



Deviant Desires: Libidinal Facets in Upamanyu Chatterjee's *Weight Loss*

Rakhee Gahlyan

Research Scholar, Department of English, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

Gahlyan07rakhee@gmail.com

Abstract: On the compass of Indian Writings in English, Upamanyu Chatterjee has sculpted a definite niche for himself, as the master of ludicrous, 'the witty biographer of the misfit.' He comes across as unapologetic in dealing with the most 'weird and obnoxious' in equally contemptuous and ferocious manner. His novel, *Weight Loss* (2006) is a dark comedy. It was subsequently nominated by India International Centre Library, New Delhi for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for 2008. The novel projects the life of unmorally crippled, unconventional, part fantasist part confused and total deviant, Bhola. He shares these qualities with the other protagonists of Chatterjee. The present paper throws light on the deviant desires of Bhola who has the perpetual wander lust for the meaning of life. The novelist displays the mental and manual endeavors of the Indian youth with all its demonstrations.

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Key Words: Heterosexual, Homosexual, Deviance, Libido, Gruesome, Queer, Misfit.

Introduction: On the compass of Indian Writings in English, Upamanyu Chatterjee has sculpted a definite niche for himself, as the master of ludicrous, 'the witty biographer of the misfit.' He comes across as unapologetic in dealing with the most 'weird and obnoxious' in equally contemptuous and ferocious manner. His novel, *Weight Loss* (2006) is a dark comedy. The novel projects the life of unmorally crippled, unconventional, part fantasist part confused and total deviant, Bhola. He shares these qualities with the other protagonists of Chatterjee. The present paper throws light on the deviant desires of Bhola who has the perpetual wander lust for the meaning of life. Just like the other protagonists of Chatterjee, Bhola is the product of hybridized and compromised culture of metros of India. He is intelligent, slightly obese and well-versed in literature and language. His sexual diligence is the thing that makes him stand apart. It gets so intense that this sexual inclination becomes the focal point of his life as well as the novel. His libido is his malady and his only obsessive ambition in life is to fulfill it. He mulishly struggles at his "weight loss" programme. It includes all kinds of 'weights' – physical, mental and emotional. He remains obsessed with two things in his life- running and sex which is the part of his weight loss programme. They grant him a channel to his astounding passions and help him 'to lessen the load of the lumber in his head' (33).

The driving and decisive force in pathologically deviant Bhola's life is sex. His attitude towards the people around him builds upon their sexual reciprocity. For him, sex is a depravity that makes him involve in all kinds of ludicrous debauchery with anyone and everyone from teacher to landlady to the roadside sadhus to the servants to falling "madly in love" with a vegetable-vendor and her husband. Nonetheless, there is some saving grace in the form of the ephemeral moments of guilt, shame, profound philosophical and ethical evaluation of his distressing state, and an inclination towards renunciation. He gets married and becomes the father of a girl child with the passage of time