

I. Locating Modernity in *I too had a love story*

Ravindra Singh's *I too Had a love Story* is a novel with a love story of Ravin and Khushi, two individuals from different cultures, who find each other on the site saadi.com and reach up to the destination of marriage without seeing one another in real life. Because of change in the society brought about by modernity, they are able to convince their parents without any objection. Both of their parents accept their relation without fussing about their culture which they have been following generation after generation. Two days before the engagement, Khushi meets an accident and dies and Ravin lives his shattered life missing his Khushi throughout his life. The death of Khushi, the female protagonist, manifests that the Indian society is too deeply rooted in the traditional values to accept all the modern forces like the probable intercultural marriage between Ravin, a Punjabi boy and Khushi, a Tamil girl. It becomes possible for Khushi and Ravin to fall in love with each other even without meeting each other in person due to the Internet. However, the tragic twist the novel takes in the form of Khushi's fatal accident exposes the trial modernity has to undergo in their communities, which are shaped by traditional values despite they have embraced certain aspects of modernity.

Modernity, in general, refers to a period of post traditional, post medieval historical period, one marked by the move from feudalism towards capitalism. It is also the cultural shift from one generation to the next and to discover the new world. During the traditional period people struggled a lot to spend there life for better survival, but they made their own traditional culture, religion and language,

Slowly as they enter the modern period they start forgetting the traditional culture. Their life has become easier than before. The world has become very advanced now. Today people try to break such cultures and free themselves from the

traditional belief made by the ancestors. Today's generation are proud of education and modern means of communication and technology, that they try to forget the traditional culture and want to discover the new world, in the name of modernity, which is free from any kind of traditional culture and belief, but the traditional culture is the part of modernity, so it should not be change. It should follow generation after generation no matter it can go in new style which make the people easy to continue the traditional culture but in the name of modernity it should not be collapse, because may be in this vast universe another age may come soon and the people of that age should be aware to follow the traditional culture so it should go on following generation after generation.

It refers to the change in period from traditional to modern. It is also the quality of being current or of the present. As the traditional period was the period of darkness and struggle, no people got any opportunities to do according to their interest and will. All of them would be bounded under the permission of their parents. They had to be superstitious whether that was right or wrong.

But we can now see lots of changes and differences in this modern age comparison to the ancient traditional one. Because of the modern means of communication and other different facilities people are changing their life style and thinking slowly and slowly. Modernity and modern changes brought a lot of differences in this modern age .As cultural legacies are powerful force they have deep root and long lives, they persists generation after generation. Virtually intact even as the economic and social demographic condition that spawned then vanished, has also been change because of modernity and modern medias of communication like film TV serial, and telephone etc.

All the people in the universe have their right to follow their own custom and tradition according to their ethnic group. They want to celebrate the festivals as their forefathers used and they want to marry their son and daughter according to their own cultural and with the own belonging to their own ethnical group but today's generation do not follow what their parents wish. They choose and decide everything of their life by themselves. They choose their life partner according to their own interest no matter if he or she belongs to their own cultural group and whether their parents accept their likes or not.

Modernity has brought a lot of changes now in the society. Because of education and other modern information technologies like film, serials and telephone communication people have started changing their life style. In *I too had a love story*, the characters, Ravin and Khushi, are in deep love in spite of being from two opposite poles of India. Regardless of different castes and cultures, they are both accepted by their parents and society because of education and modern means of communication as well as the modern thinking of the parents. Nevertheless, the inter-cultural marriage is still a problem. The traditional culture does not accept it in totality. The tragic end to Ravin and Khushi's love is its proof.

In a way, his novel indirectly critiques modernity. Modernity emerges as a problem. The traditional way of life has been replaced by uncontrollable change. The break with the traditional and rural community means the break with established identity-giving authority. The new individuals freed from the traditional collective, were free to reorient themselves and to reconstruct their world to make history. However, modernity is interrupted as a break with the traditional bonds of rural society that entailed the possibility of new freedom of action and expression for the individual and thus a new relationship between the individual and collective. It also

involves a sense of dynamic change that turns attention to the further rather than the past. The modern individual is aware of himself or herself not only as an individual, that is as a creator of self.

I too had a love story is a novel based on heart touching love story of Ravin and Khushi. The story is based on real life incident which narrates the story of an immortal bond of love between two people who found each other on Saadi.com. The protagonists in the novel belong to Punjabi and south Indian. They are different in their culture and tradition; they are from two opposite poles of India but the modern means of communication make them to bond into a relation falling in love without seeing one another. The modern means of communication make the life easier not only in the relation of love and marriage but also in several other factors giving facilities to the people but here in the novel it is portrait that communication like internet and telephone make the relation of Ravin and Khushi. Education is the most important part of life in this modern age, and because of which people are able to understand what is right and wrong. Similarly here in the novel both Ravin and Khushi are highly educated. He is a software engineer of twenty six years whereas Khushi also work in IT Company. Being educated they are able to decide about their life partner knowing well that they are from two different cultural groups of India.

For the first time they meet on the internet, introduce themselves and make a friendship relation but their friendship does not last long because very soon they fall in love. The novel portrays how both Ravin and Khushi fall in love without seeing one another and how they make a promise of being together, which is all possible because of modern technologies.

After being very deep in love they decide to meet each other after six months. So Ravin goes to Faridabad to see his beautiful Khushi, whom he admires the most

for the first time in his life. There he visits Khushi and whole members of her family and all of them become very happy to see Ravin, their daughter's choice for marriage.

Knowing well that Khushi is choosing a Punjabi boy for herself, the whole family gives lots of love and respect to Ravin. Khushi's mother loves and takes care of him as if he is her own son. They meet at hotel, where Ravin stays the night. They have some how had their romance in a room. After a while, Khushi returns to her home leaving Ravin alone.

The Indians, in general, are very strong and strict in the case of cultural difference. They do not accept the other culture easily but here in the novel because of modernity, Khushi's parents accept Ravin easily without any objection. They think that parents should not be barrier for the happiness of the children. It is all because of change resulted by modernity.

Without any struggle, they are able to win their parents heart. They have made their parents meet and decide and discuss their marriage. Parents from both of the sides accept the proposal of their children and decide the day of their engagement. It is because both of their parents think about modernity that happiness is much better than the decision of parents as reflected by this line: "It's about the twenty first century love story, whose foundation was modern day-gadgetry" (27). This statement also lays emphasis on modernity. This understanding for the parent are also made by the modern means of communications and other medias like TV serial and films because these days TV serial and film shows all the things which happen in the modern age and what the children can do if they cannot go according to their interest and likes, so knowing all this thing from modern medias they easily accepted the proposal of children and become ready to engage them though they belong to different cultural group.

