
THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF UNCERTAINTY AND FANTASY IN DEEPAK GUPTA'S "THE GIRL WITH NO DREAMS" AND "ONE NIGHT AT THE CALL CENTER" BY CHETAN BHAGAT

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ABSTRACT

This article "The comparative study of Uncertainty and fantasy in Deepak Gupta's The Girl with no dreams and one night at the call center by Chetan Bhagat" deals with the theories of psychology and imaginary. It contains the theme of insecurity, fantasy and psychological factors which plays a major role in human life. In this paper, it compares about the appearance of the god in the short story and novel as a resemblance of imaginary aspect. Here both the authors give some lively notions through their works. It gives about the people's way of living with lots of fear and how they used to tackle their problems if there any possibility of attaining the correct and useful guidance, which gave them an idea for choosing the right direction in life, leaving those insecurities. It clarifies the need of a common man to take the right decision in life. Thus the authors gave the solution at the end with some deceptive appearance of god in certain places. Those imaginary appearances of god denote the inner strength and self confidence of a man which might be identified by him and helps him to fix the part of their life.

Keywords: Anxiety, Imagination, Self-Identification, Inner Strength.

I. INTRODUCTION

Comparative literature is the study of the interrelationship of the literatures of two or more national cultures usually of differing languages and especially of the influences of one upon the other. It is an academic field dealing with the study of literature and cultural expressions across linguistic, national, geographic and disciplinary boundaries. The characteristically intercultural and transnational field of comparative literature concerns itself with the relation between literature, broadly defined, and other spheres of human activity, including history, politics, philosophy, art and science. Unlike other forms of literary study, comparative literature places its emphasis on the interdisciplinary analysis of social and cultural production within the economy, political dynamics, cultural movements, historical shifts, religious differences, the urban environment, international relations, public policy and the sciences.

II. DEEPAK GUPTA'S "THE GIRL WITH NO DREAMS"

Deepak Gupta's "The girl with no dreams displays the life of a young girl without having any dream, having an empty space about her life. Here the dream which the author mention is the hope that she doesn't have over her life. Amanda, the protagonist of this story, was a sailing girl, who loves to explore love and life in an adventurous way. She was born to a poor old mother. They live an unaccompanied life in their hut. They distanced themselves by leading their life in a solitary place which is far away from the city and other livelihoods. Happiness is hard for her family and sometimes even the hardest. Amanda's mother used to protect her without showing the outer beauty and true nature of the world. According to Amanda's mother, this world is full of dangerous men, who were not worried about ruining others life for their pleasure. As a mother, she doesn't want to see her daughter's life getting spoiled by others. Though she know that there were some good hearted men who where roaming around. "Someone said it right, not all men are same. Exactly some are good too" (GND 5). Being poor, Amanda's mother stole a book from a book store and fortunately it was an English alphabet book, which is enough for her to educate Amanda. Without knowing the real face of the outer world, Amanda takes away her journey with her mother in the unique place. Her

mother used to leave her in the hut and enter into the woods in search of fruits. They have a separate vegetable garden for themselves, from where they got veggies for their daily need.

One day Amanda asked her mom to allow her into the woods. She wants to visualize about the outer part all alone. She want to rewrite her mother's thought about the outer world that not everyone is same and dangerous. Though she asked it to her mother out of curiosity, she had a fear of rejection. Amanda's mother accepted her request and allowed her to go out, up to the evening. She warned Amanda to get back to the hut before the sun sets. She also gave her a small knife for her safety. When she came out, she used to wave her hands against her mother, who carried a huge smile for her in face and fear in heart.

With lots of curiosity, Amanda left the hut and enters into the woods. There she experienced lots of happiness. She got astonished with the large trees, beautiful coloured flowers, sweet and tasty fruits, so and so. Passing the natural gifts of god, Amanda enters into the small lake. By seeing the fresh mirror like water, her mind tempted her to take a bath. When she goes deep into the lake, she found her dress where missing and also found a strange boy near the lake. Amanda, out of fear shows him her small knife and used to terrify him to leave her. But the strange boy hesitatingly came near the lake and throw off her dress. He explained that he was living in the other side of the woods. While he used to cross the lake he found a monkey taking away those clothes, so that only he came there to return her things. Even after getting his explanation, she was not satisfied and declined the apple he has given to her as a proposal for their friendship. When Amanda return to home, her mind were filled the thoughts of that young boy. She shared everything with her mother except about the meeting with that boy.

