

**An Analysis of Q & A novel by Vikas Swarup and  
Its Film Adaptation by Danny Boyle**

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**ABSTRACT-** The kind of literature that is referred to as Indo-Anglian literature is the post-colonial literature that was emerged as a result of the effect of the colonizer's language on literature fields . Although the general concept of things brings to the mind the tries of the colonizer's to decline the native culture , this is not always the case especially if the language of the colonizer was a dominant one like English . This will lead to the exposure of this culture to another global fields . One of the best examples beside the novels and books are movies . Movies supplies an outer image of the culture they emerged from that is why we recognize how a movie in the global market is looked at -sometimes- as an image of a nation. Taking the Indian experience as an example concerning that field may bring to our mind the masterpiece "slumdog millionaire."

This film was based on A novel called Q & A By Vikas Swarup ,an Indian Diplomat which was the author's first novel . Although the unexpected

success that the movie gained as well as its novel that it has been adapted from , they both received a very serious criticism on several points.

**Key words** : Theme , depiction , Image, modern , Arts , corrupted , poverty , Awards Success, critical views, reviews, Globalization.

**An Examination of the novel** : The novel was published in 2005 , setting in India . The novel starts with the scene of Ram Mohammad Thomas being arrested after answering correctly all twelve questions on the Indian show " who wants to win a billion?". Who will believe that this poor orphan who has ever been to school neither read a newspaper could be in such capability of answering these questions which more educated or wealthy would fail to complete. The Clever way of narrating was able to transfer readers between past and present so smoothly . Each question will stand for a chapter of the protagonist's life ; using flashback technique to expose us to which part of the protagonist life that supplied him with the answer of each question . From a baby found in the clothes donation box of a Delhi Church to his employment by a faded Bollywood star to his adventure with a security - crazed -Australian army colonel to his career as an overtly creative tour guide at Tajmahal . It is an amusing combination of Black comedy , drama, and romance . It is first person narration with the protagonist Ram narrating his own story . To represent the most authentic image of the life of those

characters , Swarup attempts to richen the setting and the atmosphere

through detailed description of the slums and the streets of Mumbai :

"There are many hazards to walking in an absent- minded manner on the roads of Mumbai..."(Q & A,192) . The description of the city itself ; a shelter for over one million , small houses with no light , overcrowded and dirty .

This shows how dangerous for one to live in such a place "We live like Animals , and die like insects "(Q&A 157) in a reference of the division that is upon the Indian society .He explains that he chose Ram cause he wants

it to be An Indian everyman , one that he could sound Hindu, Muslim or Christian . There is a portrayal of misery and corruption of human soul in its ugliest images and that is all seen in the only choice that the protagonist

has , to survive . In addition to the depiction of the social disorder of the slums , children abuse , murder, suicide, the themes of personal determination, hope and luck as well are apparent through the influential

story of Ram. It shows how one knows what he knows , how he obtains this knowledge in the journey of reaching the core and meaning of life itself.

Criticism to the novel was angry and harsh ; the core of the criticism was

upon the Image of the Indian modern society depicted in the novel in another words : the realism given to all the ugly aspects mentioned . The reviews of the audience of English- spoken world manifested the previous

idea ; " Overview of reality in India ," " He offers a very good look at

several different societies and life-styles in India , " " ...that gives you enough of the misery that exists that exists in India , " it is well-written and describes India as it is today ." Those reviews are taken the Amazon; they share one thing in being ignorant to this country , being totally foreigners. The novel gives the sense that this is the daily life in India . Swarup confesses that he did not live in the slums neither knew Dharavi the setting of the last chapter ,but " you don't need to have lived those things, you need imagination , you need empathy." He further praises his Indian government that he himself depicts as children Torturers for allowing him "full freedom for creative expression." Eventually he defends " When the things come to light there is rectification ...so I think the eventual message is positive." This is not a random story of a random boy from the slums from , but rather deep serious problems of the lower classes of India suffer from .From The boy who dies of rabies with no money for treatment , to the girl whose brother forced her into prostitution at the age of twelve he explains that point saying " I did not want to write about the privileged class , I wanted to explore the core of contentment in the underclass."

