

# Analysis of Father-son relationship in Bhagat's 2 States

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## Abstract

Chetan Bhagat a renowned writer in contemporary world has presented many blockbuster novels and most of his fictions win the heart of the masses in quiet a number. Some of his novels are pictured such movies also turned to be hit movies. The author has followed few techniques repeatedly in his novels one among them is father-son relationship. Bhagat experiences very harsh treatment as a son at his home in reality being an ex-army man his father expects explicit correctness, neatness and punctuality in his works as well as the work of family members too. His mother has accustomed to his rule passively accepts everything without expressing any hint of protest or never show any trace of discomfort.

**Key Words:** *Relationship, correctness, neatness, punctuality, protest.*

## Introduction

The focus of Chetan Bhagat's 2 States is on the relationship between a specific phenomenon the idea of love and issues of culture and society. The theme of the book 2 States is how cross-cultural interactions can enrich and meaningfully imbue various experiences. Any work's title should convey its concept, just as the rose represents beauty and the soldier represents the nation. The title of Bhagat's novel, 2 States, alone shows how the citizens of the two States are converging. A straightforward but honest book effectively examines the meeting between Tamil Nadu and Punjab. The story 2 States, which is set in the cities of Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, and Goa, is broken up into 5 Acts. The story opens with the main character, Krish Malhotra, in terrible straits, being pursued by his South Indian (specifically, Tamil Brahmin) girlfriend's family as well as his Punjabi family. Two States with Chetan Bhagat The Story of My Marriage approaches the very serious subject of cross-cultural tolerance, tradition, and multi-cultural acceptance in a humorous manner. We definitely experience cultural shocks reading this book.

## Analysis of Father-son relationship

Chaudhari, Sunil and Haque A (2016) states that Bhagat here depicts social aspects like the obstacles in getting married outside the caste, dowry system, racism, husband- wife, and father-son relations. Parents are the superheroes to any child. Every child admire their parents without any doubt. Fathers seems to be only heroes during the young age. Parents take all the responsibility to make a child as a socially responsible person. When a boy grows up he changes his standard for him father is a strict person. In most of the Indian houses a silent war

will be going on between father and son. In few houses both of them involve in wordy quarrel. When the child becomes a father or when they grow up, they realise the difficulties of bringing up a child. Amidst their tough situation parents never let a child to involve the activities against law. *Two States* is an autobiographical narrative of renowned writer Chetan Bhagat. He delineates his story exactly what has happened in his life. Krish and Ananya represents the writer Bhagat and his wife. Both of them happened to be classmates of their master degree in IIM Ahmedabad. They studied together in her room. Once Ananya enquires about his father. He replies, “I never speak to my father” (TS 17). Krish and his father develop a kind of enmity between them. Both have a quarrel for years before, after that both of them do not speak with one another. His father is an ex-army person so expects cent percent correctness in every aspect of life, most of the retired army persons behave in such eccentric way similarly his father not an exemption follows Hitler’s rule at home. At one time out of anger wordy quarrel arise between father and son, he says to Krish leave the home soon. For that Krish thinks, “I hope you leave the world soon, I responded mentally” (TS 59). Sumanti (2017) “the letter describes a huge distance in the father-son relationship. Krish’s father even omits the dear from the letter. It indicates that Krish’s father does not address Krish as the beloved one anymore. He omits the dear because he cannot show the attention anymore. He does that to ignore Krish as his son, he also ignores his role as a father”.

### Son

*I am omitting the ‘Dear’ as I am not sure I can address you as that anymore. I knew you are on the wrong path the day you lost respect for your father (p-156).*

For his father’s words he has responded by his mind level, his father to die soon. Though he does not have guts to express directly, mentally he feels like that, he does not aware of the worth of a father at that particular moment. Normally grown up boys always keep distance from their father still some occasions demand them to behave strongly against their fathers but in this case Krish thinks extreme.

Aarathi (2014) proved that the “father-son relationship and a lover-beloved relationship, corporate exploitation and two different cultures. He is of the view that love knows no boundaries whether it be of caste, creed, religion, state or country. To some extent this story seems to be of Chetan Bhagat, but he never claimed it. It’s definitely love that triumphs against all odds”. Life’s memorable events are captured and the moments are cherished by seeing photographs. Recent day youth show too much of interest in taking selfies. At one time Ananya enquires him about his family pictures. Krish replies, “My family was too disentangled to ever pause and pose at the right moment” (TS 140). There is no smooth relationship in his family mainly between his father and himself. So the members do not find time to give pose for family photograph even the family consists only three members his father does not maintain any harmony with his wife and son after Krish love episode with Ananya all the three like a triangle each one stands in different dimension they are scattered by mind level.

Krish and Ananya go to STD booth to make call to their respective families. Krish’s phone call is attended by his father so he remains silent at one end, it costs dearly but he never bothers about charges adamantly he keeps mum. The contrary is he is spending the money of his father. Ananya suggests, “This strong and silent warfare between you and your dad is becoming too much” (TS 40). On witnessing all this drama she tells him it

is too much between a father and a son suggests him to change his attitude. Then few minutes later Krish' mother comes on the line and speaks with her over phone.

