

## TREATMENT OF DEATH AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS IN THE NOVELS OF VIKRAM SETH'S

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Vikram Seth is one of the perceptible writers, novelist, and poet of present day age. 'The Golden Gate' is the primary novel of Vikram Seth distributed in 1986. He is affected by culture, custom and show of these various nations where he invested his reformist time of energy. He arose as another comer in the flood of Indo-Indian Literature. He has contributed and foster Indian English novel by subject and procedure. Vikram seth is such a writer who permits user to peep into the brain and cognizance of the figures by close to home and family relationship. Individuals are social by birth and for the duration of the life remain yet endure because of some craving, demeanour, lose and benefits. This paper examines, in a nutshell, the treatment of death and topical investigation in Vikram Seth's novels The Golden Gate, A Suitable Boy and An Equal Music. It is presumed that Death achieves positive changes in the perspectives of Seth's men and women along these lines giving them more noteworthy agreement and insight of the ground real factors of life.*

**Keywords** - *Treatment of Death, Solipsism, Alienation, Noble Purpose, Regeneration, Realization of the Cosmos, Vikram Seth, The Golden Gate, A suitable Boy, An Equal Music, etc.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Vikram Seth is perhaps the main Indian novelists of today. He remains as another comer in the surge of Indo English writing.

He has made huge commitment to enhance Indian English novel as for both subject and methods. Seth's most prominent achievement is simply the account voice, which is continually destroying and

absolutely straightforward. Themes and issues are given a consistent consistency of innovative objectivity in his novels. Seth's characters are characterized less through a portrayal of their awareness, self-expressive or perspectives on themselves in any case, through their relationship with others and other's perspective on them. His characters in the novels need the essential human longings. He has given another dimension and profundity to the novel by utilizing the work structure for the account reason. Despite the fact that he is Indian by birth, by life style he is diasporic. He remains as another comer in the surge of Indo English writing. He has made huge commitment to advance Indian English novel as for both topic and methods. Vikram Seth is otherwise called an Indian poet, novelist, travel writer, writer, kids' writer, biographer and furthermore memoirist.

Seth's most noteworthy achievement is simply the story voice, which is continually destroying and completely straightforward. Themes and issues are given a consistent consistency of innovative objectivity. His three novels have been virtuoso exhibitions and for genuine writing immensely effective with the understanding public, and deciphered

in numerous languages. Every novel has been totally different from the others and has taken a more established scholarly structure in startling new dimensions.

He composes the novel in the Omniscient. It is like the peruser is glancing through windows into the family connections and the mental and passionate perspectives of the individual characters. Seth's characters are characterized less through a portrayal of their awareness, self-expressive or perspectives on themselves But through their relationship with others and other's perspective on them. His characters in the novels need the fundamental human longings.

## 2. VIKRAM SETH'S WORKS

His novels are The Golden Gate (1986), A Suitable boy (1993), An Equal Music (1999) and upcoming novel A Suitable Girl. His poetry contains Mappings (1980), From Heaven Lake (1983), The Humble Administrator's Garden (1985), All You Who Sleep Tonight: Poems (1990) and Three Chinese Poets (1992). His children's book, Beastly Tales from Here and There (1992) involves of ten stories about animals.

## 2.1 Awards

- Thomas Cook Travel Book Award (1983 –Travel book – Heaven Lake)
- Common Wealth Poetry prize (1985 – Poem Humble Administrator’s Garden)
- Sahitya Akademi Award (1988- The Golden Gate)
- Common wealth writers prize (1993- A Suitable Boy)
- W H Smith literary award (1994- A Suitable Boy)
- Cross word Book award (1999-an Equal Music)
- Emma for best book (2001- An Equal Music)
- PravasiBharatiya Samman (2005)
- Padma Shri in Literature and Education (2007)
- 25th greatest global living legends in India (2013)

Vikram Seth is one significant writer not too far off of Indian English literature. His three novels portray the accounts set in various nations and of the characters of various foundations. It permits the user to get a similar image of imperilled nature across the world. His characters change from the field of PCs, designing,

instruction, governmental issues and business to the universe of music. These three novels are individually set in the Silicon Valley of Californian sound region, India after freedom and in London and Vienna.