The next day, Amanda wants to meet the boy again to regret for her mistake and want to clear her doubts. Because she was feared to have trust over a stranger. "Trust is all we can and that's what we have. Some people deceive us, doesn't mean we stop to trust the honest people but who is honest?" (GND 18). So she reached the woods after her mother left the hut. This time they both become friends, and he shows many new things in that wood. But she had some hesitation and fear to mingle with him. When she used to speak out, he came to understand that she had fear about the external world especially about men and doesn't have any hope about life. When he came forward to wipe out her fears, she hesitated to take that. But in some way she likes his company deep inside. She used to keep those things out of her mother's knowledge. But Amanda's mother had a doubt over her. One day he takes her to one tree and encouraged her to climb to its top, where a beautiful shining flower with some magical power was present. When she took down the flower, he said that he just played and there were no magic powers. This made her to break her hope. But he replied that the hope she got was the one she has to have over everything. Hearing those words, Amanda returned to home heavy heartedly.

Over her way she was feared how to answer her mother's question that it was too late to reach home. When she reached home her mother was waiting in the entrance. When she saw Amanda, her skin got scratches, finger prints in her waist, damages in cloths and moreover her eyes with tears. This made her to think that her daughter has been raped by someone. While she tries to clarify that she were not raped and she met a man with hope and dreams, her mom nodded over her. Amanda continues to speak that she met a young boy named Ryan, who gave her hope to life and clarifies the reality about life. That night passed without any words. This was the first time that Amanda speaks against her mom.

The next day, Amanda's mom was not wake up, which made her fear. She takes her mom to Ryan's hut, where he got shocked that Ryan was with the flower thrown away by Amanda. Ryan clarifies that he taken it for his parents. This made Amanda to get anger that she was again fooled by him. This totally ruined her hope for him. Later Ryan found her mother and gave the flower to Amanda. But she throws it out which came to drop over her mother's chest. This made her mother to open her eyes. When Amanda looked her mother alive, she feels happy and turned to see Ryan. But it's too late that he got disappeared in the air leaving hope for Amanda.

III. CHETAN BHAGAT'S "ONE NIGHT AT THE CALL CENTER"

The novel one night at the call center explores the problem faced by the characters in the call center. Each character is different from the others in the terms of their temperament and behaviours. But there is only one primary factor that is common between them, that is lots of problems. Those six employees have a boss

who is quite cynical. He has given all his employees a unique name. He calls Shyam Mishra as Sam Mercy, Varun Malhotra as victor Mell, Radhika Jha as Regime Jones and Esha Singh as Eliza singer. Although two of the employees did not have any unique name. One was Priyanka and the other was the military uncle.

Shyam Malhotra and Varun are good friends. Varun comes to Shyam's desk to have some conversation. Thereafter Varun and Shyam talk about an incident. Varun tells Shyam how when Radhika's husband is asked to tell the woman behind his success, he calls his secretary. Thereby when Radhika hears this all that her husband ascribed his success completely to his secretary, she feels dreadful. Meanwhile, Shyam and Varun keep laughing at her. After a while, Shyam tells Varun to propose to Esha, so as he did. But Esha refuses his proposal. Then she remembers a past incidence, happened to her. There was a man who promised Esha to give a break in the modeling industry. That man demanded her to sleep with him in the returns for his so-called break in the industry. But then he cheated on her after using her.

Here by since that particular day, she would not trust men. Thereafter they move to Priyanka and mocks up about her husband's baldness. They started talking about her husband in front of her that her husband was actually going to betray her once they shift to the USA. Shyam and Varun also sneer at her by unfolding the secret of her mother's false heart attack drama. So that she agrees to marry Ganesh in the upcoming weeks. Actually, they knew that they were not going to marry Ganesh this soon, thereby they unearthed this to her. Hence Priyanka feels very gloomy to hear about her mother's fake drama. There after they return to Shyam's desk.

After a while, they get to know about a double standard deed of their boss. Actually, Mr Bakshi had sold one of their websites to a Boston based company. Thereby both of them gets angry and even wanted to retort him for this. Meanwhile, All the employees are set free to enjoy the party in a pub. Actually, it was the evening of American thanks giving day due to which they were given this chance from the company. Hence they all went to the party. But while returning from the party, they meet an accident. The car in which they all were getting back had actually stuck in a huge pit near a construction site. Moreover, rods had even made some holes in the car too and the car was almost about to fall in the pit completely. It was a scary situation for them. But some of them were showing some courage and trying to get rid of that situation. They did everything they could do. They howled for help but it was nobody there around. "But that is what life is like, uncertain, screwed at times but still fun" (pg.no:283).

