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Chetan Bhagat's "The Three Mistakes of My Life": An Allegorical Pre-figuration of The Media and The Upcoming A.I

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Abstract

Chetan Bhagat is widely regarded as one of the most prominent writers in India especially among the youths demographic. He explains the hurdles of our society: Poverty, corruption, Religious intolerance and the politics based on it, nepotism and notably about the Juveniles' social and psychological conflicts. His specific talent is that he knows the psyche of the youths of the nation. He crafts his works by concerning the Psyche of the youngsters and as regards the social flaws also. In this novel "The Three Mistakes of My Life", he foreshadows the adverse effect of the AI (indirectly) which is to reach the peak on misleading the society by the media development. Through the character called 'Vidya' he narrates subtly how the youngsters get deviated from the moral values and spoils their life by the media influence. The Media is the root for negative impact of today's AI. By this work he obliquely signals the potential danger of media and technology over the youngster. This article explores his intention and provides proofs for the novel as an allegory about the AI and elevating him from the level of "Prominent Writer to Eminent writer".

Keywords: Media and Technology, Television, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Media Manipulation, Sex Addiction, Youths' demographic and Perverseness

Introduction

In the ancient time addictions have been mostly by alcohol, nicotine and opium. Usually these things are taken to get soothed from the pain and the stress of the arduous works. Regarding the regular use of them, the human gradually becomes dependant and cannot do his regular activities without those things. This condition is called addiction. They are external objects which stimulate the dopamine in the brain. The Dopamine is a chemical from our brain as a reward of our passionate deeds. The sex addiction is another one which is on the other hand of the aforementioned addictions and having been from the ancient time. The sex is a primal urge and it mostly needs not the external stimuli. Regarding the nature's goals - reproduction, preservation and evolution, it comes. A human chiefly relying on it is called sex addiction. It is also gradual toxin on one's routine and productive activities. This article unveils the sub-text - addiction through the technological development, of the novel, The Three Mistakes of My Life.

Digital Devices - A Window of Moral Decadence

The Self Examination has to be the vital habit of human race. Whatever hinders the progress in the life, one has to abstain from such unhealthy habits. For this it is mandatory that proactive habit management has to be trained. The external stimuli that slow down the progress in the life and misleading to decay have to be found out and abstained or administered rightly. The development of the human race opens many gateways of addictions towards destruction. For instance, before and the earlier part of the modern

era, the human getting addicted to Sex or sexual activity has been lesser than the late and post modern era. In the bygone eras, the human gets sexually stimulated by the voyeur that happens in one's life at public or private settings. In the Pre-Modern era, the sex addiction has been lesser than in the modern and the post-modern era.

"We both watched her stride away across the lawn, her tennis skirt tilting back and forth. Even allowing for Bancroft's apparent indifference to his wife as a sexual being, Miriam's wordplay was steering fractionally too close to the wind for my liking." (Morgan, Chapter 16).

Richard K Morgan in his one of the books called *Altered Carbon* at chapter 16 has said about the sexual excitement in public place. Here a female character called Miriam Bancroft after the tennis game walks out of the court; in this time Mr. Kavocs lusts after her by gazing her short skirt. This shows the public arousal. The technology advancements especially the emergence of the television and the phone widen the gate way of degeneration. Before the modern time, one has got sexual excitation mostly through a public setting like mentioned above so the condition of getting sex-addicted has been low, because a person of those days has got the excitement neither frequently nor whenever he wants. But today regarding the technological innovations, the entertainment oriented Television and the smart phone become common among the people. For the sexual excitement one needs not to go to a place where he undergoes the pleasure. But where he is there even in a room he attains the sexual gratification. Whenever he wants, he involves in the excitation that he becomes sexually addicted.

Media - A Medium of Manipulation

The media that belongs to the digital era is also not favor of the People's betterment; instead it aims the fiscal advantage in the name of the entertainment. It has a big influence on the today's world especially on the youths who get fantasy-reality confusion. This leads them to moral and social delinquency. The media and its evolution from mass media to social media focus largely on seductive glamour. The youths who watch movies, videos and reels and shorts fervently suffer from Cognitive Distortion that they astray. This moral and cultural degradation is fueled by the Post Modern Era's AI and its deceptive and additive function. This leads the human race to delinquencies what he becomes victimized through. Overall It hurdles a society's peacefulness and progress, for the youths are a nation's treasure for the futuristic development, when they fall away, it causes

detrimental outcome. In the same book named *Altered Carbon* the author Richard Morgan talks about the discerning feature of AI about one's feeling especially on sexual inclination.

