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## FALSE PERSONALITY OF POSTMODERN YOUTH IN UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE'S *ENGLISH, AUGUST*

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### ABSTRACT



False personality of youth is oafishly mammoth perversive in the Postmodern era. Formality in behavior, action and thought has become routine phenomena of society that youth could not explore truth of psyche through their personality. Material progress and technological advancements attributed specific constructed and formulated psyche consequences in false personality in manners and etiquettes that could not appear in natural sensibility through human relationship. Ultimately, authentic psyche with experience is some kind of hard to live long but indispensable for enthusiastic and burdenless life. Moreover, Unauthentic mind creates conflict and twist in living where everyone plays false personality as acting in order to necessity. As a result, Whole psyche of a person makes incomplete and eccentric in bipolar mind having thousands of intentions in fragmentary perspectives that could not proclaim unique identity in action and thought of personality. Hence, as far as postmodern period is concerned, no truth or authentic psyche has left in human being rather action and thought brings a formal and diplomatic perspectives in life in which intensification of inner self enervates its energy to practices in day-to-day life while interaction of two or more individuals. Upamanyu Chatterjee very effectively explored thematic concern of false personality in *English, August* through characters and their perspectives in which everyone's self is diverted by lack of determined and authentic psyche.

**.Keywords:** *False Personality, Human Relationship, Authentic Psyche.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Upamanyu Chatterjee's *English August* published in 1988 was saga of false personality of postmodern youth coming from western values and education that reflected in Indian society after independence. Michal Dirda in his interview in the Washington Post has expressed "This maiden novel of Chatterjee traces the purposeless journey of the protagonist in the modern spiritual journey of the protagonist in the modern spiritual wasteland". Soon after its publication it was transitional period for society specially for youth who ignored inner strength of psyche.

## SCOPE OF THE PAPER

A study of the paper attempts to cover psyche of youth dealing with action and thought that explored formal and unauthentic behavior stimulated by various situation on the basis of morality in postmodern period.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE PAPER

This paper is limited to the Upamanyu Chatterjee's novel *English, August* concerned with postmodern aspects dealing with protagonists' psyche who could not make relation between his inner and outer world.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Present paper is studied under the analytical research methodology in which psychological aspects and Upamanyu Chatterjee's novel *English, August* references defined under the deference perspective.

## FALSE PERSONALITY OF AUGASTYA

The novel narrated one year of the probation period of trainee civil servant Agustya Sen posted at

Madna, small town place remote from metro city. Agustya Sen is symbolic character of contemporary Indian society of youth who entangled in dilemma of truth and false where he appeared in false personality in crisis. The 24-year-old young man feels false of life when he encounters with situation, He is grown up in elite society and comfort zone where his forming age cannot meet the truth of life. His name given by parents deals with Hindu saint but his whole life inspired by western value which could not fulfil his requirements of life. Consequently, inner psyche made from western values and outer world of rustic environment makes him inactive and absurd towards life. His uncle Pultukaku comments "You are an absurd combination, a boarding-school-English-literature education and obscure name from Hindu myth." (129) his self-fight in search of sense of life through his education and experience is preeminent part of his daily routine but he failed to understand the meaning of it. Significant problem of his life is how to define itself in present context where he psychologically dislocated his existence.

The protagonist is anglicized "superior person" who does not come out from notion of false attitude to see real India and does not improve sense of humanity which need to understand India. On his first day of joining in the collector office he is faced with dislocation and unreal where he confesses, "I don't look like a bureaucrat, what am I doing here. I should have been a photographer, or a maker of Ad films, something like that, shallow and urban." (13) he feels restless and remorse regarding what he sees in his life "Is it because it is a 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." (27)



False personality of Augustya reflected in lack of interest in his work doing enervated his energy and enthusiasm. He comes Madna as aspirant to doing work for welfare state. On the contrary, his habit of masturbation and consumption of marijuana makes distracted personality spending significant time in daydream and futile action. The problem of author deals with cultural of postmodern India where youth is threatened by false perception of society and his work with disinterested thought. Morally crippled, culturally unmaturing Augustya does not understand way of life in rustic area in order to make excellent impression in administration. Being wealthy family member who has thousands of opportunities to prove his personality as good and courageous to stand against crisis. His school and college education has done in metro city and stayed in boarding with friends. Therefore, emotional attachment with various person such as family members brother, sister and parents could not be obtained as in India family is first school of life for teaching values and emotion. Western education in order to personal development has been provided blindly which eludes reality of life. Consequently, whole intensity of inner self fragmented in numerous directions which could not find proper intention of life. Therefore, twist of self has created unauthentic and unreal picture of world in which Augustya could not define his existence. Ultimately, inexorable contrition deals with action and thought makes him spoofing personality. Augustya persuades his self towards individual happiness which is alienated from collective sense of morality. Failure of seeding values and emotion for strong person in terms of living in society is avoided in western education which could not make breeze between society and individual. Augustya in his career isolated

and mundane to go forward to achieve venerable position. Consequently, melancholy emotion cannot show sympathy for common man of Madna who always waits for government support. Moreover, he fails to develop a cordial and emotional relationship with his colleagues. One of the friends Dhruvo knows his chaotic condition of his life in Madna. I have feeling, August, you're going to get hazard fucked in Madna." (1) He adds, "Out there in Madna quite a few people are going to ask you what you're doing in the Administrative Service. Because you don't look the role." (3)

Augustya's life seems to be formal and diplomatic where absence of affinity and intensity of life could not go with time as he has to obtain a kind of stability between inner and outer world. To know life in terms of psyche which determines truth of world is prominently objective of life. Strength of personality attributed to intensity of living in present with thought and action. Consequently, intensity of life comes from healthy and truthful interrelation of human being. What he thinks, does and sees in present has to be come with authentic and intensify of truth. Living in fragmentary psyche is impotent who could not face the changing circumstances. Consequently, a laziness and recumbent in self-loathing created in mind. After all, along with Augustya other colleagues belong to upper middle class who got opportunities of education and privileged are equally suffered from false of personality. In spite of opulent environment comparatively others they ebbed by dilemma and dislocation. Dhruva's girlfriend who slumped by affliction of alienation feels a sense guilty of distraction. She says, "I really wonder what I'm doing here, especially because



academically this place really 'sucks.'" (156). They do not titillate each other for doing any good work as expected by society.

False personality of Augastya reflected in his callous attitude towards women in which patriarchal psyche dominate and fervidly impudent women. He has not affinity and emotional bereavement of his died mother. He thinks of all women as a product of utility and pleasure. When Shankar wanted to know strong desire of Augastya, his relation with the women filled with lust and hatred. he gets an erection when he sees the women who come to meet him in order to help.

Consequently, the novel focuses on psychological crisis of Augastya who individually fails to understand relation and dignity of human being through communication and living with people. He is not there where he has to be mentally with physically. Augastya is not determined at his future, aims and people where he can show heroic qualities but he failed to prove it.

## CONCLUSION

Upamanyu Chatterjee focuses on the false personality of youth who entangled in the crisis of communication and morality. Despite of education and bureaucrat he fails to show dynamic power of his personality where transformation of his personality reflect in action and thought for social upliftment. Lack of confidence and perception of society he could not take any kinds responsibility.

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