

REALISTIC AND SOCIALLY CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE SELLECT NOVELS OF VIKRAM SETH

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ABSTRACT

Vikram Seth is unlike other Indian writers in his use of realism and its social problems. The characteristics of reality in his main works of fiction have been examined using a variety of realism theories. A genuine effort has been made to show that realism predominates in each of them as a narrative approach by critically studying significant works in the realistic Indian Fiction stream written in English. One of the most interesting and varied writers of the modern era is undoubtedly Vikram Seth. A travelogue, a verse novel, an epic novel, and other poetry collections were among Seth's impressive body of work. Each work takes place in a distinct cultural and socioeconomic environment. He has exhibited problems in interpersonal relationships. The characters share common issues even if they come from various socio-economic strata. The novels frequently use inventive themes and issues. The way the characters are depicted is less through descriptions of their consciousness and self-expression. Nonetheless, by their interactions with others and how they are perceived by others.

Keywords: Realism, Social Problems, cultural, relationship, Novels, Consciousness and self-expression.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most well-known authors, novelists, and poets of the modern era is Vikram Seth. Vikram Seth's debut book, "The Golden Gate," was released in 1986. The sonnet form for narrative prose has a new level and depth in this work. Although he was born in India, he has lived and received his education in other nations. He is impacted by the traditions, cultures, and customs of these several nations where he spent a significant amount of time. He entered the field of Indo-Indian literature as a beginner. By theme and method, he helped to establish Indian English novels. Vikram Seth is one of those authors who enables readers to peek into the consciousness and personal relationships of the characters. Humans are social creatures by nature and continue to be so throughout life, but they suffer as a result of certain desires, attitudes, losses, and gains.

ASUITABLE BOY

The 1993 publication of "A Suitable Boy" by Vikram Seth changed the course of Indian English literature. The novel is the longest novel ever written at 1349 pages. Seth wanted A Suitable Boy to be initially published in India since it was a truly Indian book. "A Suitable Boy" is entirely set in India. Similar to "The Golden Gate" (1986), the central theme of "A Suitable Boy" is finding a compatible companion. The novel's greatest strength is its depiction of the social climate of the decade after India's independence, not its matching work. Seth is able to artificially connect all the major issues of political, social, and religious disputes. Seth successfully conveys the characters' real world emotions in their day-to-day interactions.

The four aforementioned families are brought together at the beginning of the book by a wedding programme, where Seth is free to place his key characters. Indian marriages have a long tradition of arranged marriages, and Savita, the older daughter of Mrs. Rupa Mehra, is getting married to Pran. The customs and culture of Indian civilization are profoundly ingrained in the minds of Indians. Family members who are in their later years often agree to arrange marriages. There are numerous considerations for the bride and husband. Families that want to be married need to be from the same religion, caste, and sub-caste; otherwise, they cannot get married. Indian culture has a long history and cannot be altered in any way.

In India, religious enslavement to social activities is widely accepted in society. Love weddings are prohibited, and Boy and Girl are only permitted to be in a relationship if religious activities permit them. Marriage law and practise heavily rely on religion. On the other hand, maintaining a happy marriage is effective. Both families realise the importance of ritual in daily life and share the same customs and cultures.

One of the main characters in the book is Mrs. Rupa Mehra, whose sole task is to locate her younger daughter Lata a compatible mate. As most Indian women do eventually, Mrs. Rupa Mehra is cautious with her family. Indian women are typically raised in such a safe and comfortable environment prior to marriage from day one. Rhyming couplets are used to explain each component. In the novel, there are four households. Mrs. Rupa Mehra spends 18 months looking for a good boy to marry her daughter. The story of a suitable lad takes place in Brahmipur, a made-up northern Indian city on the banks of the Ganges. The book serves as an excellent illustration of the Indian tradition of arranged marriage. In India, The marriage ceremony is a religious, cultural, and ritualistic tradition. Marriages in Indian culture are more than just the union of two people.

A time when India was going through its post-independence period, the novel "A Suitable Boy" concentrates on the experiences and entanglements of moderately wealthy Indian families connected via marriage or acquaintance. It focuses mostly on the social, religious, and common practices of India and her people, using the many characters to demonstrate the reality of these customs. Four interconnected families the Mehra, Kapoors, Khans, and Chatterjees are the subjects of the novels. The social context of the novel serves as a reminder of England's

patriarchal society, which assigned sex roles and stereotyped features of men and women. While having children and taking care of the family were the main responsibilities of women, men's primary motivations were their families' needs.

In the movie *A Suitable Boy*, Lata is a victim of the patriarchal society of the 1950s, which assumed that she would marry for money. She is more vulnerable now that Raghbir Mehra, her father, has passed away. Even with Savita's older sister Lata's marriage to Pran, Arun, Lata and Savita's brother, was not pleased.

