
NARRATIVES TECHNIQUES IN UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE *ENGLISH AUGUST; AN INDIAN STORY*

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Abstract

The present paper is concentrating on the people's reality in Upamanyu Chatterjee's '*English August; An Indian Story*'. He is a famous renowned living Indian writer.

People of the city sufferings like upper-class domination, community discrimination, troubles, and many challenges. It is good for us to know about the reality of people's lives, curriculum, and lifestyle and so on. In his book, our protagonist who clearly portrays the political, social circumstances of country life in details. Our protagonist is showing reality in his works through books. His novels carry a humorous style and satire on Indian Administrative Service. He generally concentrates on urban and rural life, corrupt bureaucracy, and sexual relationships. His novels are concerned with the contemporary Indian problems, social, economic, political and cultural.

The realistic picture of contemporary India is clearly portrayed in this novel. He talks about social issues rather than the upper-class people, the lives of people, especially in rural areas. They do not have proper facilities like water and transport for which they are ignorant. He highly contempt and attacks Indian politics and Indian Administrative Service where corruption is deeply rooted. His novels depict social, political, economic and sexual aspects of contemporary India. He emphasizes his point; how modern Indian youth is corrupted by drugs.

Keywords: *famous, lifestyle, protagonist, Administrative, .etc*

Upamanyu Chatterjee was born into a Bengali Hindu family on 19th December 1959 in Patna, Bihar. At the time, his father Sudhir Ranjan Chatterjee was working in Delhi. He completed his schooling from St. Xavier's School, Delhi. When he was in St. Stephen's college though, at one point he switched from History to English, as well as wasted a year to recreational Marijuana. His father, who retired from the air, then had a stroke which results in partial

paralysis. Thereafter Chatterjee quietly tailored his life to his father's routine and concentrated on education thoroughly. After completing his M.A Degree in English Literature, he taught English in St. Stephen's College for one year. In 1983, he joined the Indian Administrative Service from Maharashtra cadre and then, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (AAC) has approved Chatterjee's appointment as the secretary of the Petroleum and Natural Gas regularity Board (PNGRB) till March 20th, 2016.

Chatterjee has been a joint secretary in the Ministry of Defense since March 2009 as well. He is married to a French journalist and has two daughters, namely Sara and Pia. Chatterjee has written a handful of short stories, out of which, the one is about the assassination of Indira Gandhi (1986) is particularly noteworthy. The assassination of Indira Gandhi was anthological abroad, as the Best Short of 1986. He joined the IAS in 1983. His professional career not only marked the beginning of his literary career but also was the source from which he created most of his amusing characters. In 1990, Chatterjee worked as a resident writer at the Kent University, UK. In 1998, he was appointed as the Director for Language in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, under the Government of India. Despite enjoying satirizing the administrative world, Chatterjee never really left the IAS. He has written five novels up until now, like *the English August: An Indian Story* (1988), *the Last Burden* (1993), *The Mammaries of the Welfare State* (2000), *Weight Loss* (2006) and *Way To Go* (2010).

Indo-Anglian Literature

The second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century was the beginning of Indian writing in English. Gokak mentions that Indo-Anglican literature as comprising the work of Indian writers in English. Moreover 'A history of Indian English literature', M.K. Naik mention that literature written originally in English by authors Indian by birth, ancestry or nationality. After independence, our mother country Indian fiction got emerged in the literature. With the help of various themes, many novels have been written in the same period. The works of Rabindranath Tagore, Mulkraj Anand, Bhavani Battachariya and R. K. Narayan are written on Indian experience. After The Republic of the mother country, we witness a rapid growth of Indian English Fiction when nearly three dozen novels are published. Writers like Kamala Markandaya, Rohinton Mistry and Upamanyu Chatterjee depicts the social scenes in her novels. She explores the themes of poverty, hunger, morality, and life of low-class people. Particularly, Upamanyu Chatterjee's '*English August; an Indian Story*' portrays a reality of human beings life in all walks of life.

Focus on Society and Politics

Among all Indian writers, Upamanyu Chatterjee placed a prominent role because all of his novels are concentrating on the social, political, economic circumstances of contemporary India. As an IAS officer, he witnessed and testified in that Madna district. Then he portrayed all in that works. He portrays the people live as it should be. Like Indian problems, social, economic, political, cultural and so on concerned in the novels.

Affairs of a small Town;

Chatterjee portrays a picture of contemporary India in *English August; An Indian Story* through Agastya. The novel is set in Madina, a small town in West Bengal. Agastya placed a vital role in the novel. As a trainee, he went to many, got passed in civil service examination. He joined in the Administrative block though; he didn't have an idea to work under the same. After he got in the field of Civil service he started to realize the disturbance of the lower class people. Madna made him realize the life problems of ordinary people.

