents' reputation.' (237)

Krish's personality is carved on the line of his creative and emotional leanings, be it for his love, his father or for the nation. He comes out as a thinker who finds it difficult to adjust with anything wrong and gets emotionally involved. Because of the stressed relationship of his mother-father, he bears a burden on himself, which results in sleep deprivation and stress. A very patient lover, who goes till the extreme to convince his would-be in-laws. Following extracts from the novel are worth noticing.

'I don't talk to my father.....I'd like to keep it to myself.' (17)

'Watching my mind's stupid daily pre-sleep thought dance.....i tossed and turned' (199)

Krish asked Mr. Swaminathan to present the PPT by himself. He couldn't digest the fact that Mr.Swaminathan is ready to let his boss present it and take his credit.

'....you have to present' (142)

His troubled psyche and his emotional insight are depicted clearly in the novel.

'I held back my tears as I spoke. I'm lonely ... mom.' (158)

Calm down Krish.....the freaked-out me said.' (242)

Identity of Krish and Ananya holds the major part of the construction but the interest that other characters evoke with peculiarities of their personalities is worth mentioning as a part of analysis. Talkative & hyper-sensitive Mrs. Kavita with her flavoured taunts, discipline freak Krish's father as short-tempered ex-army man with a soft corner for his son. Mr. Swaminathan, a dissatisfied bank employee tough from outside but with an open soft inside and struggling Carnatic⁵ singer from Tamil Brahmin family Mrs. Swaminathan add spices to the story. Other than these key role players, each character whether of Pammiji or Manju, Bala or Dr Iyer, Shobha aunty or Shipra masi all have their own beauty. One distinct identity

is of Guruji, his personality leaves a mark not only on the memory of the protagonist Krish but on the readers as well. With his power of self-control and intuitive communication, he stands out among rest all in the novel. The construction of the identity is found to be well framed in the traits of multiculturalism.

5.2 Construction of Multiculturalism

5.2.1 “Code-switching” with various sub-categories is used to construct different identities with different culture leanings. The first category is, "Loan Words", these are English words borrowed from the Tamil language and are written with normal fonts.

For eg – Idli, rasam, lungi.

The second category is, "Untranslated Words", these are written in Italics and are not translated, meaning is to be guessed by the reader.

For eg – Thamboolam (puja plates), Maalai Maatral (Jaimala).

The third category is, "Terms of address", these terms include both loan and untranslated words.

For eg - Appa (father) & Amma (mother) in Tamil, Noo (Daughter-in-law) in Punjabi.

The fourth category is, “Items of clothing”, it reflects identity as a Tamilian. These items include - Lungi, veshti. There is reference to Punjabis’ most important attire ‘Pagdi’ but with the use of English word that is ‘turban’.

The fifth category is, ‘Food’. Food is a cultural marker by which individuals are identified. Different types of food are indicated in this novel, such as - Idli, rasam, pongal, oonjal. Even there is a version of Tamilian cocktail – Kothamalli Marry.

Generally, over-lap in the categories is seen.

5.2.2 “Cultural representation and signifying practices” is another strategy used to construct multiculturalism in the novel. Punjabi culture is not a culture of language, as many non-Hindi states are. It is based on attitude that has made certain actions its identity. Punjabi the language bears close similarity with Hindi and thus not much of difference can be noticed. Difference can be noticed from the perception that Punjabis have developed on the basis of their culture. As shown in the novel basic characteristics of Punjabi culture can be sum up as: foodie, loud, carefree, and emotional. It is important to note here that these characteristics are enjoyed to the extreme by Punjabis. Being braggers is another quality that is taken up with pride by Punjabis as shown in the novel. Following examples from the novel supports it further.

‘How is the food?’they have chicken?
(15)

‘Seven lakh, plus stereo changed for thirty thousand’. (61)

(213) 'I, I am the b...boy's side'

'Tears rolled down her cheeks,..... My mother folded her hands (227)

(256) 'We're trapped. No paneer here'.

(204) 'One and a half carats at least'.

'They are big bores, how can they do puja whole day?' (251)

Similar kind of representation is done for Tamil culture. The basic nature of the Tamil culture is exhibited through their life-style, their rigidity and strictness for cultural rituals and a sense of intellectual superiority.

'That's not rasam..... And what's that, the dark yellow stuff? (3)

'Intellectually, culturally zero.....crass uneducated (51)

(89) 'Don't step on the Rangoli'

(89) 'The dinning had a floor sitting'

(108) 'Little-lumps..... slurry heap

'.....passed me a banana leaf.....(93).....Place it down, it is the plate. (94)

They have a culture of passing on the training in art forms like music and dance to their children. And this is something taken up very seriously by them.