But when the day of engagement approaches, Khushi meets an accident and dies. It shows that though the Indian people have started accepting modernity, they have hard time accepting the intercultural marriage. Instead of having their happy married life, Khushi has to battle for her life death whereas Ravin is shattered down. They are very happy and patiently waiting for the day of marriage to make the relationship stronger forever between Punjabi and south Indian but the fate has ruined all their happiness and Ravin spends rest of his life alone missing his beloved Khushi. Khushi's death ends the possibility of the marriage between Ravin and herself. This tragic end hints at the difficulty the traditional Indian communities are facing problem to accept modernity in totality.

Obviously *I too had a love story* has received a numerous reviews from the Critics. Himesh relates it in the words: "The story between Ravin and khushi is a gripping and simple love story; this is a very simple love story where the lovers come to know each other throughout a matrimonial site saadi.com." (np). He adds, that "this is actually very different from the typical love stories where the guys met the girl at a party or cinema hall or the girl is a friend of his sister. The small flick of decent romance adds to the marvel of the book" (np). It shows that Ravin and Khushi, with the help of internet, fall in love and plan to marry for their whole life. Modernity can change every impossibility into possibility where Ravin and Khushi make true love between them possible without seeing each other in reality. Their love is accepted by their parents but eventually because of the traditional Indian culture, modernity is not accepted in India for marriage among two different cultural groups.

Sapphire argues that *I too had a love story* is not extravagant: "A beautiful story simple yet capturing of Ravin and Khushi .none of the lavish or extravagant stuff" (np). Ravin and Khushi are deep in love. Love can happen simply in this

modern age with the help of modern means of communication like the internet and telephone as happen with Ravin and Khushi.

Asutosh Kumar argues that "it [*I too had a love story*] is actually one of those books which has nothing but a true love and pain which over read the entire story and too away all remarks" (np). Kumar highlights the depth of love that ends at the tragic death of Khushi.

Paula Deanada focuses on the description of tragic character Kushi in these words: "Really lovely story and the way you describe Khushi was awesome. It's hard to believe that such an unpredictable thing happened to both lovely couple" (np).

Melissa elaborates the modern love of Ravin and Khushi in this way: "It is about two lovers who become friend in matrimonial site and later falls in love. Being in a relationship for more than six months they finally met each other. After a year they decided to get engaged on valentine day but just before that day the girl had terrible accident, the end was really sad" (np). It gives an insight of modernity and traditional culture. when Ravin and Khushi accept each other, they meet and plan for their marriage. On the very day, Khushi met an accident, because of which their dream is shattered. Khushi and Ravin try to prove themselves as the modern lovers. Love can happen anywhere and in any way and marriage is possible between two inter-cultural groups with the full acceptance of parents but because of traditional culture which does not accept modernity in totality, they are not able to turn their love into marriage.

Mukta Arora has expressed his views about the novel in the words: "This novel is all about mishappening which happen in true love, when people are actually in love, and also lost their love because of destiny. Sometimes we lost our love not because of destiny but for our ego" (np).

It's clear here that Ravin and Khushi fall in love from the site. They are from two opposite poles of India but the modern means of communication helps them to fall in love without seeing one another but finally have to lose their love. They are lost in the relation not because of their destiny but for their ego because when falling in love it make them blind that they forget about their culture and tradition, that is there ego because of which they fail to achieve their love.

Giridharan has express his views about the novel in his words that “a heart breaking true love tale that leaves ever one in tear, the occasion one linear like 'she died, I survived and since I survived , I died everyday', make the readers cry for Ravin” (np). Her accident only doesn't hurt her hero Ravin that he can't achieve her in the final moment . It really breaks his heart and to the readers also the ending become so sad that the death of Khushi before marriage touch every one's heart with pain.

In this manner, different critics have reviewed this novel from different perspectives. This thesis, however, studies it in terms of the interface between modernity and tradition in *I too had a love story*. Deriving the theoretical insights from the discourse of modernity, it shows how tradition still prevails over modernity despite the Indian society has embraced the latter's forces.

Huri Islamoglu and Peter C. Perdue argue that "modernity refers to the continuous process of exploring new institutional configurations in the world historical context of the Eurasian land mass (subsequently to include the American and other continents) since the fifteenth century" (5).

We can see two common features of these processes: 1. Commercial expansion in all these territories 2. Competition among multiple political entities to form state bureaucracy.

Modernity, in general, is affiliated to industrialization and public investment on the infrastructure so as to create a public space. And this public space is basically established by mass media. In the case of the present text, we can point out the internet, among many others, as the major means of communication, which provides people a virtual public space through which the people, Ravin and Khushi, can establish relationships across cultures, castes and regions.

Job B. Thompson claims that "if we wish to understand the cultural transformations associated with the rise of modern societies, then we must give a central role to the development of communication media and their impact" (vii). He adds that :

The development of communication media- from early forms of print to recent types of electronic communication- was an integral part of the rise of the modern sciences. The development of communication media was interwoven in complex ways with a number of other developmental processes which, taken together, were constitutive of what we have come to call 'modernity'. Hence, if we wish to understand the nature of modernity- that is, of the institutional characteristics of modern societies and the life conditions created by them- then we must give a central role to the development of communication media and their impact. (3)

Here, Thompson rightly lays emphasis on role of mass media in heralding modernity. Not surprisingly, in the present novel, the internet, as the most recent means of communication, emerges as the force of modernity, which makes love between Khushi and Ravin possible regardless of the difference in cultures.

Modernity has been so much invested into culture that it has started defining even nationalism. Nationalism, according to Gellner as cited by Anthony D. Smith, "is the cultural form assumed by modernity" (67). The invention of today's modern means of communication technologies make the life of people easier in one hand in this modern age, today's generation is far more advance and clever than their parents because of education that they can choose and decide about their life by themselves, as Ravin and Khushi in the novel they become blind in love being well known about the difference in their caste and culture, which is not accepted totally from the traditional culture. Education and other modern means of communication bought a lot of facilities and easy life to this generation because of which today's generation also start to forget about their responsibilities towards the traditional culture and values, they start to use their own monopoly for their selfishness but though they try a lot traditional culture is very strict for its preservation so for Ravin and Khushi instead of giving real happiness they got a tragic end that in the name of modernity they try to forget about their traditional culture which is not still accepted by culture so, it hint that the death of Khushi ends the possibility of marriage between them because modernity and inter- cultural marriage is not still accepted by traditional culture.

