

### Portrayal of Realism: A Reading of Vikram Seth's "*The Golden Gate*"

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#### Abstract

Vikram Seth is one of the leading writers in Indian Writing in English. His works are known for his realism and social issues. Seth's narrative technique is related to R.K. Narayanan, George Eliot and Leo Tolstoy, because his novel expresses a rare belief in the possibility of reliability, a representation he seeks to achieve through an impressively detailed and documented reconstruction of Indian society. Seth's groundbreaking work *The Golden Gate* is the typical example of realism which is showcased real life picture of the society. In this connection, this present paper inspects the portrayal of realism in Vikram Seth's *The Golden Gate*, aims to provide Indian ideas through a realistic Approach with real quality and also depicts the real picture of American society.

**Key words:** Vikram Seth, Realism.

Realism is an artistic development that started in France in the middle of nineteenth century. Specialists and scholars endeavour to give point by point portrayals of the real world and occasions. They attempt to address social event and conditions since they are really territorial units, not admired.

Realism focuses on the current, here and now, precise actions, and their verifiable consequences. Realism seeks the link between the illustrations and therefore the subject. This type is additionally called imitation. The important unit of measurement involves the influence of the work on its readers and thus has a sway on the lives of the readers. It's a form of realistic reading.

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reader and can improve the life of the reader. This gives him a realistic moral inclination, while focusing on the common actions and small disasters of the socio-economic class.

Realism aims to decipher reality in any part of life, liberated from emotional bias, optimism or heartfelt impact. It is straightforwardly in opposition to the thought of abnormal sentimentalism. Attempt to manage normal things and utilized characters throughout everyday life. This pressing factor is brought about by friendly changes like the results of the interior conflict in the United States, because of the development of Darwin's hypothesis of advancement and its effect on the translation of *The Bible*.

Realism is a is an approach to manage composing which centres around a fair demonstration of stories, characters and settings that are normal to us in the contemporary reliably world, with an exceptional and momentary need of the present or progressing past. The events are coordinated in a straight plan with a normally all-realizing account point of see. The region, plot and end are the result of the maker's immediate insight or rely upon strong reports. The characters and story line are possible, and in this, they are common, instead of typical. The working and working classes are satisfactorily addressed, since they structure most of the general public. Pragmatist books, in another sense, are a steadfast duplicate of our life and environmental factors, where the connection between the writer, pursuer and the content are controlled by a wonderful impression of reality. The above idea of authenticity will be instrumental in dissecting Seth's books.

Realism consists in recreating life in literature. Realism emerged as a plan that was opposed to idealism and philosophical doctrine. Idealism is the method of writing literature, in terms of everything in its ideals. Philosophy holds that the unit of area of an idea is just a naming and not application. Realism aims to treat ordinary and average lifestyles truthfully.

Vikram Seth's books are astonishing instances of authenticity in its different signs. As examined toward the finish of the main part, the highlights of Realism unequivocally clear in his books are his reasonable portrayal, portrayal, peopling of the plot with ordinary characters, adherence to honesty and credibility and his remarkable social concern. His first novel, *The Golden Gate* is made in section and at that point follows his perfect work of art *A Suitable Boy*. *An Equal Music* is a skilful investigation of western traditional music with a pragmatist approach. The honesty and commonality of the region, plot and characters play an unequivocal job in determining the value of authenticity tested by the creator. The creator has focused on his portrayal around the regular truth of average folks in every one of the three books

The portrayal of the initial two writings is in third individual and this all-knowing storyteller notices furthermore, passes on the basics of the plot to the pursuer. The credibility of the story described is certain as confirmed by the ordinary nature of the characters and

occasions. As a genuine old style pragmatist Seth depends on middleclass characters and their sensibilities and due significance is given to the lower layers and average areas of the individuals at fitting situations in the novel. Seth's marvellous utilization of authenticity combined with his social awareness makes his books an uncommon accomplishment in Indian writing in English.

Seth's act of Realism is unique in relation to European Realism. Seth needs to experience an alternate society, which is stale, eccentric, and heterogeneous. Joining of a particularly extraordinary climate in fiction is a Herculean task to the essayist. Seth receives his own adaptation of authenticity to address the politically subservient, monetarily denied and socially outlined post-autonomous Indian culture in his magnum opus. Seth handles socially versatile Indian working class in *A Suitable Boy*. The modes operandi of European pragmatists which is appropriate to the industrialized Europe can't be applied to Indian culture all things considered. This legitimizes Seth's conscious deviations from the European canons of Realism. So the sort of authenticity rehearsed by scholars like Vikram Seth are neither European nor Victorian in its genuine sense, however a renovated authenticity, which appropriately conveys the irregularities, and orthodoxies of stale Indian culture. With regard to *The Golden Gate* and *An Equal Music*, Seth clings to European old style pragmatist shows. Yet, his philosophical premise is Indian while he experiences honesty in both the books, and at whatever point a conflict emerges between his European and Indian sensibilities, his Indiananess wins over the previous.

