

Themes and Techniques in Vikram Seth's Novels

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Abstract – *On the basis of the socio-geological network and culture in which he is connected, a writer is allocated to one of several categories. Even though it expresses personal experiences, the author's work reflects on society as a whole. Writing is undeniably a powerful tool for shaping society's ideology and attitude. Writers take a fundamental role in protecting the past, reflecting the current culture and foreseeing the future world. In this article the themes and techniques in Vikram Seth's novels have been discussed.*

Key Words – Vikram Seth Novels, Themes and Techniques, Writing Style.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Satirical and serious, Vikram Seth's works examine national legislative matters, the division of class and position, scholastic concerns and interfamily interactions in a light-hearted and serious manner. Social changes, social transformation, and the current social environment are all handled in Vikram Seth's works. Readers are compelled to dissect the nation's true foundations because of the novels' socio-social context. Hence, according to Edward Said, the producers of a social order are always shaping and being shaped by the history and numerous measures they are involved in. As a novelist, Vikram Seth expresses concern about society and foretells the obscenity and criminal operations that have occurred. Because he is a true representative of the community, he is unafraid to expose the true nature of society. Writing by Wole Soyinka A writer is a recorder of his society's experiences and a voice for the future of his generation. It's time for him to step up as a social voice in his head. Because of the potential for harm, he should return to his role as an after-death specialist. Vikram Seth was born on June 20, 1952, in Calcutta, the son of a wealthy white collar family. Batanagar, near Kolkata, and Patna, between Danapur and London, were among the cities where they lived. Calcutta was meant to be a home for Seth and Leila. His father worked at Bata India Limited, a shoe company based in India. Prem Seth moved to India from Pakistan's West Punjab province. His mother, Leila, was the first female judge of the Delhi High Court and the first female Chief Justice of a State High Court. Vikram Seth's younger brother,

Shantum, is a Buddhist meditation facilitator, and his younger sister, Aradhana, was a film producer who married an Austrian diplomat. Since moving to Salisbury, England, Vikram Seth has lived in London for the most of his life. The Doon School in Dehra Dun, Welham Boys' School and St. Michael's High School in Patna were among the schools he attended. He completed his A-levels at Tonbridge School in Kent, England, and then went on to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). He then pursued his dissertation studies at Stanford University. Polymath: He lived on three continents: Asia, Europe, and Australia. He was famed for his travels.

He wrote a wide range of genres, including as poetry, fiction, autobiography, travelogue, and song lyrics. Welsh, German, French, Mandarin, English, Urdu, Hindi and Devanagari were among the dialects he could converse in. The Delhi High Court's most senior female judge was Leila Seth. Vikram Seth's parents had a great effect on him because of their extensive education. Vikram Seth and his sister had discussed the effect of the English language and writing in their college days. His mother's influence on him became more and more significant as he grew older. On Balance, his mother Leila Seth's book of memoirs, expresses At home, Vikram could only speak in English, and he was not allowed to use any other language but English 10. As a result, he became one of the greatest current Indian novelists writing in English under the guidance of his mother. Vikram Seth grew up in Patna, and his parents allowed him to

attend the Doon Public School in Dehra Doon, one of India's most prestigious private schools. Vikram Seth's life experience school topographical teacher, Mr. Gurudayal Singh, had a profound effect on him. For him, it was a life-changing experience to understand and appreciate Western classical music. Vikram Seth had a strong interest in the abstract, and he began his academic career by modifying the Doon School Weekly.

