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BOREDOM AS A POSTMODERN EMOTION IN UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE'S *ENGLISH AUGUST: AN INDIAN STORY*

Mr. Pravin E. Sawant

Head & Assistant Professor

Department of English

Hut. Jaywantrao Patil Mahavidyalaya Himayatnagar

Dist. Nanded, MS, India

&

Dr. K. Rajkumar

Head & Research Guide

Department of English

Shri Guru Buddhi Swami Mahavidyalaya, Purna

Dist. Parbhani, MS, India

Abstract:

Upamanyu Chatterjee's English August is imbued with deep sensibility that he explored boredom as emotion through characters and themes in which postmodern aspects dilatory appeared under the various circumstances. Boredom as emotion is verisimilitude of human life in last few decades where emerging condition known as postmodernism in which thousands of aspects stimulate human psyche. Therefore, postmodern writer depicted oracular manner of human condition in terms of soul and human relation in society which are going to become appalled at various levels. The present article is concerned with boredom as emotion in Upamanyu Chatterjee novel English, August: An Indian Story in which protagonist Augustya is a victim of restlessness and procrastination in which he entangled hindrances and it has been narrated in realistic sketch by the writer. The researcher has followed the analytical method to carry the aspects of his research and draw the foremost findings.

Keywords: *Boredom, Dilemma, Postmodernism, Psychology, Restlessness, etc.*

Postmodern is an elusive to define under the influence of singular aspect rather it appears in multi-disciplinary studies in which literature, arts, films, theories, music, painting, etc. are investigated in new forms through interrogation against established ideas and forms in literature in terms of meaning, parody and narrative techniques. The characteristics of post modernism can be defined in terms of hyper reality, hyper modernism, post humanism, post materialism and post structuralism in which ideas and theories applied to form various perspectives. The postmodernism deals with central issues to investigate in terms of psychology, political ideology, sociological structure, technological progress, trade, commerce, etc. and their influence on human life. Moreover, in spite of tremendous progress in terms of communication and other physical facilities, man is left alone and bored psychologically. For example, today we have hundreds of opportunities to explore us but we feel bored and lonely. Although, knowledge and human relation in various mode are going to become complex in terms of psychological perspective where man become inferior, helpless.

After all, multi-disciplinary aspects deal with psychological influences on human mind emerged from postmodern condition with outer and inner world which stimulated to the change



rapidly in last few decades. As progress in physical world took place, theories and interpretations regarding human mind under various influences come out in multi perspectives. Besides, boredom is one of the aspects of post modernism. In fact, postmodern literatures deal with fiction covered psychological and emotional aspects which play vital role to define human life. Impact of technological progress through knowledge opened up new areas for employment and trade where numerous types of circumstances and their influences affected human psyche. These things are discussed by writers' perspective in terms of psychology and chronological point of view. Indeed, industrial and trade progress in Europe reached all over the world with advantage and disadvantage where thousands of questions aroused in society in which psyche of human under various perspective defined and criticised in literature.

Prominently, human emotions which have numerous layers always stimulated by circumstances and changes in society are depicted by writers such as James Osborne , Samuel Bucket , Paul de man, John Barth and Salman Rushdie , As far as Upamanyu Chatterjee is concerned, he is known as emerging postmodern writer who depicts the predicament and conflict of human psyche in which man wanted to escape from situation, burden of accountability and restlessness in which he entangled morally and emotionally he could not face the situations with enthusiasm where he finds burden of passions and emotions which make him restless and boredom of emotion.

The German term 'Boredom' effectively stated the sense of temporal Elongation that is commonly associated with the waiting. Martin Heidegger in his 1929- 30 lecture series at the University of Freiburg, entitled *The Fundamental Concept of Metaphysics* stated in the following words:

We are sitting... in the tasteless station of some lonely mirror railway. It is four hours until the next train arrives. The district is uninspiring. We do have a book in our rucksack, though a problem, some question we are unable to. we read the time table or study the table giving the various distance from this station to other places we are not otherwise acquainted with at all we look at the clock- only a quarter of an hour has gone by. then we go out onto the local road. Then we count the trees along the road, look at our watch again - exactly five minutes since we last looked at it. Fed up with walking back and forth, we sit down on a stone, draw all kinds of figure in the sand, and in so doing catch ourselves looking out at watch it again - half an hour - and so on (Heidegger, *fundamental* 93).

Upamanyu Chatterjee is a realistic postmodern writer. His writing deals with contemporary issues and problems which explore a psyche of postmodern man in the novel *English, August*, he mainly concerned in this novel is boredom as emotion which dilatory growing in the mind of protagonist towards situation, work, purpose, task and entire life. Upamanyu Chatterjee projects horrifying and conflict of protagonist Agustya Sen who works in administrative system as IAS probationary officer in Madna situated in remote area from metro city Delhi. Agastya encounter with his own self where he appeared as restless and felt predicament of work which he has to perform sincerely with enjoyment. His conflict of inner and outer world of his life, his actions and thought entangled in emotion as boredom through his inner psyche, but he conceded his job as a part of his father's desire and reputation who was Governor of the state.

