



Research Paper

## Analysis of Chetan Bhagat's Five Point Someone, 2States, and Half Girlfriend From Script to Screen

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### Abstract

"As the film market continues to boom in India, we're continuously looking for exciting content that stands out from both a creative and cultural perspective, and we're thrilled to adapt and produce Chetan Bhagat's book for the big screen," said Askin, co-head of Sony Pictures International Productions (SPIP). The present research paper aims at highlighting the Script to Screen representation of the works of Chetan Bhagat. The study is based on movies made in Bollywood which have been inspired by the writings of novelists. This is qualitative research in which Chetan Bhagat's novel Five Point Someone, 2 States: The Story of My Marriage, and Half Girlfriend have been taken up by Bollywood film makers to make movies 3 Idiots, 2 States, and Half Girlfriend respectively.

**Key Words:** *Exciting, Thrilled, Script, Screen, Bollywood.*

**Received 12 Jan., 2024; Revised 25 Jan., 2024; Accepted 28 Jan., 2024 © The author(s) 2024.**

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Youth is a country's most powerful generation. When it comes to today's Youth, this is the most truthful generation. Because the youth live in a digital environment, they value transparency. Everything is crystal plain to them. They are rarely in dispute. If they like something, they like it totally; if they dislike something, they dislike it completely. Chetan Bhagat, a young hero and motivational speaker, expresses his viewpoints on the issues affecting today's youth in society through his novels. The aims to illuminate Chetan Bhagat's writings on contemporary youth issues, such as family problems, student problems, love and friendship problems, issues with poverty and corruption, premarital problems, regional and religious strife, etc. Chetan Bhagat tells young people to follow their hearts rather than their heads. His works deal with societal themes relevant to adolescents like as love, betrayal, marriages, and so on, despite his efforts to make the young dynamic and modern Indian youth successful in their life. He addresses numerous areas of human life, particularly the issues confronting the younger generation. A young reader sails through his novels as if he or she is living and not just reading the novel.

Chetan Bhagat exhibit on unconventional way of plot construction, characterization, thematic presentation and craft of the novel to understand the problems of youth in Chetan Bhagat's novels close analysis of the novels is needed. Hence, the attempt will be made to analyze the novels while considering the theme of youth problems. Chetan Bhagat uses humor to highlight harsh realities of life. The majority of his characters are young and contemporary. They are continually trying to improve their lives through his works. Chetan bhagat, presently, a leading and popular contemporary writer in Indian Fiction is one of the bestselling novelists today. Since his works refuse to easy categorization into canonical Indian English Novel, he is labelled as best-seller Novelist. In order to cater a huge audience, film makers from all over the world have adopted literature writings for movie making. The key purpose of these screen adaptations lies in giving visual appeal to the black and white words of the author's writings. Furthermore, there are restricted readers for different genres and subject of novel and literature respectively. Audiences are very important to grasp the content of media say as print, electronic and digital Media. these days is working and providing content keeping in view the target audience because it is the audience that makes the content popular to read and share. Cinema is the important medium to entertain and educate spectators by providing them valuable information. Cinema falls under different genres like romance, action, thriller, comedy, off beat, cult, classic, animated etc. considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience. There may be two simple reasons

