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Justification of the Titles of Chetan Bhagats Novels

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Abstract:

Five Point Someone: *Five Point Someone* is the first novel by Chetan Bhagat published in 2004. It deals with the life of students in general and boys in particular. The title of the novel is quite suggestive that tells a lot about the elitist environment that prevails in IIT of India. In IITs the grading is done on the basis of 10 credits and the passing grade is 50% that is to say a student has to secure 5 grade of points to pass the exam and semester. But as the IITs are the premier institutions, an average student in an IIT is or at least expected to be, above average to the student of other institutions of the nation. On an average IIT students would get seven or above seven grade. The real struggle for an average student is to go beyond seven. And the students who score anything between five and seven are considered to be nobody and good for nothing. All such students are looked down upon not only by the professors but also by the fellow students. The novel *Five Point Someone* deals with the story of three young aspiring young male minds who, in spite of their genuine and at times desperate attempts, could not score beyond six almost throughout their stay in IIT. They are Shyam, Ryan and Alok. Usually stories are written of winners in the battle of life. This winning can be big or small but it is winning that matters. There can be stories of rise and fall of the heroes from sky to dust and from dust to sky. But there are rare stories that deal with the tales of survivors in an unsustainable environment around. *Five Point Someone* is one such story that deals with the tales of those who just survive in an almost hostile and suicidal environment of IIT especially if you are a student who scores just above five points of grades. Thus, the title of the story suggests the existence of such low esteemed individuals and how they survive on the campus. The subtitle of the novel '*what not to do at IIT*' is equally suggestive as it does not eulogize the happenings of these boys who display a great courage in fighting back and retain their existence on campus. It suggests that it is not an ideal life that these three students lived on campus rather these are the lives that should be avoided. Thus, the title of the novel, *Five Point Someone* is quite appropriate and the subtitle too is equally apt for the novel. Both, title and the subtitle communicate quite suggestive inferences of the novel.

One Night @ the Call Centre: Published in 2005, *One Night @ the Call Center* is the second novel of Chetan Bhagat that depicts an eye-opening scenario of the life of youngsters working at a call center. The title of the novel represents the threads of educated middle strata of society that are interwoven with the social economic struggles. It also highlights the role of inequality among men and women at a social context in general and at the workplace in particular. Job opportunities of call centers and



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skills required in it has shook the traditional job market during last two decades. India has not been an exception in this case. India has remained a vital contributor in the industry of Call Centers. Call centers have proved to be the epitome of the change and reform in service-sector and has boosted the economy of the country. Chetan Bhagat has attempted to depict realistically the stressful situations in which the workers have to work tolerating the oppressive work culture at the BPOs. The life of these workers at call centers are not at all smooth and fascinating as they used to glamorize in the initial phase of the boom of call centers in Indian. The call attenders have to awake throughout the night and face the silly queries of all those foreigners who more often than not are disrespectful and at times abusive too. *One Night @ the Call Center* depicts a tale of love and loss, devastated aspirations and unfulfilled dreams, youth devoid of family warmth and longing for affection, stress of oppressive work culture and challenges of working at the global-level market economy. The novel reconstructs a bizarre scenario of rapidly changing trends of local to global level. The novel rather seems to represent the real life than the fictional one. The title of the novel, *One Night @ the Call Center*, suggests that until one peeps in the life of these young boys and girls involved in the aforesaid challenges of day to day life, one would never get to know the life situation of these youngsters. As the novel depicts one such peep into the lives of those your boys and girls who lead an oppressive and demanding life-style nights after nights. The novel covers just a span of a night, a night that changed the lives of those young boys and girls forever. As most stories begins with the phrase, 'Once upon a time...', the novel to takes a clue from the phrase states, 'One night' and not 'day'. This indicates that the narrative would have to do with the characters who lead a nocturnal nights after nights. Thus, it can be seen that the title of the novel is quite suggestive and thought-provoking. Based on the reading and interpretation one can say that the title *One Night @ the Call Center* is appropriate and suitable for the theme of the novel.