As Thombsom Job B, in *The Media and Modernity, A social theory of the media*, argues, "The development of communication media from early form to recent type of electronic communication was an integral part of the rise of modernity. The development of communication media was interwoven in complex way with a number of other developmental process which taken together were constitutive of what we have to call "modernity" (3). As the modern means of communication play a most essential role in the life of Ravin and Khushi, to bound them into a relation of

their deep rooted love, the institutional characteristics of modern societies and the life condition created by them, we must give the central role to the development of communication media and their impact, that the modern means of communication can help the people bound into the relation of love though they are very far according to the destination as of Ravin and Khushi that they are from two opposite poles of India but the modern means of communication help them to bound in love .

But only the modern means of communication help them to reach up to the relation of deep love and the decision up to marrying one another but Indian traditional culture is so strong that it can't accept the cultural difference that Ravin and Khushi belong to Panjabi and South Indian. So, because of which instead of getting happy marriage life they get a tragic end after the death of Khushi before the day of engagement.

May, in his work *Language and Minority Rights*, argues “Nation states represent modernity while ethnic group simply represents a harping mis- informed and misguided nostalgia” (56). Because of the development and change in the society due to modernity, it does not come in the concept of modern people about ethnic group , but this concept is only the concept of modern people because of modern thinking that it has change the vast world so narrow , and the people of here are not bound under any caste and sub caste , that they think it is only the superstitious belief of the people.

Here in the novel Ravin and Khushi being well known that they do not belong to same caste and culture they fall deep in love and come up to the destination of marrying one another because of their ego of being modern but the fate and the traditional culture govern it the most important thing because of which they are

unsuccess to change their love into marriage, though they convince their parents for their inter-cultural marriage.

Partha Chattarjee's notion of *The Outer World and The Inner World* illustrates: "Seen in popular cinema, television soap and commercial advertising the Indian woman is both a house maker and working woman, constituting a new modernity" (124). As the parents of Ravin and Khushi in the novel are trying to constitute a new modernity trying to marrying up their inter-cultural son and daughter without any objection. It's true that Ravin and Khushi both are the true representatives of modernity that is why they decide about their inter-cultural love marriage from the first meeting of site but here in the novel parents from both of the sides are also being modern, as seen the popular films and serials about the modernity and how it change according to time and situation. Being modern they are trying to marry up there inter-cultural children but traditional culture is still with them which do not want to forget the culture following from generation to generation. So for Ravin and Khushi because of the traditional culture in India, instead of having inter-cultural happy married life Khushi met an accident and was dead where as Ravin has to live a shattered life alone missing his Khushi.

Christophe Jaffrelot, in his work *Hindu Nationalism*, argues that "Indian culture was to be defined as Hindu culture and the minorities were to be assimilated by their paying allegiance to the symbol and mainstay of the majority as those of the nation" (5). Each of the religion in the world has its own culture, with many costume, tradition and refined qualities. The Hindu culture is a culture of love, respect, honoring other and humbling one's own ego so that the inner nature which is naturally pure and modest will shine forth. Because of modernity and the development of education and other information technologies we see a lot of equalities in the society

to all the people who belong to different caste and culture. According to Hindu culture, in the context of India, the inter-cultural marriage is still taken as social stigma where they should struggle a lot to achieve it but also throughout their life they should be dominated in any of the way inside their home and with the family also.

Similarly, here in the context of Nepal, too, the Hindu culture is taken as the pure. If they fall in love with other cultural group of people and try to marry them, they are not accepted from their culture. In this modern age thought they are accepted by their parents for marriage because of modernity they are not accepted in any of the religious and cultural ceremonies which the Hindu people are following from generation to generation. Girls with the other cultural group if they marry with the Hindu boy they are not even taken to their worshipped temple they are not allow even to touch the things which are made for the occasion , not only that somewhere the elder members in that family do not eat the food cooked by that inter-cultural girl inside the same home . Modernity has brought a lot of facilities and easy life for the people. Films and tv serials give a lot of messages to the people about equality in all caste and culture but traditional culture is still strong in its place ,that it cant tollar the unnecessary changes in the name of modernity. Education helps the people to be out from superstitious belief but it can't change the traditional culture which the people are following from the very beginning dividing themselves in different culture and caste so if in the name of modernity any one if try to break such culture it harm them far near in any of the way as to Ravin and Khushi by the accident before marriage.

Because of the strong traditional Indian culture Panjabi Ravin and south Indian Khushi fail to change their true love into marriage. Mutual understanding of the Indian People try to change the Indian culture but traditional culture is not

accepting modernity in totality in India because of which Ravin and Khushi had got a tragic end in the novel.

This research consists of three chapters. Introduction of the text, hypothesis, literature review, and theoretical insights have been incorporated in the first chapter. Chapter two basically analyzes the text with extracts from the book with reference to theoretical insights of modernity and chapter three concludes the study outlining the findings.

II. An Interface between Tradition and Modernity in *I too had a love story*

This chapter primarily attempts to highlight an encounter between tradition and modernity in the light of textual analysis of *I too had a love story*. Traditional culture plays a pivotal role to shape Indian modernity. In spite of getting marriage, Panjabi Ravin and South Indian Khushi have to face a tragedy. Khushi, the protagonist, meets an accident and dies before the day of engagement. *I too had a love story* explicitly tries to justify for the nationality and modernity about how it has change according to the period and situation, in this modern age from the love marriage between Panjabi Ravin and South Indian khushi where they met at site for the first time and without seeing one another become deep in love and decide to marry one day. They try to expose the Indian identity not the narrow Panjabi and south Indian. Both of them are the representatives of modernity and believe that love can win every battle. It becomes possible for Khushi and Ravin to fall in love with each other even without meeting each other in person due to the Internet. However, the tragic twist the novel takes in the form of Khushi's fatal accident exposes the trial modernity has to undergo in their communities, which are shaped by traditional values despite they have embraced certain aspects of modernity.