Fathers are always concern towards their children activities. Krish's father enters into the house his mother alerts the family members. She announces, "Oh no, it's your father, my mother said. Switch off the T.V" (TS 59). Singh, G, and Rajesh K (2016) described that "consciously prompting him to speak about what is there deep in his mind. She notices the crack in father-son relationship at the very onset of the first discussion about family. Being emotionally sensitive from within, Krish is always encouraged by Ananya acting as his personal therapist". On hearing the sound of doorbell, his mother instructs him to switch off the television because his father hates to watch it. For the questions he asks to his wife, instead of his mother Krish answers. My father says, "This is the result of your upbringing. All degrees can go to the dustbin. You only have this at the end" (TS 59). He scolds his wife for the behaviour of his son. He blames her for bringing up him in wrong way. And also he directly says to his son, "I hope you leave home soon, my father said" (TS 59). Normally father's like the presence of their son at home after their long stay in hostel on the contrary he desires his son to leave the home soon.

Krish's father calls him at eleven O'clock at night his colleagues inform him. He picks up the receiver anxiously to know anything has happened to his mother. He answers,

"hello?"

Am I speaking to my son?

His father never addresses him as son so it is strange for Krish. And also both do not have one-on-one conversation for years.

It's Krish, I said.

That's my son only, no?

If you say so, I said.

Relationship between father and son explicitly shows that their intimacy. Krish hates his father to that much. He hates to speak with him even over phone though he stays far away from his house. His father congratulates him for sending his first month salary cheque to his mother. He wants to maintain a better relationship with him. He continues,

"How's life?"

It's none of your business, I said.

Is this the way to speak to your father? he shouted.

I don't speak to you, I said, 'in case you didn't notice'.

And I am trying to increase communication, he said, his voice still loud. (TS 115).

It is an example telephonic conversation between the two. Krish hates his father bitterly than anything else.

For one of the happiest occasions of life, on the day of convocation Krish invites only his mother, when his name is called happily rushes to the podium receives the diploma with pride. “The chief guest gave me my diploma” (TS 48). Krish ecstasies, “For the last ten years my father had told her that her son would get nowhere in life. I held my diploma and looked up to thank God” (TS 48). He hates his father for his behaviour, constantly his father a disagreeable person scolds him to his mother. Her son never achieves anything in life simply turns to be a waste fellow. On receiving the diploma Krish has thanked God for his abundant blessing and the hard work of his mother. Her sacrifice to adjust with his father, unlike his father’s words he proves himself as a worthy person to get through honourable studies. He firmly believes that achieves something incredible in life.

Krish visits Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry narrates the incident to Guruji, in which he beats his father. He says, “I slapped his face once, twice, then I rolled my hand into a fist and punched his face” (TS 167). His father beats his mother for menial reasons now and then he does not have the guts to argue with his father. But now he retaliates severely. He says, “It was a reaction to two decades of abuse” (TS 167). His anger is self-controlled for twenty years now it outbursts like a revenge he behaves beastly. “I looked at my father and vowed never to speak to him again” (TS 167). Like the broken glasses in to pieces Krish and his father’s relationship also broken in to pieces. Krish vows not to speak with his father till death. Guruji advises, “Forgiving doesn’t make the person who hurt you feel better, it makes you feel better” (TS 168). People carry wrath and anger in their hearts about their enemies cannot lead a blissful life whereas it increases the burden for them. The only solution to get relief is to forgive others which makes oneself feel better and come out of the problem. The Guruji preaches a real fact to Krish to let out his emotions about his father. Every human being needs a kind of light from someone like a guiding star for sea voyages it may be God or a Guru or it could be books. In his case Krish receives wisdom from the Guruji to forgive others for the goodness of himself.

Though father and son maintain no cordial relationship between them, his father has soft corner towards him. Krish’s father writes a letter to him in which he informs his mother’s relatives are searching a girl for him. They dislike the Chennai girl. He intimates him to take a right decision for his life. When it comes as life matter his father writes a letter to his son to explain the condition. One can understand the goodwill and concern of a father as well as a bondage between the two. Krish helps his father by type his pension papers for that he thanked his son. He simply wonders to hear the words whether this man’s dictionary consists all these words.

After so much of confusion about Krish’s marriage, all the threatening hurdles are removed safely. At last it comes to a positive end. Krish behaves, “I went to my parents’ room. They were still asleep. I don’t know why, but I did a totally sappy thing. I slid right into the middle and put an arm around them both.” (TS 245). Every grown up adult has a longing like this. Everyone wants to be closer by the side of their parents even when grows up especially at the crucial period expects their intimacy but many of us do not get the opportunity. Here Krish fulfils his desire to lie in between his father and mother.

Krish father thinks, “His eyes met mine, he said, because I am your father. A bad father, but I am still your father. He continued, and even though you feel I have let you down in the past, I felt I should do my bit this time. A life partner is important. Ananya is a nice girl. You shouldn’t lose her.” (TS 245). Krish’s father comes to Chennai speaks with Ananya’s family members arranges everything without Krish’ knowledge. In the morning

Ananya calls him and reveal everything about a vital role played by his father. His father utters a life partner is important for a contended life.

## Conclusion

The strained relationship between Krish and his father, his father does not come to get it. The ceremony itself sparks some little tension between Ananya's mother and Krish's mother, shattering their goal of being married. The story took a turn when they decided to get married with their parents' permission rather than go the simple route and elope. Krish's father converses with Ananya's family members and convinces them without informing his son. Krish behaves eccentrically, "I hugged him back. Tears slipped out us. I let go of any self-control. The world celebrates children and their mothers, but we need father's too" (TS 246). Later Krish comprehends the act of his father and hugs him. He proudly feels the world has to celebrate fathers too. At one time he hates his father completely now transformation happens in his attitude. He realizes the role of father and his burden in life. A Father is a living example to his child.

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