Chapter V:

A Parametric Study of Samit Basu’s *Turbulence*- depiction of war between superheroes and super villains and ultimate triumph of good
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5.1. Introduction

Samit Basu concentrates on handling superhuman type of Science Fiction in *Turbulence*. He handles it with great care. The present chapter critically studies Samit Basu’s art of handling the genre of Science Fiction by studying the observance of basic parameters of Science Fiction.

5.1.1. Samit Basu as a Writer of Science Fiction

Samit Basu was born on December 14, 1979 in Kolkata. He took his primary education at Don Bosco School. He obtained his degree in Economics from Persidency College Kolkata. Later, he went to London to complete a course in Broadcasting and Filmmaking. At the age of just 22, he wrote his first novel *The Simoqin Prophecies* and published it a year after. It made him India’s Youngest Author. His *The Manticore’s Secret* appeared in 2005. Basu published *The Unwaba Revelations* in the year 2007. His two novels *Terror on the Titanic* and *Turbulence* appeared in the year 2010. *Turbulence* deals with a superhero theme and is set in India, Pakistan and England.

Apart from his writing novels, Samit Basu wrote short stories of Science Fiction. The prominent Science Fiction works of Samit Basu are *Seven Science Fiction Stories* (2006), *Superhero* (2007), *Bewitched* (2008), and *Electric Feather* (2009). In 2006, he published a series of articles and interviews on Indian Speculative Fiction entitled *The Trousers of Time: Possible Future of Indian Speculative Fiction in English*. Currently he is in association with JadHAVpur University Kolkata, India promoting Science Fiction.
5.1.2. A Brief Summary of Basu’s *Turbulence*

The novel begins with the passengers of flight BA142 arriving in Delhi from London. A bunch of people who were on the London-to-Delhi flight, had a dream, and woke up with superpowers matching that dream. As the novel opens, these new, mostly Indian superheroes, and the people around them, are still trying to figure it out – figure out how, and why, and mostly, what comes next. They’re not particularly reflective, our superheroes – at least, not on the page – but then that stands to reason. The people with a burning desire to *do* something.

The narrator introduces that Vir Singh is a super hero type character. He has the ability to fly. He is all alone above Pakistan, North Pakistan, Rawalpindi district, Khuta, where AQ Khan Research Laboratory’s complex lies below him like scattered Lego bricks. One stranger asks Vir to abort his mission. The caller reminds him what he dreams on the plane from London to Delhi, carrying 403 passengers, on BA flight 142 and how all got a unique superpower. A power they do not know they wanted. Then the narrator introduces one hot-popular Pakistan born migrated Bollywood actress Uzma. Uzma is in Mumbai now to become the next Aishwarya Rai. Saheli, her friend, is certainly surprised to see what Uzma has achieved in two weeks in Bollywood. Uzma admits the fact that since her landing all people are very good to her. Uzma starts living with Aman Sen, Tia a Bengali woman, and two mysterious persons- Narayan, a scientist and young Bob. Uzma gets frightened about the scientist who has the power to do stuff in his sleep or dream and when he wakes up, he tries to understand his invitations like Id- Design. The scientist has managed to innovate lava lamp, amoeba-like green globules floating in viscous orange gel, XONTRTUM EGO SUSPENSION, a toy-gun and sign it a TACHYON DISLOCATOR, Aman introduces another superhero Namarta, a reporter. There is something first hand she gets. Uzma is surprised to know that she is living with people having super power. Tia and her second copy stand side-by-side completely identical. Aman’s power is that he possesses the power to locate network of mobile, computers. In short he is a super internet nerd. Tia and Aman assure Uzma that her superpower is that people like her and are nice to her which fits in with her desire to be an actress. As she wants to be a star, she wants people to love her. Bob has got slightly weired superpower.
Vir meets Aman. Vir expresses his plan that he is going to find out the missing passenger. Aman downloads torrent items for Sundar who wants to know about how superheros function. At Ram Lila ground in Delhi the leaders of Kalki party believe that Baby Kalki is their leader. They promise to destroy terrorism, communism, internet, the English language and Pakistan. Then suddenly the crowd gets panic. Aman thinks it might be a superpower of some individuals. Aman thinks it may be Jai Mathur. Vir goes to meet Jai who possesses the power of ambition to conquer nature. Vir starts battling. But Jai has his own army of superheroes namely, Tariq having a power of disappearing from places to places, Jerry and Vivek. Jerry used to be a poet and he dreams silence. He can create a blue thing and he launches an electro-magnetic pulse that shuts down everything nearby for a few minutes. Another is princess Anima, the Evil Flying Muscle Monster. Sher, a tiger man, can take the shape of a tiger. A cinematic fight takes place between Vir and Jai. Tia storms the base.