Ravin and Khushi are from two different poles of India with different culture, tradition, rite, religion and language. Though they are the representatives of two different cultural groups they have the single motive that they are Indians. Falling in love from the internet website, they decide to marry one another without seeing in real, by convincing the family and enlightening about modernity and its changes that every thing is fare in love and war they decided the day of engagement from the agreement of both of their families. Ravin and Khushi have raise a strong feeling of modernity. It is their understanding which is meaningful to all the modern people to

secure themselves about their life and marriage. Parents from both of the sides are convinced so easily that they wanted to show the modern feeling upon those children who take no care of their traditional culture, which the generation has to follow. Even the parents of Ravin and Khushi strongly try to spread the message of unity having married between their son and daughter but because of the traditional culture, which the modern people are trying to avoid, modernity is not easily accepted by the traditional culture. The tragic end of the novel makes it conspicuous.

This present research tries to expose the face that inter-cultural marriage is meaningful because it subverts the deep rooted attitude of Indian people regarding inter-cultural homogenous cultural marriage which does not depict national feeling. Being modern lovers from internet website saadi.com without seeing one another and planning for marriage they want to hint the fact of modernity that love can happen in any of the way and which can ends up marrying one another but because of the traditional Indian culture they fail to change their love into marriage.

Ravin and Khushi are watching for the best life partner after they become mature and understand the value of marriage in life, both of them find internet the best way to choose the partner in this modern age. They just think of the internet as the best way. Ravin, in this extract, puts this issue in this way: "I uploaded a nice photograph, and unchecked any checkbox which asked to hide my whereabouts from girl who might be searching for me" (15). The above extract beautifully presents the issue of modernity that due to the vast change in this modern age because of invention of modern technologies like internet website and mobile phones it is very easy to find the boy or girl whom the one can admire from the picture. In this modern age it is not necessary to go and look upon the girl from the help of parents and relatives for marriage as people used to do in the traditional period. Here, Ravin is also in search of

girl for his life partner, so he uploaded the picture with hope that someone will like him and leave a message as response.

On the other hand, Khushi finds Ravin on her site, both of them finally find each other's profile, and viewing all the uploaded pictures both of them fall in friendship relation for the first time. Modernity is taking a vast area in this age because of the bollywood films and serials. As in most of the modern Bollywood films, Ravin and Khushi become friends from the internet.

As the days pass slowly they fall in love, they start to share everything about them, their families, job, education, language, culture and religion that they belong to, they are crystal clear that they do not belong to same cultural group where Ravin is Panjabi whereas Khushi is South Indian girl. Being from two different cultural groups they have their own language, religion and traditional culture which they have to follow generation after generation but Ravin and Khushi without taking care of such differences they become deep in love. Because of the education of people, and invention of technologies, and mass media, the people are changing. They start to forget about their traditional culture, and values, which their elders were following. Ravin and Khushi being the representatives of modernity in the society they try to prove themselves that love can happen in any of the way, as of there in the novel. *I too had a love story* try to make the people clear about modernity and modern changes that in this 21st century there is no any boundary either from parents or from society or culture to choose the life partner if he or she belong to same cultural group or not but the traditional Indian culture is not still accepting modernity in totality because of which instead of getting marriage and living happy life Ravin has to leave a shatter life because of the death of Khushi.

Ravin and Khushi are from two different cultural group of India, and they also belong to two different culture. Ravin belong to Panjabi culture whereas Khushi is a south Indian girl .After being deep in love they are able to convince their parents and become ready for inter cultural marriage. Because of education and other modern means of communication and other media the youth like Ravin and Khushi are able to talk about the relation with their parents and they want to show the nationality that they are Indians in totality not the Panjabi and south Indian.

Being able to convince their parents, they strongly want to convey the message of us feeling having marriage with the agreement but the fate has something to ruin from them. Before two days of engagement , Khushi meets an accident and had battled with her life and death, finally they are not able to get their love which shows that Indian traditional culture is not accepting inter-cultural marriage.

Ravin is searching for a girl to marry when he becomes an engineer and fortunately he meets Khushi on the site. They are bound in the friend ship for the first time. They have a chat, message each other and even talk on a phone and finally purpose and fall in love but both of them are unknown whom they have propose and how he/she looks in real.

This is all because of modern technology-internet has made the life so easy that without seeing each other Ravin and khushi fall in love they share everything among themselves about their education, job and family but without seeing each other. This modern means of communication and technologies and other medias like film, and TV serials teach the modern people like Ravin and Khushi that love can happen in the way that they fall in.

Ravin and Khushi are waiting for the day to meet each other in real. Finally they become clear on that they do not belong to same cultural group but they do not

have any fear inside them that weather there love would be unsuccessful before meeting. They do not have any fear of their parents because both of the parents are very understanding and they do not want to become the boundary for the happiness of their children which both Ravin and Khushi understood their parents feeling upon their children. Ravin and Khushi after being deep in love start to talk about their marriage and about their future life how one should be after getting marriage she has raise the issues which Ravin has to accept over in the passage below: "See every person has some likes and dislikes when we talk about marriage it's about respecting each other's feelings it is about trust few compromises and much more. And if you are going to be my life partner I sincerely urge you to choose a life without alcohol" (24). This extract clearly presents that the modern Indian girls do not focus on the boy belonging to their cultural or ethic group but they are much aware about alcohol or other harmful habits that may be very dangerous after marriage. Ravin and Khushi being in love without seeing each other in life Khushi being strong she is able to express her feeling to the boy whom she choose as her life partner which Ravin accept very easily without any argument.

I too had a love story of Ravindra Singh is very exciting love story. Here Khushi and Ravin have not seen one another yet as narrated by Ravin: "Indeed being in love you have not met is crazy thing and deciding to marry that person one day even crazier" (26). They have not even imagine how they look like in real. Whether they are the same as they imagine or not, it's really very unexpected thing that they become very crazy without seeing one another knowing that they do not belong to the same cultural group where the Indians people are very strict in the case of inter cultural marriage .This is all because of modernity and they want to show the modern Indian inter-cultural marriage from their side and wants to prove themselves as an

idle couple who fall in love from internet and get marriage without seeing each other in real.

