

Comparative Study of 'Five Point Someone' and '3 Idiots'

Dr. Sarika Pradiprao Auradkar

Associate Prof.-in-English,
Shankarrao Chavan Mahavidyalaya, Ardhapur, Dist. Nanded.

Abstract:

Chetan Bhagat is a well known modern Indian writer, who has a special place in the heart of new generation. He started writing his very first novel '[Five Point Someone](#)' when he was working at Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong in the early 2000s. This very first venture took him to the peak of fame and popularity. This novel narrates the story of three IIT students- Hari, Ryan and Alok, who consider themselves to be below average students among other students at IIT. The story has been adapted by film director [Rajkumar Hirani](#) into a film named '[3 Idiots](#)' starring famous Indian stars [Aamir Khan](#), [R. Madhavan](#), [Sharman Joshi](#) and [Kareena Kapoor](#). The movie turned out to be one of the most successful [Bollywood](#) movies of all time.

Though '3 idiots' is based on 'Five Point Someone', it is not just copy of the novel. The adaptation techniques have been applied to the novel while converting it into the movie. The movie is different from the novel in many aspects. The present research paper focuses on the comparative study of 'Five Point Someone' and '3 Idiots'.

Key Words: GPA, colloquial, incriminate, sabotage, five pointers, mediocrity.

'Five point someone':

The novel explains the lives of three students at Indian Institute of Technology, one of the best universities in India. Hari, Ryan and Alok are three students from three different statuses. The book takes us through the perspective of Hari, with short excerpts from his friends and his girlfriend, Neha. Hari is a middle class boy whose family details are not well described in the story. Alok belongs to the middle class family. He faces a couple of difficulties before coming to IIT and Ryan Oberoi, a rich class boy who thinks of life as a piece of cake, cares to have all the fun he wants and avoids his parents for not being with him.

The story takes us through the life at IIT and the difficulties students have to deal with. Ryan and Alok have very different perspectives towards life and this always leads them to a fight. Alok always tries to mug everything up and Ryan thinks that someone should really know what he or she is doing. The main highlight comes when Cherman, the father of Hari's girlfriend, Neha appears in his third year. Cherman happens to hate Hari and his friends for their low grades. Hari, while trying to love Neha and

trying to manage through his remaining years is shown later.

This story really takes you to what students in the IIT really go through. Categorised by their GPA's, there is a distinct margin of care the teachers give to high-scorers and the low-scorers. Hari, Ryan and Alok, all having 5-point GPA are some low-scorers. They have to sit till morning for studies, notes, assignments and project work etc.

The use of colloquial language makes the novel look more natural. It gives a feeling of real college incidents. Chetan Bhagat has described the mindset of all the characters. The novel presents the pressures of IIT students clearly. The Novelist points out the mistakes of an institute in the candid way. 'Five point someone' is a book that talks about the whole IIT system and what actually students face through their college life. It also briefly talks about what the actual system should be. Chetan Bhagat paints a picture of the various types of students. The novel has a truly enchanting and wonderful plot and writer doesn't let the reader's attention diverge.

'3 Idiots':

In the first year of the college, Farhan Qureshi and Raju Rastogi join the prestigious Imperial College of Engineering (ICE) in Delhi and meet

Ranchhoddas Shamaldas Chanchad (Rancho), their roommate. Rancho is passionate about experimenting and consequently tops the class. His playful attitude to engineering puts him at odds with the rigid approach of the college's director, Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe (nicknamed "Virus" by the students). When a student named Joy Lobo commits suicide after failing to meet a project deadline, Rancho confronts Virus about the extreme pressure placed on ICE students, but is rudely rebuffed.

One night, the trio gatecrashes a wedding party, not knowing that it is for Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe's daughter Mona. Mona's younger sister, Pia, is initially upset by Rancho's behaviour, but then attracts to him after he pranks her boyfriend Suhas to demonstrate his obsession with money and status. Pia breaks up with Suhas after he scolds her for wearing a cheap watch, which belonged to her mother. An infuriated Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe warns Farhan and Raju about the effects of them being friends with Rancho by pointing out the modest financial situations of their families, scaring Raju into bunking with Chatur "Silencer" Ramalingam, a competitive, arrogant student who believes in learning by memorization. To teach Chatur a lesson about memorization, Rancho and Farhan secretly make obscene modifications to the script of the Teachers Day speech that Chatur (who is not fluent in Hindi) is to deliver in honor of a visit by the Minister of Education, replacing *chamatkar*(magic) with *balatkar*(rape) and *dhan*(money) with *stan* (breast). Humiliated and furious, Chatur challenges Rancho to meet in ten years and see who is more successful.