As a trainee of modern youth, it is an experience to him. For various reasons there are many people come to the collector office with a complaint. Chatterjee draws the clear picture of the collector office, where a crowd of people standing to meet the collector and some people were arguing with the officer who has to answer those questions. "The Collectorate was a one-story stone building. Its corridors had benches and more people" (*English, August: An Indian Story 12*)

Srivastav, who has been in Madna for many years. With him, Agastya has to learn many things about the people and the authority. As a modern youth, it took time for Agastya to understand the problems and struggles of rural people. About rural life, he got a clear idea during the training period and it is a good experience. The Visitors came in all day. Agastya could eventually separate them. Indeed, that was all he could do, since the conversations were beyond him. The petitioners always stood... the variety of complaints, from the little, that Agastya grasped through instinct, gestures... Laborers on daily wages at some road site complained that the contractor paid them irregularly... Srivastav ought to be confident because he had been dealing with such matters for years. (*English, August: An Indian Story 18*)

Solving water problems.

The Lower class people and the Tribal people who highly facing water scarcity in their daily life. It is difficult for children who remain there. Despite water scarcity school children were going to fetch water from the well so that their education was spoiled highly. Agastya then sends the junior engineer to Jompanna to solve the problems immediately. The

government has not given the enormous money to solve the problems and does not concentrate on the welfare of the lower class and the tribal people life. Since he born and brought up in the upper-class family and lived in the city since he does not know about the rural people live and their circumstances. Later he comes to know about the exact conditions and how do they defile by politicians and government. Then he shared views and ideas with Bajaj about the real conditions of the city Jompanna.

Jompanna, Half of the population covered up with tribal (village). There you can't even see the primary schools, dispensaries, proper road, bank and so on. Because all these facilities were wholly corrupted by politicians. Before that the tribal and the lower class people who remained at hillsides for any reason they didn't come out of the community. Government funds, bank loans were pushed into Jompanna was directed by the politicians to benefit the non-tribal. The money that was pushed into Jompanna was directed by the politicians to benefit the non-tribal population of the plains, you know, primary schools, dispensaries, roads, wells, bank loans-in return the same politicians were voted back to power in the local political body, the Block Panchayat. (*English, August: An Indian Story 240*)

Intemperate Corruption

Chatterjee mentions that corruption is one of the major social evils in the world. With which the world travels in the wrong path. The Government and its employees are highly addicted to corruption. Mrs. Srivastav who doesn't complete her studies. But she got obtaining a degree by the corruption, promoted as a lecturer. Even though she does not perform well in the interview, she promoted as a lecturer in the college.

Shanker got transfer of giving corruption to Tribal minister, though he was an engineer. Kumar tells Agastya, in government, you will realize this over the years, Sen, there is nothing such as absolute honesty, and there are only degrees of dishonesty. All officers are more or less dishonest-some are like our engineers they get away with lakhs, some are like me, who won't say no when someone gives them a video for the weekend, others are subtler, they won't pay for the daily trunk call to Hyderabad to talk to their wives and children. The only degree of dishonesty. (*English, August: An Indian Story 138*)

Social conditions and emergence of Missionaries

Chatterjee presents the dark image of a woman in his novels. For a modern man like Agastya, all women are just objects of sex. He has no respect for woman. Agastya likes to see at Mrs. Srivastav thighs, observes her back bra beneath a yellow or pink blows. Chatterjee says that most of the women in postmodern age lose their virginity before the marriage. Agastya's

girlfriend, Neera, loses her virginity in Calcutta. He talks about the Christian missionaries who attempt to convert tribes to Christianity. They help these poor to get hospitals built in the most remote corners of India.

Socially and economically constructive works of the missionaries also focus on enabling the tribal to adopt Christianity. The sick and illiterate people turn to Christianity. He wondered at motivation: what had induced the Dutch to build a hospital of charity in an obscure corner of India, or the Germans to fund an Indian curer of lepers? But he was greatly amused, a few weeks later, to learn that the Dutch missionaries at the hospital were converting tribal to Christianity... God, he laughed, when will these Christians ever grow up? (*English, August: An Indian Story* 245)

Chatterjee has pointed out various social evils in this novel. He has given his view of the picture of contemporary rural India. His novel is more in the form of lecturing to an audience, with less focus on episodes, characters, and emotions, etc. As a literary writer, Chatterjee concerns about the society and writes to create social awareness in the society in his own way. He mainly focused on rural areas like Madna and Jompanna where tribal people are living. Some deeper understanding could have helped him to make his novel more attractive to his readers.

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