

**REVAMPING CELEBRITY PERSONAS: INSIGHTS FROM
PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S *UNFINISHED* AND NEENA GUPTA'S *SACH
KAHUN TOH***

Dissertation

*Submitted to the University of Calicut in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the
award of Degree of Master of Arts in English Language and Literature*

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I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled **Revamping Celebrity Personas: Insights from Priyanka Chopra's *Unfinished* and Neena Gupta's *Sach Kahun Toh*** is a bonafide record of research done by **SHAMNA UBAIR** (Register Number AIAWMEG020), has not previously formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Fellowship or other similar title.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The primary hypothesis of this study is to examine the theme of restructuring celebrity identities through their autobiographies and memoirs in the light of autobiography theory. This study will explore how celebrities and public figures candidly share their life stories with the world, without hesitation, when writing about their real-life experiences. Additionally, it will investigate how these narratives effect change. Autobiography theory, an emerging field in literature, holds significant potential for analyzing the essence of subjects, particularly in autobiographies, memoirs, and biographies, as well as other literary genres.

The whole study is divided mainly into five chapters. The first chapter is the introductory part, the second chapter is titled as Breaking the Stereotypes: Honesty, Buoyancy and Boldness in *Sach Kahun Toh*. The third chapter is titled as Personal Growth and Self-Discovery in *Unfinished*. The fourth chapter is titled as Pursuit of Career in *Unfinished and Sach Kahun Toh* and the final chapter is the conclusion. Here the whole study is dealing with two different personalities who is very much invested in their life and how they managed their life situations. These five chapters will explore their life in different perspectives.

The first chapter is the introduction and it gives the brief idea about what this study is going to explore and analyse. And also delves into the idea of autobiography theory. The second chapter will explore how Neena Gupta breaks the notions of stereotypical society with her strong will and honesty. And her journey as a single mother and also how she managed her career and how she changed the very idea of age is a matter. And how her honesty and strong and stern behaviour helped her in pursuing things. The third chapter will deal with the personal growth of Priyanka Chopra and how

she discovered herself from the odds and her way of dealing the fluctuations of her personal and public life. And it also deals with how she constructed her identity and the journey of her personal growth. The fourth chapter will delve into the life of the two authors, Gupta and Chopra in pursuing their career and building their own space in the outer world. And it will also explore the role of public as well as the private life of Chopra and Gupta while pursuing their dreams. The last chapter will be the concluding part which will be a comparative study of the life incidents of two authors and how their differences and similarities contributes to the main idea of this study. It will also give insight into the idea of how important to behave and think smart and calm in crucial situations in life. And it is also, delves the pros and cons of opening up their life incidents into the world.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is a multifaceted person who has strong will and determination. As an actress, singer, and film producer she has placed her seal in all the phases of her career. She is also a person with kind heart and soul. She is known for her bold and confident persona and she can be considered as a good influencer who has the immense power to light up the life of others with her inner sights. Her life is like something filled with perseverance, ambition and sheer determination.

As in the case of Neena Gupta, it can be seen that she is a person with ardent passion and love towards herself and her career. At the same time, she is very genuine with people around her. Acting career of Gupta is spanning decades and she got much experience in the entertainment industry. She can be considered as a powerhouse in the entertainment industry because her talent and her ability to reinvent herself for each role is great and is an inspiration to many. It can say that, hope, hard work and perseverance makes her who she is now.

The emergence of writing of the genre of autobiographies and memoirs date backs to the 300-400 CE. Autobiographical writings have held a unique position at the intersection of history and literature within Western intellectual discourse. These writings have spurred ongoing critical discussions surrounding themes of identity, self-expression, and self-representation. The roots of autobiographical writing can be traced back to ancient Egyptian temples, where personal accounts were inscribed onto the walls. Similarly, evidence of autobiographical documentation can be found in the tablets and manuscripts dating back to the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. These early examples provide insight into the human desire to record personal experiences and perspectives, shaping the trajectory of autobiographical literature throughout history.

The development of autobiographies and memoirs involves the careful crafting of one's life story, typically focusing on significant events, experiences, and reflections. Authors often use various literary techniques such as narrative arcs, character development, vivid descriptions of settings, and thematic exploration to convey their personal journeys and insights to the readers. These works allow individuals to share their unique perspectives, struggles, triumphs, and lessons learned, providing readers with a glimpse into the author's life and worldview. Autobiographies and memoirs can serve as powerful tools for self-expression, introspection, and connection with others, fostering empathy and understanding across diverse experiences and backgrounds. Autobiographies and memoirs often employ techniques commonly found in novels, particularly in the way they narrate events, develop characters, describe settings, and structure their stories. Similarly, some novels rely on a first-person narrative style and prioritize the protagonist's experiences within a realistic time and place, mirroring the approach seen in autobiographical and memoir works.

Theorizing autobiography is date backs to the early years of twentieth century. Since the 1990s, autobiography theory has significantly evolved, acquiring an interdisciplinary aspect through its connections with various literary theories, including post-structuralism, deconstruction, and feminism. So that autobiography theory has many more to go and explore. And it is a theory that has wider scope and can connect it with every aspect of life and it has a space for more improvisations. Autobiography theory explores how individuals build their life stories and how well it is interpreting by the public. This theory helps to delve into the social, cultural and psychological aspects of a particular public figure as well as a common man who is ready to write about their real-life incidents. And this theory is also helping to understand how personal narratives contribute to identity construction and understanding of the persona.

Over the course of a century, the study of autobiography has undergone significant transformation, mirroring shifts in the way autobiographical texts are understood and analyzed. Initially, autobiographies were often seen as declarations of personal triumphs or accomplishments, showcasing the achievements of the individual. However, contemporary autobiography theory delves deeper, recognizing autobiographical writing as not just a recounting of events, but as a complex act of self-representation. This involves conscious choices in what to include, omit, express, and construct within one's narrative. Scholars now pay close attention not only to the literary techniques employed but also to the underlying motives behind what is excluded or left unsaid. Moreover, the field has been greatly enriched by the insights of postcolonial and feminist critics. By reclaiming their narratives, individuals can challenge oppressive norms and assert their own agency. Autobiography thus becomes not just a personal story, but a tool for empowerment and social change.

Paul John Eakin and Philippe Lejeune have contributed significantly to the field of autobiography theory through their respective works. Eakin's scholarship often explores the complexities of self-representation and memory in autobiographical writing, emphasizing the interplay between personal narrative and cultural context. He examines how individuals construct their identities through storytelling and the ways autobiographies shape our understanding of the self and others. On the other hand, Lejeune is renowned for his concept of the "autobiographical pact," which highlights the implicit agreement between the author and reader regarding the authenticity and truthfulness of autobiographical narratives. He delves into the conventions and expectations that govern autobiographical writing, exploring issues such as authorial intent, narrative reliability, and the role of memory in shaping personal narratives.

Autobiography theory encompasses a diverse range of approaches and perspectives aimed at understanding the nature and significance of autobiographical writing. Central to this field is the exploration of how individuals construct, interpret, and represent their own lives through narrative. Scholars often examine the interplay between memory, identity, and storytelling, considering how autobiographies both reflect and shape cultural, social, and historical contexts. Key themes include the negotiation of truth and fiction, the role of language and narrative structure in self-representation, and the ethical implications of autobiographical storytelling. Additionally, autobiography theory interrogates the relationship between the author, the text, and the reader, exploring questions of authenticity, authority, and readerly interpretation.

Furthermore, autobiography theory often engages with issues of power, voice, and marginalization, recognizing the complex dynamics of privilege, perspective, and representation inherent in autobiographical writing. Scholars may analyze how factors such as race, gender, class, and sexuality intersect with the production and reception of

autobiographies, shaping whose stories are told, valued, and legitimized. Additionally, autobiography theory considers the ways in which individuals navigate and resist dominant discourses and cultural norms through acts of self-representation, reclaiming agency and asserting their own narratives in the process. Overall, autobiography theory offers a rich framework for exploring the multifaceted nature of autobiographical writing, illuminating its social, cultural, and political dimensions while recognizing the inherent subjectivity and complexity of the autobiographical endeavor.