A Suitable Boy's stories are organised around the hunt for a suitable boy, which gives the book its force and coherence. Mr. Mahes Kapoor is looking for a political base, the Nawab is looking for his feudal stability, and Mrs. Mehra is looking for a good guy for Lata. Dipankar is looking for a spiritual base. In Vikram Seth's portrayal of post-independence women, only family matters are associated with women.

The social context, its problems and challenges, and how each individual fits into society are all presented in "*A Suitable Boy*"s social realism.

THE GOLDEN GATE:

The whole rhyming tetrameter sonnet of 'The Golden Gate'. The Golden Gate is a collection of 594 iambic tetrameter sonnets that adheres to Eugene One gin's fourteen line stanza format. 'ABaBccDDeFFeGG' is the rhyming scheme for this pattern. The book is organized into thirteen chapters, and each chapter presents a series of characters speaking to one another in a balanced manner. This book tells the story of young professionals in San Francisco in a sarcastic manner.

Their personal, familial, and love-hate relationship with one another. It is a rhyming Sonnet that tells a story about San Francisco. The book's five main characters are listed below. Each of them is defined by his or her line of work, personal interests, whims, family, and social circumstances and relationships.

A protagonist named John Brown graduated from Berkley when he was about 26 years old. Despite being successful in his job, the Silicon Valley computer executive feels lonely. He works in nuclear research and is working in the high-tech computer and electronics sector. As the only person of Japanese origin in the book, Janet Hawakaya was the ex-girlfriend. She becomes his confidante and, eventually, his lover once more. She has artistic talent and is naturally sensitive. One of the members of the punk band "Liquid sheep" is Janet; she is the drummer and has a major role in the story.

Liz Dorati is a successful former Stanford Law School attorney who is 27 years old. She has a stunning beauty and lively, blue eyes. Jan sends John her handwritten response, and John invites her to meet him because he is impressed. They had a brief romance that was quickly ended due to political disagreements, personal prejudice, and a pet cat named Charlemagne.

Phil was the former Berkley flat mate. He is the least conventional of the other characters. Paul, his kid, is six years old, and Phil is a Jew. Openly liberal Phil had a brief homosexual relationship with Liz's brother Ed. Ed Dorati, who is 23 years old, "intense, athletic, and silent," is torn between his religious convictions and his innate homosexual tendencies. There is a connection between each of these five characters. They were unique from one another due to their individual mindsets and attitudes. Their relationships appear to be unbalanced, tense, and open-minded at times and nervous, free, and daring at others. Individuality is reflected in the novel's characters. Through the interactions of the characters, social issues are clearly highlighted. John lives in a comfortable and opulent setting, but he experiences loneliness, a typical social ill. Isolation causes everyone to panic.

The narrative begins in the present day, when highly educated people live in dispersed situations and face new difficulties and mentalities. Here, dismal and hopeless mental reflection is revealed rather than a cheerful and beautiful mood. As social beings, we never live apart from one another. The Golden Gate's characters serve as a metaphor for people's capacity for leading happy or meaningful lives. In the book, the social contexts, political and societal beliefs, as well as the culture's cuisine, environment, and weather, all have a significant impact on the characters' lives.

ANEQUAL MUSIC

In 1999, the music novel "An Equal Music," which is focused on an unhappy love affair, was released. The protagonist of the tale, the self-punishing Michael Holme, is the focus. The novel's delicate and sentimental protagonist is Michael. He has been mourning Julia, a woman he abandoned in Vienna ten years ago, and his life ever since. Michael's story unfolds gradually as he goes about his regular activities of teaching, practising alone, and performing, until he briefly glimpses Julia.-on a bus passing by-whom he once loved but abandoned in Vienna and hasn't been able to locate since, Other major topics are intertwined with the hunt for Julia, their meeting, and its effects.

The book is written in the first person. Michael Holden, 37, plays second violin on an English orchestra called the Maggiore. Along with performing in the quarter, Michael earns extra money by teaching a few music students the violin, including one with whom he is having an affair.

The story illustrates two sorts of stability: social and familial stability and mental and internal stability. It also repeatedly emphasizes how attachment to love and music also fosters a sense of order and stability, albeit of a different kind. In every way, the book An Equal Music qualifies as a classic. The focus of the entire book is music dedication. The characters devote their entire lives to serving and advancing the music. Michael and Julia are musicians, and music has been shown in the book as a noble addiction. The author's ability to portray music through language is one of the novel's most amazing features.

CONCLUSION

These three novels were depicted by Vikram Seth in various settings, but the intensity of the theme permeates all of them. The concerns and themes are conveyed clearly and objectively. Each work is unique and adopts an ancient literary form in a contemporary setting.

Friendship and attachment, rather than a depiction of the characters' consciousness, serve to define them. The characters are expertly weaved together by Seth. The yearning of the human person is clearly addressed in the novels.

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