But here in the text *Modernity, Nationalism, and Colonial Uncanny*, Chattopodhya Swati argues that “to be modern is to live a life of paradox and contraction. It is to be both revolutionary and conservative to be fully modern is to be anti-modern” (13). Because of education and modern means of communication and technologies today’s generation do not want to follow their culture that their elders were following from generation, being in the opposite part of culture and tradition they want to achieve their happiness and to conserve modernity, being revolutionary towards the traditional culture they want to achieve their happiness in life. Here, in the novel both the protagonists Ravin and Khushi plan about their marriage they want to show the nationalism in one hand by proving themselves that they are not Panjabi and south Indian in totality. They are only the Indians while on the other hand they want to prove the modernity being fully revolutionary. They try to conserve the national unity forgetting about the culture and ethnic group what they belong to but the traditional Indian culture is not still easily accepting such inter-cultural marriage very easily where the Indians still take it as social stigma. To be in love for them become easier being from two cultural group of India. For Khushi and her family inter-cultural love marriage is not so great thing as all of her elder sisters had already got inter-cultural marriage of their own choice convincing their parents, so for Khushi also it is not a great thing to marry inter-cultural boy Ravin, but till now Ravin’s parents are unknown about the relation of their son that he is in love with south Indian girl Khushi since because of modernity Khushi’s parents understand very clearly that “love in the end, wins all the battles” as that has already happened to rest of her other daughters (23). So for Khushi there is no any obstacle in her way to reach

up to Ravin's life from her family. Because of the understanding that caste and culture never break the way to love they try to uplift their love up to the destination of marriage.

Here, in the novel culture and tradition are in two opposing paradigm. Ravin and Khushi are able to tell and convince their parents about the relation but because of the traditional Indian culture they fail to achieve their true love. While telling about the relation they are expecting about lots of ifs and buts from their parents but for their surprise nothing of that sort happens from where another milestone in their love story was crossed. Both of their families now know about their affair but they say that "love is a blend of different emotions" (31).

So the love story between Ravin and Khushi knows no bounds but being from two different cultural groups they have their own language and religion. Ravin wish khushi to speak Panjabi which the given extract clarifies: "Talking to me and my family in Panjabi was the most important task I put on her. Her family spoke Hindi and she was bought up in that atmosphere whereas my ears badly wanted to hear the language which I was bought upon" (33).

Issue of language and identity has a symbolic relationship. In the multi lingual nation like India, language articulates at various levels. It defines the individual citizen in terms of region and class. So Ravin wishes his Khushi to be Panjabi and speak a language because of which she can show her identity. But the modern girl like Khushi do not want to accept the feelings of Ravin. She gives no response while Ravin want her to do so. Poole argues: "Part of the secret of national identity , lies in the emergence of vernacular print language, as these language formed the identities of those who lived in particular region , they provided the foundation for a shared sense of belonging to the sane community" (272). As language is not meant as a great issue

in this modern age because of modernity as most of the people of this new generation forget about their mother language , they are unknown about their mother tongue what their parents and grandparents speak ,today's generation only know about the common national language as all the people living in a state speaks , Khushi being the representatives of the modern society she deny to speak in Panjabi where as Ravin also being from the same modern society he eagerly requesting his Khushi to use Panjabi language which he and his parents like to listen and speak because of the fact that language can show the private identity that they belong to. It does not mean the collapse of traditional culture that being modern one has to remember about the identity that they can introduce one another frankly showing the culture and language that they belong to from the traditional period. One evening while talking on phone they had a conversation about the language which has to follow since they are inter-cultural because of which language difference is there on them but Ravin tries to illustrate on the given conversation about the felling of language:

Ravin: Hey, do you mind talking in Panjabi? I have never heard you fulfilling my expectation or are you going to start after our marriage?

Khushi: if I say I won't do even after our marriage, what will you do?

Ravin: then I'll take you back to your home Faridabad and leave you there. (52)

The above conversation clarifies the fact that Khushi being a south Indian girl, do not like to adopt the language, which Ravin and his family speaks. Today's modern Indian culture still want to preserve their culture and language. They are modern in the outer world, outside the home but inside they are still traditional and want to preserve their language and culture, so here in the conversation Ravin being a

modern software engineer he don't want to let her Khushi be like a south Indian girl speaking Hindi language after their marriage. It is because Ravin want to preserve the culture and language of himself whereas Khushi is ignoring what he said .she doesn't want to accept what he said. For a short time there happen misunderstanding between them, Khushi become very sad to hear Ravin's feeling upon his language but anyhow it was the mutual understanding , an attempt to do the best they could do for each other , after all they were supposed to live together for the rest of their life.

To discuss about the language and modernity Partha Chatterjee's *Of the Outer World and the Inner World*, Advani argues that "man could adopt the way of westernized modernity , could dress eat or behave according to its tenets as long as there existed a notion of traditional Indian values which were safeguarded with in the home and by the woman" but here my argument that modern things which were bought upon come from west (123). Because of modern means of communication and medias today's generation start to adopt what they see but the character Ravin here in the novel being a modern and choosing himself an inter-cultural girl he don't forget his identity and language that he is Panjabi so, he convince his Khushi. Chatterjee has discuss more that "seen in popular cinema, television soaps and commercial advertising the Indian woman is both a house maker and a working woman, constituting a new modernity, which articulates national culture and nationalism on the site of her body and image" (124-125).

So here Khushi try to show the national identity and common language that they are Indians so they have right to go on the way they think the best this is all happen in the novel because of modernity. Despite modern media like films, and TV serials, the Indian traditional culture has not change much. A cultural group tries to follow the same, what their elders are following so here did Ravin in the case of using

Punjabi language not the Hindi or national language in whole. At last he convince his Khushi saying that “because of the way our society and culture is, I have to leave them all” (35). Their love becomes stronger and stronger day by day sharing all the things about their parents, home and family they uplift their love convincing their parents but they have not seen them at all in real, they are just planning about their marriage and future in imagination, imagination about their engagement and marriage they try to show the modernity that modern day gadgets like mobile phone and internet bring you the love to your life.

Six months have pass since Ravin and Khushi fall in love but have not seen yet. So “two people who were madly in love with each other and had decided to marry each other were going to see each other for the first time in their life” (54). Ravin, therefore, plans to go to see Khushi at Faridabad. Finally, he flies to her hometown with lots of quarries inside him as below: "What if she is not as beautiful as she appear in her picture? What if she laughs in a very weird way? What if she limps?" (53). Many of such thoughts play a hide and seek in his mind during the journey but he convinces himself that she is his own choice. Because of modern changes and the invention of technologies when Ravin and Khushi fall in love and decide for marriage, that is not a great thing for them that they just talk and share their feelings in mobile and internet but now here for the first time both of them are going to see one another in real. So many thoughts come in their mind as both of them are unknown lovers from two different community and cultural group. Now the fears inside them start to grasp that if one likes or dislikes the other but because of the mutual understanding of Ravin and Khushi that won't happen in real since they try to impose the modernity and the changes in the society being the true representatives who fall in love from internet website and reach up to the destination of marriage.