Vikram Seth's mother is aware of her son's passion for poem and has given him an advantage. According to his mother, I had instilled in him a love of poetry, and the gooney bird Book of Verse was one of the books he controlled (On Balance 152). Vikram Seth has been sent to Kent University in England at the age of 18 to continue his advanced studies. Stanford University in California is where Vikram Seth began his doctoral studies in economics. On the Economic Demography of Seven Chinese Villages" was the focus of his investigation. However, he didn't finish his research in Economics. His doctoral studies took place at Nanjing University in China between 1980 and 1982. There, Vikram Seth's teacher Timothy Steel saw his budding interest in writing and offered his constant support as he worked to develop his skills as a creative writer. Timothy Steel inspired him to record *The Golden Gate* as a physical copy and Vikram Seth dedicated the work to him. Vikram Seth also had a passion for literary interpretation, which opens the door to learning a variety of dialects. He's an expert of the highest calibre: 13 On top of his studies in postgraduate financial elements at Stanford, he made a number of other fascinating discoveries. During his time in China, he was able to brush up on his Mandarin skills thanks to classes he attended at Stanford. At Nanjing University, where he studied for half a year and became fluent in Mandarin, Seth did extensive fieldwork in China in 1980-82 for his planned PhD thesis on Chinese population organisation.

With the help of Steele and Vikram Seth, Vikram Seth has developed his own poem that adheres to an orderly stanza structure with conventional rhyme and rhythm. The discussion with Seth confirmed this, so I went to this office and asked if someone could assist me with verse. Timothy Steele, who composes in rhyme and metre, was the artist closest to the entrance. If the other person had been closer, I'd probably have become a poet (Jermey n. pag.). Vikram Seth spent two years between the years of 1980 and 1982 conducting extensive field research in China in preparation for a PhD dissertation on the organisation of the Chinese people. Later, he was able to decode Chinese just as he was able to decipher Hindi verse. When he returned to Delhi, he had a good command of the Chinese language. That year he wrote the book *On the Road to Tibet: A Journey Through Sinkiang and Tibet*. A mixture of diary and travelogue. It's apparent from his books that his travels to more affluent countries like China, the United Kingdom, and the United States had an

impact on his writing. One meeting of friends living in California became the focus of his debut work *The Golden Gate: A Novel in Verse*, published in 1986. *Suitable Boy*, published in 1993, illustrates the ideal and reasonable post-autonomy existence of Indians and earned the W. H. Smith's Literary Award. In 1999, *An Equal Music* was distributed. As the manager of two distinct cultures, Seth ensured that both cultures were treated fairly.

With his journal *Two Lives* published in 2005, he depicted his uncle and auntie's life stories. Vikram Seth's book *From Heaven Lake: Travel through Sinkiang and Tibet* detailed his role in the journey. His trip to China, Tibet, and Nepal was outlined at this time. The Thomas Cook Travel Book Award went to this book. As a children's author, Vikram Seth wrote 10 stories about monsters in his *Beastly Tales* from *Here and There* collection. Vikram Seth was a prolific poet who penned five volumes of poems, in which he chronicled his travels to London and California. Thomas Cook Travel Book Award in 1983 for Vikram Seth's book *Heaven Lake*, Common Wealth Poetry Prize in 1985 for *Poem Humble Administrator's Garden*, Sahitya Akademi Award in 1988 for his novel *The Golden Gate* Vikram Seth For his work *A Suitable Boy*, he received an abstract honour from W H Smith in 1994, a cross-word award from Cross Word in 1999, and the best book award from EMMA for *An Equal Music* in 2001. He was also honoured with the Padma Shri Award in 2007 and the 25th Greatest Global Living Legends in India. An entirely new kind of book is Vikram Seth's debut, *The Golden Gate: A Novel in Verse*. There are 500 and fifty stanzas in each portion of the poem, which is composed like a poetry. Puskin's *Eugene Onegin* is strongly influenced by Vikram Seth's work. 15 During his time at Stanford University, he writes *The Golden Gate*, which turns out to be a masterpiece of Indian literature. It featured a nice comedic and simple approach to social concerns, as well as focusing on a wide range of topics. He had sketched out the current state of affairs by emphasising the importance of kinship, human worth, self-awareness, and ethnic identity. In San Francisco, the novel was able to capture the culture of the west coast. The couple's journey from San Francisco was portrayed in the novel, which compared mockery and pathos. The work depicts a wide range of emotions, including love, lust, sexual desire, uncertainty, and a variety of hobbies, desires, and political opinions. To the society, He sends a message that one should not squander one's life on such shameful pursuits. " As a way of symbolising the fervour and angst surrounding the gay debate, Seth uses characters like Phil and Ed.

