

**COMEDY IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *HALF GIRLFRIEND*: A STUDY****NANDKUMAR JALINDAR PAWAR**Assistant Professor of English,  
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Gunjoti, Tq. Omerga Dist. Osmanabad.**ABSTRACT:**

*Comedy is the heart of literature that provokes laughter and provides amusement. As the main ingredient, comedy intends to induce enjoyment, breaks the dullness, boredom, tiresomeness and makes the audience's nerves relaxed. The paper aims at exploring Chetan Bhagat's Half Girlfriend in terms of its tone of comedy. Bhagat sets the story of how Madhav Jha from backward Bihar is in pursuit of winning over the girl that he likes. Throughout the novel, the author has given the utmost attempt to create laughter among the readers. In fact it's true that through humorous descriptions, Bhagat has shaped many Indians to develop reading habits. The present paper explores comedy in the novel Half Girlfriend by following MLA eighth edition of citation.*

**Keywords:** Comedy, Insufficiency Of Funds, Unfamiliar, Discouraging Attitudes, etc.**Introduction:**

In almost all his fictions, Chetan Bhagat has captured his deep concern about the adolescence in a comic and satiric way. Mark Taiwan (1835-1910), a great comedyist, entrepreneur and publisher rightly remarks that "Comedy is mankind's greatest blessing." He also satirizes the so called beliefs and traditions of the society. Bhagat's present fiction Half Girlfriend sets the story of how Madhav Jha from backward Bihar is in pursuit of winning over the girl that he likes. Throughout the novel, the author has given the utmost attempt to create laughter among the readers to develop their reading habits.

Chetan Bhagat has revolutionized the Indian writings in English and has stormed into the literary landscape of Indian English literature. Born on 22nd April 1974, Bhagat is an immortal name in the history of Indian English literature. As a columnist, author, screenwriter, television personality and motivational speaker Bhagat has acclaimed a wide range of popularity in India. Bhagat's fictional world includes *Five Point Someone* (2004), *One Night @the Call Centre* (2005), *The Three Mistakes of my Life* (2008), *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* (2009), *Revolution 2020* (2011), *What Young India Wants* (2012), *Half Girlfriend* (2014) *Making India Awesome* (2015) and *One Indian Girl* (2016). Bhagat's *Half Girlfriend* is a an entertaining and heart touching novel.

Though the title of the novel seems strange, it is humorous and allures the attention of the readers at first sight. It will make you laugh many times. In Indian society normally boys and girls are not clear about their relationship status with each other. On the other hand an Indian youth may have wrong notions about girls. Most of the time the boy thinks that he is more than a friend with a girl, but the girl is still not girlfriend. Hence, a humorous title is

assigned to the topic Half Girlfriend. The novelist very often tries to create laughter among the readers throughout the story. Madhav, an enthusiastic boy is trying hard convincing his favourite writer Chetan Bhagat to go through the journals of his assumed girlfriend. The writer gets a surprise look at the worst condition of multi folded journals as “many pages had holes, rats having snacked on them” (Bhagat, *HG 02*)

Being a poor English speaker, Madhav applies for admission into St. Stephen’s College, New Delhi one of the famous college in India. On the interview day to get admission Madhav enquires about the location of interview room in strange English to a number of other applicants in the passageway. According to Madhav his English is not English, but 90% of Bihari Hindi with 10% bad English. Interestingly Madhav is turned to be an unfamiliar because of bad English when others mock at the protagonist and ask whether Madhav was there for the interview of a peon. A sense of satire is smelt looking at the behaviour of the guys and their comments as they mock at an innocent boy without a sense of compassion. Others present there ask “...are you interviewing for? Peon?” the long-haired boy said and laughed” (Bhagat, *HG 08*) An excellent sense of comedy runs through the readers when Madhav faces the interview board and finds the three interviewer’s grey hair which appears to him that the interviewers are not having smile since their hair turn grey.

The three old men sat in front of me. They looked like they had not smiled since their hair had turned grey (Bhagat, *HG 09*)

Madhav with lot of difficulties had practiced to say good morning to the interviewers but faces troubles because one of the interviewers mentions that he has to greet all the three interviewers present there. ‘Good morning, sir, sir and sir” (Bhagat, *HG 09*) In the process of interview Madhav gets ill smile and mockery from the interviewers as being a poor speaker in English. Bhagat satirizes the discouraging attitudes of the interviewers. Madhav confronts a number of obstacles during the interaction with the interviewers. He gets discouraged over the unwanted remarks by the interview board and interestingly all the three board members appear like ‘English speaking monsters’ to him. “Without these English-speaking monsters would eat me alive.” The Bihari boy feels like cold drops of rain on scorching summer’s day when Piyush Yadav, a sports teacher interacts with him in Hindi. Madhav feels really grateful to him and thinks like a homely condition with his presence who knows Hindi. ‘You know Dumraon?’ I said. I could kiss his feet.” (Bhagat *HG 10*)