“Sach kahun oh” is a Hindi phrase that translates to “to tell the truth or frankly speaking.” It's often used to preface a candid or honest statement. “Unfinished” could refer to various things depending on the context. It might mean something left incomplete, like an unfinished project or task, or it could refer to an ongoing process or state, such as an unfinished book or an unfinished painting. The title "Unfinished" can hold multiple layers of significance. It might reflect Chopra's ongoing journey, suggesting that her life and career are still evolving and there are more chapters yet to be written. It could also symbolize the idea that nobody's story is ever truly complete; there are always new experiences, challenges, and opportunities ahead. Additionally, it might hint at the unfinished business or aspirations that Chopra still hopes to achieve in her life and career, inviting readers to join her on this ongoing adventure of self-discovery and accomplishment. The significance of the title of Gupta's autobiography lies in its indication that Gupta will openly share her life experiences, challenges, and triumphs without sugarcoating or hiding anything. It implies authenticity and transparency, inviting readers to delve into her story with the assurance of honesty and sincerity. This title choice can resonate with audiences who value genuine storytelling and seek insights into the life of a prominent figure like Neena Gupta.

The significance of this study is that, it will give us a view on self-reliance, optimism, determination, passion, kindness, love and compassion and many more. And it will also have the potential to give life insights and encouragement. So that, this study will explore the idea of the role of autobiographies and memoirs in the life of Chopra and Gupta. And these kind of narratives helps them to change the conception and behaviour about them. And shows how powerful the genuine and authentic narration of them. So, for sure this idea will reach into those who need the fire to rise again and stay bold and strong both mentally and physically. Examining life events through the framework of autobiography theory offers a fresh perspective on personal experiences, potentially leading to deeper insights and a broader understanding of the world. By redefining these incidents within the context of one's own narrative, individuals can gain new realizations and a heightened awareness of their place in the world. This approach encourages a reflective exploration of one's journey, offering the opportunity for growth, understanding, and a more enriched perspective on life.

In short, *Sach Kahun Toh and Unfinished* will give a better understanding on the very idea of normalising defeats and accepting ups and downs as a normal thing. Both books offer readers a glimpse into the lives of these influential figures, showcasing their vulnerabilities, triumphs, and the complexities of their journeys. They inspire readers to embrace their truths and pursue their dreams relentlessly, despite the obstacles they may encounter along the way.

Chapter 2

Breaking the Stereotypes: Honesty, Buoyancy and Boldness in

Sach Kahun Toh

“Sometimes, I get very angry when I read about myself in the papers. The image the media and my fans have of me is very different from who I am” (Gupta ix). Neena Gupta is getting into the point of how fast misconceptions are emerging from papers and how irritated she is about those rumours in her life and it can be said that this is the very reason for her to open up herself into the world. It is evident that autobiographies have a hold in breaking the stereotypes and it can showcase the real person in them. In this way, it can say that autobiography theory tends to analyse the deeper emotions of the autobiographical writings. As the title says, the behavioural features like honesty, buoyancy and boldness of Gupta can be easily analysed by autobiography theory. It is because this theory is more focused about the inner emotions and traits of the author as well as the work.

Re-reading the work, *Sach Kahun Toh* in the light of the autobiography theory, it is accurate that the author is faithful to herself by reflecting her individuality into the world. And it can say that autobiography theory is more related to the aspect of subjectivity. And Gupta tried to showcase her core self through her work and she says:

The original rebel, they still say, because I brought a child into this world out of wedlock. *Unapologetic*, they write, because I have made no attempts to hide my relationships. *Self-confident*, they reason, because I always hold my head high. The media does not know me. Nobody knows the real me. But writing a book would mean opening up and revealing my deepest, darkest secrets to the world. It would mean publishing all the mistakes I have made in my life. Revealing that I let men walk all over me. Confessing on paper that the strong, confident and self-

assured Neena Gupta actually suffers from a severe lack of self-esteem. She's flawed. Chipped. Broken. (Gupta ix, x)

She always calls herself a rebel and she is never tried to hide anything and she is always bold enough to stand for herself. And the self-confidence is her key and she was not happy about the evil stereotypes of her society and that's why she wrote her autobiography because it will help her to re-write herself. Open up her life is her way to showing love to the ones who is in need for some strength to step forward without hesitation. By sharing all the crucial settlements and incidents in her life for instance; being a single mother to her daughter Masaba Gupta, her unsuccessful and immature first marriage with Amlan Kusum Ghose and many more, she is trying to be a person who shows her life very genuinely in her autobiography and suit to be a veracious writer. As in the case of the autobiography theory, identity construction is one of the main features. And it is what Gupta adopted in writing her autobiography to construct her real self. And she used some minute incidents and conversations of her life in her work to create the feeling of disclosing her real life. And her honesty and boldness helped her in this journey.

Throughout the first part of her autobiography, she often used the phrase, '*Ladki bigad jayegi*' (which is a phrase in Hindi language which means 'the girl will get spoiled') which was often used by her mother to restrict her from doing things out of the box. And it was the byproduct of the age-old tradition of male-dominated society and she is very honestly open up her households to the world. She never hesitated to being real to the world and always ready to stand for her ambitions and desires. Autobiography theory investigates how individuals construct and represent their identities through life stories. And one of those includes the social context and it is what explained earlier, that the hindrances faced by girl child because of her sex.

Honesty and boldness are the two great qualities that the author got from her mother. And can say that autobiography theory grapples with questions of representation and truthfulness in autobiographical writing. It considers the extent to which autobiographies reflect objective reality versus subjective interpretation, and how authors navigate issues of authenticity, honesty and self-presentation in their narratives. In this case, Gupta presents her mother as a person with stern principles with Gandhian ideas. And her mother is also well educated with two master's degrees and well respected in their neighbourhood. And she was a person who has a better problem-solving ability and she always stand independent and strong. And the interesting part was that all the womenfolk were believed her mother as their well-wisher and someone who is trustworthy. She was an independent and strong lady who lived her life unlike the other women of her times. Gupta's mother treated her two children equally (the condition of girl child in a family was worst at her times than nowadays). "Daughters were regarded as '*paraya dhan*' who would one day get married and leave the house while the sons would stay back. This didn't bother me though because my parents never made us feel different. We were both loved and scolded equally" (Gupta 9). Here the girl child is '*paraya*', which means others' and '*dhan*' which means asset. So that the daughter of a family is considered as someone's asset. So, it is this family which created a powerful woman from all the dissimilarities that prevailed in the public.

Neena Gupta always stays as a person who loves her mother tongue and she feels normal about her way of speaking English with Hindi accent. "Today, if someone tries to make fun of the way I speak English or correct my pronunciation, I turn around and ask them what their mother tongue is. Is it Hindi? Tamil? Punjabi? Do they know how to read their native language?" (Gupta 25). In this world, everyone is aspiring to be an international figure and wants to be fluent in English language and culture, she is showing

us how important our roots. She is not trying to boycott English rather she is trying to prove that being honest to ourselves is more than important and for this everyone should have a hold in their own roots. And she is a person who respects her origin and accept the way as it is. So that the feature of cultural and social aspects of autobiography theory can connect here with the author's love towards her roots and the autobiography of Gupta will open the doors to the idea that how autobiographies contribute to larger discourses and debates within society.

“I felt like I was stepping out of a cocoon” (Gupta 64). Stepping out from NSD (National School of Drama) the author felt like it is the time for her to crack the outer cover she has been used since 1977. And she decided to start her journey as a ‘struggler’ who is optimistic and enthusiast. Her first film was ‘*Aadharshila*’ and from that film itself she began to face reality in its fullest and can say that, it was like standing on her feet unlike in the past. She struggled to meet both the ends of her personal and professional life. The potential to find an adobe to our body and to the soul is what a person needed the most to survive in a world full of chaos, hatred and unhealthy competitions. And from the incidents out of the author's life, it is understandable that if anyone is decided to grow independently, no failure will be an obstacle for that person. If we connect her career and its complicated journey with the very idea of autobiography theory, it can say that the role of memory is important. It examines how authors remember and represent past events, experiences, and emotions, recognizing that memory is subjective.

And “I felt like if this was what I truly wanted to do, I had to earn it myself” (Gupta 44). She tried to stress the idea of carrying out something that a person likes to do more in life is a tiring task but still it will be the one that gives that person an intention to live well and she is very optimistic to do so. She is trying to broaden the idea of self-rule and freewheeling in a more positive sense and teaches us to the significance of breaking

the odds. Here it can see how the narrative style of Gupta which is bold and strong, contributes to the defining features of autobiography theory. And it also analyses the ways in which organise and structure their life stories. It will also help the readers to get the impression of how genuine and true was the author, while they were writing their autobiographies.