India, California, and Vienna are vividly depicted by Vikram Seth. His work focuses on the nation's socio-political, recorded, and sociological aspects, and depicts the realistic picture of modern India. Vikram Seth's works *The Golden Gate*, *A Suitable Boy*, and *An Equal Music* are the primary focus of

this investigation on his social-social views. Set in London and including Western Classical music, *An Equal Music* is Seth's third book. BT EMMA [BT Ethnic and Multicultural Media 19 Award] in 2001 recognises this novel. The lives of traditional musicians are the focus of *An Equal Music*. Sitting next to the group of four musicians while they rehearse, Vikram Seth has an intimate knowledge of music's intricacies. Vikram Seth's literary flaws are exposed by an equivalence in music. He successfully merged a love storey with his passion for music. Accurately depicting Michael Holden, the unstable artist, in *An Equal Music* parallels Michael's passionate affinity with music. Seth explains why he wrote the piece he did: Seth and his friend Philippe Honore [to whom he entrusts the book] saw someone staring at his own reflection in the Serpentine River in Hyde Park on a rainy day. It was Philippe's suggestion that the man may be an actor that sparked the idea for the storey.

There is a primary goal of the investigation: to illustrate how modernity, westernisation, globalisation, and digital culture affect the world's young. Youths of the future are the protagonists in these three books. As a result, Vikram Seth's works reach the pinnacle of literary excellence. Many teens spend much of their lives searching for a job and finding the right person to share their life with. Vikram Seth uses these two essential themes often in his writings. The purpose of the study is to track changes in society on two different levels. One is the societal aspect, while the other is a shift in the human's own mind. The scientist used the SocioCultural theory, Queer Theory, Psychological hypothesis, Feminism and Marxism theories. 20 Five sections make up this proposal. The first section of the book is titled Introduction, and it provides a detailed look at the three periods of Indian writing in English. Vikram Seth's representation and dispute of the nation's socioeconomic and social position is one of the most dynamic in English-language Indian literature. Vikram Seth's one-of-a-kind place has been followed in the wake of acknowledging the prominent Indian writers in English. Vikram Seth's life narrative is given great attention in the next section. His real-life stories are followed by a vivid depiction of his academic accomplishments. An exploratory researcher's goals, objectives, and scope of the investigation are also described in further detail. India's social and political situation is addressed in the next section under *Socio-Cultural Life*. There are two basic aspects that make up the concept of socio-cultural': society and culture. People are free to form their own communities, and the culture of the entire community is the sum total of their actions. As a socio-social perspective, the language, brain science and human sciences of a certain society are reflected in the socio-social point of view. Marxist hypothesis, Sociocultural hypothesis, Cultural brain research, and Queer hypothesis may all be used to test these theories. These theories have been used to examine Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy* in order to

gain a better understanding of Indian society. It is based on post-independence India, and the setting is Purva Pradesh, a fantasy land like Malgudi. While Delhi, Kolkata, Kanpur and Lucknow have been used as settings, Brahmpur is the state capital of Purva Pradesh. It depicts the manner of life of four different families that live in the Purva Pradesh and Brahmpur regions of India.

Using the four families he controls — the Mehra, Kapoors, Khans, and Chatterjis — Seth keeps tabs on India's 21 rigid social customs. The first three households are all Hindus, whereas the fourth is Muslim. – Coordinate making is the novel's central theme; however, the novel also deals with important issues such as Indian history, administrative issues and law, family conventions, standing and custom in the fashion industry and even shoe-making work. The novel is a sentimental one, since the novel's focus is on coordinate making. Seth paints a complete portrait of the people of the time period, complete with their customs and taboos. It is in this context that *A Suitable Boy* presents the whole socio-social picture of India, highlighting the Zamindari framework, sexual orientation concerns, bigotry, religion and sex as well as marriage, training and legislative difficulties and legends of the country. Hero Lata is influenced by both close-up and social brain research, whereas Malati is influenced by intra-personal brain science, which means she perceives the world through her own eyes rather than the eyes of her parents, society, or guardians. The humanities teach people to copy the methods of their forebears without questioning whether or not they are still relevant in today's culture. Similarly, Vikram Seth's works encourage readers to analyse and follow the explanations in a reasonable manner. Thus, *A Suitable Boy* brilliantly expands the social and cultural realms of Hindus, Muslims, individuals from the poor and higher classes of society, religious figures, and legislators alike. The socio-cultural point of view also shows that everything on the globe should be taken into consideration. Each and every one of these 22 things has feelings and no civilization on Earth can insult someone by offending a single one of them. It's all about Yuppie culture in California in the third segment titled *Yuppie Culture in California*.