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During the time spent in interview Madhav gets sick grin and joke from the questioners similar to an unfortunate speaker in English. Bhagat parodies the putting mentalities of the questioners down. Madhav defies various deterrents during the collaboration with the questioners. He gets frustrated over the unwanted remarks by the interview board and interestingly all the three board members appear like ‘English speaking monsters’ to him. “Without these English-speaking monsters would eat me alive.” The Bihari boy feels like cold drops of rain on scorching summer’s day when Piyush Yadav, a sports teacher interacts with him in Hindi. Madhav feels really grateful to him and thinks like a homely condition with his presence who knows Hindi. ‘You know Dumraon?’ I said. I could kiss his feet.” (Bhagat, *HG 10*)

One more comic part of the clever facilitates the perusers when Madhav doesn't comprehend the

English talking young lady Riya. Madhav gives some idea with a goal of progress of their game. However, the whistle blows for the last part of the game. Riya is constrained to leave and says to look up some other time. However, the blameless chap doesn't get it, rather gets befuddled whether Riya is going to get really and sees simply inverse. Madhav gets confused over different circumstances for the terrible English and appearances hardships in offering viewpoints in English and needs legitimate correspondence expertise. The reason for the essayist is to make giggling among the perusers and the objective is satisfied through the focal person of the book. Piyush, the games instructor in the center of discussion brings up at him saying a 'Bihari kid'. Madhav doesn't understand that Piyush has referenced with a sensations of adoration and love. Maybe he thinks about it as an offense, also, alters his perspective emphatically and comments,

He could have taken offence. He had used the word 'Bihari' as if to say 'Watch, even this poor little Bihari can play', despite being a Bihari himself. However, he had helped me without knowing it, so I was grateful."(Bhagat, *HG* 18)

After an unintentional hit with Riya's forehead, Madhav desperately considers that kiss to be a formal or natural kiss. In spite of having no response from Riya, Madhav is happy over the experience whose heart dances with happiness. In a humorous way the novelist mentions that the happiness felt from being selected to Bihar State Team comes to second position as replaced by the happiness of the kiss to Riya and the anxious chap considered "after kissing Riya, the selection day became the second happiest"( Bhagat, *HG* 44) A girl's presence in a boy's hostel creates Ashu, Raman and Shailesh, friends of Madhav, feel uneasy or uncomfortable. Raman asks Madhav over the presence of a girl in the boy's hostel and confirms it that he "can steel smell the perfume," Raman said and sniffed like a cartoon character, everyone laughed." (Bhagat, *HG* 45)

Bhagat criticizes the condition of the village school due to inefficiency of fund which shows the real interest of the govt. on educational system of the country where fates are shaped for the interest of the nation. Madhav's mother confronts the hard consequences of the then condition of village school with various issues when she remarks as, 'every one eats my head' (Bhagat, *HG* 95) The impression on the simple villagers by the elite class in the society is perfectly satirized in the words of the writer as, the "over-educated idiots in the big cities .Whenever they don't understand the villagers, they call them uneducated and old fashioned."(Bhagat, *HG* 100)

### Conclusion:

Comedy is the significant part of regular daily existence. The fact of the matter is that this device can be utilized to face the hardest times in our day to day existence and simultaneously we can see the value in probably the most extraordinary times. With a touch of comedy we can completely change ourselves to an alternate course anyway we are over shadowed by the shadows of trouble. The facts really confirm that without comedy, truth be told tough situations appear to be more enthusiastically to deal with. Jane Austen in her *Pride and Prejudice*, Mark Taiwan in his *The Experiences of Huckleberry Finn*, Harper Lee in her original *To kill a Mockingbird* and Charles Dickens in his *Great assumptions* have wide



effect and enduring impacts on the perusers. All through the original Chetan Bhagat has been effective in utilizing gigantic expertise of comedy and parody. Indianness in his topics makes his books really intriguing who created the class of contemporary Indian composition.

The novels are engaging. Bhagat guarantees peruser's commitment generally of the book and there is basic comedy sprinkled all through the story with more than adequate diversion and that holds mass requests. All things considered an enchanting romantic tale gives a ton of comedy and parody to the perusers. Through affableness we can have an open door to venture back and see what is most significant throughout everyday life. To cut the quick version the facts really confirm that Chetan Bhagat has formed the many Indian's understanding propensities making light minutes for perusers. On account of the entertaining components his books are not for the first class what's more, restricted readership however for the general population.

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