The night before their final exams, Raju's paralyzed father gets a heart attack. With Pia's help, Rancho rushes Raju's father to the hospital on Pia's scooter. After realizing that Rancho saved his father's life, Raju reconciles with him. At the end of the year, Rancho comes first in the class, while Farhan and Raju are the last and second to the last, respectively. During the yearly class photo, Rancho makes a bet with Virus that if either Raju or Farhan gets a job from on-campus interviews, Virus will shave his mustache.

One night in their fourth year of college, Rancho tells his friends why they consistently place last: Farhan's passion is photography, not

engineering, and Raju lacks self-confidence. After Farhan and Raju promise to confront their problems if Rancho confesses his feelings for Pia. They drunkenly break into Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe's house, and while returning, Farhan and Raju drunkenly urinate on the letterbox of Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe. He spots them during their escape, recognises Raju, and the next day gives Raju an ultimatum: to incriminate his friends or be expelled himself. Distraught, Raju attempts suicide but survives. Raju recovers, thanks to the support and care of his friends and family. Raju is successful in a job interview, while Farhan convinces his father to let him become a photographer.

Virus then tries to sabotage Raju's chances of success by setting an unfairly difficult exam. With Pia's help, Rancho and Farhan break into Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe's office and steal the exam paper. Upon being given the paper, Raju refuses to cheat and throws it away, but the three of them are caught and expelled. Pia confronts her father over her brother's suicide, which was prompted by similar pressure placed on him by him. That night, during a heavy rainstorm, Mona, who is pregnant, goes into labor. Unable to drive to a hospital, Rancho modifies a vacuum cleaner into a ventouse and delivers the baby with the help of Pia, Farhan, and Raju. A grateful Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe acknowledges Rancho by giving him a valuable space pen, which he promised to give only to his most distinguished student, and revokes the trio's expulsions. On graduation day, Rancho suddenly disappears.

After ten years, Chatur, the prosperous vice president of a reputable company in California, calls Farhan and Raju to remind them of the bet he made with Rancho about who would be more successful. Farhan, who is on a flight at the time, feigns a medical emergency in order to meet up with Chatur and Raju. The three of them set out to find Rancho. Upon reaching Shimla, where Chatur has located Rancho's house, they come across a different man named Ranchhoddas Shyamaldas Chanchad, whose face is pasted over Rancho's in their graduation portrait. The man is reluctant to reveal anything at first and threatens the trio at gunpoint. When Farhan and Raju threaten to flush his late father's ashes down a toilet, he explains that the "Rancho" at ICE was a gardener's son, who was incredibly intelligent and

gifted. Ranchhoddas' father paid for him to attend ICE, on condition that he would use his name and, after graduating, cut all contact with anyone at ICE. Chhote, who was more interested in learning than in getting a degree, agreed, but afterward warned that two idiots would come looking for him one day. Ranchhoddas tells the trio that he is grateful for what Chhote did, and gives them Chhote/Rancho's address in Ladakh.

On the way there, Farhan and Raju gatecrash Pia's wedding to her materialistic boyfriend Suhas in Manali and convince her to come with them to find Rancho. At the address in Ladakh, the group is astonished to find a thriving school. They meet "Millimetre", formerly an errand boy at ICE, now Rancho's assistant, who tells them that Rancho has keenly followed their careers. They reunite with Rancho on a sandbar. Rancho admits he is still in love with Pia and the two share a kiss. Chatur assumes that Rancho is a mere schoolteacher and mocks him, but Rancho reveals himself to be Phunsukh Wangdu, a successful inventor with 400 patents, whom Chatur's company is courting. A flabbergasted Chatur accepts defeat as the others run away from him laughing.

Similarities between the novel and the movie:

The plot of the film is the same as the book. Both the stories are about three students of an engineering college who form an inseparable friendship over incidents that take place in the college. The three characters in the book are very similar to those of the movie. While one of them - Ryan (Aamir as Rancho) - is radical and thinks differently from the rest, the second one - Hari (Madhavan as Farhaan) - is a confused character. The book's third character - Alok (Sharman as Raju) - is facing severe financial and domestic pressures.