'Can you tell the raga?.....it's malhar, definitely malhar', she said' (92)

'War broke out between the normally peaceful Tamilians. When it came to music,
they could kill.
(147)

6. Discussion

Here the text of the novel is deciphered to study the construction of meaning in it.

6.1 Semiotic analysis

Text once created using certain signifiers in the frame of a particular structuration cannot be done ever again (Kaur, 1991b) [24]. It is idiosyncratic in nature, to evolve new contradictions and interpretations; change in signifier's structure will be required. The sign which is the base

of any text carries two meanings- thing that it represents and the thing being represented. In the structuration of the signifiers, sign invokes the idea of the figured object by means of the idea of the figurating object (Kaur, 1991c) [25]. The idea is created in the meaning which is based on two important aspects: one is 'extension', the thing in the world that the word/phrase refers to and another is 'intention' the concepts/mental images that the word or phrase evokes. Analysis under semiotics is done at various levels which are explained in the following paragraphs.

6.1.1 Syntagmatic level

Under Semiotics, the syntagmatic linear progression of the text is delineated to study the basic force uniting it. After giving a summative view of the text, it is further delineated into ensembles for a better understanding.

'2 States' is a simple love story said to be inspired by the real life events of the author Chetan Bhagat. Krish and Ananya, aspiring MBAs at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) are in love with each other. To seek approval for marriage, they decide to convince their parents. As the families come from different cultures, it's not an easy job. The love goes through a tough battle, Krish and Ananya wooing the opposite sides and finally reaching the venue of wedding ceremony. Story ends with Ananya giving birth to twins and Krish declaring them to be from one state 'INDIA'.

The entire text of the Novel is divided into four sequences with eighteen ensembles keeping in consideration a complete syntactic delineation of the text. Syntactic is crucial to understand as to deconstruct the semantic construction in the text.

Sequence One - Love equation at college campus.

- I. First meet over mess food complain –
Ananya and Krish meet each other for the first time in the mess. Ananya complains about the taste of the food and later insists on going out for lunch with Krish.
- II. Economics dorm tuitions –
On being humiliated by Economics Professor, Krish offers to give Ananya economics tuitions. This initiates a friendly relationship between the two.
- III. Love rhymes and race for job-
After few days, Krish finds it difficult to cope with his changed feelings for Ananya. He decides to maintain a distance which pulls them closer and launches the first stroke of their love. Soon their love attains its peak as they move in to stay together for next two years. With the end of M.BA approaching nearby the race of job begins.
- IV. Parent's Convocation encounter –
Successfully securing their jobs, both plans to arrange their parent's first meet. This, in fact turns out to be a kind of encounter as both the families didn't seem to digest the idea of their children marriage.

Sequence Two – Chennai & Delhi battle fields.

- V. Chennai-Delhi equal preferences-
To convince Ananya's parents about their relationship Krish has to take a job in Chennai. But Krish feels burdened with guilt to leave his mother alone in Delhi. And thus Krish ends up writing – Chennai & Delhi equal preferences - as he finds it difficult to choose between mother and love.
- VI. Swaminathan's Tam Brahm-
So finally Krish is in Chennai all set to go and break patiently the Tamil Brahmin ("Tam Brahm" as written in the novel) wall that has been built by Ananya's family – 'The Swaminathans'.
- VII. Corporate fake golden world-
Although Krish's reason to be in Chennai is his love, Ananya but he still finds it uneasy to handle the deception that prevails in the air of corporate world. The mean world of corporate industry permits survival and achievement to only those who live for money.
- VIII. Harish, the perfect match-
Harish is a Tamilian boy selected by Ananya's family as her perfect life partner. Krish has to deal him too while trying to convince his would-be in-laws.
- IX. Manju tuitions, Mr. Swaminathan's PPT and Carnatic singer Mrs. Swaminathan-
The battle of Chennai starts with Manju's (Ananya's younger brother) tuitions for IIT entrance. Krish makes second step by helping out Mr. Swaminathan in his office's PPT and the final step by fulfilling the long awaited Mrs. Swaminathan's dream of singing on stage.
- X. Pondicherry Guruji-
Krish manages to steal a day out with Ananya in Pondicherry in the name of office work. During the lunch hours when Ananya gets busy into an official lunch meeting, Krish plans to visit Aurobindo Ashram. He meets Guruji who helps him in releasing load of his stressed memories from past.
- XI. Family marriage proposal-
When all that could be done to convince Ananya's family reaches its peak, Krish takes them out for lunch and proposes them to accept him as their son-in-law. This family proposal melts everyone and approval is given to Krish-Ananya on the condition to ensure adequate respect for Ananya in Krish's family.
- XII. Delhi side of the battle-
Ananya takes the charge from Krish and tries to woo the Punjabi side in Delhi. All seems real hard as the Punjabi comments and taunts make it difficult for Ananya to stay there even for a single moment.
- XIII. Minti's Wedding, loud in-laws and dowry drama-
Minti's wedding is set as battle ground to impress Punjabi relatives in order to convince Krish's mother. But relatives reveal their high note in passing taunts to Ananya as brutally as possible. Fate passes a chance in Ananya's hands