Aman finds Colombo’s richest drug-lords, finds their Swiss bank accounts, gives their money to relief agencies in Somalia. He repeats the process with Middle Eastern gangsters, American gun companies, Italian fashion brands and members of Indian parliament. Then he changes the names of the countries and continents involved, so as not to, do it again. Aman takes his online Robin Hood act further. He makes his merrymen and assigns a specific task to everyone. He attacks media. He shuts down all religious, sexual, race hate sites. He cuts science funding from universities that have won IG Nobel Prizes, and puts their money into research. He reads about reducing global warming using visors, suspended ceramic disks in space, and sets pop-up reminders telling him to discuss it with Vir. He sets up funding for solar, wind and water energy plants all over India and China. Even though Aman rearranges the world, he has limitations in his own country where rich become richer and cruel cruellest because they do not exist on internet. He knows that the poor can not afford internet. He does give lots of money to groups that claim to represent them. He knows that he tries to erase corruption, greed and power. By doing this the results he produces are drastic enough. By afternoon, he has erased the third world debt. He is not sure whether this will raise or destroy global economy. He tries to open the eyes, but he cannot do it. There is writing on the bubble in front of him. It says whatever Aman has done is wrong at so many levels. Aman asks loudly as to with whom he is talking. But he hears his own words. He says he is a part of Aman. Aman
thinks he is having a chat like Skype. Aman makes it clear that his aim in doing this change is to give everyone electricity food, water, medicine and access to education. The bubble warns Aman for whatever he is doing to the world is illegal money which is not the solution to all problems. Then the letters on the bubble dissolve. Then Tia asks him what he was doing. Aman replies he has either changed the world or wasted a lot of time on online internet. He discovers that he has turned into a communications demigod, able to control and manipulate all networks, including the internet. He comes to know that businessmen, politicians, criminals have their own agenda. One of them is Jai, an everlasting one-man army with an old-fashioned goal – military conquest of the world. At Wankhede he finds there is another, even more sinister force at work, a mind capable of manipulating mobs.

Aman and his superhumans are in great danger in the world that needs thorough alteration much more than it needs fortification. They have to decide quickly what to do with their powers and their lives. Aman dreams of uniting their powers to fight against the world’s real villains, namely faceless, formless corporations, corrupt government officials, religious, extremists and inefficient politicians. He wants to help those who need it most. For example millions of people who are without food, power, schools or other fundamental needs. He intends to cure the planet, save the world. But with each decision he takes, he finds himself helping some harming others, playing with lives, resulting in huge, potentially disastrous decisions. Thus Turbulence is a hyper-real novel. It features the 21st-century Indian subcontinent in all its insane glory – F-16s, Bollywood, radical religious parties, nuclear plants, cricket, terrorists, luxury resorts, crazy TV shows- but it is essentially about two very human questions- How would you feel if you actually got what you wanted and what would you do if you were given the power to change the world.

5.2. Science in Samit Basu’s Turbulence

Samit Basu in Turbulence presents a variety of superheroes possessing different powers which have individual link with contemporary scientific and technological development. Very realistic mentioning of Pakistan’s AQ Khan Uranium Programme Centre of Kahuta containing seventy odd nuclear weapons where on its top Vir Singh is flying with his superpower and he is about to destroy it by dropping meteorite on it. But suddenly he receives a call from a stranger to abort
the mission. The caller explains to Vir that there were 403 passengers on BA 142 flight from London to Delhi who possessed a unique superpower. The superpower of each passenger has a connection with science and technology. In fact, Basu visualizes the maximum use of technological gadgets for his superhumans and how they are efficient in dealing with them. One of them is Aman Sen who is an internet nerd. In Aman’s own words:

The whole-cyber-security-thing-it doesn’t really apply to me. I can go backstage on any site. Nobody asks me passwords. If your computer or phone is on and connected, I can see everything on it. I have to ask nicely. 1

Aman starts collecting superhumans with whom he can make a huge difference to the world. He accompanies splitting Tia, mysterious scientist Sundar Narayan who “is constructing solid and curvy and beautiful (gadgets) out of little bits of detritus the world has no further use for”. 2 Tia informs Uzma that scientist Dr Sundar Narayan does all his inventions in his sleep and when he awakes he tries to understand the connection of his work. He has invented lava lamp, amoeba-like green globules floating in viscous orange gel, ‘XONTRIUM EGO SUSPENSION’. 3 Another invention is like a toy gun having signs ‘TACHYON DISLOCATOR’. 4 Later in the novel Sundar Narayan uses the gun to fight Jai Mathur and company. He uses it and disappears in a second. Aman believes it is like a time machine device and Narayan must have gone either in time past or future of history. Aman in the end uses Narayan’s device or combat shield of a soldier and fights against Jai.

Technology is all dominant in Aman’s superpower of locating any computer, any account on mobile and internet. Aman can hook to anything on a network, computers, phones, satellites. With the help of his power Aman comes to know that many out of 403 passengers were dead or missing. Some have disappeared. Twenty four immediately left India in twenty four hours and some were killed, some were missing and many of them were non-Indians. For Aman it appears a little bit strange that Indian government has banned passengers from leaving India. Aman by using his superpower, investigates that some passengers are liars with fake passport, fake names and identity. He comes to know that out of 403 passengers a few are politicians, a few government officials and a couple of them are Indian Air Force
officers. He thinks there is a possibility of having a battle between superheroes who want to save the world and super villains who desire to destroy the same to establish their power. Aman uses his power with the positive intention of transferring funds to needy organizations that help the poor. He wants to create a Utopian world out of his superpower. Uzma pinpoints the destructive side of it that damages innocent representatives of society. Aman sees that organizations have not utilized funds properly. Aman closes his eyes and sends his robotic army to make a survey of outputs of his venture of creating utopian society. He feels horror and pride at a time when his soldiers return and inform him that a lot of people have been fired because of Aman’s buccaneering cyber-adventure, recession, people lost homes, almost two hundred men died, thirty committed suicide, workers lost access to basic requirements of life, government officials stole public funds, gang wars increased across the world, crime rates shot up, robbery and killing cases increased. The interesting thing about Turbulence is that some superhumans admire and respect human values. Some are careful to free the world from bad ones and evil practices. Aman is one of them.