Neena Gupta is an inspiring spirit with more positivity. Her will for forward-looking cast her into a valiant person and she strives through this spirit. “Having my own house was liberating. I could come and go as I pleased and didn’t have any restrictions” (Gupta 104). Gupta brings the two-side reality of being away from home and having her own adobe. The first thing is that it will give us a sense of freedom to think and act independently and can say that it is the positive side of freedom. And the negative side is that in some cases that particular person should act alone even they need a helping hand. But both the cases were neatly handled by Gupta and the way she narrates all the incidents is more appealing to the readers. Connecting it into the autobiography theory, this very idea of stepping out will reach to its reader’s core self and it will enhance a connection between the author and the reader.

Started to live away from parent’s house before getting marriage was not a normal thing at that time and even today it is something that is considered as a taboo in our society. When a person is free from restrictions, she or he can spread their wings much broader than ever and pursue heights. She was very happy and condemn she was when she got a house for herself even though it was so small. Her decision to emerge as a support system to herself in a very young age makes her journey for breaking the pattern was all worth in a way that she got all the powers to stand by oneself: “Coming to Bombay had been my decision, and I needed to prove to my parents that I could make it on my own” (Gupta 107). From the life of the author, it can be seen that while

constructing new patterns in the masses, author is encouraging the people to have open conversations especially in the spheres of relationships, gender and drifts in the system of family. And analysing all these in the light of autobiography theory, it is giving new and diverse patterns.

Neena Gupta is a person who always show respect to her decision as well as the God's will in her life. She is always hopeful with regard to her career and each and every phase of her life, she holds the hope inside her and especially her life and career in cinema had many setbacks, she stood for her aspirations. "After every project we did together, I'd tell myself, next time. Next time. But unfortunately, it was never to be" (Gupta 116). In this case, it can be considered as a message to its readers that, it is normal to be try number of times only when a person is ready to try their luck by working hard. She was a wanderer who has a strong will and ready to accept the reality as it is. In her career and that is mainly revolved around cinema and acting, she was very optimistic from the start itself and even now she is not ready to stop working. And it can be connected with autobiography theory and explores the dynamic between the author and reader. It considers how Gupta address and engage with her audience, the implications of authorial voice and perspective, and the ways in which readers interpret and make meaning from autobiographical texts. And Gupta's autobiography has its own space.

Dream big without any hesitation is one of a life lesson that is put forwarded by *Sach Kahun Toh* and it also teaches us to being bold for every step we take. It is not easy to please everyone around us and it is not necessary at all. And she tried her best to showcase how hard it is to battling with the stereotypes and how easy our life and mind will, when we get into the right track. That's why she always chooses to be true to herself and stay strong and share her ideas and opinions on several matters. One of a decision that became a great step in her life was embracing motherhood in her life and being a

single parent to her daughter Masaba. Look close into the theory of autobiography, it can say that confession or open up to the life incidents of the author by herself, even it is a small part of the whole act, it is the key to being genuine to their memoir. And it is the very feature of autobiography theory that is representation and truth. And in her work, can say that Gupta won many hearts by writing the real as it is.

Everything that happened in her life has a pinch of wonder and surprise:

But the universe has a way of making things happen. Life is strange sometimes.

You imagine it going a certain way, but something else happens entirely. You wonder if something is meant to be and, when you least expect it, the universe sends you a sign. I was once sitting at the Delhi airport, waiting for a flight, having forgotten all about Vivian, when suddenly I saw a flash of maroon. I looked up and saw West Indies cricketers filing into the lounge, and my heart started to pound. There came Vivian. That's how we came face-to-face once again, started a full-blown affair and the rest, as they say, is history. (Gupta 149)

In this very description of the incident that changed the course of her life, it can be seen that her ability in writing. Because it has the ability to reach the inner self of the reader. Meeting Vivian Richards after a long gap was a destiny in author's life and she contentedly choose to be with him even for a short period of time and she was very happy to have their baby. In a world filled with crookedness, insincerity, greed and narrow-mindedness she lives her life as a person who genuinely love and care for the people around her. She is always ready to choose a path even it is harder than other. And she also has the guts to finish her journey at its fullest. In the memoir it is clear that she is the person who wants to be a strong and independent individual. Her kind of happiness stays in opting different tracks in life. "The few friends I told oscillated between supporting me and telling me it was going to be hard. Many people begged me to reconsider. But

regardless of how sad and lonely I was, I was still filled with joy and love for this little being which was growing inside me. So, I didn't listen to anyone but myself" (Gupta 155). She is addicted to herself and her needs and decisions more than anything else. She was not ready to abort the little life that had been growing inside her womb. She realized the fact that she is anymore alone in her life. She considered Masaba as one of an important reason to live her life wholeheartedly. And she was very happy then and ready to be a mother both mentally and physically. And in this way, autobiography theory is examining objective and the subjective part of memory of the author.

The man in her life was also a supportive figure then and that is also very crucial in taking the decision to bringing up the child. But from her description of the incidents, it is evident that the people around her was not so happy and sure about the child and she also ready to accept the concern of her loved ones about her pregnancy. But despite of all these she decided to choose the child and be happy. Her battles against stereotypes gained another feather and it's all worth it. But it is clear from the narration that her journey into the motherhood was not at all easy and she was not ready to open up into the world that she is pregnant. Because the society never ever accept the differences in its patterns. She was afraid of the outside world because she knows that an unmarried women became a mother of a child will create unwanted chaos in her life. But she never leaves her hope and stood ardently for herself.

Journey to the motherhood was more complicated to her and it is great that she overcome all her hurdles with much optimism. Being a budding actor in the industry without a constant well-wisher and being a mother to a child as a single parent is not an easy task to do. But she creates a world inside the cosmos:

Over the years, I have had moments of self-doubt and regret, much like any other parent. I am projected as this strong, independent woman by the media. Fans often

call me a ‘rebel’ who is an inspiration to women everywhere. In truth, though, I think I am the weakest person and a fool for not seeing what was coming my way. But the one thing about me is that whenever I’m faced with adversity—personal, financial, in my relationships or an unplanned pregnancy—I become the strongest person I know. (Gupta 159)

From the above narration, the feature like psychological insight of the autobiographical theory is evident. And that very idea suggests that analysing the author’s work can provide insights into their psyche, motivations and worldview. And it will help the readers to get Gupta’s vision for and from life.

Stronger will power and self-love makes everyone a true rebel. She often doubts her decisions and sometimes regret as well. Still, she became a strongest individual with much confidence and enthusiasm. She opened new spheres to herself and to the world. Being fragile and seek solace on someone is ordinary for a human being but at the same time it is necessary to heal ourselves without any outer help. It is because no one knows what is burning inside us. Life has its own routes and it is not as like a soap opera with happy ending. Taking sudden decisions in life is what a person should do in their life to survive. And from the life of Gupta, it can be seen that it is not that easy to survive in a world in which everyone considers her as a rebel. But in the long run she did a great job.

“When you keep your door closed, anybody standing outside has to knock, take your permission to enter and then scan what they can or cannot touch based on the boundaries you draw. I did none of that. I was an open book” (Gupta 193). Author here tries to unfold a character trait that she has and how that very thing affected her whole life. As she said, her life was like an open book in which anyone can write and say anything they want. She is very genuine as we discussed earlier and that honesty and genuineness makes her suffer in every phase of her life. Being honest is something that is

great and at the same time it has more chances of getting treated badly. And it is the main feature of autobiography theory that is creating her identity with her genuine and honest memory. It is sure that she is an individual with appreciable will power and mental strength, and she overcomes all her life hurdles with significant robustness. “I had been a fool, but I stood my ground. In the process though, I left my door open wide to the press, who started to snoop around and find things they could use for their own profit” (Gupta 193). While explaining her situations in life, she describes what was the effect of being wide open to the press and how it negatively spread misconceptions about her personal and professional life. And the greedy public and media utilizes her life for their own profit and that disrupts her peace but she tries to accept the fact that it is their job to create and spread news. The reality here is that Gupta has overcome everything on her own even it is a scandal on her with her fellow co-workers or anyone. Still, she remains as a person who is always open and not ready to change the way she is unless it will harm her own life situations. It is the very idea of authorial intent in the autobiography theory in which it shapes her writing from her own life and experiences.