Characteristics of bureaucracy are reflected in routine paper work, repeated procedure deals with actions and reminding task it resulted in enigma of personality which can be seen in the Augustya Sen. His conversation with his self in nervous and restless manner confesses predicament of helpless soul, He raises questions against his helplessness and instantly replies it in order to compassion his



soul. He wanted to spend time in trivial things to avoid boredom but he failed to do so. As a result, he could not relate with situation, place, time and self rather his isolation and loneliness from his past, present and future resulted in boredom as emotion where he strives to find escapism but no one thing can be help. Absence of enthusiasm in action and thought discourage to stability and it creates inferior complex to rise interrogation what he feels again and again.

He lays down and looked at the wooden ceiling. He could masturbate, but without enjoyment. What is it He asked himself again? Is it because it is new place, yes so do I miss the urban life, yes. Is it because it is a new job, yes. The job is both bewildering and boring. Give it time, not to even twenty – four hours. He waited for the mosquitoes. The ventilator was open, the room field with the stench of the excrement of others when the wind came his way. My own shit doesn't smell like that, he thought randomly. He absents- mindedly fondled his crotch then whipped his hand away. No masturbations, he is suddenly decided. He tried to think about this but sustained logical thought on one topic was a difficult and unnecessary. No, I am not wasting any semen on Madna. It was an impulse, but he felt that she should record it. In the diary under that he wrote (Chatterjee, *Eng., Aug., 28*).

His meaningless actions and conversations with his colleague also subordinate servant create hindrances in his life, as a result, happiness in work and moment which he experienced is trivial where he could not find presence of mind. He lays down to look at wooden ceiling in order to emancipations of restlessness in new job and place. He conceived situations which raised as aversion in terms of his job and time. Similarly, he realised that it has to be passed as time elapsed. Restlessness regarding inner psyche of his self always in manner of scowls his appearance, interaction and work.

Generally, bureaucracy in India at higher cadre became notorious for its corruption inefficiency, incompetence and outrageous interference of political and local in work brings boredom Augusta Sen a new appointed block development officer in Madana working with unskilled, corrupt lazy, persons face the boredom he could not get satisfaction from work and people. As a result, waiting for moment which can be given peace and happiness towards life is ultimate aim of Augustya where he spends his life in search of soul.

He spent many evenings at the Collector's, but on some evenings, he felt just blown to go, his eyes looked too red, he felt too, alone to talk sanely to anyone. Then he would wait for sundown and go for a walk. (English, August ,74)

Lack of proairesis due to the boredoms in action and thought meagre Augustya to do his proper work. Ultimately, his riddle regarding his work creates monotonous and inhibit his actions., moreover, Augustya lost his efficiency and concentration on his work as well as does not feel desire for action and life; whereas being emblematic of young intellectual bureaucrat he has to face flurry situation, he has to be develop efficiency and intellectual power to encounter and imbued strength in nervous situation, rejuvenate circumstances and people to stand alone for changing and empowering people. However, Augustya's problem seems to be will which denote in his inability on the part of action and thought. His boredom discourages morality and circumstances that develop procrastination and riddle in task which has to be complete in time. At this moment, he has to be expected to make an action in proper direction strong determinations; but feeling of procrastination increases burden on mind where iterative of loneliness and frustration against situation create meaningless of action. Ultimately,



Agustya, being sufferer from boredom entangled in dilemma, questions raised, whether he has to be faced the situation or he has to be quit the job. That is the problem which could not find proper solution on his boredom. Impossibility in action and thought, hope and frustration in life, a sense of futility in work, always keeps him in provocative manner. After all, as deeply boring, he wants to escape from circumstances so he crushes the time under the interminable boredom

Upamanyu Chatterjee projects relevance of contemporary situations through character Augustya Senin which complexity of mind and burden of responsibility in terms of career, family, individual desire is presented very realistic way. Postmodern literatures deal with human psyche which is concerned with feeling of emotion, absurdum, frustration, isolation, alienation, joy and love. Upamanyu Chatterjee has written six novels including *English, August: An Indian Story* 1988, *The Last Burden* 1993, and *The Mammaries of the welfare State* 2000. *Weight Loss* 2006. *Way to Go* 2010. *Fairy At Fifty* all these novels are deals with human psyche in which postmodern aspects presented very dominantly through theme, characters and plot. The development of science encouraging man to take responsibility and opportunity in various areas is becoming boredom as emotion in which meaninglessness and frustration of life were depicted in realistic way in the novel of Upamanyu Chatterjee.

In short, researcher try to find and analyse the boredom as emotion which aroused in the life of Agustya regarding personal and social perspective where he could not face the situation according to his responsibility and efficiency rather he find escapism and frustration in which he could not understand his own personality and condition .He is unable to obtain proaires is for his daily work and to live happily in spite of his position as administrative officer Agustya is representative of Postmodern period who is tortuous and compel to accept what he does not want in terms of psychological and physical point of view. In the same way, Present situation of social cultural condition of man is illusive to connect with society where man feel isolated in community, thousands of people gathered for different purpose but they could not create interrelationship, they find isolation and mentally sickness which resulted in boredom. Agustya's waiting for moment which could give him satisfaction and joy in his life is suffering of feeling alone and insecure in spite of public service job. Present situations of society reflected in *English; August* is narrated in verisimilitude manner in terms of restlessness of man through Agustya. Insensibility and corruptions towards humanity in bureaucracy is equally depicted in *English, August* as realistic picture of society where people such as Mr Shankar in bureaucracy encourages corruptions and boredom as emotion.

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