The concept of the superhuman is very popular in Science Fiction but very new in the Indian context. It is even remarkable that all Indian writers handle the genre so effectively. Superhumans comprise often cyborgs, mutants, aliens, and telepaths, genetically engineered. The term links with comic book characters. It is because archetypal comic book revolves around superhumans who are either superheroes or super villains. It is also noticed that these superhumans are designated as a new species of humanity or that they are unable to get along with normal humanity. Basu’s superhumans do not refer to themselves with binomial nomenclature. On the other hand they are presented as very normal human type names and with a progress inherently built into the text. Basu assumes that the superhumans are natural products of the ongoing evolutionary adaptation of a new environment. For instance in the novel Tariq, another superhuman, with the help of satellite imagery and Google earth technology, can go anywhere he wants to. In the text science has been presented as cinematic action sequences similar to something breathtaking that Hollywood offers. The plot of the story revolves around the bunch of passengers who dramatically receive the superpower on their way to Delhi from London on the plane carrying 403 passengers. These people are powerful heroes and villains. They set themselves against each other claiming that they can change the
world. The opening scene in *Turbulence* deals with Vir Singh, the flying man, and captures the attention of the readers. Its plot is about a group of Indian superheroes—male and female, some morally challenged—charged with saving the world from them. Captain Vir Singh, a superhero in the employ of the Indian Air Force, is interrupted on his mission to take out Pakistan’s main nuclear facility by a mysterious voice. The voice, later identified as Aman Sen, computer geek and the story’s conscience, persuades Vir that larger issues other than demolishing Pakistan ought to be at stake for a superhero. Aman is part of a loose coalition consisting of Uzma, a British-Pakistan hot girl trying to make it in Bollywood; Tia, a Bengali girl with the ability to duplicate herself at will; and two cannon fodder characters, Bob and the Scientist Narayan living in Yari Road with Aman and Tia. Vir comes to know from Aman that there’s a Big Bad guy, none other than his former squadron leader, Jai. Naturally, Jai has to be stopped at all costs but since he has his dance-army as well, all hell is unleashed. To paraphrase that old joke about the difference between capitalism and communism, if western superhero stories are about the struggle between a superhero and a supervillain, non-western superhero stories are the exact opposite.

Vir, Jai and Aman have to tackle a common enemy, a mysterious super-being capable of turning crowds into crazy mobs. Basu manages to throw off the scent by a variety of twists and feints. The triangular conflict provides Basu with a lot of plot control. Frequently hilarious, the writing shifts smoothly from one superhero to another, giving each sufficient screen time to accumulate affection in the reader’s mind. The ‘screen time’ because the writing shows a strongly visual, almost cinematic, imagination. On the other hand, the plot also spreads in different locations. The problem, of course, with a great many characters doing different things in different places is that characters have to periodically disappear for extended periods of time. This is how superpowers work. The logic is a simple and familiar one. A superpower is a realization of its hero’s deepest desire. Uzma has a deep desire to be adored, Vir aches to defend, Tia wants to live many lives, the journalist Namrata wants to be where the news happens, Sundar wants to innovate time machine, Jai desires to conquer the world by military force etc. Their superpowers reflect these desires. Aman’s superpower is the ability to control any digital configuration. But whatever he has desired should be an ability to manifest. As he explains to Uzma in an early meeting:
Growing up in Delhi – and Delhi’s a city of networks, the social kind, and contacts and families – I’ve always felt left out of things, like I didn’t know anything, the right people, the right places…. I don’t know how it was for you growing up in the UK, but here nearly all of us have this huge sense of irrelevance. We’ll never change anything. The world will never know us. We grow up thinking hard work and a certain amount of ability are all we need – and then we eventually have to accept that they can only take us so far… we never feel like we’re a part of anything.

Geoff Klock in his *How to Read Superhero Comics and Why* reveals a great deal about how superheroes exhibit Bloom’s Anxiety of Influence, and perhaps it is applicable in case of Basu’s superheroes as well. The hidden science in the book comprises computer nerd Aman who tries to set the team to save and change the world with his ability of going online without any password, Sundar, the scientist in his dream with the help of ‘Id-Design’ tries to innovate scientific and technological stuffs, dangerous weapons, guns, rifles being used in battle scenes. Basu is really a masterminded writer in putting all superpower people in action. It is no doubt that contemporary scientific and technological development plays a very important role in giving superpowers to characters. The researcher thinks that Basu is not ignoring the fact that scientific desires have larger than life connection with superpowers assigned to characters.

5. 3. The handling of Space and Time in *Turbulence*

Writing in the genre of Superheroes, the writer is bound to bend time and space while depicting action. As discussed in Chapter I, Science Fiction writers have scope in handling the element of time and space boundlessly. It is assumed that Science Fiction authors use time and space warps so as to create estrangement and cognition effects suitable to the narrative. Samit Basu seems to be reluctant in handling the space and time warps which suit the plot of *Turbulence*. There are 402 passengers who possess superpowers. Some realize their powers immediately and some die without realizing their power. All realisers are Indians and one of them is deliberately killing foreigners to conquer the world with petrified ambition. One after the other is dying somewhere. The writer therefore keeps his selected superheroes and
villains busy in dialogues and action of battle over establishing each other’s supremacy. Most of the action takes place in India because Basu seems to give universality to the Indian sub-continent. As it becomes difficult to narrate the action of superheroes and supervillains when they are in function, Basu uses cinematic technique in presenting them. Basu shifts smoothly from one superhero to another, giving each a sufficient screen time to build up linking in the reader’s mind. The most important thing about the plot is that it is distributed in different locations. It is mainly because many characters are doing different things in different places and probably at the same time. For instance in Chapter 7, Tia accompanies Mukesh to the Udhampur IAF airbase, a valley in the Himalaya foothill and keeps herself busy in destroying the base. At the same time Vir is struggling against his enemies- Jai Mathur and company. Anima and Sher attack Vir and on the other side Tia splits in numbers to destroy the base. At the same time a few superheroes have to periodically disappear for extended periods of time. It is considered not as time-shifting but shifting of place.