**Slumdog millionaire movie:** The movie had so many extreme changes from the name of the novel itself till the end when the filmmakers decided that the hero must be arrested on suspicion of cheating on penultimate question , not after he wins. The names of the leader characters were changed too from

Ram Mohammad Thomas to Jamal Malik. In the movie he is a Muslim whose mother has been killed by a Hindu in a reference to the political background reason and what was supposed to be friends turned to be brothers here to make the parallelism between those two leader characters more obvious and deep in nature. The film is considered to be Multi-genre; romance , drama, and adventure . Like its novel that film was the hit of that year wining eight from the ten Academy Awards that it was nominated for , which contained best director , best adapted screenplay , best original song and others .The magic of the movie was accompanied with the vivid colors , Indian music , the narrating way as well backwards and forwards connecting the episodes of the storyline so coherently . In addition the spontaneous performances of the young three Indian teenagers . The movie goes around two stories that are progressing in parallel . The story of Jamal-the protagonist- at one side and Salim- the antagonist- on the other. Jamal wining show is cleverly paralleled with his brother's death ; their paths contrast to crash at the end for a new future. The film is richened with motifs : the subtitle "It is written" suggests that Jamal winning the show is but a part of his destiny , Alexander Dumas' novel The Three Musketeers which was used to beat Jamal and salim for being late to school and even though they are totally ignorant about the content of the book , the teacher suggests that they are the class's musketeers so they adopted that as their

identity and when Latika - the beloved of Jamal- joins the rank they call her the third musketeer . This novel caught Jamal again as the last question about the name of the third musketeer . Symbols as well like : Latika's scar which represents the Hard experience that she had to endure through her life and when Jamal touches it at the end as a symbol of healing , the gangster Maman when he first met the three children and offers them soda which was a mark of his kindness but eventually it turns to be a symbol of his corrupted nature . The richness of images too as when we are represented to the events by the slowed memories of killing Jamal's mother scene, Latika's standing with her smile at the train station when she was kidnapped . The most touchable image was presented by Salim's death , when he scarifies himself for the sake of his childhood friend ,Latika, that stands for the way he chose to repent . Also the imagery of the child covered with dirt running with a clean photograph to be autographed by Amitabh Bachchan , This was a portrayal of the contrast between the outside image of the glamorous Bollywood and the real life of those people of slums. The theme concentrates on the human spirit and its restraint in the midst of the harsh reality of violence , the poverty and corruption of the human soul in addition to the choices that decide the path of one's life and the redemption theme as well as many minor themes.

While the film was gaining an absolute success critically and commercially outside India , the real place to where it belong and was set mainly was divided and did agree as considering it a national achievement or at least on the praising it gained. Indians were upset about another false depiction of the modern India that in their opinion was not objective enough and resembles the previous negative stereotype image depicted in other international works. Second it was criticized for its Anglo-Center in telling a story about Indian citizens and culture. They went further in criticism to consider it as most successful "Bollywood Movie" that is not a product of Bollywood. Shyamal Sengupta , film professor at the Whistling Woods International Institute in Mumbai said "It's a white man's imagines India ," he continues " It's not quite snake charmers , but it's close . it's a poverty tour."Even Amitabh Bachhan attacked the film claiming that it portrayed India as a third World Country declaring that it" projects India as a Third World dirty underbelly developing nation and causes pain and disgust among nationalists and patriots," referring to the violent and corrupted scenes . He explained his opinion that the cause behind its success in Hollywood are the western lens even if it is based on Indian novel.

**Conclusion** : The novel was translated to 47 languages considered as best read as well as the movie is seen as a "changing- film making in India" . The debate was questioning the identity of those works which were without doubts Indian in Core ,but were impacted by western Globaliization , how Indians are portrayed by the west and to what extent India is affected by the western Ideals imposed upon it . As Sadanand Dhuma \_ US writer of Indian Origin and journalist who writes on Asian affairs \_ explains "Every city, every nation , has its riches and flaws and globalization exposes them all."

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