why film makers choose novels or literature to make movies. First, Novels have in-built audience e.g. Chetan Bhagat's series which has been adapted by film makers to make a movie and showcase on big screen. The second reason is that the story is told which means the content is there; it just needs to be adapted but the process is not easy as it sounds. It has been observed that literature adaptation is not a new concept in Indian Cinema. Since the inception of Indian Cinema, film makers are taking references of literature and novels as the story line of their projects. In fact, the first ever full-length Indian silent feature film was an adaptation from a mythological character Raja Harish Chandra. Bhagat's first novel Five Point someone was published in 2004. The novel has been popular, taken up by masses and Bhagat became the famous overnight. This novel is dealing with the complexity and unheard challenges of the educational institutes in India. When the people read it, they can easily correlate it with their lives experience. Thus, Chetan Bhagat became a brand of novel writings. So Filmmaker saw him as an opportunity and sooner in 2009 Film adaptation of Five Point Someone converted into movie 3 Idiots by Raj kumar Hirani. Broadly speaking, the plot of the film is the same as the book. Both stories are about three students of an engineering college who form an inseparable friendship over incidents that take place in the college. The three characters in the book are very similar to those of the movie. While one of them - Ryan (Aamir as Rancho) is radical and thinks differently from the rest, the second boy Hari (Madhavan as Farhaan) is a confused character. The book's third character Alok (Sharman as Raju) is facing severe financial and domestic pressures. Some dialogues in the movie like the examiner looked at me as if I had asked for his kidneys and define machine seems to be a straight taken from the book. In the book, Neha (Kareena as Pia) tells her dad Cherian (Professor Viru played by BomanIrani) why her brother committed suicide due to the latter's demanding and dominating behaviour. Similar episode takes place in the film as well. However, the book talks about this incident in much more detail than the movie which covers this in a single scene.

The movie adaptation of 2 States reiterates why Chetan Bhagat is so successful. His books are like the first draft of screenplays — with a lot of stuff that can be edited out and rewritten — the reason why he is among the most criticised author of our times. But then, his books also tell us stories of a middle class India and its values — a country on the cusp of change and dealing with it in a way we can relate to — the reason why he is among the most popular storytellers of our times. Like Five Point Someone ( 3 Idiots ), One Night at a Call Centre ( Hello ) and Three Mistakes of My Life ( Kai Po Che ), this is a story that lends itself organically to Bollywood because it's a love story about manufacturing consent. What movies in the late 80s and 90s used to be about — Maine Pyar Kiya, Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge, Hum Aapke Hai Kaun all the way to Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham — where it was all about “loving your parents”. Those were the stories that reflected a country that was trying to negotiate between two different generations or at least tried to start a dialogue between the conservative and the modern, the old and the young. Chetan Bhagat was a product of those times and that showed in 2 States, the book. But to ensure that the film doesn't seem dated, quite a lot of the information and detail has been left out in the film version — like when students at hostels used to queue up outside STD booths at night when rates were less or when mobile phone calls used to be more expensive than petrol. And to ensure no fragile egos are hurt, at least a couple of references from the book have been left out. How can a line like “From Hema Malini to Sridevi, all of them trying to catch Punjabi men” make it to a film starring Sridevi's stepson, anyway? With details omitted for pace, some for period and some to play safe, 2 States just sticks to the basics of the story and stays faithful to the structure and the plot, unlike the other two successful movie adaptations 3 Idiots and Kai Po Che that were actually decent rewrites of the book. We know Chetan Bhagat's stories clean up well for the screen and they do here as well, especially with this exciting fresh cast. While Arjun Kapoor lets his glasses take on the burden of looking the part, Alia Bhatt more than makes up for her Tamil pronunciation with her presence and spunk. She has a tremendous range; she's Bollywood's Carey Mulligan — a picture of vulnerability, great beauty and the promise of youth. Veterans Amrita Singh, Revathy, Ronit Roy and Shiv Kumar Subramaniam have meaty author-backed roles to play and they make the most of it, giving the performances the right amount of restraint. Exactly what a film about stereotypes needed. Otherwise, every other line from the book finds its way into the film, literally translated rather than improved and there has been absolutely no effort to stray from the author's words. Which puts this in the safe zone. It is a pretty decent translation that will work for fans of the book and those who haven't read it but given the potential of the material, it falls a little short. Director Abhishek Varman fails to milk it for impact. A Rajkumar Hirani or a Karan Johar at the helm would have made you reach for your hankies, but Varman is just happy to make fans of the book smile.