Basu gives each character necessary time and space for its development. In the superhuman novel like Turbulence, the writer inherees both the present and future within the plot. Basu’s superhumans are born out of inherent or psychologically suppressed desires of humans. They all have had a dream while travelling on a flight from London to Delhi. Very few of them realize later that they have superpowers. Basu then depicts three major battle scenes between superheroes and super villains. The whole action of the plot covers places of India in majority, Pakistan and England.

The plot begins with Vir Singh who with his flying ability, is on a mission. His mission is to destroy AQ Khan Research Laboratory located at North Pakistan, Rawalpindi district, Kahuta. Vir stands several feet up in the air. It is not a suitable place for Indian Air Force officer, but Vir is about to destroy Kahuta in one blow. Vir aborts the mission due to a stranger’s call. The stranger convinces him it is a suicidal mission and he should not think only about India and Pakistan but the whole human race while utilizing his superpower. In chapter two the narrator gives screening time to another superhuman Uzma, hot and famous actress of Bollywood. The setting is Mumbai and everybody is talking about the young glamorous Pakistani-born Uzma. Since Uzma enters India, everybody likes her. It is her superpower. She gets a call from Aman Sen, a handsome owner, and offers her a big house on sharing-basis in Versova, Yari Road, Mumbai. She starts sharing the house with landowner Aman,
Tia, a Bengali woman, two mysterious persons—the scientist Sundar Narayan and young Bob or Balaji Bataodekar. On the first day she comes to know that she is living with superhumans and it is Aman’s deliberate attempt to bring together superhumans in his home. Thus after reading a couple of chapters it becomes clear that the narrator suitably hurries his narration and gives required time and space for each character to develop. He creates a sense of motion or movement in his description of characters. For example it is easy to comprehend how Vir Singh flies to Mumbai to meet the strange caller who is none other than Aman Sen in Coffee Day shop, at Carter Road, Pali Hill, Mumbai. Further the narrator informs how Vir takes the long route-Tajikistan-China-Nepal-UP-and by Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Mumbai to meet Aman. This is cinematic technique of handling time and space. It clearly indicates the limitations of the narrator but the readers easily come to know the mere shifting of time, place and action. Vir promises Aman to arrange the meet Jai Mathur. Vir then goes to Udhampur IAF airbase, in the Himalaya foothills, in a newly built building to meet Jai with five IAF men and the Commander. Jai too has superpowers.

_Turbulence_ is very much of present time as it works very well in depicting the 21st century life. It is a kind of story that reflects what we as a society respect and magnify, the qualities we seek in our idealised selves. _Turbulence_ highlights that our most valuable thing right now is information. Thus Basu shifts place instead of time suitably for the plot of the story in his novel _Turbulence._

5.4. The Handling of Characters with Superpowers, Machineries, Space-Voyages, Space-Ships with Realism in _Turbulence._

The superhero genre is generally a jam-packed one. It contains some of the world’s best known idols and most wicked villains. It is very fast, moving and exciting. It contains some elements of fun with implied simplistic morality. Undoubtedly, Samit Basu’s _Turbulence_ adds something new to the superhero genre. The novel brings something new and original and post-modern to the plot of superheroes which is a welcome and extremely interesting bonus.

Superheroes do not always originate in the pages of a novel. More precisely, their stories tend to come in comic-books, films, TV, or cartoon forms. Therefore writing a superhero novel is regarded as a challenge. There are a few examples,
including the recent Adam Christopher novel *Seven Wonders*, but in general the superhero novel is a bit unusual. This is a challenge that Samit Basu has met very successfully. *Turbulence* is fast-paced, cinematic, capturing the atmosphere of a superhero film with plenty of dialogue and something of a movie-type script. There is a lot of action. The book has three major fight scenes and plenty of small chases and scrambles to keep readers entertained. The novel describes the various superheroes, their powers and their fight in a way that instantly summons vibrant images. Basu is very keen in handling the style which works so well that it feels completely natural for a superhero story to be told in this way.

The plot of *Turbulence* centres around a few Indian passengers, and, a British-Pakistani Uzma, on a flight from London to Delhi. Everyone on this flight has developed extraordinary new powers. Aman, the main character of the novel, theorises that each person has acquired a superpower which has somehow a connection with their desire. For example Aman, a man who felt isolated and lost in a city where his contacts and connections are everything, can now connect with any communication network instantly, using only his mind. He is a computer nerd, constantly online, can hack any secure system, listen to any phone conversation, and is connected to the entire world. Aman wants to use his new abilities to help others and to save the world. He wants to be a traditional superhero like the ones he has read or watched in movies. He tries to gather the other passengers from the same flight. It soon becomes clear that the flight has a few supervillains too. One of them is Jai, a man who is intent on using his powers to control others and to bend the world to his own design. And he hardly cares whom he is hurting in the process. Aman and his team of heroes naturally find themselves pitted against Jai and his supporters. Then there are chases, fights, action, excitement and plot twists proceed.