"As if to prove this last, the random images thinned out into a stream of heterosexual combinations. They must have scanned my response to the blur of options and fed directly back to the broadcast unit. Very high-tech." (Morgan, Chapter 20)

Richard K Morgan in his book *Altered Carbon* at chapter twenty has said these lines which hint about the notable and notorious evolution of AI. Here it infers the sexual preference of one person and tailors and telecasts obscene images to make him/ her into libidinal excitement. This continuous excitement leads to hyper sexuality. This moral, ethical and Psychological implication of AI makes the youths to go away from socially constructive behavior. This author Chetan Bhagat also explains the equivalent, latent and lethal effects of AI passively through this novel *The Three Mistakes of My Life*.

Chetan Bhagat's Tactical Allusion about the A.I:

He exposes many prevailing social issues: generational crises, polarization, colonial mentality and sectarian favoritism in the sports administration explicitly in this novel. And implicitly he highlights the influence of the media in every individual's life and by this implicit indication he foreshadows the risks of AI. For this, he has been fully conscious on the selection of the characters and the dialogues of them and the depiction of the scenes. He tactically alludes the sensitive and controversial topic "sex-addiction through media". Here the author depicts the juvenile's degradation through the impact of the films by one of the principal characters called "Vidhya". During the portrayal of the character, he hints her ciniphile nature by the narration about the interior details of her room.

"She stood on a stool in her room, fixing a poster of Aamir khan in Dil Chahta Hai on the wall I, her tutor, held the pin tray so much for my position of authority." (Bhagat 133)

These quotes blaze on the ciniphile nature of the girl. Her living room and the sticking action about the cinema poster shows that she is passionate on cinema. Her efforts on attracting Govind also indicate that she is in "hyper reality" which has affected her by being a cinema enthusiast especially Indian Cinema. Mostly the Indian films idolize the heterosexuality as a core value of the human life in

the name of love based on it they make films, while the main stream cinema like Hollywood having specific branch for the science oriented films called "Science Fiction films". In this way, the Indian film makers illustrate hedonistic life as holy, so most of the youngsters get victimized by the mediated persuasion. The nation's formal education sector also has little concern on the media manipulation on the folk especially on the youngsters and has no room for "The Post Modern Pedagogy".

Vidya - A Typical Victim of The Media Manipulation

This Character 'Vidya' is a representation of such youths whoever the victims of the hyper-reality are. Being a cinephilia, she is incapable of deducing them that the films are just for an entertainment. She thinks the idealized infatuation and the sexual intimacy shown by the Indian cinema as real and tries to emulate one of the erotic scenes of it to satiate her sexual appetite. This shows her a hyper sexual individuality.

It's ok, you don't have to be sorry, she said. 'It's not ok. I don't have time for emotions, I said in a firm voice, 'and this is not the place anyway. My best friend's sister? What the fuck...(Bhagat 183)

'Two months,' she wiggled two fingers. 'Two months and I will turn eighteen. (Bhagat 183)

A voice inside stopped me. I took my hand out, but she continued to kiss me as she unbuttoned the rest of her top. She pulled my fingers towards her again. (Bhagat 201)

Wow, I am an adult and am no longer a virgin, so cool. Thank God, she said and giggled. (Bhagat 201)

These lines show that she erotically stimulates Govind to mitigate her sexual desire. She longs for losing her virginity. Rightly, in her eighteenth birthday which she celebrates with him, she has the physical intimacy. She plans for the intercourse and aims to do it after becoming major. Her such intention of having sex with Govind in the majority attainment date is exposed through her dialogues that she delivers happily after losing her virginity. She involves in the intercourse with Govind volitionally, not accidentally. This is found by her dialogues she utters before and after the sex. In the light of the scene, the author illuminates the contemporary youths' deviation regarding the media's influence. Indian cinematic arts idolize such a hedonistic life style. It ruins the youngster's lives.

Chetan Bhagat's Allusive Figuration about the AI

The Author foreshadows here by this about the potential threat of the advancement of technology which once has paved a way for the TV by this the lustful scenes are shown. The youngsters' innocent mind which is lack of rationalization acquires whatever immoralities are shown, without assessment. This leads a way to the youngsters distorted notions on "How a youth has to live his or her life?" and "How to behave to an opposite sex whom he/she feels the sexual attraction on?" These ideas lead them into deviant behavior and ruin their life. Vidya is a typical example of it, whom the author shows as deviated by the T.V, but he does not explicitly narrate it, instead he hints it by the presence of the gadget in Ishaan's home that he foreshadows the AI's lethal dark side. The modern Televisions are the best platform for the AI.