Finally at evening, the plane land, Khushi and her sister is there to pick up Ravin. When it's final time to see one another in real life, Ravin is anxious, shivering and the heart is beating fast. Every feminine voice from the crowd seem to be hers that it is the first time because of which he get very anxious, that what will happen if she dislikes, and went without taking care of him.

Now come the final stage when both of them meet one another. When they see one another in real, for the first time whom they love most in their life, the chilling hesitation in both of them appear, they just stare for a moment without speaking a single word, but slowly Ravin offering his right hand for a shake he said 'Hey' and Khushi responds him saying 'Hi' in an elegant way, touching him for the first time with that hand shake. When Ravin saw his Khushi in front of him, his feeling upon her is telling the truth of the moment that he expresses his feeling on the given extract below:

I looked and my eyes were stuck on you,

I tried to move the black in them

But they were stuck like glue

Looking at you for real, I noticed your eyes

That's exactly where your entire beauty lies.

So genuine, so honest so beautiful , so deep

With a glint of light , some naughtiness did creep

Finding my dream coming true,

I pleaded my shivering lips

To bring out the words I had kept for you

There were so many things to say

I can remember none of them at all

But I don't lose with that

I do things my own way. . . . (57).

This feeling of reality comes upon Ravin's eyes when he sees his Khushi. She looks really very beautiful. His first glance to Khushi makes him so crazy, towards her that he sinks into the feeling of love without speaking any thing.

Modernity has changed this vast world also very narrow that for Khushi and Ravin, if there will not have any changes in this world, in the name of modernity, there will not have any possibility in their relation of falling in love, without seeing one another, but the truth is that both Ravin and Khushi are the representatives of modern society, and they try to be the idle couple of modern age and through which they try to spread the message to all the people of this modern age that love and marriage can happen at any destination, and culture and tradition is not the boundary for such love and marriage in this modern age that is what Ravin and Khushi being the representative try to prove and they too also met after a long time of falling in love between them.

As it is the modern love story of two lovers who find each other on site and come up to the destination of marriage, with a lot of feeling of shyness and hesitation, they pick up the cab and move towards their destination. As Ravin is with her Khushi now, there is also her sister with them but also because of the strong feeling of modernity, instead of taking home to Ravin they book the hotel for him. All of them move towards the hotel where Ravin has to stay that night. After taking rest for a while her sister left them inside the room and went somewhere outside for a short period. So now Ravin and Khushi are alone there inside the room. For the first time both of them are speechless, they are just feeling each other but only silence is at their best, but it does not last long, after a few minute. Ravin holds Khushi in his arms that

is all they have seen in romantic films. Suddenly another thought crept into Ravin's heart, all of a sudden and with that the battle between his heart and mind started:

Heart: Yes

Mind: No

Heart: why not? This is such a perfect moment. I think I should

Mind: what if she does not feel good about it? After all this is just your first date.

Heart: but will I get a moment like this again?

Mind: chance? First look into the mirror and ask your self if you can do this in the first day itself?

Heart: stop this nonsense. I am going ahead.

Mind: good luck

Heart: thanks. (89)

This sort of battle between mind and heart hold inside the room when he is alone with Khushi. As it is about the modern love story both Ravin and Khushi are modern girl and boy they see in most of the romantic films the role of hero and heroin. Inside the room they try to do the same as they see in the romantic modern films the hero and heroin act, they just grab in one another looking straight into the eyes of one another but suddenly, the fate has to intervene, so her sister call up on her cell, and the ringtone shatter the utopia of them because of which they can't completely sink into their romance. Thus, it is already 8 o'clock and Khushi is late for her home.

As Gehlat, in *Reforming Bollywood*, claims "Bollywood film is particularly hybrid art form, blending theoretical and cinematic elements, as well as the first world and third world cinemas methodologies, plus genera such as the musical dance and

melodrama to name a few" (xi). Ravin and Khushi also try appear the same as that of in romantic films, because of that they try to show the modernity that in modern age love and sex are very simple things in peoples life. It happens itself when they love and like each other as they see in the movies that the hero and heroin's romance on their meeting but because of fate here in the novel Ravin and Khushi can't reach up to their destination. With all these questions inside himself he move to see his Khushi but because of his trust that marrying her was his independent decision he so he arrive without any kind of pressure for her finally as the destination is near he was anxious, shivering and his heart was beating faster to face her for the first time in his life, but finally as he saw Khushi she is more beauty then his imagination.. Both of them feel so shy that they get no courage to speak with one another .they finally take a cab and walk to the home of Khushi directly. On the way he talks to himself in this way: "I'm all alone. Damn I don't believe I m doing this, going to visit my laws, do I need to tell her mother one time that I love Khushi? Should I sound mature, a responsible person who will keep their Khushi happy for the rest of her life" (73).

All such thinking comes upon him when he is in Khushi's home with her family. Generally, the modern boys who fall in love don't like to tell their parents and want to elope so that they can spend rest of their life happily but here in the novel being modern Panjabi boy he directly go to Khushi's home and meet her parents, being alone he is confuse what to speak and what not to but he is in full support of Khushi and her parents that she has already told them about the affair of Ravin and herself.

He is able to go to Khushi's home. He must have fear inside him ,what they may tell him because he is alone and belongs to Panjabi culture who loves their Khushi. Jaffrelot Christopher's extract below clarifies it: "Now the modernity has

became the dominant principal in the Indian public life, when much of the oppression and exploitation in the society is inflicted, in the name of modern categories the logic of the situation demands a different kind of political attitude toward cultural tradition” (61). By going alone in the home of Khushi, Ravin also shows some kind domination because it is out of any culture. If he has really loved Khushi he should have hesitation to go directly in her home but in the novel because of the positive thinking of parents they are happy to see Ravin. After Ravin returns to his home, he tell everything about Khushi and her family. Parents are also happy to know to hear about it all so they plan to finalize the day of engagement of their children. As Jaffrelot Christopher says, “Indian culture was to be defined as Hindu culture, and the minorities were to be assimilated by their paying alleges to the symbols and mainstay of the majority as those of the nation” (5). Here in the novel Ravin’s mother expresses her cultural feeling in the extract: "In our country, seeing the boy and girl is one of the most important steps in the entire process but the true happiness comes to the parents when they hug each other with those smiling faces" (145).