2. SINGULAR SELF IN AN EQUAL MUSIC

Almost all of the world's writers, regardless of location or time period, have explored the concept of self. Previously, Vikram Seth had stated that his characters' plots were based on the dual essence of the society and the ego. To understand his novel *An Equal Music*, one must look at it in terms of one's social context. It's a song about love, loss, and music in general. It's a study of the hero's musical journey. The thoughts, ideas, sentiments, and convictions of an artist or anybody else can be

changed and consequently impacted by music. Seth uses music as a means of expressing his admiration for the handiwork of others: However, it's not just about romantic love; it's also about the adoration for a parent for a child, the love of an item that can't reciprocate, the admiration for the immortal work of great craftsmen and most importantly, the adoration you have for someone who no longer exists, either because they have died or because they have changed. There is a complex web of meanings intertwined throughout the storey, such that the hero's emotional connection to the kindred performer is just one facet of a much broader set of emotional connections. Seth is a very gifted writer, and the way he tells this storey is both astoundingly clever and deeply heartbreaking.

The novel's main focus is on the relationship between music and love, and how these two things are intertwined. For the sake of accuracy, the author discusses European old school music, which has a profound effect on the characters and notably the protagonist, Michael Holme, in a variety of ways and to varying degrees. He is smitten with Julia McNicholl, a rarity for him. He admires it for its tone, but he longs for both music and love, which he believes has been resurrected and elevated. There is a connection between his desire to make music and his want to be loved by him. The whole work revolves on this storyline. His love for music is reawakened and he is swept up in the delicate congruity of it. To him, this music and love are the only thing that can keep him safe and happy. They are the only thing he cares about. One may hear and feel the melody and sentiment in Seth's compositions: Love, music, and the passage of time all feature prominently in the tale. Seth's previous creations, on the other hand, have been more physical, while this novel is more mental, focusing on Michael's psyche, which is always in search of love and music. In *An Equal Music*, there is a single conflict area. (Akash Kapur) As the protagonist and writer, Michael Holme's own personality is unyielding and hesitant to recognise others.

Carl Kall, the Swedish maestro, is his mentor. In the masterless class at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, his coach offers that he travel to Vienna as a more experienced understudy outside the educational plan at the Musikhochschule to further his studies. Carl asserts, "Orchestral arrangements take a lot of your 55 time. You may be able to work in a field that is better than your current one. You should follow my advice. Isn't that why you're here, too? You're being stubborn. In a way, yes" (AEM 17). Also, according to Michael's teacher, he would not have awakened the "voices in his grip," which means that he will never be able to fulfil the musical aspirations of his master. Carl Kall requires Michael to follow his instructions. However, his apprehensive nature prevented him from learning anything from his teacher. He is aware that his tutor will be a despotic dictator. In Michael's words, "Maybe I may have profited from him in the event

that I drank my sensation of self.". Michael was up in Rochdale, a small town in northern England. When he was barely nine years old, he was introduced to music by his neighbour, Mrs. Formby, who had no children of her own.

