

Similies And Metaphors As Found In Chetan Bhagat's Select Novels

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Abstract

Metaphor assumes that the transference is possible or has already taken place where as simile proposes the transference and explains it by means of terms such as **“like”** or **“as if”**. Simile involves a more visually inclined relationship between its elements than metaphor. In fact, it is sometimes assumed that simile is metaphor's poor relative, offering only the 'bare bones' of the transferring process in the form of a limited analogy or comparison, whose 'range' is narrow because it is pre-determined. The 'controlled' effects of simile can be greater but often it is a vague implication of a metaphor. The simile is a figure of speech in which a thing is described by being likened to something, usually using 'as' or 'like' as in,

‘The eyes are sparkling like diamonds’.

It is also used with the help of set phrases such as, 'as bold as', 'as sharp as' and so on.

Key words: Metaphors, Simile, pre-determind, 'bare bones', vague implication, analogy etc.,

Introduction

Chetan Bhagat's usage of similes is seen widespread in almost all of his novels in this study. The similes were in such a way used by him in the entire appropriate situation to describe what something appears to be and what certain actions or plots of the characters resemble to be, with meaningful words and set of phrases.

The valour, virtue and vice, the pain, pleasure and passion, beauty and ugliness, hopes and despair, tears and smiles, and frustrations and disappointments of characters have been projected and interwoven by ChetanBhagat in all the three select novels for study namely, **Five Point Someone (2004)**, **One Night @ Call Center (2005)**, and **The 2 States: The Story of My Marriage (2009)**. In the remaining novels, **3 Mistakes of My Life (2008)** and **Revolution 2020 (2011)** also he has churned out many a similes like,

‘She looked at me as if I had stolen the Kohinoor

Diamond from the British queen's museum’.

(BhagatChetan, Revolution 2020, 12.)

Likewise ChetanBhagat has a Midas touch in concocting stories, attributing astounding success in writing fictions in his narrative expertise, using innumerable similes in all his books.

The pro-patriotic and the Pan-India sentiments recur in his narrative style of writing and the India's most admired writer had delivered a number of similes that can be exhibited chapter to chapter in the select novels, chosen for research.

The followings are certain effective usage of similes that Bhagat has scattered in chapters which adds to his writing skills and increases his readership, bringing hope into people's lives through what he wrote.

Here are the similes unfolded from certain pages of the select novels one after another from Five Point Someone to 2 States: The Story of My Mar

Similes in 'Five Point Someone'

'Alok tried to ask the professor for a re-quiz, who stared back as if he had asked for both his kidneys'.

(BhagatChetan, Five Point Someone, 2004, 35.)

The three guys namely Hari, Ryan and Alok, who were close friends in IIT, took Alok's ailing father and skipped of their Physics quiz examination. Alok wanted to ask his professor to hold a re-quiz in physics. The professor sternly looked back at him as if Alok had asked for his both kidneys in a panic to communicate a negative reply.

'Like a trained pet, I got up from the seat opposite and sat next to her; pretty girls have this power to turn Mary; making lambs out of people'.

(BhagatChetan, Five Point Someone, 2009, 70.)

Though Hari was a five pointer in studies at IIT, Neha the professor's daughter, wooing him, sitting opposite to Hari at the ice-cream parlour asked him to sit by her side which is referred her to Mary and Hari the tamed lamb in the Bible. The lamb silently obeys Mary, what she commands. Likewise Hari, immediately jumped up and sat by her side.

'Venkat looked at Ryan as if a person searching for a bar had reached a temple'.

(Bhagat Chetan, Five Point Someone, 2004, 92.)

Venkat is studious in his studies. He stays in a separate room in the IIT hostel Ryan and his friends are only five pointers whiling away their time in pleasure. So when Ryan entered Venkat's room the latter commented that it was like a person searching a bar had reached a temple.

'Vivas- the most hatred, dreaded moments of my student life I avoided them like I did cows on the road with their tails twitched up?'

(Bhagat Chetan, Five Point Someone, 2004, 124.)

Hari was scared that much to attend vivas in practical examination at the IIT institution. He hated vivas and avoided totally in his student life. It is something like that of the dreaded cows running fast on the road with their tails raised upward.