## 3. THEMATIC ANALYSIS IN THE NOVELS OF VIKRAM SETH

### 3.1 The Golden Gate

‘The Golden Gate’ in section formed altogether in rhyming tetrameter piece. The Golden Gate includes 594 works in rhyming tetrameter and follows the fourteen-line refrain example of Eugene Onegin. The rhyme plan of this example is 'aBaBccDDeFFeGG'. The novel is separated into thirteen sections and every part flawlessly adjusted in its show of arrangement of correspondence with each other characters. This novel is a sarcastic sentiment signifying the story of youthful experts in San Francisco. Their affection, lose, individual, family relationship with each other. It is account about San Francisco sent in rhyming poem. There are the five principle characters in the book. Every one of them is characterized inside the boundaries of his calling, individual life and impulses and family and social conditions and associations.

John Brown, a hero is alum of Berkley around 26 year-old. In any case, he is effective in his work, feels desolate PC leader in Silicon Valley. He is utilized in the high – tech PC and hardware industry and works in the space of atomic exploration. Janet Hawakaya was the ex is of Japanese plunge and the lone ethnic presence in the novel. She turns into his associate and at the appointed time by and by turns into his darling. She is touchy naturally just as imaginatively skilled. Janet is one of the individuals in the troublemaker band "Fluid sheep" she is drummer and assumes focal part in the account.

Liz Dorati is a 27 year-old, powerful ex-Stanford Law School lawyer. She has an excellent appearance with energetic, blue-looked at. John is intrigued by her written by hand answer that Jan advances to him, and welcomes her to meet him. They had short-live sentiment that is before long obliterated by close to home bias, political contrasts and a pet whistled Charlemagne.

Phil was the previous flat mate structure Berkley. He is least ordinary in different characters Phil is Jewish and has a six-year-old child named Paul. Open and non-traditionalist disapproved of Phil has a concise gay illicit relationship with Liz's

sibling Ed. Ed Dorati is 23, "serious, athletic/quiet "and trapped in a predicament between his strict convictions and his regular gay inclinations. These loads of five characters are associated with each other. Their self-disposition and brain made them not the same as one another. Their relations have some time looks receptive, free, and strong and at some point look nerves, defenseless, imbalanced. Uniqueness reflects in the characters of the novel. Social issues are unmistakably called attention to through the relationship of characters. John has a place with solace and extravagance environment; he endures normal social issue that is depression. Separation becomes frenzy to everybody

The novel opens here with the state of advancement, new difficulties and mentalities have showed up with the scattered states of exceptionally taught man. Rather than glad and beguiling disposition, bleak and sad psyche reflection unveiled here. We being a social never live secluded albeit isolated. The characters in The Golden Gate address their capacity or failure to lead character cheerful or satisfying lives. In the content, the scenes of the areas, social settings, the values, politics and customs, food, climate

and climate assume significant parts in the existences of the characters.

### 3.2 A Suitable Boy

Vikram Seth's book 'A Suitable Boy' distributed in 1993 and made a set of experiences in Indian English Literature. The novel contains 1349 pages and turns into the longest novel in literature. A Suitable Boy was an unmistakably Indian novel; Seth needed the novel to be distributed at first in India.

'A Suitable Boy' set totally in India. The primary plot line of A Suitable Boy, similar to that of 'The Golden Gate' (1986) focuses on the topic of looking through a suitable accomplice. The primary strength of novel untruths not in crafted by matchmaking, but rather in the portrayal of social environment of the decade after the free India. Seth figures out how to between interface in a counterfeit manner every one of the bigger themes of political, social and religious contentions. Seth catches day today normal human feelings of the consistent with life characters

The novel opens with a wedding program that brings the said four families together on the moment; Seth permits putting his primary characters. Mrs. Rupa Mehra's

senior little girl Savita is getting hitched to Pran, Indian marriages has extraordinary practice of mastermind marriages. The culture, custom of Indian culture profoundly established in the mentality of Indian individuals. Marriages are masterminded by the assent of old family individuals. There are numerous things to be appropriate for lady of the hour and husband. Marriage willing families ought to have a place with same religion, standing and sub-station; else, they are not permitted to wed. The Indian culture is antiquated and not permitted to break at any rate. Religious servitude on the social enacts are mentally, publically and seriously spread in India. Love marriages are not permitted, Boy and Girl are not permitted to adore each other except if the consent of religious exercises. Religion assumes a significant part occupied with marriages. On the opposite side it is compelling to live glad marriage life. The two families share custom, culture and comprehend the custom and its worth in life