Vir Singh is another superhero. He has the ability to fly. He is on the suicidal mission of destroying Pakistan’s nuclear weapons. But he is aborted from it by a strange caller who turns out to be Aman Sen. Vir likes his ability and he wants to use it help people who are in trouble like a superman or a spiderman type. He fights against Jai Mathur and his ambition of military conquest of the world mainly to save the world from witnessing a powerful dictator.

Jai Mathur wants to achieve what Alexander, Genghis Khan and Julius Caesar could not with the help of his supervillain team i.e. to conquer the world. His team comprises Mukesh having the power of turning into a poisonous type of reptile; Tariq
is having the power of disappearing and wandering from one place to another with the help of satellite imagery and Google Earth. Sher is having the power of turning into an eight-foot giant with tiger’s head, Anima, a schoolgirl, is having the power of cracking green flame with two Katanas. Jerry can launch an electromagnetic pulse that shuts down everything nearby. Vivek can morph roles on a given background. Andy Kharkongor is having the power to reshape structures in minutes, Zothanpuii, a college girl, is a martial art champion, and the Singer Premlata and Sniper Mosin have the power of turning corpses, alive and leading people to illusion, respectively.

Most characters are similar to X-men. In the novel heroes wonder how they can use superhero power to understand and guide their own world. Basu presents Jai Mathur as a bad guy who is an unquestionably bad guy but uncomfortably similar to the main protagonist in intentions and morals. Basu investigates the ethics behind super heroism, as to, who has the right to control, and what does it mean to be a superhero. Basu raises some questions such as whether a superhero can interfere in others’ lives, whether he has the right to do so, and what might really happen when a superhero attempts to change the world for the better or the best. *Turbulence* tells subjectively though, all about power. It seems that Samit Basu concentrates on this point and explores it in several different ways throughout the book. Aman tries to make the world a better place only when he gains superpower. The question is why Aman never tried it before gaining the power. He did not volunteer for major relief efforts or charities, or dedicate his life to helping others. When he perceives himself as a superhero, he feels it is his duty to change, and he sees his own personal motive. The remaining characters, including the super villains, have similar views. Here, the line between good and bad, right and wrong is not as constant as in some other superhero stories.

Basu depicts that the changing world is actually the agenda of superheroes and super villains on their own terms. The final battle of good versus evil is an irony because good and evil are not such clear concepts for the characters. Whatever each character is doing he thinks it is good in his own way. Basu’s technique is to make the *desi* setting feel universal rather than particular. The tantalizing mention of Bollywood atmosphere, IPL effect, places of India and England, the details of London makes this novel seem actually happening in front of Indian audience. Basu, thus, is realistic in setting and fantasizes the action of the plot. Basu exerts to set the story in
India to give it a sense of realism. Thus Basu handles the superpower characters with realism.

5.5. Narrative Technique benefits in Minimizing the distance between setting and events in *Turbulence*.

The narrative technique shifts smoothly from one protagonist to another, in order to give each character sufficient screen time to enter into the reader’s mind. It is a ‘screen time’ because Basu shows a strongly visual, almost cinematic, imagination while putting characters and their actions, whether it is Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium or Delhi’s Ram Leela ground or western Goa or London or Udhampur IAF airbase, a valley in the Himalaya’s foothill. The plot also is scattered in different locations. The problem, with a great many characters doing different things in different places, is that characters have to periodically disappear for extended periods of time. This gives the narrative an absent-minded quality. In pure fantasy, setting is an imaginary place but in Science Fiction Fantasy authors like Basu select real places or locations for the action. No doubt the authorial voice is present in the novel, but he wisely controls himself. Instead, he relies more on dialogue and action to highlight aspects of his characters. When he shows characters that are dealing with themselves, as when Aman brings on world-fixing, the novel threatens to become darker and more serious than it set out to be. Basu’s technique is to make the local setting appears universal rather than particular. All the characters are enlightened urban sophisticates with universal appeal. The author makes it easy to imagine characters go to coffee shops, hip bars, and the other side of the world. Basu uses an omniscient narrator who is kept busy in narrating action. The narrator leaves it to readers to understand why one particular incident happened and contemplate on superheroes’s decision upon action. The narrator uses the cinematic technique to present the action in the novel. The narrator has to shift from places to places in time-present because several characters are involved in action at different places. This is how superpower genre works. Basu uses the narrator who minimizes the distance between setting and events mainly through mentioning realistic places or locations. Though events or actions are not real or credible in realistic terms yet the narrator is successful in generating events realistically. For instance, the cricket atmosphere at Wankhede Stadium appears
realistic. Basu works on the style of narration so well that it feels natural for a superhero story to be told in this mode.

5.6. The Presence of Epical Pattern, Element of Suspense, Grandeur and Impossible probabilities in Turbulence.

There is a resemblance of elements between the form of the epic and the form of Science Fiction. The first is handling of the theme or subject. Epic deals with a lofty or a grand subject. As it is very common to go with a grand subject, Samit Basu concerns himself with issues relating to an entire race or the world by staging the battle between superheroes and super villains.