'As he climbed up the flimsy steel pipe, he looked like a

gorilla hanging onto a bamboo stick'

(Bhagat Chetan, Five Point Someone, 2004, 128.)

On the birthday of Neha, Prof. Cherian's daughter's boy friend Hari, a student of IIT, Delhi wants to present something before anybody can wish her as the first wishes. Hari, Alok and Ryan want to get into the sleeping room of Neha. Alok was the first boy to climb the flimsy pipe that looked like a gorilla climbing onto a bamboo stick.

'Chalk dust formed a cloud as if Cherian had burst a grenade in the class room'.

(Bhagat Chetan, Five Point Someone, 2004, 140.)

Prof. Cherian is the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Delhi IIT. He is smart, neat and a disciplinarian teaches well in the class room. When he had whispers around he stops writing on the black board and bang the duster on the table which created chalk dust something like a cloud, and that is referred to that of the smoke if a grenade is burst inside the class room.

'Ryan dangled the keys in front of him like a tempting bunch of ripe grapes'.

(Bhagat Chetan, Five Point Someone, 2004, 176.)

Hari relayed all the story how he reached Ananya and how he took the key bunch in which Cherian's office keys were also attached and showed it to Ryan to get over their plot of stealing the question papers from the Prof's office. Ryan commenting Prof. Cherian as a psycho and to get through his plan, holding the bunch of keys in front of the other guys like that of the tempting bunch of ripened grapes with that taste and interest.

Similes In 'One Night @ The Call Center'

'Naturally curly hair is one thing, but processed curly hair looks like tangled telephone wires'.

(Bhagat Chetan One Night @ Call Center, 2005, 51)

Esha is one among the six call center agents, who is a stylish wants to become a model. She adjusted her hair at least ten times a day. But she doesn't have a natural curly hair but only a processed curl at the beauty parlours. The processed curly hair looked like tangled telephone wires.

'Priyanka had a burning feeling, like someone had tossed a hot coal in her stomach'

(Bhagat Chetan One Night @ Call Center,

Priyanka was another lady staff of the call center at Gurgaon, 'Connexions'. She kept friendships with Shyam as another guy there. Priyanka's mom finds a suitable, good salaried NRI guy as a bridegroom. The love making of her co-worker, Shyam was her burning desire, where she was given a shocking news that an NRI had set to come with a proposal to her was something like someone had tossed a hot coal in her stomach.

'I pushed my plate away. I had completely lost my appetite. I felt like tossing the pizza like Frisbee'

to the end of the room’.

(BhagatChetan One Night @ Call Center, 2005, 162)

Priyanka and Shyam meet at Pizza Hut, Sahara Mall, Gurgaon to talk over a formal break up in their relationship. Priyanka confessed the new proposal to go in marriage to Mr. Ganesh, an NRI, who earns huge salary. Priyanka and Shyam ordered for pizza and while they were eating their dishes, they discussed the flaws in their relationship. A sort of breakup of relationship irritated Shyam and he, losing his appetite threw away his pizza plate which flew like a frisbee to the end of the room.

Similes found in ‘2 States: The Story of My Marriage’

In the prologue, it reads,

‘Certificates from top US universities adorned the walls like tiger heads in a hunter’s home’.

(Bhagat Chetan 2 States, 2009. Prologue)

When Hari had frustration with his bad father, unwilling mother and the tug at the last movement created by his lover, Ananya, Hari goes to a psychotherapist as advised by his boss Bala for advice. The psychotherapist, Dr. Neeta Iyer, in her clinic had hung many US university degrees which were compared to a hunter’s home where many tiger heads were adorning.

‘It was irritating (to Krish) to watch a regional language movie in front of me’

(BhagatChetan 2 States, 2009, 95)

Shoba aunty of Ananya and her father’s elder sister and Ananya’s mother Radha knew very well that Indian men slam their wives for no serious issues. Ananya’s mother and Shoba aunty started a discourse in Tamil which irritated Krish who didn’t understand their language and hence he comments that it was something like watching a regional language movie in front of him which he doesn’t know.

‘The boys looked at each other so as to who would ask the bell the cat question’.