The mother and the daughter (Neena Gupta and Masaba Gupta) both are two souls who love to be honest and genuine and they are not the kind of mother-daughter duo who shows affection outside but deep down their heart hold a strong bond which is stronger than any relation. She breaks the notion of a strict parent to her daughter and rather she tries to be her companion for life and stood beside her as a person who Masaba can rely on anytime. And this kind of upbringing made Masaba a better human being and her mother’s best ever critic. As in the case of autobiography theory, it can say that one of the important elements is that biographical elements and that very thing help both Gupta and her readers to grow with this very work. Gupta also breaks the typical notion that age is a barrier to growth. “My big break came when I was sixty years old but at least it came. I

am so thankful to myself for not giving up hope” (Gupta 239). *Badhaai Ho*, a 2018 Hindi film was the big break in her career and that took her into greater heights. And made believe her in karma. And this helped her to hope much stronger than ever. This film and films after this made her believe that age is just a number and even after our youth, hard work and desire will be our power to withstand.

“I was stupid and naïve to think that this attitude—frank, honest—would be rewarded” (Gupta 216). If look into the depths, *Sach Kahun Toh* has the fire to break the misconceptions created by the outside world upon the author. What she writes and what happened in her life is matches in her work. And this is what the book is showing us, truthfulness is all worth it. Despite of everything she chooses to hold honesty and buoyancy in her life and she expose that being bold is one of the most required one. It is what makes a person unique in a positive sense and it can use as a weapon to crack down all the filthy patterns of society. Contextual understanding is the point in which the autobiography theory connects the author’s life with their writing. In a further sense, can say that historical and cultural context in a life writing has a hold in shaping the identity of the author. And also, her life narrative became one of her weapons to break the stereotypes.

Chapter 3

Personal Growth and Self-Discovery in *Unfinished*

“Looking back, I remember how I felt as my seventeen-year-old self, a small-town girl who exploded into India’s awareness back in January of 2000 when I was crowned Miss India World” (Chopra x xi). Getting into the limelight in a very unpredicted way and the distinct feeling of an individual when they are not aware of what is happening around and how grateful the person is and how hopeful and pessimistic is she about her half-done life is all about the memoir. Analysing her interesting life story in the light of autobiography theory, it will show how her personal growth and self-discovery unveiled in such a beautiful pattern. Priyanka Chopra portrays her remarkable life journey from her childhood when she admitted to a boarding school and then to America and her return to India and her winning of the title of Miss World in a way that her readers will undergo the feeling of the growth of an individual through achievements and defeats. The journey of a seventeen-year-old teenage girl from her classroom to the title of Miss India World was filled with wonder, excitement, confusions and emotional setbacks.

Psychological insight is an element in autobiography theory which can connect the whole idea of self-development and self-realization. And looking into its more details the theory analyse the author’s work and it can provide insights into their psyche, motivations and worldview. And getting into the realm of autobiography theory, psychological insight delves into understanding how individuals construct their life stories, reflecting on past experiences, relationships, and identity. Throughout the book, she offers psychological insights into her experiences, discussing topics such as identity, self-discovery, resilience, and the pursuit of one's dreams.

“Travel wasn’t just Mom’s thing or Dad’s thing. It was our thing. And when we traveled together, just as in our home together, they were completely inclusive of me.

They never treated me as a merely child—they treated me always as a person” (Chopra 16). Chopra’s journey to personal growth and self-discovery can be traced back to her childhood. She is the eldest child of her family and it is evident from the memoir that her family always treats her as an individual rather than a little girl child. It is important to nurture good behavioural qualities in a child from the earliest period of their growth. Consider them as a person whose opinions are important to the family and help them to think and do things independently is what a child need along with love and care. And can say that teaching them to stand alone both physically and mentally is another face of affection and heed.

Priyanka Chopra has strong and unshakable values and opinions in life. It is the very reason that helps her to take bold and firm decisions in her life. Her parents have a strong hold in it. The point identity formation can be link with the life incidents of Chopra and one such an idea is explained by Chopra, that is:

My parents’ humanitarian values, already planted in me, took firm root. What I witnessed and learned became an unshakable part of my foundation, informing a myriad of future choices and an unwavering dedication to being an advocate for children—especially girls—who weren’t afforded the choices and opportunities that I have been. Privilege and responsibility go hand in hand. (Chopra 20)

The living condition of a person, their family situations, the morals and beliefs of the environment in which they live all these things will define the character of a person. From the life of author, it is clear that her parents, the family she has born, the culture and customs that she has inhabited and the all in all upbringing has clasped her in a more positive way and that helped her to stand bold and straight in all the crucial moments of her life. And if look into the connection of identity formation and memoirs in the light of

autobiography theory is, it is the idea that individuals construct their identities through storytelling and reflection on personal experiences.

Priyanka Chopra's life had a great shift when she was sent to La Martinière Girls College in Lucknow as a resident student. She was very young at that time and it was very tough for her to accept the reality of living in a boarding school after leaving her family and her home. At first, she was in utter confusion that why she has been 'abandoned' by her parents and she felt that it is because of her tantrums. And she also felt like her mother wanted to spend more healthy time with her younger brother that's why she has to leave her family. And here is the concept of the narrative structure in which Chopra used the method of chronological, flashbacks kind of writing to convey her life stories. And her memoir has a throughout connection with the mental state of the readers that's why her personal and materialistic growth reached the core of its readers. And can say that in autobiography theory, narrative technique and structures is one of its core parts. As her writing progresses, it is said that the whole period in her boarding school, changed her for better. That period of her life mould her into a well-groomed girl. But always she had a feeling of a deserted lamb.

"The only way you grow is by stepping into the unknown" (Wiest 162). The journey of Chopra to United States and staying back there with her aunt and her family and her education there in different schools in Massachusetts, Cedar Rapids, Queens in New York and more is a kind of stepping out of the nest. The line of Brianna Wiest from her book, *101 ESSAYS that will CHANGE the way YOU THINK*, that mentioned above covers the very idea of Chopra's decision to live and pursue her studies in USA is something different, crucial and ideal. But it was not an easy task to survive there. Being an Indian brown girl in a racial prejudiced atmosphere is quite a struggle. In the midst of bullying from her classmates, the insecurities of being away from homeland and the

cultural dissimilarities all made her well built in coping up with her life situations in her journey after. So that it can say that stepping out of the comfort zone is where the life truly began and it is true that the real journey of race will start after coming out of the womb of the mother. And her actual expedition to life has begun when she decided to leave India and her family.

The life in USA is obviously entirely different from India and the cultural difference makes the 13-year-old girl in a hurdle to feel ease. But her attitude towards new things were always great and that's why she got the power to break the cage and make her own adobe there. In this can say that self-reliance and autobiography theory have a connection and it is that individuals who value independence may weave narratives that emphasise their ability to make autonomous decisions, pursue their own goals, and assert their individuality inside and outside of their work. Chopra is such a person. "Knowing that I had been sheltered and protected at home, as most middle-class Indian children are, Kiran Masi wanted me to learn the independence that kids in the United States have" (Chopra 41). In the journey of personal development her Kiran Masi also had a crucial role, it is because when her parents were far away it is her Masi who takes care of her and makes sure that it is Chopra's duty to do her things herself and it help her to survive her own and also helps her to think and produce things effortlessly. And, it is not always possible to plan and execute things as we have expected. But Chopra got the potential to remain alive in any adversities from her childhood itself. It is the basic idea of be on one's feet. And Masi here tries her best to change Chopra's very habit of dependence and tried her best to mould her into a true person.

Self-discovery and ethnical diversity are interrelated concepts that become part in shaping a person's understanding the diverse environment around them and themselves. Self-discovery can be considered as a series of incidents or a process in which a person is

getting a grip into their own identity, beliefs, values and it is a different kind of action that will take place within themselves. And can say that, living in the midst of human beings whom having diverse ethnic and cultural features is somehow interesting and also, it is beneficial to a person for unearthing their natural existence. “Queens, the largest borough of New York City and the second most densely populated, is one of the most ethnically diverse places in the world” (Chopra 45). Robert F. Kennedy Community High School is where she spent much of her ninth grade and it was not that much challenging for her to live there because of the environment was multilingual and multicultural. And that helped her to recognise her own culture and heritage as one of a kind. Self-realisation is something that could provide a positive affirmation to a person.