Yet another Chetan Bhagat novel makes its way to the silver screen! This time it's Mohit Suri with a romantic drama, Half Girlfriend. Arjun Kapoor is good as Madhav Jha, a Bihari boy weak in English but strong in determination. He falls for Riya Somani played by Shraddha Kapoor. Riya, unlike Madhav is explicitly good in English and sings amazingly, but is confused about her aspirations. Seema Biswas does well as Madhav's mother and Vikrant Massey is impressive as Shailesh, Madhav's friend. The plot of the movie is fresh, the

music is also good. But the story has its own flaws. Twice during the movie, Madhav and Riya sneak through the security to get at the top of the India Gate which seems hard to digest. Speaking as a visually impaired viewer, it is difficult to keep track of the story as it very often switches between the past and the present. You will also have to depend upon sighted assistance to understand the proceedings during the songs due to lack of audio description. At times, you may feel that Mohit Suri has done half justice to a good story. But thanks to the lovely chemistry between Arjun and Shraddha powered by the delightful music, Half Girlfriend is recommendable. If you enjoy romantic and emotional films, go for it. But do take along a sighted buddy.

Half Girlfriend is a Hindi romantic drama film directed by Mohit Suri. The film is based on the novel 'Half Girlfriend' written by Chetan Bhagat. The film stars Arjun Kapoor (as Madhav Jha), Shraddha Kapoor (as Riya Somani) in the main roles. Seema Biswas (as Madhav's mother) and Vikrant Massey (as Shailesh) play supporting roles in the film. The film introduces Madhav as a rural boy from Bihar who struggles to speak in English but gets admission in St Stephen's College in Delhi through sports category. Soon, Madhav expresses his love to Riya, a rich girl who also studies in the same college. But due to some reasons, Riya rejects the proposal and decides to be his half-girlfriend. Madhav's worried friend Shailesh warns him to check with Riya if she is serious about the relationship. This shocks Riya who decides to end the relationship, get married with her childhood friend Rohan and settle in London. The film then shows how Riya enters Madhav's life again and supports him in the social cause of girl child education. The first half of the film was fine but the second half was slow and little boring. Performances by Arjun, Shraddha and Vikrant were good. Best part of the film is Arijit's melodious and emotional song 'Phir Bhi Tumko Chaahunga'. Overall, Half Girlfriend movie is a good one-time watch.

### **Novel (Script) vs Movie (Screen):**

The fact which needs to be understood is that screen adaptations are different art form, and they are really something independent from the book. A novel is quite long and involved often running to over 250-300 pages or may be even longer. But on the contrary, the average film is around 90-120 minutes. And each minute of screen time on average is one page of screenplay. So the average screenplay runs 90-120 pages, and a lot of that is white space. Another major difference between books and film is that visual images stimulate our perceptions directly, while written words can do this indirectly. Film is a more sensory experience than reading. Besides verbal language, there is also colour, movement, and sound.

### **Conclusion**

According to Poulomi Chatterjee, managing editor of Hachette India, few years back, fiction was restricted to literary fiction and foreign fiction which was enjoyed by and perhaps even accessible to a smaller demography. But now, people are reading home-grown popular fiction. The younger generations would not like to read fiction perhaps. Apart from the campus novel an attempt has been made by various writers to write novels of different genres like romance, humour, crime and thrillers, adventure and even science fiction. The movie was said to be adaption of the book. Though the screenplay, script travels differently that one cannot deny the fact that it is an initiative for making the adaptations and literature popular. First, Movies are more popular than literature or novels due to heterogeneous audience. Second, Content is not always similar with that of the script of the movie. From this research it has seen that it's not only movies which are popular among audiences. Booklovers are still alive who are fond of reading books with a cup of coffee. Booklovers have made literature still alive in their hearts and minds. From star ratings and bookselling revenues of books, literature is still enjoying its space and charm in the hearts and minds of the readers. Because film makers have to consider the taste of audience, the demand of the present time and target audience as per the place and country, it forces the script to be changed from the original novel to make the authenticity of both the medium. To conclude, literature plays a very important role in every aspect which gives meanings and words to expressions and feelings.

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