during the dowry-drama at Minti's wedding. With her wit and sensible actions she not only saves Minti from this trouble but also seeks a YES from Krish's relatives.

XIV. Glimmering bangles yes-

Mrs. Kavita approves Ananya to be her daughter-in-law and gifts a pair of bangles to her. Krish cherishes the moment that unites two most important person of his life.

Sequence Third – Drift and later, forever bonding.

XV. Goa mission failure-

For the concluding job to bring both the families together Krish and Ananya decides to take them to Goa. All begins with a little better congenial atmosphere as compared to convocation but shortly it ends at a turn impossible to be undone. And this time, Ananya leaves with a NO as she and her family misunderstands Krish to be involved with his mother in some thorny future planning for Ananya.

XVI. Drift-

There comes a drift between Krish and Ananya. Ananya handles this quite strongly but Krish fumbles on every step to carry on with his life. He starts taking medicines to be stress free and sleep properly.

XVII. Army man's heroic entry-

In a short visit to Chennai when Krish fails to revive the situation and faints, he is taken to Dr. Ramchandra and Dr. Iyer for medical reasons. Things appear to get worse day-by-day until Ananya call Krish to inform him about his father's visit to Chennai. Krish's father tackles the situation intelligently and assures Swaminathans to keep their daughter always happy.

XVIII. '2 States' wedding ceremony-

And finally, there comes the day of union of not only the couple but of the families, of the states and off course, of the cultures.

6.1.2 Paradigmatic level

At this level, the analysis is done in two ways. One is to locate the functional opposites in the text and second is to see the negotiation of meaning between the author and the reader. Opposites are visible in the juxtaposition of two states and their cultures per se. Punjabi culture is depicted as loud, foodie, large-hearted and money flaunters, whilst Tamil culture is shown as sophisticated literate section, dedicated to seclusion and silence. In the novel, even the home-culture of two states is set in opposite - Punjabis v/s Tamilians. As Ananya mentions herself about her family that they don't talk at home except about issues like news; it clearly underlines the silence maintained at home. Whereas in a Punjabi home, silence will straight away hint towards a major mishappening that has happened in the family. Opposition in terms of characters is shown steeply. Krish's parents function as two poles in the text in spite of being in a close relationship. Mrs. Kavita is socially motivated Punjabi housewife and

her husband (former army man) is a discipline fanatic who is still urging for salutes every morning. Mr. and Mrs. Swaminathan, though look similar on face value are actually converse from within; Mr. Swaminathan is not traditionally inclined as Mrs. Swaminathan and moreover he has got a heart that wants to tap feet with music beats. Apart from these, Krish and Ananya although in love are differing personalities. Ananya is a strong practical feminist where as Krish is an emotional philosopher.

The manifest message of the text seems to be couple in love struggling for their marriage but on unclinking the latent message, meaning is found to be profound and complex. The text depicts a chain of priorities that is generally followed in Indian society for building perception. The chain that 'should be' followed may be: humanity - nation - individual. What is followed in the novel – it all starts from religion and culture of an individual to relatives-pleasing attempts, then some semblance for nationhood and humanity is practically untreated. The author has approached the text in a subtle satirical form so as to make people laugh on reading the bitter side of it. There appears to be the technique that if you want to tell people the truth, you should make them laugh, otherwise you may invite people to kill you. The issue of cultural differences, dowry, male oriented-society, pseudo-modernism and superficial nationhood are dealt in lighter ways to keep readers away from levitating in guilt.