In the journey of self-empowerment, a person may have deal with bewilderedness, insecurities and crack downs and these are normal:

My parents had taught me that confidence is not a permanent state of being, a piece of wisdom I still believe. It’s something you can work to develop and something you have to work to maintain. Well, the taunts and the graffiti and the physical aggression had done their jobs, and no matter how hard I worked, I couldn’t maintain my sense of self-worth. I started to believe that I somehow less than those around me. (Chopra 57)

It is said that confidence is something that is not in-born rather it is a thing in which a person should nurture in the course of their mental as well as physical growth. And from the autobiography theory, it is clear that self-empowerment is evident through life writings and there is a connection between self-empowerment and autobiography theory because both delve into the exploration of self-awareness and personal growth. And Chopra always had insecurities and breakdowns while she was in USA but she somehow managed to be the best version of herself. In the phase of personal growth, both

physical and mental transformation is vital. She came back to India, she was more a modern, stylish womanly figure and turned out more attractive between her peers and that gives her some kind of confidence and it is true that a person will be confident when he or she stays presentable. So that the life in USA, lead her into a new life and she says that; “There was empowerment in reinvention” (63). Empowerment in reinvention is a process of obtaining credence, strength and domination over one’s life or situation by altering in its core. So, if a person can reinvent themselves, it will lead to increase their self-efficacy and also can influence others.

Her unexpected journey to the limelight started when she won the Bareilly’s May Queen Ball in 1999. After that the call from Ela, from *Femina* Magazine, her grooming for the Miss India pageant, her winning of Miss India World in 2000 and her entering into the entertainment industry all was a process of getting more acquainted with herself and her destiny. “I decided to let my discomfort go, at least for the time being” (Chopra 78). All the crucial decisions that let her move forward is just because she has decided to let her discomfort go. And she was very sure that comfort is not a thing of her and it is right that no one can achieve anything by staying inside their comfort box. From the life of Chopra, it is evident that realizing our limitations and working on it and also recognizing and being real to our self is what a person needed the most.

“I remember feeling that being from India was my superpower, a quality that would distinguish me anywhere I was, in anything I did” (Chopra 107). She always felt that her Indian identity made her whom she is now and it is true that believe in her strength and weakness and believe in the true essence of her homeland by accepting all its good and bad is all the same. And she says that representing the culture and heritage of her country in Inter-national platforms gave her confidence and support to her ventures. And connecting a person’s culture and roots with autobiography theory involves

examining how cultural influences shape their self-perception and storytelling. And also, can say that Chopra ardently believes in upholding her roots in the journey of personal growth and self-discovery.

Priyanka Chopra has faced many obstacles in her journey to detect her adobe. And it was something that has many set-backs and self-doubts. She also had pressures to abide by societal expectations. But she always yearns for something that is right for her. In the process of discovering her worth, she stood for what is right and learned the significance of resilience and adaptability in life. She also realise that her strength lies in her differences:

My difference is my strength. If I looked like other “classically beautiful” girls, then I wouldn’t stand out, more important, I wouldn’t be me. I’m grateful that some instinct back then told me not to fall prey to the insecurity of not fitting into the existing mold. I took a hard line with myself and made what some considered my weakness into my strength, and I believe that’s part of what has given my career its trajectory. (Chopra 112)

Priyanka Chopra was in a dilemma when she first thought about stepping into the film industry. She was insecure about her body and her complexion. At a point she doubts her decision to be in entertainment industry. She started to compare herself with other girls. And she also had confusions when she made her mark in the music industry. But after many confusions and self-doubts, she decided to true to herself and recognized that being different is her worth. And it is clear that understanding her strengths and weaknesses is her super power. Talking into the idea of writing even the deepest feelings and opening up the both sides of her character, Chopra is trying to show how a life narrative can be real and pure. Chopra, always ready to showcase her gains and losses and

make it genuine. And it is the main element in the study of life writings in the light of autobiography theory.

People who ready to take risks in life has another space in the history. Chopra was such a person who loves to take dares in her life and she says; “If you’ve read this much of my story, you know that I’m not afraid of risk, and also that I love a challenge” (139). It is said that human beings are afraid of challenges in life. But, if anyone is ready to take another route in life, they will succeed for sure. And it can be considered as another kind of realising their true identity and belonging. Looking closer into the act of accepting challenges, it can connect with the idea of subjectivity. Because, it is the inner core of a person, that is accepting challenges and at the same time it is more appealing to the world and readers will get inspired.

“After three years of trying my hardest to make my music career work, travelling tens of thousands of miles to record a couple of dozen songs in all styles and genres, I came to the difficult decision that it was time to move on” (Chopra 145). Life incidents of Chopra shows that it is also important that to leave behind something that is not in our destiny and she teaches us to not rush things in life rather let the universe decide for us. And for her, can say it was music that she decided to let go. Finding their limitations while analysing the life writings through autobiography theory is another point in this study and Chopra beautifully presented her part.

“Pain is a signal that something’s wrong, suffering is what happens when we don’t heed it” (Wiest 301). In the opinion of Wiest, pain is the indication of something bad is started to happen inside and suffering is the outcome of ignoring that signal. So somehow it is essential that to deal with the core cause as soon as possible to avoid deterioration. And it is only through the self-examining of the root cause, the problem will get solved. Grief is something that a person always wants to hide within them. But the fact is, pain

will not find its way back unless a person treats it as required. And that same grief was caught to Chopra when her father died and it was her darkest period in her life that she has ever experienced. She is the person who always has the superpower to move on but demise of her father lead her into a different kind of remain alive without a soul.

The phase of grief in her life was long-term and this is the time period that she has witnessed both her powerful and fragile state of being. The process of getting rid of her deep-rooted pain was slow yet she somehow managed to come out of it. Her only way of getting out from the agony was film, her work. After a period of sufferings and all she realized that; “Over time, I came to realize that my grief, rather than diminishing, had simply become an ever-present companion” (177). And she has decided to recognize its existence and started to consider it as a personal thing to her. She realised the very idea that if something has to be done perfectly, it is important that to face it by herself and accept it as the way it is. Finally, she started to reflect herself. “I tried to remind myself of who I used to be when I’d had a spark. After a long time, I realized that I missed that person. I wanted to her again” (Chopra 180). Here, it is very clear that analysing this saddest phase of her life in the aspects of autobiography theory, representation and truth has a place in recovering that period and can say she herself represented her truth.

“All I wanted was to spend time alone, until finally, finally, I was tired of being sad” (Chopra 180). This can be said as the very act of self-love and self-care. A person always needed both mental and physical care and Chopra was always as that kind of person but somewhere she has lost that very capacity. And now she decided to stay strong and stern for herself and for the ones who loves her. It is because she started to miss the way she was. And it can be said that every person will face many obstacles and breakdowns in their life and remain bold every time is not the solution and no one can

stay stern in every phase of their life. So, the solution is that to gain the strength to move forward by ourselves.

Analysing the expedition of Chopra from a school student to an Inter-national figure, she has grown great both mentally and physically to deal with her life by her own. As in the light of autobiography theory, it is evident that Chopra here stayed as a genuine and honest person with ardent spirit. And she finally decided to choose herself for her own good and all she knows is that her father also wanted that. She always stays as her father's girl and even after her father's death, it is he who was the reason of her recovery from her long run grief. And finally, she decided to choose herself. This is what Chopra teaches us, be confident, bold and love ourselves and that makes a person to discover themselves and helps them to grow and flourish.

Connecting these ideas with autobiography theory, it becomes evident that a person's mental and physical development, along with their quest for self, ultimately converge on concepts such as subjectivity, identity formation, authenticity and truth, and the influence of social and cultural contexts, among others.

Chapter 4

Pursuit of Career in *Unfinished* and *Sach Kahun Toh*

“The truth is that when something is right for you, it brings you clarity, and when something is wrong for you, it brings you confusion” (Wiest 151). While choosing the right career, it is normal that people will get stuck in somewhere, sometime yet a person should have the courage to move forward with much enthusiasm. In both the works, *Unfinished* and *Sach Kahun Toh* can see the journey of two strong personalities from being a person with dreams to the person who achieved what they want and still on move. And it is evident that dreams and aspirations of human being is never ending.