The narrators are same in both the cases. Hari is the narrator of the novel and Farhan is shown as the narrator in the movie. Some dialogues in the movie -- "the examiner looked at me as if I had asked for his kidneys" and "define machine" -- seem to be a straight lift from the book.

In the book, Neha (Kareena as Pia) tells her dad Cherian (Professor Viru played by Boman Irani) why her brother committed suicide due to the latter's demanding and dominating behaviour. Similar

episode takes place in the film as well. However, the book talks about this incident in much more detail than the movie which covers this branch of the storyline in a single scene.

The father of Alok (in novel) and the father of Raju (in movie) both are paralyzed.

Differences between the novel and the movie:

There are many differences between the story of the movie and that of the novel. In the movie, the daughter of Dr. Viru Sahastrabudde, Pia (Kareena Kapoor) has an affair with Rancho, whose role is played by Aamir Khan. But, in the book, the character of Neha Cherian, a daughter of Prof. Cherian, has an affair with Hari, who is Farhan (R. Madhavan) in the movie.

The open ragging scene is similar but the treatment is different. In 'Five Point Someone', a coke bottle is about to be shoved behind the Alok (Raju) and Farhan (Hari) till Ryan rescues them. But in the movie, there is the scene in which the collegians have to undress themselves and dance.

In the book 'Five Point Someone', there is the sympathetic character named Prof. Veera who is a fluid mechanics professor. The movie lacks any such character. In the novel, Neha doesn't have any sister but in the movie Pia has a sister named Mona.

In the Novel Ryan's parents are rich and they looked after him only economically not emotionally. As a son, he doesn't get their company when needed and therefore, he doesn't like them. But in the movie, Rancho (Chhote) is a son of a gardener. The two characters differ from each other economically.

In the novel, Hari, Ryan and Alok are five pointers but in the movie, Rancho is shown as class topper. In the novel, the real identity of Ryan is not hidden but in the movie we come to know that the real identity of Rancho is different and the student whom everyone identified as Rancho is in reality Phunsukh Wangdu.

Though the narrators of the novel and the movie are the same, the narrator of the book, Hari, romances the professor's daughter; the filmmakers give the romantic mileage to Rancho. In the novel, Alok jumps from the roof of the institution to commit suicide but in the movie Raju jumps out of the window because he has been rusticated by Dr. Viru

Sahastrabuddhe. The character of Suhas, the fiance of Pia, is an addition to the movie.

The biggest difference comes in the second half of the movie. While the book finishes at graduation, the film goes beyond it and builds on the future of the characters till 10 years later. It talks about how their careers have shaped and how their mediocrity in college played into the future.

Conclusion:

After careful comparison between the novel and the movie, I can say that, Though '3 Idiots' is based on Chetan Bhagat's 'Five Point Someone', there are only a few points from the book in the movie. Otherwise, it's a totally different screenplay and story. 'Five Point Someone' is an extremely popular book and loved by readers and so it is very important for readers to know that the movie is not cover to cover copy of the novel. It (the movie) is very different from what the book is. While turning the novel into the movie various adaptation techniques have been used effectively and successfully. Some additional characters, who are not part of the novel, have been introduced in the movie. Some incidents, which are major part of the novel, have not been included in the movie whereas some incidents, which are not mentioned in the novel, have been added in the plot of the movie. The songs are not necessarily part of the novel but a few beautiful songs have been used in the movie. Though the narrators of the novel and the movie are the same, the pairs of the lovers and beloveds are different. Neha doesn't have any sister in the novel but in the movie Pia has a sister named Mona. The novelist doesn't use flashback story telling method but the same technique has been used very effectively in the movie.

References:

1. Idiots by Rajkumar Hirani, Vidhu Vinod Chopra Production, 2009.
2. Five Point Someone by Chetan Bhagat, Rupa and Company, 2004, Paperback.
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3_Idiots
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chetan_Bhagat
5. <https://www.indiatoday.in/movies/story/how-similar-is-3-idiots-to-chetan-bhagats-book-64240-2010-01-02>
6. <http://recomparision.com/comparisons/100533/3-idiots-vs-5-point-someone-which-is-better/>
7. <https://criticalbookreviews.com/fivepointsomeone/fivepointsomeone.html#:~:text=Five%20point%20someone%20is%20a%20book%20that%20talks%20about%20the,variou%20types%20of%20students%20here.>
8. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/entertainment/3-idiots-totally-different-from-five-point-someone/story-OS1DStfMfvGsSmItIsT65I.html>