Paradigmatic level of analysis furthermore looks for socio-economic aspects of the real world and the world of the novel. The novel is written in the year 2009 but there is similarity between the time period shown in the novel and the period in which the author finished his degree from IIMA. The socio economic aspect of these two time periods is worth comparing and analyzing. The author, Chetan Bhagat finished his education from IIMA in 1997 and it's important to note here that the period witnessed the advent of technologies which brought its own complexities on the socio-cultural front. Economically, India opened itself for the international business with the adoption of New Economic Policies⁶ in 1991 and socially it took over the country into a new phase. It was difficult to get access to new technology and to use the available technology properly was an arduous task. This has been portrayed in the novel time and again using examples of mobile, cheap call rates at night, power point presentation, internet attraction and much more. Even the issues like dowry, as tackled in the novel were more prevalent during that period.

6.1.3 Thematic level

Theme comes first as "it is the starting point for the message" and thematically the text of '2 States' validates itself creatively. From the beginning till the end, the story deals with the multicultural issues of the two states and how these are being overtaken by the two souls in love. Two individuals in love, two cultures in contrast and at the end, union that wins not only hearts but cultural differences. All this validates the thematic construction of the novel '2 States'.

6.1.4 Diachronic level

Under this level, the text is analyzed to be a historical extension of the story of another novel by Chetan Bhagat, "Five point someone". Although both are said to be 'inspired' only by the

true events of the author's life, historical continuation can be easily comprehended by the hidden signs silently pointing it. As in the novel '2 States' when Krish reopens the most painful chapter of his past, it simply connects the readers with the follow up of a historical chain that is somewhere linked to his previous written novel "Five point someone". Moreover, the year of the construction of both the novels also supports this continuity. "Five point someone" was written in 2004 whereas '2 States' was written in 2009. In spite of the continuity thus found among the two novels, there is huge variation that is noticed in the area of story execution, language décor and maturity.

6.1.5 Synchronic level

It freezes the event into a chain horizontally aligned. Based on this, the text of the novel is decoded into five events. First event is about Krish and Ananya falling in love with each other at IIMA and planning to convince their parents for marriage. Second event follows with Krish moving down to Chennai with a job in Citibank so as to charm the Swaminathans. From here, proceeds the third event where Ananya sits on the driver seat and takes the drive to Delhi to woo the Punjabi in-laws. Fourth event is the turning point bringing drift between couple as the two families are not ready to resolve the differences. The last event is back in Chennai, but this time with the marriage celebration.

6.2 Psychoanalytic analysis

The story is told through first person narration, Krish the main character of the novel is the narrator. Considering the psychoanalytic analysis of the text, it can be stated based on the analysis that Krish, the main protagonist is suffering from certain psychological issues and is seeking gratification through repressive defence-mechanism. This gets worse as he goes through a tough love loss in his life. He is even shown depending on *happy drugs*⁷ to forget and get rid of what he calls as black-hole land⁸. Three different characters in the novel act as psychoanalysts for his psychological problems. The first Psychoanalyst, Dr. Neeta Iyer is actually shown as a Psychotherapist⁹ in the novel. Krish has been referred to her by Dr. Ramachandran for bearing symptoms like sleep deprivation, cut-off from human contact, meagre eating, suicidal ideas and outcome of unpredictable emotions in response to one particular name. Dr Iyer takes off from here and makes him confront his feelings. Dr Iyer aimed to make him acknowledge his unconscious thoughts and to avoid their repression.

Another character with those psychoanalytic qualities is Guruji. With very little role allotted to him he still leaves massive impact on Krish. Guruji is the first person who is able to establish that the sleepless nights or the stress in Krish's life is more of a burden he is carrying from past. Guruji shows him the path of 'Forgiving' not for others but for himself. He makes him to do meditation and feel unburdened with the luggage of old memories. To Krish's surprise, he felt relieved after meeting Guruji whom he met by chance as he had few hours to pass while waiting for Ananya in Pondicherry.

And the last is his love Ananya who understands his inner passion for writing instead of corporate money making. From time to time, Ananya draws him into talking cure¹⁰. Consciously prompting him to speak about what is there deep in his mind. She notices the

crack in father-son relationship at the very onset of the first discussion about family. Being emotionally sensitive from within, Krish is always encouraged by Ananya acting as his personal therapist. For a psychoanalyst, it is important to make analysis and confess his feelings but it is even more important to make unconscious mental images conscious by acknowledging them. Psychoanalysis is not about medicines but about understanding and accepting yourself. And this is interestingly done by these three characters in the novel.