Even there was no network in that region, so they could not even call anyone nor they get any call. At last, all had lost hopes and started crying and yelling in fear. But then, abruptly they all get a call from an unknown number. They were bewildered and petrified simultaneously due to being called at the same time. No one was enough brave at that moment to receive the call. But later on, somehow they managed to do it. It was the call from god. He was talking to them in modern English. God talks about the problems of their lives and also guides them to get rid of them.

God teaches them many life lessons and every lesson had a single message common in them, to cope with the problems by implementing relevant action. God assured them that every problem does have a solution and can be solved. So not to scare and to feel alone because he was always with everyone. He also manifested his love to them and realized to them how much he loved them. God thereafter also guides them to get rid of the situation they were stuck in. Since that particular night, everyone started living their life happily and never looked back to their barren past.

IV. COMPARISON OF THE GIRL WITH NO DREAMS AND ONE NIGHT AT THE CALL CENTER

In both this novel we can see the hopelessness and uncertainty in the life of the protagonists. At first, in "The girl with no dreams" Amanda leads a hopeless life. She had no thought about the external world which is far from their hut. The only think she knows was her mother. Amanda has no dream. Here dream represents the hope which we have towards life. Amanda's life revolves around her mother and their bamboo hut. This shows the hopelessness in their life.

The problems faced by her mother, made them not to believe any male beings. They thought wild animals and man in same way. Her mother's fear over the men made her to over protect her daughter, without showing her

the outer world. This also shows the struggle of a single parent protecting her daughter without the help of others. When she was supposed to be in brothel, she was not cared by the men used to visit her. But one man took pity on her and gave her a white dress. This made her to feel that some good peoples were there.

When Amanda tries to get into the wood, she had no idea about that. She want to feel the taste of freedom. "Freedom is where we feel safe and happy and it has nothing to do with the boundaries and fences" (pg.no:19). She never used to visit that place. Like a man in unknown place, she wonders with everything. Likewise, when Ryan met her, she has fear over him. This shows the fear of a common people about the society.

Ryan's part in Amanda's life was the turning point. Being a girl with no dream and hope, she changed and learnt about life with the help of Ryan. Here Ryan was a fantasy character. It was just an imaginary character which helps Amanda to take the right decision and changed her views over life. The trust which Amanda had over Ryan was compared with the trust we have towards our life. The sufferings we are facing are a temporary one and we have to come across it. We have to learn how to survive and also to accept every situation. "Not every time the sun gives us hope but sometimes the moon in the dark night also. Moon should be appreciated to stay for the whole night in the dark" (pg.no:23).

In the end Ryan made Amanda, a new one. Deepak Gupta has visualizes a fancy texture with the appearance of the character Ryan. It was not a common thing in life, a men giving hope and disappeared at the end. It was an unbelievable and uncommon thing in the normal day to day life.

Life is not the coincidence. It's the magic see by the people show hope and dare to see the magic in the illusion of coincidence. Ryan was her magic and creation. Ryan never existed in her life. He was her imagination to see world with her fantasy but her mom was the hope to see dreams in the world of harsh reality. (pg.no:32)

Likewise in the novel one night at the call center, all the six employees had different problems in same genres. They all have no clarity about what they were going to done. When they got stuck up in a problem they were not supposed to think about the needful. In this novel we can see the theme of love, corporate life, fantasy and uncertainty in the life of those employees. It gives about the life in the corporate world. There people never used to communicate what they really think. "We were talking a lot, but we weren't communicating at all" (pg.no:145).

When they got struck in the pitch, there was no hope for their return. But creatively, Chetan Bhagat includes the phone call made by god. This was also an uncommon thing that wasn't happen in normal day to life. It was an imaginary thing. But the author gave the solution to all the problems of the employees by that call. This represents that we can receive an opportunity to pursue any help in any way. Here the tool which has been used by the author was god.

V. CONCLUSION

To conclude, the root of uncertainty was clear in both the works. The appearance of god or any fantasy character would not be happen in real life, but the authors gave solution to the problems through those uncommon characters in their works.

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