She insisted on having him accompany her everywhere she went and on a wide range of situations. When she took him to see the legendary "Savior," he still recalls how moved he was. Mrs. Formby began instructing him how to play the violin as he remembers how he became enthralled by his role and decided to pursue a career in music. A fantastically amazing sound is injected into my consciousness at the exact moment when Michael's passion for music reaches a fevered pitch. My name is Nina, and I'm nine years old. I'm sitting in a state of anticipation between Mr. and Mrs. Formby. Individuals chatter and jibe on the chairs all around us. Instead of elephants and lions, a crowd of individuals enters the market ring, many of them are carrying gorgeous instruments that sparkle and shine. For example, I've never heard of a little, lanky man entering to praise, followed by the strange, complete silence of a vast crowd. When he chops down a stick, the universe is filled with a great and 56 beautiful cacophony. I need to be a part of the chaos more than anything else.

3. VIKRAM SETH STORY TELLING STYLE

As a writer, Seth has a unique approach to storytelling. He makes Michael sit and weep beneath the bolt of Eros, a celestial force of devotion and sexual desire in Greek mythology and legend. Love in all its forms, from physical passion to delicate, sentimental love to vibrant and sporty. He was the embodiment of it all. One of the most experienced celestial creatures, according to tradition, he was born from Chaos and exemplified creative energy and harmony. In various myths, he was the son of Aphrodite and Ares and referred to as a winged boy armed with a bow and arrows. Eros, the god of love, was frequently depicted in Greek poetry as a determined and unsympathetic character, distributing the furies and sorrows of love in an indiscreet manner. Reference book (Reference book)) During this time the conflict for concordance begins to emerge, as his own personality is torn between his love of music and his need for admiration. The strength of his feelings for her grows with each passing day. He can't get her out of his mind. She finds a place in everything he does, from the music he plays to the winged animals he sings to. Even the music that he listens to on the radio can tell him how much he cares about her. He believes the song is Julia's because of the way it makes him feel. "In C minor, it was the end of a prologue and the beginning of a fugue. I thought to myself, "This is Julia." Julia is here. All the chatter about her was negative."

Julia's thoughts and memories are intertwined with Michael's. Despite the fact that she has been on his mind for all these years, the question of why he has never felt the need to look past her and continue with his admiration and settle in life despite everything remains an inquiry. He was angry since he was unable to find her and confess his feelings for her. He may have taken advantage of the fact that she has been waiting for him for well over a decade. Before meeting her and persuading her to change her behaviour, he may have required to settle down in his profession and better his financial situation. In any event, despite the fact that he hasn't been settled for over ten years, he is still managing to make a living with the little money he gets from the group of four and by teaching. "Michael, haven't you damaged her enough?" may be the response he receives. When he calls her father in an attempt to locate her, he is urged not to try to rekindle his feelings for her. He also needs a year to persuade people to change their minds. Julia's life has taken a dramatic turn at this time. Currently, she is married to James Hansen, an investor from the United States with a child named Luke Hansen. In addition, she is losing her hearing, which is a startling development in her life. All of this escapes Michael's notice. Despite the fact that this may be the case, the recollection of true devotion frequently lingers in the minds of all people, and Michael is no exception to this. When one's memory is completely wiped away by such flashbacks, one becomes wild and is pursued by everyone and anything that has the slightest desire to share in their admiration. He considers Julia to be an essential and inseparable part of his life, as is music. However, Michael is mocked and bullied about his rage after so many extended spells of separation from Erica Cowan, their specialist. Through Michael's recollections, the reader is transported back in time. This tale is being told by Michael.

Without a doubt, the work is written from his point of view. In Vienna, Michael and Julia were both studying music at the same college. They spent a few intensely private moments together. However, after some time, Michael decides to leave Vienna and Julia due to his own psychological inclinations as well as the overpowering and strangling proximity of Carl Kall, the instructor. "Carl's reaction was one of rage and worry, as if one of the royal jewels was revealing itself to be nothing more than carbon, capable of transforming into its ideal shape only when subjected to extraordinarily high and prolonged strain. When he administered it, I immediately fell apart "Nonetheless,

When he gets to London, he realises how much of a part of himself Julia has become. For Michael, leaving Julia was a mistake that could not be undone. It's all a pointless effort on his part to get in touch with her. The light of 69 Michael's life, Julia, has been extinguished. He exists in a cold, mechanical world that lacks any warmth. Seth's

depiction of Michael's depersonalization is spot-on. Because of Julia, his persona has waned. He's baffled. Despite the passage of ten years, the pain of having lost Julia remains. In his mind, "What happened to me so many years ago? I couldn't get anywhere in that metropolis, no matter how much I wanted to. It took me a long time to get back to my feet, and each breath seemed heavy. I informed her that I was about to leave ", it's a.