One of the fundamental characters in the novel is Mrs.Rupa Mehra, who's just work is staying to discover suitable accomplice to her more youthful girl Lata. Mrs. Rupa Mehra is mindful so as to her family as

Indian women do at last. Directly all along, Generally, Indian women, before marriage are raised in a particularly defensive and agreeable environment. Each part is portrayed by a rhyming couplet. There are four families in the story; Mrs. Rupa Mehra assumes control over a time of year and a half to look through a suitable boy to wed her little girl. A suitable boy set in Brahmipur, a fictionalized Northern Indian city on the banks of Ganga River. The novel is the case of good custom of organized marriage in India. In Indian wedding function is foundation of rituals, custom and religious practices. In Indian culture marriages are not simply mean the gathering of two people.

'A Suitable Boy' centres around the encounters and entanglements of decently arrive at Indian families associated through marriage or kinship, at a timeframe in an India was encountering her post – autonomy time. It is essentially about the social, religious and recognizable customs of India and her kin with the various characters looking over as instruments to delineate the veracity of these customs. The novels recount the account of four families the Mehra's, the Kapoors, the Khans and the Chatterjee's who are

identified with one another by marriage and kinship. The social setting of the Novel is a token of the man centric culture of England that doled out Sex jobs and Stereotyping of masculinity and feminine attributes. Where for women the essential job was youngster bearing and care of the family for men then again, family's prosperity was the principle thought processes.

In a Suitable Boy, Lata is a survivor of this male centric culture in 1950s that assumed a comparable marriage where she can draw in bidders. She is in more weak state as she has lost her dad, Mr. Raghubir Mehra. Arun sibling of Lata and Savita was upset even with the senior sister, Savita's Marriage who has been union with Pran.

The plots of 'A Suitable Boy' are organized around search of suitable boy and this gives power and intelligence to the novel. Mrs. Mehra is looking for suitable boy for Lata: Dipankar as a profound base, Mr. Mahes Kapoor is looking for Political base and the Nawab is looking for his primitive solidness. Vikram Seth pictures the post-freedom women disposition, women are related with family gives just, social authenticity of 'A Suitable Boy' presents the social environment, its issues and

obstructions and individual follows to the general public.

### 3.3 An Equal Music

'An Equal Music' is distributed in 1999, This is a music novel and fixated on doomed relationship. The story is about Michael Holme, oneself tormented hero. Michael is delicate and passionate character of the novel. He is forever in grieving for his life, for Julia, a lady he abandoned in Vienna ten years ago. Michael's story slowly as he goes about is day by day schedules of educating, singular practice and practice, until he gets a temporary look of Julia.- on a passing a transport whom he had once adored and left in Vienna and has been not able to discover since, The quest for Julia, their gathering and its effects are woven into different larges themes.

The novel is in the principal individual story, thirty – seven years of age Michael Holden is a second violin player on an English quarter called the Maggiore, other than playing in the quarter, Michael supplements his pay by showing the violin to a couple of music understudies, which one of whom he is having an unsanctioned romance.

Two sorts of dependability one, social and familial, and the other, mental and interior, are portrayed in the novel additionally focused on over and over is the way that attachment to cherish and music likewise prompts a feeling of request and soundness however of an alternate kind.

The novel An Equal Music is an exemplary in each feeling of the world. Entire novel is about the devotion of music. The characters toss their life in the help and commitment for the music. Music has been introduced in the novel as honorable enslavement, Michael and Julia are artists. Perhaps the most amazing part of the novel is the manner by which writer figures out how to pass on music through language.

### 4. TREATMENT OF DEATH

Theme of death is repetitive theme in Vikram Seth's novels. The novelist has discussed death in the entirety of his novels. The writer appears to have introduced it for multi-purposes, for example,

- Death for noble purpose
- Death for regeneration
- Death for realization of the cosmos

#### 4.1 Analysis

Seth shows the death for respectable reason through the death of Rusheed who is the child of a conventional Zamindar of Debaria town. Rusheed has liberal leanings despite his customary childhood. Being touchy, socialist and optimistic individual, Rusheed is tormented by the state of the land workers and landless ranchers. He communicates his misery about their hopeless condition. "We are attached to earth by such fine strings. What's more, there is such a lot of shamefulness—so much—it makes me frantic." (525)

Along these lines, incapable to bear the predicament of the needy individuals of the general public, he defies his family and the feudalism and gets his territory moved to his cultivator and worker Kachhru's name and thusly gets himself excluded by his family. In his resulting battle for other people and society, he ends it all. (1316) Evidently, Rusheed passes on for society and his death represents respectable reason. Here one can dare to say that Seth bids to the medieval society to take an exercise from Rusheed who passed on for the honorable motivation.