Vikram Seth composed *The Golden Gate* in 1986, a stanza novel, made altogether in rhyming tetrameter pieces. The epic was a mocking sentiment portraying the existences of youthful experts in San Francisco through their journeys and inquiries to discover, and afterward manage their own lives as well as in each other's. The brilliant entryway contains 594 poems, all written in versifying tetrameter what's more, follows the fourteen-line verse example of Eugene O'ne gin. The brilliant door story dependent on American setting and the creator adds assortments of embodiments like way of life of elitists, atomic fighting, homosexuality, and seclusion to show the practical highlights of American culture in 1980s.

*The Golden Gate* has an all-American cast of characters and it offers an insightful gander at the 1980s elitist way of life in northern California. The term elitists have now come to be alluded to something other than a segment profile: it is likewise a psychographic profile. It portrays a bunch of conduct and psychographic credits that have come to establish a generally accepted generalization. As indicated by this generalization, elitists are more moderate than the former nonconformist age. Administering of the social reasons for their more enthusiastic guardians, elitists will in general be expert labourers. Elitists will in general esteem material products. Specifically, this can apply to their stocks, imported cars, sport utilities, improvement houses, and innovative devices, especially mobile phones. In this novel, one can discover the elitist culture through the personality of John Brown.

Realism is the method of portrayal Seth holds fast to in *The Golden Gate*. In the initial refrain of part one, Seth gives us the specific time, spot and people of the novel which is to a great extent anecdotal than idyllic. In this way, Seth Says, in 1980 there carried on a man called John Brown, who a computer researcher is working for a product organization connected to atomic arms. Seth gives us an image of John through amazing enumerating. John is attractive, with a conventional dressing. His voice is low with a sound brain. The epic is brimming with sensible pictures. The adapts pursuing the traffic guilty party, the ways troubled with over-traffic, boards on the expressways and so on are some of them.

The freeway sweeps past humming pylons,  
 Past Canterbury Carpet Mart,  
 Warehouses, ads displaying nylons on shapely legs that make John start. A  
 cigarette ad, sweet and suborning,  
 Subverts the Surgeon General's warning: A craggy golfer, tanned, blue-eyed,  
 Insouciantly stands beside A Porsche-caged blonde; coolly patrician, He  
 puffs a menthol-tipped King-size.  
 John tries to curb his vagrant eyes  
 And heed the poet's admonition:  
 "Beneath this slab John Brown is stowed. He watched the ads and not the  
 road."  
 But in five minutes other features  
 Divert him: "Honk for Jesus." I  
 Swerve to run over little creatures. (Seth29-30)

Vikram Seth truly described the social customs which is prevailing in the United States. John is a lonely man. He has a melancholic character, his old love, sculptor Janet Hayakawa suggested that he advertise in the newspaper as an escort. After testing one or two girls out of the responses he received, John chose the third one, Elizabeth Dorati (Liz). She is described the content of the letter and she is twenty seven years old, confident and good looking person. Seth vividly recounted Liz and John's romance with passion and the long-lost love between the two lovers was given a fullness of hearts.

They stand, half shivering, half still,  
 Below the tower on Telegraph Hill,  
 Not speaking, with a finger tracing  
 The unseen lines from star to star.  
 Liz turns. They kiss. They kiss, they are  
 Caught in a panic of embracing.  
 They cannot hold each other tight  
 Enough against the chill of night. (49)

The loneliness and alienation experienced by the rich young American can be realistically expressed here. To promote the computer engineer his life mate is strange and seemingly a machine, it reflects the deeper sickness of the coldness that the has swallowed up America's hyper-modern society.

He listens. Jan says: "Advertise."  
"What? Advertise? You must be joking!"  
"I'm serious." "Jan, you're nuts." I'm not.  
"You know, Jan, you've had such a soaking  
In Tsingtao you don't know what's what.  
Me advertise? You must be kidding!"  
"Kiddo, I'm not. Just do my bidding.  
Take out an ad. Right now. (18-19)

Seth took a realistic approach to interpersonal relationships. His narrative often reveals the shortcomings of his character. John began to doubt the relationship between Liz and Phil, and their relationship became interesting and unstable. Liz regrets her decision to leave at John's house. Seth provides us with a true picture of Californian society, wherein his people live and die in their lead role. This is an important feature of the realist text while fictionalizing in California society. Seth also followed this established classic of realism. The images range from trivial social issues to contemporary sexual mores. There are housewarming parties, prep picnics, weekend trips and hearty breakfasts, and Gestalt groups.

Seth represents all the wonderful glory of San Francisco, represents all the little things that make up the heartbeat of the city: pumpkin pie, gum, roads, traffic police chasing cars at high speed, nifty bumper stickers, billboards, demonstrations, The Bay Area, gay bars and the city are portrayed as a living and pulsating entity, in which intellectual advance and sexual indulgence coexist. This is specifically to highlight the superficial existence of the human being in a city like, where life has been reborn as an endless struggle without the meaning. One of the salient characteristics of Realism is its true characterization. Through these strategies, the author maintains the inevitable connection between the outside worlds and extracts his raw materials for fiction from this.

The use of realism concept is unique to other writers of Indian origin. Analysis of his novels on the concept of realism has been used to identify the characteristics of realism among them. Depending on his own story strategy and the specificity of social interest, the process isolated from the bandwagon of other realist writers and established a status that stood out above others as the main writers of India.

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