



Traditional realism in the novels of Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy

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Abstract:

Marathi novelists for many years were just interested in making up people and plotlines that weren't even real. It was a product of the restricted literary culture of colonial anglophiles. Indian independence, World War II, and exposure to Western literature in the 1960s all contributed to expanding the horizons of Marathi fiction. 'Tolerance, judiciousness, liberalism, personal and moral discrimination' were some of the values that the new book and others defended. Aside from its representation of one or the other groups or subgroups in society, this new book was limited in scope. An effort to include the life of all cultures that are intrinsically woven into the story of the original book was made by Arun Sadhu's translation of Vikram Seth's novel *A Suitable Boy* (1993). It is the goal of this research to examine how Seth's postcolonial multiculturalism is introduced into Marathi literary culture via Arun Sadhu's translation of Seth's work.

Keywords: New Novel, tolerance secularism, multiculturalism, translation

Introduction

Author "Vikram Seth is well-known for a wide range of genres in his native India: poetry, fiction, nonfiction, children's literature, biography, and autobiography. Calcutta was where he was born, but he also resided in Patna, near Patna, and London. At Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Seth acquired an interest in poetry and learnt Chinese while studying philosophy, politics, and economics. He returned to India to complete his secondary education at Dehradun. After graduating from Oxford, Seth relocated to Stanford, California, to pursue a master's degree in economics. Post-independence, post-partition India is the setting for *A Suitable Boy*. During the course of the work, the narrative of a mother's hunt for a suitable suitor to marry her daughter is told through the eyes of four households. Her attempts to find her younger daughter a "acceptable" suitor are the focus of this tale.. The novel's central theme is a love tale set in a newly independent India in the early 1980s. The Indian cities of Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur, and others, including the imaginary Berhampur, provide as a colorful background to the unfolding storylines. When Lata is 19, she is a young woman who is still very much a child, but she is also very much an adult, and she is determined not to be affected by her powerful mother and outspoken brother Arun. Amit, Kabir, and Haresh all vie for her attention, but she



must make a decision. The book isn't only based on a single tale. There are chapters on the Zamindari system, land reform, and the empowerment of Muslim women, among other topics, in this sprawling book set in post-independence India. A distinct narrative is the subject of each of the novel's nineteen sections, which finally circle back around to each other. On the contents page, a rhyming couplet describes each section.

In stark contrast to the contemporary trend of portraying history as a fiction, Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy* is a powerful example of traditional realism. In the early 1950s, the Nehru era is in full swing, with the eradication of zamindari and the first post-independence election approaching. It's hard not to perceive this story as a metaphor of nationhood, despite its plenty of reality. Unlike Rushdie's previous children, this novel adheres to an Indian history that progresses toward the objective of secular, commercial society in the likeness of Western models of national development. However, although though Lata Mehra exhibits glimpses of independence in the book, it is ultimately one of conformity and what it signifies as an inevitability in bourgeois life, since the story revolves upon her finding a decent partner to date. Haresh Khanna of Praha pore, a man who is foreign-returned but from a British technical college rather than the kind of elite institution that Seth himself attended, is the man Lata chooses. He is neither the son of Calcutta's high society nor the Muslim boy whose friendship scandalizes Lata's mother. Furthermore, he is being prepared for a career in the shoe industry, which carries with it the threat of social exclusion. In Seth's view, Haresh represents a guy who has escaped religious prejudice and social snobbery. Haresh's achievement is clearly meant as a metaphor for the times, and the novel's desire for a feudal world of Urdu literature and courtly entertainments accompanies this feeling of national growth. It seems that the message of *A Suitable Boy* is that the future of India's middle class depends in abandoning a stumbling block of traditional identities in order to pursue secularism in all of its liberal economic modes. What is left behind might be romanticized in a nostalgia for a past that the country sees as unavoidably gone with such faith in its future. Indian English literature has been around for more than 50 years. *A Journey* is the first book in the series. Author Vikram Seth's perspective on gay relationships is the focus of this study. *The GoldenGate* by Vikram Seth has been considered for this project. Vikram Seth depicts the gay connection between Phil and Ed, the novel's two central protagonists. Both Phil and Ed go into bed together and have a good time making out. A profound knowledge and insight is required by the writer to appreciate Seth's depiction of their connection, their caressing, and their lovemaking. Seth's portrayal of a gay relationship in such a vivid way proves that he is a talent. Seth's own experience as a gay has



helped him to portray this sort of connection in such a wonderful manner. In Western nations, the link between the Golden Gate Bridge and American society does not appear out of the ordinary. Author Vikram Seth was born to Prem and Leila Seth in Kolkata on June 20, 1952; he is most known for his work as a poet and novelist as well as his librettist and children's book author. He was educated at Dehradun Public School, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and Stanford University in California, U.S.A. for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. While working on *The Golden Gate*, he couldn't finish his research. His interest in economic demography was interrupted or rather overpowered by the creative inspiration, and his hypothesis, as he expressed it, finally went out the window. *Two Lives* tells the story of Seth's "dissertation work falling by the wayside, and I dedicated myself to *The Golden Gate*." A polymath, Seth has lived in Asia, the United States, and Europe and has written in a range of genres, from poetry to fiction to nonfiction to travelogue to libretto. As a result of his extensive travel, he has gained invaluable experience and knowledge from people of many cultural backgrounds, including Indians, Europeans, Chinese, and Americans. He is fluent in Welsh, German, French, Mandarin, English, Urdu, and Hindi, among other languages. However, Vikram Seth has said that he prefers to be recognized for his poetry rather than his books. In the late 19th century, a psychologist called Karolyn Maria Bankert coined the term "homosexuality," which is a relatively new term. Different societies have different views on same-sex partnerships. Antiquity and the Middle Ages did not experience homosexuality as an exclusive, long-lasting sexual orientation. Nevertheless, John Boswell has refuted this claim by mentioning ancient literature such as Plato's *Symposium*, where homosexuality and acts of sexual intimacy between people of the same sex are discussed. Homosexuality has been documented in China from at least 660 BCE.