(BhagatChetan 2 States, 2009, 100)

Krish, Ananya love affair goes to extremity. Ananya, lovemate of Krish used to visit him in his boys hostel room itself at Kumaon. Krish arranges for beer to offer her. Sendil and another guy Appalingam, the other room mates came and sat in the living room. They were very eager to enquire about Tamilian girl, Ananya, studying in IIMA who was about to visit Krish in his room. The boys, without wearing their shirts seated there, not knowing who has to ask and what question has to be asked like that of asking to bell the cat.

‘Ananya cradled the cauliflower in her lap like a new born child’

(BhagatChetan 2 States, 2009, 192)

Ananya goes to Delhi to attend one week project work in her Delhi office. She is received by Krish in his house and introduced her to his mother. Krish tries to keep his mother in comfort zones while moving with Ananya being a stranger to his mother. Ananya too tries to do some menial works in their kitchen to win the

affection of her, to be mother in law. Ananya keeps a cauliflower on her lap like carrying a new born child, trying to cut the cauliflower with a knife.

Metaphor – A Definition

The word metaphor is derived from the Greek word ‘metapherein’ and is accessed from ‘meta’, meaning over the ‘pherein’ to carry. It refers to a particular set of linguistics processes where in, aspects of one object are carried over or transferred to another object, so that the latter object is spoken of as if it were the first. Thus a metaphor allows one to create correspondences in the world which did not exist before and allows new meaning to be apprehended.

The combination of familiar with the unfamiliar is effected by the proper usage of metaphor. Metaphor is a kind of ‘added extra’ to language, which gives a new decoration to the language. The usage of metaphor gives charm and distinction. The new resemblances given in the metaphors from the intellectual pleasure out of familiar ‘every day words’ the ‘proper or regular’ class of terms used by everybody in conversation, there appears clarity in the meaning. The ‘proper’ use of metaphor also involves the principle of decorum. Metaphor must be fittingly used according to the theme of purpose. Metaphors should not be far-fetched or strange and the use of words in them are to be beautiful in themselves.

The usage of metaphors in the select novels of ChetanBhagat

In order to convey certain concepts and facts Bhagat has used occasional metaphors here and there unlike his usage of large number of similes in these select novels. The rare metaphors used by Bhagat in the select novels are;

**“The cream of mushroom soup could have been mistaken
for muddy water’.**

(Bhagat Chetan Five Point Someone, 2004, 155)

Several weeks later Hari, Ryan and Alok were taking a continental dinner in their Kumaon hostel. The menu sounded nice noodles, French fries, toast and soup. The French fries were cold and uncooked. The cream coloured mushroom soup looked like muddy water, though it was warmer and saltier.

**‘Some of them (books) are so heavy you can use
them as assault weapons’**

Bhagat Chetan One Night @ Call Center, 2005, 163)

The Gurgaon call center agents Vroom and others raided the Office of their boss Bhakshi at 2.30 a.m. There was a book shelf behind his desk containing full of management books of a scary thickness which is referred to here as assault weapons.

**‘I could feel her body along my entire right side,
like soft-electric sparks’.**

(Bhagat Chetan One Night @ Call Center, 2005, 192)

Conclusion:

In a Pizza Hut, Vroom and other five agents of the call center had pizza. At Musaffir Lounge, Vroom played a tap and turned on the music called Rambha. Shyam sat by the side of Priyanka, his pet. Shyam sat very close to

her so that his entire right side pressed Priyanka that made something like passing of a nerve in between them like soft electric sparks which made him to grab her.

**‘The Duke was indeed fair as milk. The chubby cheeks
and fair complexion’.**

Minti’ssagan ceremony with Dharamveer (Duke) B. Tech took place at the Taj Palace Hotel in DhaulaKuan. The Duke was very fair with fleshy cheeks and looked as white as milk with fair complexion.

Alok’s mother shouts by a land line phone call to him when he is in college with his friends, His mother in a screaming tone shouts,

**‘Alok, my son, look what happens when you are not here;
She cried in a pathetic voice that would make even Hitler’s cry’.**

(Bhagat Chetan Five Point Someone, 2004, 33)

Alok is one among the students of IIT staying in hostel with his friends Ryan and Hari. His father is a sick person at home and when his father is seen worsed than before, his mother shouts at Alok by phone that Alok’s presence in the house was a must. The author portrays Alok’s mother’s character and her shouting to be the cry of Hitler, the great soldier commander.

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