Revolution 2020: *Revolution 2020* is comparatively less known novel by Chetan Bhagat which was published in 2011. According to the author, *Revolution 2020* deals with the aspiration of the young generation of India. In *Revolution 2020*, the author incorporates a detailed documentation of the evil of corruption in India. Chetan Bhagat has depicted the ways in which government bodies are involved in the process of establishing new the colleges. The present novel presents the naked reality of Indian education system. The author also suggests that how the field of education has become one of the most preferred zones for the investors in last few decades. Nevertheless, the moot concern of novel is based



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on the interpersonal relationship and the pursuit of restructuring the current education system that is not only corrupt but also dominated by the outdated and outmoded ways of education. The author exposes the darker facts of existing corrupt education system on one side and the forces of love and innate human value that unite, reform and inspire one to take the lead for human wellbeing. Otherwise known for writing love stories in modern context and keeping social or moral lessons at the second or indirect, the present novel depicts the vision and mission of the author for India. The title of the novel *Revolution 2020* seems to have taken a hint from the similar title of the book by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, *India 2020*. The title suggests that India does not need the transformation or reformation but a revolution that is long awaited in almost all sectors of India in general and educational and healthcare sectors in particular. Thus, the title of the novel is suggestive and inspirational. The subtitle of the novel, '*Love - Corruption - Ambition*' also suggests the sub-themes of the novel. However, the title of this novel does not appeal to the young masses as his previous novels. Thus, the title seems to be slightly above average and not so appealing.

Half Girlfriend: *Half Girlfriend*, published in 2014, is a novel of Chetan Bhagat that deals with a small town Bihari boy falling in love with an ultramodern girl from Delhi. The novel was published by Rupa Publication New Delhi with a paperback economic edition. The novel represents not only the threads of middle class of society but also of the young aspiring youth that wish to contribute to the development of rising India. It also highlights the role that inequality among the colleges and academia for 'haves' and 'have nots'. Here 'haves' have English and 'have nots' do not have English in social context in general and at academic context in particular. Job opportunities of call centers and skills required in it has shook the traditional job market during last two decades where English plays a very vital role. India has not been an exception in this case. Chetan Bhagat has attempted to depict realistically the stressful situations in which the entrance exams and interview of the small town boys and girls undergo on a regular basis. The protagonist of the novel, *Half Girl Friend* Madhav is one such boy who had to undergo this peril. However, he was rescued due to his state level participation in basketball games. It is his basketball skills that led him to meet his love of his life – Riya. In the second half of the novel, the author brought forward the issue of primary education in under developed states of India. Madhav is the main protagonist and the story teller of the narrative who represents both: the struggle of a regional medium pass out students in an English medium institute of higher education and a zealous youth of India aspiring to contribute to the development of rising



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India. Madhav is in his early twenties and quite goodlooking. He is otherwise an ordinary boy from a small town of Bihar. What makes him unique from rest of the protagonists of Chetan Bhagat is that he is a prince of the former state of Dumraon in the state of Bihar. Moreover, he is a tall and handsome and a state level basketball player. However, unlike most of his male protagonists he is not highly educated and does not have good command over English language. As, the entire story of *Half Girl Friend* has more to do with love story angle than any other dimension, it is an apt title of the novel. Further, the love stories and modern day issues of boyfriend and girlfriend are the forte of Chetan Bhagat, the title makes sense to the regular readers of Chetan Bhagat.

As the protagonist of the novel, Riya is well in doubt during her college life about the companionship of Madhav, she comes up with this solution – being a half girlfriend of Madhav. Thus, the title is typical of Chetan Bhagat's style of twists and turns that he offers through his stories. *Half Girl Friend*, as a title generates curiosity among the young readers and triggers the imagination. Hence, the title *Half Girl Friend* is suitable to Chetan Bhagat's forte and curiosity generating for his regular readership – college going boys and girls. By introducing, a regional medium college students – Madhav and gifting him with a *Half Girl Friend*, Chetan has tried to appeal the broader masses of readers in India. The title *Half Girl Friend* seems to have helped him serving his this purpose.