Homosexuality in "Japan has been documented for over one thousand years and had some connections to the Buddhist monastic life. In Thailand homosexuality have been a feature of Thai society and Thai kings had male as well as female lovers. Homosexuality is accepted in Thailand and there had never legal prohibition against homosexuality or homosexual behaviour. With the growth of the Roman Empire there came about a slow adoption of a negative view of same-sex attraction but this view of same-sex acts has been attributed more with social and economic turmoil rather than as something religious or moral.

In 1867 Karl Heinrich Ulrich's became the first self-proclaimed homosexual person to speak out public ally in defence of homosexuality when he pleaded at the Congress of German Jurists in Munich for a resolution urging the repeal of anti-homosexual laws. In the 19th



century homosexuality was viewed not a choice of a person, but somehow a diseased, defective, or pathological condition. This was given a great deal of credence due to the scientific nature of medicine at this time. On one hand, psychiatrists and doctors campaigned for repeal or a reduction in the criminalization of the homosexual act and on the other hand, therapies were being developed to rehabilitate the ill individuals. Though homosexuality was deemed to be a psychiatric disorder for many years, but later this study was found flawed. A lot of writing has been produced on the issue of homosexuality in Western nations. Homosexuals are demanding marriage these days, but they are fundamentally different from marriage in that they lack the complementing roles of a man and a woman. neither can a marriage be formed between two persons of the same sex. Since time immemorial, it has been known in the US, China, Japan, Thailand as well as many other countries throughout the world. In the UK, homosexuality was cleared from the category of mental disorder in 1973.

First Indian English novelist Vikram Seth received a two-crown advance for his epoch-making *A Suitable Boy* 1 Seth's third book, *An Equal Music* [AEM], is set in London and features classical music as its background. He was awarded the Commonwealth Writer's Prize as well as the WH Smith Literary Award for *A Suitable Boy* in this work. BT EMMA [BT Ethnic and Multicultural Media Award] was given to the book in 2001. Classical artists and their music are the subject of this story, which can only be seen as a brave and risky endeavor. For six weeks, Vikram Seth studied lip-reading in order to better understand the character of his deaf heroine and the story's subject matter while he was working on the manuscript for his book. Since the story is told in the first person by a violinist who is both sensitive and explosive, Seth does an excellent job evoking the emotion of music via his prose. In Vikram Seth's third book, *An Equal Music*, an emotionally explosive musician named Michael Holme slowly recovers his sense of self. Western Europe's crowning cultural achievement: classical music, provides the background to an enthralling tale set in modern-day cities including London, Vienna, and Venice. Vikram Seth has crafted an incredibly poignant tale about the threads of excitement that run through all of our lives by brilliantly fusing the themes of loss, yearning, and the power of music. Violinists suffer unimaginable agony in the novel. Vikram Seth's *An Equal Music* is an all-time great. The lives of extraordinary individuals are often the threads that weave together to form a great story. Musicians who have committed their lives to music are the subject of this story. This book portrays music as a high-minded vice. Musicians Michael and Julia are. The story revolves on Michael Holme and Julia McNicholl, two very talented musicians. The memories of his time in Vienna as a music student, when he met Julia, are



becoming more pervasive as Michael works on a Beethoven quartet for the Maggior Quartet. Their romance is reignited when they are reunited by accident in London. This novel's ability to portray music via text is one of its most outstanding features. When it comes to music, Seth may seem humble, but the fact that the English National Opera had him write a libretto in 1994 implies he's no rookie.

Conclusion: With his narrative voice constantly self-effacing and very open, Seth is Seth's best accomplishment. There is a consistent level of creative objectivity in the presentation of themes and concerns. His three books have been praised by critics and readers alike as virtuoso performances and serious works of literature. They have also been translated into other languages. Each book has been a unique departure from the previous one, reinterpreting an established literary genre in surprising new ways. The work is written in the Omniscient style by him. Like peeking through peepholes into the minds and hearts of the characters, the reader may get a glimpse of their innermost thoughts and feelings. Characters in Seth's work aren't so much characterized by the way they express themselves or think about themselves. Rather, it's via their interactions with and perceptions of others. In his stories, his characters yearn for the most fundamental of human wants. The genuine mirror in which society's image is reflected is fiction. They also depicted the lives of the society and its problems in Vikram Seth's and Amitav Ghosh's works. Vikram Seth and Amitav Ghosh's novels are often recognized as realistic portrayals of everyday life. The writer paints a picture of the world we live in via the medium of a tale.

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