Further, in *The Golden Gate*, the hero John is harmed and enraged by the marriage of

Liz, his previous spouse, and Phil, his companion. Taking into account the compromise of the stressed relationship, Janet puts together a gathering for all companions however sadly it can't emerge as she bites the dust in a car crash while offering greeting to all companions. (281) John is significantly tormented because of Janet's death. He so laments over the death that he sees her picture all over the place and hears her voice saying: "John, pay what are your own heart's unpaid debts. Presently make a sound as if to speak, and dry these tears." (307)

Subsequently, in the wake of paying attention to the voice of dead Janet, John takes a positive perspective on life. He is set up to acknowledge life as it comes. Here, death assumes the part of recovery and encourages him to confront the difficulties in the remainder of his life. Additionally, after the death of Liz's mom, Phil and Liz are sad. Here too death achieves a positive change in both Liz and Phil. They develop more lenient towards John. They appeal to John for kinship through a letter. Their letter reports the death of her mom and the birth of their child. The letter understands hence:

It says, Dear John, we have a son.



We trust that you'll be his adoptive parent

Have you that some other companion.

If it's not too much trouble, address us,  
John. Eventually,

We'll all be old or dead or biting the dust.

My mom passed on about fourteen days  
prior. (306)

The information on birth and death  
contacts John profoundly who thinks about  
death and its relationship with life. To  
John, it is second information on death of  
his precious ones. Because of the death of  
Jane and Mrs. Dorati, there is recovery and  
transformation in John who acknowledges  
the greeting as well as gets ready to get to  
know Liz and Phil.

Death additionally assumes a positive part  
in *A Suitable Boy*. After the death of Mrs.  
Mahesh Kapoor, Maan sees that his  
pomposity and neglectful energy have  
achieved his mom's unexpected passing.  
He laments after his mom's end. Presently  
he is a repentant person: "This is my  
doing, Ammaji. It is the thing that I did  
that has prompted this. I won't ever pardon  
myself and nobody in the family will at  
any point excuse me." (1220) Thus, his  
mom's death achieves a positive change in

Maan who chooses to relinquish fixation  
for energy and lead rest of his life with  
cool and quiet. For sure, here death fills  
the need of recovery and renewal in Maan.

Similarly, Michael in *An Equal Music*  
progressively gets mindful of the world  
after the death of his advocate, Mrs.  
Fromby. The death of his mom torments  
him a ton (27) however Mrs. Formby's  
death propels him to confront the  
unforgiving real factors of life.  
Accordingly, his perspective extends: "The  
perspectives have augmented as the  
world's become exposed." (361)

The death of Mrs. Janet Dorati of *The  
Golden Gate*, the death of Mrs. Mahesh  
Kapoor of *A Suitable Boy* and the death of  
Michael's mom and Mrs. Fromby of *An  
Equal Music* certainly work as the  
acknowledgment of the universe. The old  
need to die and the new one need to take  
birth.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Vikram Seth was representation these  
three novels in the various areas yet the  
force of the topic is normal to individuals.  
Themes and issues are given a reasonable  
creative objectivity. Every novel is in  
unique in relation to each other and takes a

more seasoned scholarly structure in the cutting edge dimension. The characters are characterized less through a depiction of their awareness however through kinship and attachment. Seth figures out how to between woven the characters capably. The novels are completely worried to the craving of the individual.

To finish up, death drives man on the correct way of his reality and saves him from succumbing to silly energy, disappointments, misery and obliteration. It is the methods for stepping back to the universe of reality from the universe of disillusionment. Death achieves positive changes in the perspectives of Seth's men and women accordingly giving them more prominent agreement and astuteness of the ground real factors of life. Seth has utilized the subject of death in his novels to introduce the way that life is short and the end is inescapable. It is by all accounts fitting to say that the treatment of death in alternate points of view portrayed in the novels shows the progressive advancement of Seth's idea of death. It tends to be presumed that in the works of contemporary creators' death invaded the story and its heroes' psyches, and offers a ludicrous commentary on the quickness

and unimportance of their lives and the conclusiveness of their deaths.

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