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EXPLORATION OF INDIAN CULTURE THROUGH THE PARODIES OF “*HALF BOYFRIEND*
AND *TWO FATES: THE STORY OF MY DIVORCE*”

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ABSTRACT

Everybody wants to live happy and a peaceful life. Life always has a different plan for us and no one know what is hidden in our future lives. As human beings, we always plan and work towards having all the possessions which provide us comfort and give happiness. However, our lives is such a rollercoaster ride that we have to go through rough patches despite the fact that we aspire for it or not.

Digital advancement and social medial platforms have provided us a lot of opportunities to showcase our talent and share with the world. There are comedians in films and serials who make us happy and fetch smiles on faces. There are standup comedians who performs on stage giving the examples of their experiences in a funny way to make us laugh. In the sequence there is one more category growing up and that is parody writers. Judy Balan is a young writer who writes books and blogs with her unique style. She is known for her parody novels and blogs.

Keywords: Indian Culture, Digital Advancement, Parody Novels.

This research explores Indian culture through two parody novels, *Two Fates* and *Half Boyfriend*. Ms. Vijayalakshmi is an assistant professor in Department of English in a college. Both the novels are satire in the form of parody. Both of these parody novels are based on the novels written by a young writer, Chetan Bhagat. The original novels are *Two States* and *Half Girlfriend* respectively. Both of these novels are best sellers and famous among young generation.

Parody is a cultural and social sarcasm which parodist use to create a funny situation. They express themselves in a hilarious way and enact as if they had created those situations to make people laugh. Ms. Vijayalakshmi studies the Judy Balan’s *Two Fates* which is a satire of the original novel *Two States*. *Two States* is a story of a young man and a young woman from two different states who fall in love with each other. They study in one of the best college of engineering. The boy belongs to a Punjabi family and the girl is of South Indian background. To win their respective families heart, they help each other’s family in tough situations. Their families give their consent for the marriage in the end after a few glitches and fights among themselves.

Judy Balan picked up this situation and named her novel *Two Fates : The Story of My Divorce*. In this novel, she states that the boy and the girl get married, but after a few years of marriage they plan to get divorced. There are fights between them on petty things but now they do not want to finish with it and go ahead in life. Instead they want to separate to end their fights.

Divorce is a painful process in which husband and wife separates legally ending their relationship. In Indian societies it is not only painful and hurtful for only husband and wife but also for their respective families. In western countries, husband and wife get divorced easily but Indian society is not such. It is their self-respect and against the honor of their family names.

Nevertheless, in Judy Balan's novel, the backdrop is shown as doctor-patient environment. In this novel, families of both the boy and the girl come together in rescue and save the marriage of their children. Judy created funny situations to make her novel plausible.

The other parody novel which is explored and studied by Vijayalakshmi is *Half Boyfriend* which is a satirical story on the original novel *Half Girlfriend*. It is also written by Chetan Bhagat. In Chetan's novel Boy comes from a village in Bihar and girl is from a metro city. Boy loves the girl and makes efforts to convince the girl to fall in love with her. Boy wants to get the girl to have physical relation and become a hero in front of other boys. In the process he invites the girl to her hostel room and tries to make love, but girl runs away and refused to be his friend anymore. She takes him a good friend who can only be a half boyfriend. She agrees to marry his longtime childhood friend on the request of his father.

The girl shifts to London after marriage and the boy comes back to his village and starts running his mother's school.

In Judy Balan's *Half Boyfriend*, feudal rich man tries to woo an attractive and beautiful girl. The go through a series of events and coincidences which in the end get them closer in the end. *Half Boyfriend* is a funny, comical and sharp edged. She has the art to write the story taking from an original novel and creating a funny situations with parody.

CONCLUSION

The research is an exploration of Indian culture through the parody novels of Judy Balan. Ms. Vijayalakshmi studies these books and its satire relating with Indian culture. She seems mesmerized and captivated with Judy Balan's comic way of writing. She has also explored a few more parody writings of other writers. Indian writers have started to explore this field of humor and comedy. In the process, some Indian writers have parodied some great works, novels and articles.

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