Cultural difference is seen here clearly that Ravin’s mother tells them about their culture. To be modern seeing the modern films and serials is in one hand but Indian people still are not forgetting about their traditional culture. Difference in caste and culture still touch the heart of Indian people as it is said cast and culture never break the way to love. Here Vajpayee Ananya in a story of caste said: “Caste may not govern what people eat how they dress how they speak how they perform rituals how they worship and spell their last names as it did two generation ago but paradoxically caste does govern very often whom they vote for how much they study and what they work and end up doing” (313). Here, according to Vajpayee, it is said but my opinion is that if it will not govern all these things why Ravin’s mother says so. They are well

known that both the families are from two different cultures and caste. They take no care of caste and culture in the beginning but later some how come from Ravin's mother about their traditional culture. So Indian people are still facing problems to accept and adopt others culture from heart though they try to accept for the happiness of their children. Ravin and Khushi in the novel are from two different caste and culture. They are modern lovers who fall in love from last 16 months and are now going to marry in the agreement of both of their parents. Parents are also conceive and agree to get marriage for the sake of their children happiness but Indian traditional culture is not still accepting such inter-cultural marriage in totality, so when both of the parents are agree for marriage. There happen an unexpected incident in the life of Khushi.

Parents fix up the day of engagement at Faridabad on 14th of February and had return back Ravin call Khushi from his home but till then something unexpected had already happen which the given passage clarifies:

“Why do you have Khushi's cell?

Hello, “said another male voice” Pushkar?”

“Yes, Ravin.”

“What's up, yaar? All you people? Where is Khushi?” I asked anxiously.

Ravin, we are rushing to the ICU. Khushi met an accident.” (200)

This is what happens in the life of Khushi. Instead of getting engagement and marrying Khushi has to battle with her life and death. That is the sad and unexpected thing happens in the novel.

All the modern changes are brought about by the modern mass media.

Today's generation wants to copy what they see in a film and what they hear. As

Ravin and Khushi are also modern lovers, they also follow what they have seen in the film and TV serials. They also meet on the internet, talk on phone, deep in love without seeing each other and convince their parents and also plan to get marriage soon. Such incidents happen in only western modern films and serial so that they also copy in their life but the Indian traditional culture is still in dilemma to support such modernity in reality. Instead of getting happy marriage life, they meet a tragedy in the form of Khushi's death. Getting born in the traditional Panjabi culture Ravin the protagonist of the novel chooses a south Indian girl as the life partner. The main support for them is the Hindi films in which the roles of hero and heroin are the same as that of Ravin and Khushi but all these plays and roles are only possible in films where the character only acts on the topic according to written script but they do not let it be in real life, such type of modern roles are only possible in films but here Ravin and Khushi also try to copy the same but traditional Indian culture is not so loose to let anyone do whatever they wish, the power of Indian traditional society and culture is very strong. People try to adopt modernity and left the traditional culture but in reality it is impossible because of tradition.

Certainly, here in the novel, Panjabi Ravin and south Indian Khushi, as modern people, try to show that modernity makes everything possible. Ravin and Khushi also have a dream of getting marriage and spending life happily the way actors do in the Hindi films. But because of the traditional culture do not allow the modern people to act the way they like. Khushi's death following an accident manifests it. After getting the news about Khushi's accident Ravin can't control himself during the time when he hears the message he is alone in home he can't believe it and the given passage clarifies how he leaves when he hears about Khushi's accident: "I felt suffocated I was trying to breath in as much as air as possible. I was

alone in my house and a terrible shock was tearing me apart in my loneliness” (158). The above passage clarifies how much he loves Khushi. Their marriage is no longer possible.

J.G. Packer argues that "modernity is an epoch without precedent" (48). He adds, "If we define modernity in terms of certain institutional changes such as spread of the modern bureaucratic state, market economies, science and technologies, it is easy to go on nourishing the illusion that modernity is a single process designed to occur everywhere in the same forms, uniformity bringing convergence and uniformity in our world" (196). Modernity is a changing form or the quality of being current or of the present, modern technologies have provided us a lot of facilities which is very helpful to run our daily life but here in the novel such modernity takes another role. Though they are from two opposite poles of India, modern technology like internet and mobile has made them fall in love. We can change the world through the invention of modern technologies but can't change our culture, because when Ravin and Khushi try to change their culture and try to make Indian culture a single, they face a problem.

When Ravin meets the injured Khushi battling with her life and death, he starts believing in all kinds of superstitions and myths. When he sees her pitiful condition, his heart melts down: "Had anyone told me - Pick up a few pebbles from the road and eat them? I will save her, I would have done that too" (187). He prays to God; he remembers each and every possible thing, which may save the life of Khushi. He still hopes that she may be fine someday. Ravin and the rest of Khushi's family are waiting for the recovery of Khushi soon. All of them are waiting for the positive response of the doctor that she will be fine soon.

The family and Ravin are eagerly waiting for the day when Khushi will be discharged and can be taken home. They are in quiet relief when doctors and nurses tell

them she will be getting well soon. Unfortunately, Khushi can't be saved. Ravin knows more clearly when Khushi's father comes to him and says, "Beta It's a sad news our Khushi is no more. She left us a few minute back" (199). So, finally, Khushi passes away. No one can save the life of Khushi. When he hears the news from Khushi's father, he freezes within himself as he says below:

Something heavy stuck my heart, a terrible blow, my eyes widened I froze. Some kind of coldness crawled with in me. My muscles could not move. My heart seemed to alternately stop beating and pump furiously. My brain went numb. I lost control over myself and the echo of that message beat against my eardrum. (199-200)

The death of Khushi clearly proves that the traditional cultures are still privileged over modernity.

So at the final stage when Ravin is alone in his life he misses Khushi very much as these words reflect: "She died. I survived because I survived. I died everyday" (205). The death of Khushi clarifies the fact that the Indian community is facing problem accept modernity in totality.