Music and Julia are inseparable, and the two are inseparable. When he plays or listens to a piece of music, the thoughts of that piece begin to swirl around her. A whole and complex connection has been formed, but there are more intense and thrilling twists and turns ahead. While practising the Beethoven quintet with his quartet at Helen's, Michael ponders: How wonderful it is to play this piece, not to work at it—to play for our own pleasure, with no compelling reason to pass anything on outside our ring of creation, with no desire for the too prompt sop of commendation. This is a wonderful experience. Although the quintet exists apart from us, it cannot live without us. As these small high contrast creepy crawlies clustering down five exquisite lines, the guy who deafly transfigured what he had hearingly constructed approaches us over land and ocean and ten ages, and fills us here with worry and here with dumbfounded joy..

4. CONCLUSION

Vikram Seth's depiction of post-independence India is also accurate. In his resemblance, we can clearly see a remarkable synthesis of societal context and personal depiction that is full of keen insight and a clear purpose. Sociological, political, and recorded and social accuracy are all important to him, but so is the mental state of the individual and the general population at large. He had to put in a lot of effort to illustrate how diverse social, social, conservative, and stringent concerns all revolve around governmental issues. It is impossible for any of the components to remain untouched. Seth used characters to demonstrate the deterioration of Indian society's sense of self-worth, relationship, and togetherness. Political and social developments have a direct impact on people's daily lives, and this is especially true now.

At times, Seth brilliantly depicts the political race process, which is the essence of politics in general and popular governance in particular; in *A Suitable Boy*. Using a sarcastic tone, he tries to expose the depravity and sickening methods that are being employed in the current political climate. The book focuses on the role of administration and how government employees strive to use the tactic of 'Akarma Sakarma', which means 'legitimising illegal', while illustrating realistic political situations.

Seth also highlighted a semantic difficulty that occurred following the independence of our nation and the final phonetical separation of states. Seth has shown how closely intertwined the spheres of culture, language, and society are. Every point of view revolves around the opposite one. The relationship between organisational and legislative difficulties, as well as realism and multiculturalism, was one of his main points. It confirms India's multilingualism and how it complements the multicultural and popular adaption as Nehru's ideal in the novel *A Suitable Boy*, which is replete with Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, and English dialogue. India's pluralism and tradition of tolerance in the face of religious intolerance were emphasised by Seth in his discussion of Nehruvian patriotism. Secularism, as advocated by Nehru, is the novel's first response to the novel's abundance of realistic models for peaceful unity. Several points throughout the novel might be seen as iconic moments in the process of framing the country in the novel.

Post-independence India has been depicted in Vikram Seth's novel as a fractured Congress Party, an abrogation of Zamindari's framework, strict tension, and common mobs. India's common and cosmopolitan, multilingual, and multiethnic India is shown in the novel *A Suitable Boy*. A microcosmic India with its diverse dialects, customs, and social and customary difficulties is something that he recognises as a need.

One day, *A Suitably Boy* appears in the verified family, bringing order to the anecdotal characters who all happen to be moving in the same direction at the same moment. The author looks to be emerging from the text as a storyteller and a character in the novel itself. Seth admitted that he wrote the work while living with his parents, and that his family was aware of it at the time. As a framework, the term "family" plays an important role in the life of someone who is singular. Seth's portrayal of sexuality shows a keen understanding of Indian cultural norms around the concept of 'family.' It's not about finding a long-term partner, but rather about allowing the elders to pick the perfect match. When it comes to acknowledging a spouse or partner, there is no room for ambiguity.

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