Analysing autobiography theory through the lens of pursuing a career involves examining how one’s personal narrative intersects with professional aspirations. Autobiography theory can provide insights into how people construct their identities and narratives, which in turn can shape their career trajectories and motivations. And can say that storytelling plays a crucial role in career development by helping individuals effectively communicate their experiences, skills, and values. In this way both the life stories of Chopra and Gupta is something valuable and readers can take life lessons because the two works crafted in such a way that it is worth to read and grasp from it.

Neena Gupta’s career mainly focused on the industry of Indian cinema and television. After completing her Master’s and M. Phil in Sanskrit, she got admission in NSD (National School of Drama). “I was lucky that NSD offered a scholarship to promising students. It was competitive and very difficult to get. But I applied for it anyway, because I didn’t want to ask my parents to pay for an education they didn’t fully believe in. I felt like if this was what I truly wanted to do. I had to earn it myself” (Gupta 43,44).

It is same when it comes to choosing a career out of the box when a person is from a middle-class family. It means that a member who is hailing from a middle-class family, and decided to choose acting or directing as his or her career, it is a bit difficult for them to chase their dreams. But it can see that in the case of Gupta, her parents were not that rigid and they let her choose her destiny. So that Gupta doesn't want to be a burden for her family and she wanted to do it with the scholarship. Finally, she received the scholarship and she felt like her diverse cultural background and her hold in folk cultures is something crucial and if reading this through the lens of autobiography theory, it is clear that Gupta's subjectivity is a key to the minds of every reader.

As in the case of Chopra, her journey starts when she won the May Queen Ball title and what happened next was all seem like a dream for her. But once she realized the greatness of the opportunity that she got, she never turned back. At first, she and her family were in a dilemma that whether they have to participate in the Miss India pageant or not. But they have decided to try it and after winning the title of Miss India, she and her parents tried their very best for the next step and worked hard for winning the crown. Reading the whole incident, it is evident that the idea of contextual understanding is connected in this work, it is the historical and cultural context that illuminate connections between an author's life and their writings. After winning the title of Miss India World, Chopra's life turned different and what has happened after that was something that changed her course of life, an eighteen-year-old one became one of a recognised face in Inter-national arena.

Life in NSD was both interesting and challenging for Gupta. "Hostel life was a huge adjustment for me given how comfortable and protected I had been in my parents' home" (Gupta 46). Living in hostel feel like something different for everyone, it is like a person is stepping out of their happy place. In the case of Gupta, it is evident that her life

in NSD helps her to realise the comfort offered by parents' home and the inevitability of leaving out of comfort zone to chase her dreams. Like showing triumphs and developments in life, it is pivotal to show insecurities and struggles. In this way, autobiography theory offers a profound insight into self-narratives of individuals, providing a window into their experiences, emotions, and perceptions. Its strength lies in its ability to reveal the complexity of human identity. However, a weakness could be its subjective nature, as autobiographies are often influenced by memory, perception and biases and this leads to omitting certain truths and details.

Priyanka Chopra's entering into the competition was like getting into a larger pool with diverse opportunities. The kind of training that she got as a contestant for Miss World pageant helped her to organize her character in a powerful and a broader way:

One of the many professionals I trained with was Sabira Merchant, a world-class public-speaking and diction coach. She was responsible in large part for my polished presentation skills, having taught me how to formulate my thoughts and articulate them in complete sentences on the spot and under pressure. She trained me to pause and think, forgiving unconscious stalling mechanism like "um," "uh," and "well" so that my speech was clear, direct, and unself-conscious. (Chopra 88,89)

The idea of analysing her career journey, it can delve into themes such as self-awareness, identity formation, and the role of storytelling in career development. So that it is through her intense training period, she gets used with many skills and one of them was her English-speaking skill. In this growing world it can be seen that speaking English fluently is a bonus point to our career building. And Chopra's ability to manage the language properly is her great advantage. It is also clear that she worked hard in each and every step of her career and her faith in herself is the key. In short, it can say that

autobiography theory examines how one's personal narratives intersects with professional aspirations.

Moreover, through the lens of autobiography theory, Chopra's narrative would likely emphasize themes of ambition, determination, and resilience in the face of challenges. She may reflect on the pressures and expectations associated with winning such a prestigious title, as well as the opportunities and obstacles she encountered along her journey. Furthermore, the analysis explores how Chopra's autobiography portrays her negotiation of various identities, including her cultural background, gender roles, and professional aspirations. Winning Miss World may be depicted as a moment of empowerment, where she defied stereotypes and asserted her agency in shaping her own destiny. Overall, Priyanka Chopra's experience of winning the Miss World title and its impact on her life aligns with the themes and dynamics explored within autobiography theory, highlighting the construction of identity, the narration of personal experiences, and the representation of self in relation to broader social and cultural contexts.

“That first year, I seriously questioned my decision to come here” (Gupta 48). The autobiography of Gupta, explains her core part of emotions and doubts which shows the idea of the subjective nature of life writings and that helps the readers to connect the incidents of their career trajectory. From this it is clear that while building our own empire, there will be always a lot of confusions and all. But a person's ardent desire can be used as the armour to fight back. And after she passed out from NSD her life got another turn. She got a full-time job in a Repertory Company and she considered it as a great opportunity but she wanted to explore the other sides of acting.

Acting was an opportunity for Chopra that was given to her after winning the Miss World title. So, it was not begun as academically like in the case of Neena Gupta. “I decided he was right: I didn't want any what-ifs in my life, either” (Chopra 110). The

decision to enter into the film industry was a decision taken by Chopra and her family just because her parents want her to explore the opportunities that she got in her life. And Chopra also not ready to regret after for not trying the opportunities. It is a good thing to remember that, it will be fine if we have less regrets in life and Chopra had been showing us to be confident in every step and decisions you make in life. And she herself felt like stepping into acting professionally will be a challenge for her because of her zero experience in acting but she somehow managed it. After entering into the film industry, she had signed four movies and her debut film was *Thamizhan* in 2002. And it was a great start in her career as an actor and she got immense support and respected from the crew and also from the audience. So, it was a good start for her. It is showing every point and period in their life while narrating the life incidents and this approach allows for a more introspective and analytical explorations of one's personal history, aiming to uncover themes, patterns, and lessons learned along the way.

Gupta has a whole idea about drama and she studied and practiced all the aspects of performing arts. So that when it comes to the part of shooting a movie, she also knows its other sides like set design, literature, direction, lighting and many more. That's why it can be say that she entered to the entertainment industry with a first-hand idea. And it helped her in many ways as she started to act in her first film *Andharshila*; "When I wasn't acting, I was either assisting the others on set or silently observing and trying to learn more about this new medium" (Gupta 66). She is genuine and her way of accepting the differences in her field is something positive. And what idea that autobiography theory is forwarding is this, finding the minute, subjective and also the objective self of the particular life narrative.

Neena Gupta is in love with cinema. And that is evident here because she shows much interest in assisting and silently observing the shoot along with acting. And it can

see that her opportunities into the world of cinema started with her first ever movie. Soon after that she got a good role in the Hollywood movie called *Gandhi*. And that was a good start in Hollywood. After that she decided to settle in Bombay and be the part of the so-called strugglers. And everything seems good until the *Lallu Ladki* appears.

Priyanka Chopra's journey into Hollywood is through a thriller drama television series called *Quantico*, aired under American Broadcasting Company (ABC) from 2015 to 2018. And it was a good opportunity and she got good reviews from the viewers. And she has bagged the People's Choice Awards for her performance in *Quantico* and she becomes the first Indian Actor who won this award. "The *Andaaz* opportunity seemed like the answer to my prayers, a second—or third—chance to have a major role in a major movie. Since I knew what it felt like to have big chances slip away, I was determined to make the most of this one" (Chopra 115). It is her super quality to find something good out of adversities. In this way Chopra stays as a person who is very determined in life and accept things positively. Both her movies, *Andaaz* and *Hero* give her a better opportunity to work with high-profile actors and directors. And she got some ideas about movie making and what she lacks here was experience in this industry. "In my race not to fail, I would do whatever needed to be done, address whatever problems I needed to address. That was my mindset" (Chopra 116). So, this is what Priyanka Chopra is. She is someone with much optimism even when she lacks experience and opportunities. It is everyone should adopt in life, to manage things in life alone by standing strong. And a person should carve out possibilities out of struggles. And the reader response idea can be incorporate here because there is a role for readers to interpret the incidents that narrated by Chopra and it is something that add more value to the memoir.