They try to prove that in modern society for marriage it is not necessary to go to girl's or boy's home with their parents or relatives. Ravin and Khushi fall in love from the internet. They only see the profile picture of one another but they decide to get marriage. As the modern parents are also aware of the fact that children's happiness is greater than the happiness of parents in the case of marriage and if they become any barrier for them then this generation can reach up to the destination of eloping or committing suicide. They do not care of their culture. But no one in this modern society can go beyond the traditional culture; parents may not be the

boundary for them but traditional culture does not accept such monopoly of the people, because of which they have to face the problem as Ravin and Khushi face.

Ravin and Khushi are the representatives of modernity and cultural changes in society. But because of the traditional culture, when they come to the final point of engagement and marriage, Khushi meets an accident before two days of engagement. The conflict between modernity and traditional culture creates a problem because of which Panjabi Ravin and South Indian Khushi fail to consummate their love as it hampers the mission of traditional culture, as per which one should go on following it generation after generation. Though their parents agree for the inter-cultural marriage, traditional cultures don't agree.

This research highlights the fact that Indian traditional culture has not accepted modernity in totality. Deriving the theoretical insights from the discourse of modernity, it shows how tradition still prevails over modernity despite the Indian society has embraced the latter's forces. Because of the tragic end in the love story of Ravin and Khushi, the deep rooted attitude of Indian people towards traditional culture has become a big barrier in the life of Ravin and Khushi. In the novel, the death of Khushi, the female protagonist, manifests that the Indian society is too deeply rooted in the traditional values to accept all the modern forces like the probable intercultural marriage between Ravi, a Punjabi boy and Khushi, a Tamil girl.

III. Critiquing Modernity in *I too had a love story*

This study explores the interface between modernity and the traditional culture in Indian society in relation to love and marriage. In the novel, Ravin and Khushi are the representatives of modernity. They fall in love without seeing each other in real and decide to marry regardless of their cultures they belong. The death of Khushi however, shows that the Indian society is too deeply rooted in the traditional values to accept all the modern forces like the probable intercultural marriage between Ravin, a Punjabi boy and Khushi, a Tamil girl.

Deriving the theoretical insights from the discourse of modernity, it shows how tradition still prevails over modernity despite the Indian society has embraced the latter's forces. Modernity has brought a lot of changes in the society. Armed with industrialization, education and modern means of communication and information technologies, it has changed the vast universe but the traditional culture which the people are following from generation to generation is still kicking and alive.

Ravin and Khushi are from two opposite poles of India bearing different cultural group, religion and language. They have prepared themselves for their marriage by convincing their parents. Being the representative of modernity they have stood above the narrow mentality of the traditional culture and society and try to stand being the modern couple that love can happen in any of the way and reach up to the destination of marriage. Modernity is an extended web of relationship among the people who belong to different culture with different identities living in the same community. In *I too had a love story*, Ravindra Singh shows that Ravin and Khushi heartily want to establish modernity and develop good relationship among Panjabi and south Indian to strength modernity and national unity which is the primary form of being conscious about modern changes in this age because of education and other

modern technologies where people think and experience the same feeling of emotion about modernity.

As they are from two different cultural groups with their own traditional culture, religion, language without taking care of all, they make the relation so strong that no one can stand against their relation. Ravin and Khushi are always supported by the family. They have never faced any problem to uplift their relation, instead they get a full support from family and relatives. Mutual understanding has established a deep and primordial attachment among two families. Modernity is chosen by both of the families for the happiness of children. Being modern lovers they try to change the society and present situation where people should not be bound by the traditional stigma, as the traditional generation of the past used to. Ravin and Khushi being the representatives of modernity try to hint the fact that modernity and modern means of communication and technologies make the people very easy to run their life according to their interest, as the traditional people spent their very difficult life only in struggle, and believe in traditional culture. Ravin and Khushi being the representatives try to avoid such traditional culture and change this vast world of superstitious belief into modernity.

Being the representatives of modernity when both Ravin and Khushi are able to convince their parents, parents also accept modernity forgetting about their traditional culture and belief which they are following generation after generation. For the happiness of the children they sacrifice their traditional culture where Indian people feel very difficult to accept such intercultural marriage where they take intercultural love marriage as social stigma.

Modernity is taking a main role in the novel. Because of education and invention of modern medias and technologies, parents of Ravin and Khushi also

become modern because of today's modern film and serials where they can see each and every activities of modern generation and what they can also do, if they are fail in their decision because of parents.

When the day of engagement is fixed for 14th February 2007, they are patiently waiting for the day. Unfortunately, just two days before the engagement, Khushi meets an accident and battles with her life and death. Ravin and Khushi's families try a lot to save the life of Khushi in vain. The sad news of the death of Khushi ruins everything in Ravin's life.

Ravin and Khushi try their best to make the inter-cultural love marriage a success in India. They try to prove themselves an idle couple of the modern society. Ravin and Khushi as well as their parents also try to break the traditional culture for their happiness. Instead of getting happiness, they, however, get a tragic end which shows that the traditional culture can't accept modernity and inter-cultural marriage in totally.

In Ravindra Singh's *I too had a love story*, Ravin and Khushi represent the issue of modernity with their love relation through the internet. Their effort is meaningful for uniting the Indian people into a single garland to some extent. Being from two different cultural groups, they are accepted by the parents without any objection but traditional culture creates a problem. Being guided by modernity, Ravin and Khushi uplift their relation up to marriage. Though their parents agree about the relation, the traditional cultures do not support their relation. They try to fulfill their dream and become an ideal modern couple by making successful inter-cultural love marriage but ultimately they fail. They meet a tragic end as Khushi meets an accident and dies before marriage. The death of Khushi ends the possibility of love marriage between Ravin and Khushi, which

hints that Indian traditional culture is still facing problem to accept modernity in totality.

In conclusion, this thesis studies an interface between modernity and tradition in *I too had a love story*. In the novel, the death of Khushi manifests that the Indian society is too deeply rooted in the traditional values to accept all the modern forces like the probable intercultural marriage between Ravi, a Punjabi boy and Khushi, a Tamil girl. It becomes possible for Khushi and Ravi to fall in love with each other even without meeting each other in person due to the Internet. However, the tragic twist the novel takes in the form of Khushi's fatal accident exposes the trial modernity has to undergo in their communities, which are shaped by traditional values despite they have embraced certain aspects of modernity. This kind of study may open a new perspective to critique modernity, which has been shaped by the Western discourses.

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