There is scope for sociological speculations through heroic adventure. Samit Basu combines adventures with speculating over the social problems like terrorism, poverty, global warming, recession through action of superheroes and super villains. Basu’s superheroes get powers from the sciences of Bio-chemistry, Biology, Physics, Engineering, and Astronomy which have captured the imagination. Basu’s Turbulence is a superhero novel. Though the plot of the novel is set in India and ends in London, it concerns the entire human race. In the first chapter itself Basu introduces the fear of terrorism. It is a global problem today. Some of the terrorist groups are unnecessarily causing threat to humanity and democratic way of life. India is the biggest victim of terrorism. And since partition India has witnessed many attacks of terrorist groups. In the novel Vir Singh is on a mission. With his flying ability, he goes to destroy Pakistan’s AQ Khan Research Laboratories, at Rahuta, Rawalpindi District, where Pakistan’s various uranium projects are going on and Taliban terrorist groups are likely to take control of it. Vir Singh stands several feet up in the sky, with his flying power, and targets to destroy AQ Khan Laboratory. But Aman Sen, another superhero, calls him and convinces him how he should utilize his ability, superpower, in saving the world, the entire human race instead of causing World War III. Vir Singh in reply tells Aman that Pakistan’s nuclear programme is a threat to India and the whole world, and Taliban sooner will control it. Aman then introduces him to the fact that there are many threats as there were 403 passengers on the plane from London to Delhi who possessed superpowers. All are not using their powers for humanity. Some of them are super villains. Aman states that together they
can solve the problems of society including terrorism. As soon as Vir aborts his mission the battle between superheroes and super villains begins. Jai Mathur, another superhero, possesses the powerful ambition—the military conquest of the nature or the entire world.

With the help of superhuman genre Basu reflects the dying issues of society. For example Aman is a computer nerd. He wants to reshape or reconstruct the world. His basic philosophy in bringing the change is to give everyone electricity, water, food, medicine, and access of education. He wants to remove corruption, terrorism, poverty, inequality, unemployment, global warming, and so on. For that he transfers the money from Swiss bank accounts of world’s richest criminals, politicians, businessmen to charitable organizations who claim to help poor people. But Aman’s action leads to increase in killing, robbery, suicide, unemployment rates as never before. Aman is not certain if the global economy will revive or destroy. Like the epic Basu’s Turbulence has handled the universal theme of super powerful people ready to reconstruct the world through their powers.

The second epical element is that of adventure. In the epic, adventure is bound with the hero’s fight against evil and journey through unexpected places and bringing about miracles for stability at the end. In Basu’s Turbulence various adventures of various superheroes form an organic whole. Each event in the novel relates in some way to the central theme of good versus evil. Though in Science Fiction adventure consists in imaginary voyages, visits to the moon, planets, and stars, in Basu’s case adventure lies in the journey of superheroes from one place to another and the battle for survival. They do not know how long they will live because someone wants to kill the superheroes. Characters have made up their minds regarding the intelligence around and over other places and the possibility of coming back- and forth in time. It is also about discoveries, novum, a new thing on which the story rests. An adventure lies in a journey of a bunch of superheroes who plan to free the world from the corrupt politicians, terrorists, ambitious military men of conquering the world, recession, global warming etc. Almost all superhumans utilize their powers in the battle. Some are not aware about the purpose they are fighting for. Uzma seems to be reluctant in the plot but later she realizes that her power grows the more she uses it. Vir’s flying ability and fight against Jai at IAF airbase, Udhampur
Valley in the Himalaya foothills, the battle scenes in Goa, Mumbai, London, Aman’s Robin Hood online act are all adventurous. As in the epic the conflict is preliminary. Basu depicts the conflict between superheroes and super villains. Aman and his companions form one group of superheroes and Jai and his followers form the group of super villains.

The third epical element is handling of characters. Characters in the epic are both human and godly figures. Basu’s characters are superhumans, some have good intention and some play with their evil ambitions. For instance Jai Mathur possesses the ambition of military conquest of the nature whereas he considers manipulator as his enemy. Almost all characters are heroically larger than life. The action as seen in battle reveals an extraordinary strength of the characters when they engage in the acts of heroism and courage. Basu shows that his characters possess desirable potentialities of human beings possessing advanced power. To change or reconstruct sociological possibilities and the movements of humanity under future condition, Basu gives infinite power and potentialities to characters, which humans desire to possess. Aman is good at theorising what each person has acquired a power is related to their desire, or their dying wish. Some powers are beneficial for humanity and some are not. Most characters sound like a bit of standard X-men.

Suspense is observed both in the epic and Science Fiction through the adventure and action of heroic figures. The suspense is observed in case of the Mob controller’s identity. Basu’s twist-in-a-tale method works in presenting Namrata. Throughout the novel she appears as a reporter who can visualize the catastrophe and catch the events live to raise the TRP of news channel. She later turns out as the mob controller.

Both in the epic and Science Fiction the setting covers several nations, the whole world, or even the universe. Similarly Basu in Turbulence goes with the blue planet. Though action takes place in selective cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Goa, Kahuta-Rawalpindi, and London, Basu uses the setting on a universal scale. It can be observed that the author handles the setting with realism. The setting makes readers feel that they are not reading about strange islands or people. It is the mastery of writer to use familiar locale so as to give a sense of realism to the plot while dealing with unbelievable action of the superhumans. As long as setting is concerned there is
no turbulence. It is mainly because of globalization or technological development the whole world has come together as it was never before. For a variety of purposes people wander through different countries and Basu does not miss the opportunity in capturing this change.

Basu, in the book, holds a mirror of the present by putting superheroes in action. Their deeds give a somber warning, a dire prediction, in talking about what we are, where we will be and where we are all going to be and what does it all mean to Mankind.