This deviation of youngsters is made so severe by the arrival and development of Artificial Intelligence. It strengthens itself in personalizing the youngsters' tastes based on the preferences and fuels their distorted notions. In the novel *Altered Carbon* by Richard Morgan.. It was already quoted above. The gadgets: Smartphone, Tablet and laptop are conduits through what it influences adversely on the youngsters. But in all those gadgets, TV is the antecedent. Chetan Bhagat uses the TV which he hints in Vidya's home as a symbol of Meta-technical era and implicitly explains the lurking potential danger of it. This is the negative outset of Audio- Visual imagery and communication. Its initiation has seemed innovative and entirely beneficial but later seems counterproductive and the cutting edge progress that AI is today's over-arching power has adverse consequences on the young demographic. One of such impacts is the hyper-sexuality. The author heralds a new factor for the behavioral disorder by symbolizing the gadget (TV).

Nefarious Nature of Media and AI

'Are you still embarrassed to buy condoms?'

'I get them from an unknown chemist in Satellite. And I have enough now for a while.

'Oh really, she climbed over me. 'So no problem in using a couple more then?'

With that, our score reached nine.(Bhagat 206)

This is the communication happens between Vidya and Govind during their physical intimacy. She feels no shame for the adolescent sex and is depicted in hyper sexual tone through the scene.

Here he says symbolically about the future generations' state, if they get trapped in the "AI Driven Sexual Content". He prefigures the youths' state in future – The Algorithmic Age through the descriptive account of the girl's behavior and showing the T.V as an descriptive object in her home by this he hints the pernicious impact of the upcoming A.I.

Heightened Hedonistic Passion and Fashion - Defined by the Media and A.I

Since today's human society is very different from the environment evolution optimized our rules of thumb for, we shouldn't be surprised to find that our behavior often fails to maximize baby making. (Tegmark, "Biology: The Evolution of Goals")

In the book *Life 3.0: being human in the age of Artificial intelligence* written by Max Tegmark, he says that the nature harbors the living things of the world to be multiplied. Every Kind of living thing in this world has a process of multiplying including the human but today this goal has fainted. When it is explored, the reason is found that the animals and the humans have the sexual urge to reproduce their kinds, the dopamine and other hormones make them be indulged in the act recurrently. The human also undergoes the delight of the dopamine regarding their higher cognitive level and want not the labor pain and hardships of fostering the child that they want only the pleasure so they involve in the non-fertile copulation. Before the arrival of the mass media, this has happened rarely among the children who have been in the onset of puberty. But in the digital era, this seems common. He allegorically mentions this by the character 'Vidya', who has been in the sexual urge in the onset of her puberty but has been conscious on involving sex in the minor age is offensive in the society so she has been waiting till attaining the major age. She thinks that losing her virginity rightly after becoming a major is a fashion. He explains this plot like happening in the broadcasting era or Television era that he foreshadows the severity of the A.I.

Deducing the A.I via Denouncing the Device called T.V

He shows the TV as something futile by the word 'Useless'. This word is uttered by the protagonist 'Govind' to her mom as she prefers TV to be bought through the profit of the snacks business. Next he hints at the brands which make the audio visual devices like TV in a mocking tone. Here he implicitly and ironically represents the AI and its insidious nature through the object T.V, because

through the T.V, the A.I is to get prime.

" I will buy the TV if only the business makes extra money"

"No. If you make extra money, put it back in the business. Don't buy useless things. (Bhagat 11)

They ignored me as they discussed TV Brands. I shook my head and outlined my strategy for increasing revenues (Bhagat 26)

Next the author contrasts the idea of Ishaan from Govind. Govind thinks the electronic device (TV) as useless and deviation from success and does not get compromised with it in any way but Ishaan thinks it as a medium for entertainment and his passion on cricket. But later the TV in his home makes him unconscious on what happens on the terrace where his sister Vidya seduces Govind for sexual gratification. Here the TV is the main cause of the young girl's perverseness. The author hints this indirectly through the presence of the TV in Ishaan's home. This device would have been the reason for her idea that becoming major is the right time to lose virginity without any responsibility and the inability to control her libido. This scene shows the potential danger of technology.

Conclusion

Today AI is being operated through the technology. It reinforces such perverse thoughts so it has the prospect to decay more youngsters' life easily, despite having lot of benefits in one side. Thus the author uses the TV as an allegory and foreshadows the adverse effect of AI. Through this novel he proves himself as an eminent writer.

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