Gupta's journey in cinema got stuck with the so-called *Lallu Ladki* character she got in that film. She played the role well, but something different happened after. After

that role she only got roles in film that was the variants of *Lallu Ladki*. She was disappointed in the decision she made in her career. And she did her best to get out of this misfortune. “But if there’s one piece of advice I can offer to young, upcoming actors, especially, is not to be blinded by the here and now when accepting roles. Think about who you are and where you want to be in the future. Don’t take up a role that offers you up as comic relief just for a pay cheque if that is not who you are” (Gupta 90). By analysing this point, giving life lessons is not only about presenting but also about interpreting their own decisions and happenings in life. Gupta’s insight is that a person should think twice before choosing anything related to career and make sure that this is right option for him or her. And she added that in the matter of career planning, a person should look for better opportunities rather looking for money. And it is also right in the case of a person’s decisions in every matter of life.

Unlike Gupta, Priyanka Chopra’s career in acting has a positive side from the first film itself and very soon she created her strong base in cinema. It is the other side of analysing the chronicles of someone’s life with the theory because every life writing has a different soul and that is normal. What is important is that, it will give a scope for diverse interpretations and understandings. From the beginning itself, Chopra started to secure a place in this industry by analysing her traits in acting. And that helped her a lot and she had fallen in love with cinema. Hard work and luck were her power and she says:

So much of filmmaking, I realized, was about feeling confident, and I also realized that knowledge is a key to confidence. If you have the knowledge of something, you can walk into almost any room and hold your room. I relished honing my skills, learning and improving and growing. I loved talking lines of dialogue and transforming them into multidimensional person with a past and a future and a unique take on the world. I developed a hunger for seeing how many

personalities I could create, and how different they could be. Wondering what kind of person I'll be breathing life into next is one of the many things that keep me excited about this job of mine. (Chopra 125,126)

Priyanka Chopra succeeded in her search for possibilities and her career in cinema got many appreciations and the first phase of acting was all good. She taught us that, it is normal to doubt ourselves sometimes, but should move on. What a person needed the most is that to love and hold tight what they are doing. And study from the people around, both the positives and negatives that a person learn have its own space in grooming themselves into better. In her journey through filmmaking, she came to understand that confidence was intricately linked with knowledge. Armed with insights, she found herself capable of commanding any room she entered. She embraced the process of skill refinement, relishing the opportunity to learn, grow, and evolve. Her passion lay in bringing characters to life, infusing them with depth and complexity. The prospect of delving into various personalities fueled her excitement for the craft, leaving her eager to see whose story she would breathe life into next.

But in the case of Gupta, it was a bit hard to secure her place in the film industry. Yet she emerged as the strongest one and fight all alone. And in her journey, she got few friends and colleagues who supported her. And along with building her career, she also stood alone to make her own home away from her parent's home. Gupta's friendship inside the film industry is a tressure for her that she got better opportunities other than acting, like meeting great personalities and gatherings and film festivals and more. One of such a kind was a film festival that happened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. And *Trikal* was screening there and she got the opportunity to attend that no other cast got. In this way, Gupta was all happy being in the industry at her saddening period of career. First phase of her acting career was like many ups and downs and can say there were more

disappointments. Somehow, she managed everything bit by bit with much perseverance. Here it is understandable that acting career is not only about being an actor, but also about a person's mental and intellectual growth.

“THE OPPORTUNITY THAT initially uprooted me from the career I'd worked so hard for in India and took me halfway around the world to America wasn't acting. It was music” (Chopra 136). Chopra's career got another turn when she entered into the music industry in 2012 by collaborating with American rapper and singer will.i.am and he is also an actor. Gupta's debut music in inter-national arena was with him and it was “In My City”. And that track was well-received by the world and got recognition in the global music locale. After that she got many opportunities and her music career developed. In 2013, she released her single titled, “Exotic”. And her career in music further enhanced when she released her first solo single, “I Can't Make You Love Me”. And it helped her to showcase her vocal abilities and her strength as a singer. And happened many more. So that Chopra's music career is a successful and encouraging and she is waiting for other creative opportunities in this industry and finally she decided to quit this career for a while and hoping to come back someday. The act of quitting sometimes signifies resilience, as it can lead to new opportunities or a re-evaluation of one's path.

In the case of Chopra, choosing music was a good decision and can say that Gupta's decision to turn into the television industry was also right. “*Khandaan* was well received all over India and shot me to fame. Everywhere I went, people recognized me. I couldn't take public transport because I would get mobbed. I found this funny, because even though I was considered a success,” (Chopra 123,124). It is what looks like the life of a celebrity and Gupta was enjoying that kind of journey then. And reading in the light of autobiography theory, author did her complete effort to make her work authentic by sharing the subjective side of her life and that makes the work real. *Khandaan* was a

television series aired in Doordarshan. And it gave her another identity. In *Saath Saath*, it was a *Lallu Ladki* but in *Khandaan* it was a strong-willed woman that is closer to a vamp and not as a heroine. Before her second innings, she got a great achievement for her hard work in *Bazaar Sitaram*. As the director of that documentary, she won the National Award for best Director and also won the National Award for Best Documentary. And it is evident that the career of Gupta is more experimental in nature.

“At twenty-two, I felt a glorious sense of optimism and excitement; I was ready for anything!” (Chopra 165). Her career in film industry got a well recognised face when she got a National Film Award and five Filmfare Awards for her versatile acting skills. Apart from acting and singing she is also a producer and founded a production company called Purple Pebble Pictures in 2012. She is also the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and actively engage in different humanitarian activities. Currently she is also focusing in Hollywood. So, it is clear that Chopra is absolutely an all-rounder and a role model for millions. And can say that life narratives indeed a game changer because real life lessons have such a different sense.

“*Badhaai Ho* was the big break I had been waiting for. I got to play the lead in it (though I didn’t think so at the time because I was playing a middle-aged woman)” (Gupta 229). Finally, her dream come true. *Badhaai Ho* was the movie that led her to the won her first Filmfare Award for Best Actress. And that was one of her most cherished moments. Gupta’s second innings is all worth because many of her desires and dreams come true through this. It is through the film *The Last Colour*, in her second phase she got the opportunity to attend Cannes. And from all these it is true that age is not a matter and age cannot be a barrier to a person’s dreams. In her sixties, Gupta is a woman with great passion for her career.

While Chopra's autobiography reflects a journey of cultural fusion and adaptation, Gupta's is marked by defiance of societal norms and a relentless pursuit of authenticity. Chopra's global recognition and mainstream appeal contrast with Gupta's unconventional choices and focus on Indian cinema. However, both actresses share common themes of identity exploration, triumph over adversity, and authenticity in their autobiographical narratives. So that the careers of Chopra and Gupta, when viewed through the lens of autobiography theory, offer rich and compelling narratives of talent, determination, and resilience. Whether navigating cultural boundaries or challenging societal norms, both actresses have left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry, inspiring generations with their stories of self-discovery and authenticity. Through their autobiographies, we gain valuable insights into the complexities of identity, art, and resilience in a rapidly evolving world.

To conclude this part, the life of both Chopra and Gupta are proof to how a person can achieve growth and success through a dedicated, resilient and hard-working mindset. In the case of Gupta, her career starts academically unlike Chopra's unexpected entry into the limelight. In pursuing the career, Chopra's family was the backbone both emotionally and physically. But in the case of Gupta, she achieved everything individually with less support from her family and can say that much of the time she was all alone. Adding more into this context, autobiography theory examines the conventions and expectations of the autobiography genre. Celebrities may adhere to or subvert these conventions to distinguish their autobiography from others or to engage with broader cultural trends.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

In closing, this dissertation has delved into the main idea that autobiographies and memoirs have the ability to re-structure and re-construct the life of people those who write their life incidents. And the study further explored how beautifully their life writings give a meaning to their life and to those who read it. Because the sincerity in their writing and genuine emotions of these life narration always have a place in the minds of public. Analysing the two works, *Unfinished* by Priyanka Chopra Jonas and *Sach Kahun Toh* by Neena Gupta in the context of autobiography theory, it gives the themes of subjectivity, memory and truth, identity construction, audience and reception, social and cultural context, and many more.