5.7. Writer’s Attitude to Science and the Genre of Science Fiction

Samit Basu shares H.G.Wells’s attitude to science and Science Fiction that sociology and human abilities and relations should merge with modern sciences for the necessary part of Science Fiction. By and large, Basu is concerned with society and therefore he predicts some sudden or slow political, psychological, cultural, and economical changes of human tradition not of a particular society but the whole human race through his superhuman novel Turbulence. In the history of the superhero genre Turbulence will be seen as an important work. It will reflect the growing self-confidence of subcontinent writers in handling this form. But in this regard Enakshi Chatterjee, in her essay Distinctly Different Flavour, demands more stuffs like this and states:

One swallow does not make a summer. Unless sustained effort is made about inter-language translations there is no chance for an Indian Science Fiction variety to flourish. Indian Science Fiction, if one is allowed to use such term need not go back Gulliver’s Travels, Frankenstein, The Time Machine. We have much older models in our epics and folk literature. The material, the promises are all there—we need dedicated workers who would salvage them and use them with a contemporary twist. 6

Samit Basu shows immense maturity in handling superpower Science Fiction genre in Turbulence. He sets the plot around superhumans and develops it with their choices of actions. He forms two groups of characters, superheroes and super villains, who get their power on a flight from London to Delhi. On their way they have had a dream
catching their superpower. Some of them immediately understand their power and some do not realize it until their death. Basu while creating his superhumans uses the psychological base, unconscious desires, and dreams leading to actual or conscious strength of superhumans. For instance, Aman Sen, a computer nerd, Vir Singh, a flying man, Jai Mathur, ambitious conqueror, Uzma, super-me-like-girl, Tia, splitting in multiple bodies, Namrata, mob controller, Bob, climate controller, Prashant Reddy, promising cricketer, have direct connection between their superpowers and their repressed, unconscious desires or dreams. Therefore psychological aspect cannot be ruled out while discussing Turbulence as psychology is also one of the important branches of science. Basu selects contemporary time to present his superheroes. The contemporary time is technologically and scientifically advanced, superior and evolved and more suitable time for his superheroes. Though some events take place in London, a majority of action occurs in India. Basu selects social life of metros like Mumbai, Delhi and Goa which are technologically advanced places compared to other parts of India. Basu’s super novel seems to be feast for Indian readers who love reading superhuman novels which they would be mighty proud of. Aman’s character as an internet nerd appears authentic because many young Indians spend their hours on internet for their respective works. His power matches with the secret desires of internet users who would like to open or hack somebody’s account. Aman does not need password for hacking. He can have an access of any online account, if it is connected. With the help of his superpower, he tries to create a utopian world by transferring funds of criminals, corrupt politicians, and businessmen to charitable organizations which, he thinks, can help directly needy poor people. This is something good he aims to do for removing poverty, corruption of society. But when he comes to know about the consequences of his action, he is hurt deeply. He finds adverse impacts of his action. Basu depicts how superhumans like Aman take efforts in tackling the problems of society. Basu’s superhero novel is very exciting and incredible in presenting the action in the text.

Instead of focusing only on a scientific or technological phenomenon or concept, Basu utilizes the contemporary developed mind set of people regarding IT, science and technology in creating his superheroes. Samit Basu makes it very clear in online chat with Anil Menon and Vandana Singh that he enjoyed a lot in writing superhero novel. He admits that his superheroes are not an alteration of human race but to bridge the gap of human expectations and experiences. For instance it is very
common desire of many young girls in India and abroad to become hot, sexy, popular super-me-like-face of Bollywood or to be a superstar queen of Bollywood. There are many young girls in India and abroad who share this desire of Uzma. In case of Tia too there are many people who want to perform several roles efficiently, though they have limitations. Tia dreams of playing different roles due to adverse environment in which she was living. If things are not according to our expectations the natural desire of human being is to change that situation.

Basu mentions many scientific and technological devices. He does not explain how they function. He only states that his superheroes use a variety of weapons during a fight. For example Sundar Narayan invents different techno-scientific devices in his sleep which is his power and when he wakes up he tries to find out the connection with what he has made of. Basu does not spend lines in describing how Sundar has made his inventions. Often mentioning of email, Facebook, Youtube apps makes it clear that superhumans belong to contemporary times. Namrata handles the media and people efficiently. Basu keeps a secret in unfolding her as a mob-controller. Though Aman thinks he has controlled Tia, Jai and Uzma with the help of his superpower, Aman is controlled by Namrata. In Jai Mathur’s team one superhuman is Tariq. The amazing thing about Tariq is that with the help of Satellite imagery and Google Earth technology, he can go anywhere he needs to.

Basu’s approach to superhumans is very humanistic while presenting all superhumans in a technologically and scientifically advanced world. He handles both science and the genre of Science Fiction in Indian context very effectively. He has highlighted some social issues through the superhero genre. He may be presenting the view that the younger generation psychologically, physically, socially, and culturally is familiar with the use of technology in day-to-day life. Some social apps like whatsapp, youtube, facebook and e-mails reflect how the younger generation of our time is habituated to the use of internet for a variety of purposes.


In an age where the Chinese manufacture most products of the world, Indians dominate IT, and a black man is the president of the United States, there is no need to marvel that it is up to brown people to save London. Basu tries to shape the future. He talks about probabilities. Undoubtedly probabilities are built up with the mention of
superpowers leading to change the present world scenario. Thus Basu deals freely with sociological possibilities and the movement of humanity under the superhumans’ condition.