Embracing the character of Krish with strong psychological linkages, the author has shaped the contour of other characters with assured sublime issues. Mrs. Kavita is internally weak and is seeking emotional security from his son which her husband has deprived her of. She unknowingly applies 'displacement' here as a defence-mechanism. Mrs. Swaminathan on the other hand is fixed into her struggle for learning music; she pretends to be normal but from within she is in emotional stress for not being able to fulfil her dreams related to music. Mr. Bhagat, an ex- army man, is highly short-tempered and frustrated with his son, his wife and her family for being 'low' on his shallow norms. Mr Swaminathan is a grumpy personality who hides his inner image even from his family members as he fears that they won't approve it. He loves to drink, to talk about politics and to be less peculiar about traditions. Thus, a line of variation can be traced in the psyche of the characters, so vivid but all being the product of only one person's imagination, i.e. the author.

7. Summary & Suggestions

The study has brought many new facts into light during the course of analysis. A research scan of the novel revealed that construction of 'identity' and 'multiculturalism' is not a simple task. From the commencement of the construction process, meaning is marked into signifiers signifying the intention of the author. And this meaning with reference to identity and multiculturalism continues till the very end of the text as it keeps on evolving itself using shifts in the structuration of the signifiers. To add to it, while this all seems so much a part of conscious literary effort, it is equally a part of the unconscious observations that the author has made and acted as the soil in which his creativity is rooted. The novel '*2 States*' has proved all the findings and discussion levels to be true based on the examples from the novel itself. The novel is an inspired story but the inspiration of the author comes from his real life experiences and thus, cumulates conscious, pre-conscious and the mysterious unconscious thoughts. With the unfurling of each event in the story, the deep rooted culture emerged more strongly and clearly to the readers. The soul of two states (Punjab and Tamil Nadu) could be found in its prolific form in the novel while readers across national and international borders read about them, thereby becoming a vital part of the world of the novel.

The author has managed to bring out the picture of the two cultures in a decent way. Even the coding of the meaning was such that it left readers with emotions like laughter, tear, smile etc. While saying all this, it should be kept in contemplation that the depicted multiculturalism in the novel appears to be more based on daily routine and not derived from a definite cultural entity. This is to say that the cultures were not built on hard core rituals but simple routine practices. To cite from the novel, Punjabis came up as loud, bragger and of care free kind in nature, while they for sure, host such characteristics, they also possess other qualities like

Sikh-slant, courage, energetic etc. Moreover, the use of Punjabi words was very minimal as compared to Tamil language words. The attribution of Tamil culture was too limited to a few words although little more than the Punjabi words. The representation of the multicultural scenario in the novel was limited to certain features depicted through definite strategies. This was done merely to keep the focus intact on the zones that needed to be corrected and rectified.

Identities have been carved adequately but sometimes the description has gone flat as in the case of Krish's patience with Swaminathans for a period of six months. Or it has gone too exaggerated as in the case of families dealing with each other. The way both the families, especially Mrs. Kavita reacted seems hard to digest as nobody wants to put up a negative image of him/her.

Differences among cultures will always be there, the novel suggests well not to erase them off but to learn to agree on disagreement, to accept the differences with respect. This paper attempts to analyze the encoding of meaning during an act of communication so as to ensure maximum accuracy at the time of decoding. The researches concerning the readers' perspective have been done in large number so far. But researchers have paid little or no attention to study the world of construction. This paper may give an insight for construction based studies and encourage more such works in future.

8. Notes:

1. Neurosis (plural neuroses) means "nerve disorder," and was first coined in the late eighteenth century by William Cullen, a Scottish physician. His concept of neurosis included those nervous disorders and symptoms that do not have a clear organic cause.
2. When people experience difficulties, they have different ways of handling their pain. These different ways of dealing with pain are denoted as Defence Mechanism.
3. In psychoanalysis, an analysand is an individual who is suffering from psychological problems visible through neurotic symptoms and is treated by a psychoanalyst.
4. Interlanguage, the term was coined by Selinker (1972) [26]. It refers to language system that is developed by second language learners. A system that acts as a middle path between the native and target language.
5. 'Carnatic' is a type of South Indian music. It is one of the oldest systems of music based on a melodic scale having a high content of spirituality.
6. In 1990s, the Govt. of India in order to come out of the economic crisis decided to devise New Economic Policies based on Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization.
7. 'Happy drugs', the phrase has been used in the novel to tell about the pills used by patients suffering from depression or mental stress to feel relieved and relaxed.
8. Black-hole land in its use here refers to a dark phase of stress and anxiety from where it's difficult to get out.
9. Psychotherapist is a professional who treats psychological disorders or maladjustments by a professional technique like psychoanalysis, group therapy, or behavioural therapy.
10. Talking cure is the technique in which the patient is encouraged to talk about everything that comes to his mind. And thus, he/she is made to become familiar with all the unconscious thoughts.

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