The very first point of this study is that their varied family background. It is one of the crucial one in differentiating their journey of exploring and seizing their dreams and aspirations. Upbringing has a big role in deciding the life of people and family as well as their parents have a crucial role in moulding their character and behaviour. Gupta's upbringing was rooted in a middle-class environment, where diverging from the norm brought about numerous hurdles. When she made the decision to pursue a different trajectory in life and career, she encountered a series of obstacles that were entirely unfamiliar to both herself and her family. Similarly, Chopra's career path unfolded unexpectedly, leading her on a journey where she and her family learned to navigate through entirely new experiences and challenges.

The next point that, the importance of leaving home for the purpose of acquiring education and also setting up one's career. Growing up with minimal parental presence can foster independence and a resolute appearance and attitude in a child. Chopra's experience at boarding school led to numerous uncertainties and setbacks in her life,

ultimately teaching us the importance of embracing survival is a better option and recognizing that sometimes life presents us with singular choices which is new to us. Gupta navigates the demanding environment of NSD, where students are immersed in rigorous training and artistic exploration. Being away from home, she encountered with feelings of loneliness, homesickness, and the struggle to find her identity amidst the pressures of academia and pursuing a career in acting.

Getting into its deeper themes, it can see that the idea of different kind of relationships in everyone's life. It is evident that Chopra is more a family person and Gupta finds more productive being with her peer group in her early stages of life. But when it comes to her hardest period, her family always stay beside here. Also being with friends and colleagues is something she cherish. In the case of Chopra, unlike Gupta, who always find hold in herself, she is a person who loves to be home. Loved ones offer invaluable perspectives and guidance, drawing from their own experiences to offer advice and insights. These interactions not only help individuals gain clarity and make informed decisions but also facilitate personal development by broadening their understanding of different situations. In essence, the dynamic interplay between family and friends cultivates a nurturing environment conducive to learning, development, and growth. Through shared experiences, mutual support, and meaningful connections, individuals continually evolve, enriching their lives and contributing to their overall well-being.

Another point is the occurrence of unforeseen events in someone's life and how these occurrences alter the trajectory of their life. When it comes to the life of Gupta, it is her second innings in film industry made her to much more fame and that was really unpredicted turn in her life. As in the case of Chopra, winning the title of Miss World, and the journey behind it were seem like a dream to her. The significance of unforeseen events lies in their capacity to disrupt and reshape the course of an individual's life. These

occurrences, whether positive or negative, have the power to challenge one's plans, beliefs, and expectations, often leading to profound transformations and growth.

Unexpected events can serve as catalysts for personal development, forcing individuals to adapt, learn, and navigate new paths they may not have considered otherwise. They offer opportunities for reflection, resilience, and the cultivation of inner strength as individuals confront and overcome obstacles they hadn't anticipated. Moreover, unexpected events can prompt individuals to reassess their priorities, values, and goals, leading to greater clarity and purpose in life. They highlight the inherent uncertainty of existence and the importance of flexibility, adaptability, and acceptance in navigating life's twists and turns.

The period in which both Gupta and Chopra were born is different and that dissimilarity has a separate space in their life journey. The period in which a person is born can influence various aspects of their life, including the social, economic, and cultural context they grow up in, which can shape their values, opportunities, and experiences. Chopra's period (1980s) saw significant social and economic changes in India, including economic liberalization and globalization, which opened up new opportunities in various sectors such as technology, entertainment, and business. However, there were also challenges, including socio-economic disparities, political instability, and cultural shifts. Chopra's career trajectory reflects both the opportunities and challenges of her time, as she navigated the evolving landscape of the Indian entertainment industry to become a successful actress, singer, and global icon. In the case of Gupta, her time was undergoing significant social and cultural changes. And the period of post-independence. This period saw the country grappling with issues of nation-building, social reform, and economic development. While there were opportunities for education and employment, especially for urban middle-class families like Gupta's, there were also challenges such as gender inequality and limited career options for women in

certain fields. Gupta's career reflects her resilience and determination to break barriers in the Indian film industry, navigating through both opportunities and obstacles to establish herself as a versatile and respected actress.

Priyanka Chopra and Neena Gupta, though belonging to different generations and pursuing distinct career paths, share remarkable similarities in their lives. One significant similarity between Chopra and Gupta is their adeptness at managing both situations and individuals in their lives. Chopra's life is a testament to her exceptional management abilities. Despite juggling a career in both Bollywood and Hollywood, she maintains a rigorous schedule with precision. For instance, she efficiently balances her acting commitments with her role as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, showcasing her ability to manage multiple responsibilities effectively. Gupta, on the other hand, has displayed remarkable management skills throughout her career in the Indian entertainment industry. Despite facing numerous challenges early in her career, she strategically navigated her way back into the limelight with impactful roles in films like "Badhaai Ho". Her ability to adapt to changing circumstances and revive her career is a testament to her exceptional management prowess.

Both have become trailblazers in the Indian entertainment industry, challenging stereotypes and paving the way for others. Priyanka's successful transition from Bollywood to Hollywood and Neena's unconventional roles challenging societal norms exemplify their groundbreaking approaches to acting. Moreover, both actresses have displayed exceptional versatility in their craft, effortlessly portraying diverse characters across various genres. Priyanka's range spans from traditional Indian roles to portraying a fierce FBI agent, while Neena has captivated audiences with her portrayal of complex and relatable characters in films, television, and theatre. In addition to their acting prowess, Priyanka Chopra and Neena Gupta have ventured into entrepreneurship, further

showcasing their multifaceted talents. Priyanka has established herself as a successful entrepreneur with ventures in production, fashion, and technology, while Neena has delved into writing, directing, and producing, demonstrating her creativity beyond acting.

Furthermore, Priyanka Chopra and Neena Gupta share a boldness in addressing social issues and advocating for change. Priyanka has been a vocal advocate for gender equality and education, using her platform to amplify important causes. Neena, on the other hand, has fearlessly tackled taboo topics like ageism and single motherhood through her work and personal experiences, inspiring many with her authenticity. In essence, while their journeys may have taken different paths, Priyanka Chopra and Neena Gupta share a profound impact on the entertainment industry and society at large, embodying resilience, talent, and a commitment to breaking barriers and inspiring others. Both of them inspire others by breaking stereotypes, showcasing versatility, embracing entrepreneurship, achieving global impact, and advocating for important social issues authentically. Their stories encourage individuals to pursue their passions, overcome obstacles, and embrace their uniqueness with resilience and determination.

Autobiographies and memoirs have a different space than any other non-fictions. It can be considered as a true guide to the life and it has the potential to give wisdom to those who are reading that. And these life writings will help to understand someone better because everyone has an image in public which will be just opposite inside. And through these the readers and public will get an opportunity to understand and accept the public figures better and it will also be beneficial to those who are constantly getting bullied in the midst of the chaos. On the other side, it is true that motivation books and other motivational speeches are not that much powerful than life narratives. It is like a story at the same time it is the reality of someone we know or someone we are going to meet. And can say that if a matter is getting into limelight in a more acceptable and positive way, it can be through

real and genuine narratives either it is oral or it is written. So, these kinds of life writings will lead people into a world of positive thoughts and encouragements. Engaging with a memoir or autobiography offers a distinct experience, as it possesses the capacity to impart profound life lessons to its readers.

Moving forward, further research could explore through many ways. In this sense feminist perspective is a normal and recurrent theme. And exploring its other aspects, can say that how celebrity culture affects the life of common people. In more detailed way, it is the idea that how celebrity culture effect the masses. If look into the deeper aspects of the work *Sach Kahun Toh*, there are scopes like exploring single parenthood without wedlock and how it affects her family and friends. And how effective and helpful her writing to those who is experiencing that kind of situations in life. And there is another idea like, trauma faced by Gupta's daughter in the middle of this chaos. And how her childhood and her whole character is affected by those incidents.

Exploring the further possibilities of the work, *Unfinished*, there is many themes to explore like her mental breakdown after her father's death and how it affected the life of her and the people around her. And the period of grief in her life and the life lessons she gained from that particular period in her life. Also, there is a scope of exploring the idea of Chopra's life and career in Hollywood and how it changed her life and her kind of surviving through the times. In short, it can say that autobiographies and memoirs have its own identity and space and that has a huge impact on the public as well as the authors. Overall, this paper serves as a significant addition to the field of literature.

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