Samit Basu in *Turbulence* uses contemporary science and technological evolvement effectively in shaping the plot of the story and in presenting the present and the future condition of human race in general and Indian society in particular. He considers the whole human race while framing the plot, though the story is set in India. There is a battle for supremacy of good over evil. Some characters have good intentions but the results of their action are evil whereas some characters have bad intentions but the results of their action turn out good for the society. Basu combines well science and technology with contemporary time in predicting the future. Superhumans like Aman Sen, Tia, Sundar Narayan, Uzma and Vir Singh think about how to save the world from the super villains and the evil conquering forces or deeds. Aman’s approach towards humanity is clearly stated when he tries to convince Vir Singh, Uzma and Tia to join his team in rebuilding, restructuring the world. He seems to worry about the future. He is very conscious about the possible threats to humanity like Jai Mathur’s ambition of military conquest of the world. Aman wants to save the world from Jai Mathur and his followers. Aman tries to utilize the superpower of his companions in avoiding the danger of Jai. Through his superpower, he tries to reshape several account numbers in fund transforming episode to create a utopian world. He is desperate to remove the problems like corruption, poverty, terrorism, global warming. He takes necessary steps for the same. But it causes adverse effects on human race. His decisions result in suicide, crime, killing, robbery, unemployment, and corruption. Vir Singh essentially tries to utilize his power for making India free from Pakistan’s terrorist acts. Basu in the first chapter itself realistically handles the contemporary political problem of India and Pakistan. Moreover he presents the sensitive relationship between the two countries. Jai Mathur wants to conquer the world. His superpower is his ambition to conquer the world. Essentially he is interested in making India economical, political and social superpower country of the world but later he exhibits his personal conquering ambition. The author is successful in shaping the future by handling his characters and their superpowers in his age. India in the twenty first century is famous for utilizing brain in the field of IT. The researcher
opines that in Basu’s *Turbulence* there is a juxtaposition of science with the present and the future of Indian society in particular and human race in general.

### 5.9. Interface between Science and Fiction

There is an interface between science and fiction. To put it in other words, there is a resemblance between the two entities—science and fiction in terms of their elements, functions, characteristics, purpose and mechanism. The first point is vision. Vision is to take efforts in making the present condition of man turn into a utopian state by removing drawbacks and weaknesses. Both scientists and fiction writers visualize, speculate or predict good things for human life. Both take efforts and propose to make human life happy and the earth a better place to live by presenting the possible dimensions in their respective works. They work very hard through their respective ways to lessen human efforts, solve social problems, to give knowledge and pleasure out of their innovative works. Basu’s superheroes try to save the world from the ambition of military conquest of Jai Mathur at the end of the story. It is a fight between superheroes and super villains. He visualizes some destructive forces and their possible effects on human race questions readers if humans really need superhumans to solve the basic problems of life like corruption, poverty, global warming, terrorism, crimes of death, robbery, and so on. In *Turbulence* Basu is interweaving all these issues of human society in general and Indian society in particular by depicting the battle of supremacy between superheroes and super villains. The very interesting prediction or speculation in Basu’s case is to introduce Indian superheroes. It is very rare that the Indian writer is able to handle the superhero genre in Indian subcontinent as it not as advanced as western is in respect of scientific and technological development. Though Basu selects only Indian superheroes saving the world from evils, he intends to represent India as an integral part of it. Another speculation is about Indian brain and its value. India is certainly a place today in the world of globalization where there is a great demand for Indian brain. Basu presents this aspect in the case of Aman Sen.

The second point is characters who are involved in making a better place for living. In Basu’s *Turbulence*, characters possess mixed intentions, good and bad. Basu presents the problems of human race through Aman Sen’s transferring of amount from one account to another which creates recession. Though he has a noble intention
to remove poverty, but his action creates new problems. Basu’s superhumans resemble human beings in their minute and larger form. They represent the common feelings like greed, truth, revenge, anger, love, gratitude, affection and so on. Some are selfish and some are selfless. Such feelings are also present amongst scientists. But the process of character-building takes place in both fiction and science which is observed by Basu in presenting his superhumans.

Both science and fiction aim that man should be energetic, humble, constructive and critical in action. Results are reliable. Logic and imagination go together in shaping human life in relation to science. Samit Basu interlinks uses of science and technology as strong desires of man to make his characters omnipotent.

Romance or adventure is another aspect to look for in the text. In Basu’s *Turbulence* various adventures of various superheroes form an organic whole, where each event relates in some way to the central theme of good versus evil. Though in Science Fiction adventure includes imaginary voyages, visits to the moon, planets, and stars, in Basu’s case adventure lies in superheroes journey from one place to another and the battle for survival. They do not know how long they will live because someone will want to kill the superheroes. Characters have made up their minds regarding the intelligence around and over other places and the possibility of coming back and forth in time. It is also about discoveries, novum, a new thing on which the story rests. Adventure lies in the journey of a bunch of superheroes intending to free the world from the corrupt politicians, terrorists, military ambition of conquering the world, recession, global warming etc.

Both in fiction and science suspense is a vital point which generates curiosity amongst the people concerned. Basu deals with it by introducing twists in the tale regarding Mob manipulator Namrata. Science Fiction anticipates or predicts some probable changes in cultural, social, political tradition of the entire human race. Like science, fiction presents an idealized world of humans. Basu’s superheroes work on moral principles to create an ideal world. Basu speculates over desirable results for the betterment of human life. He predicts both positive and negative things resulting from the action of both superheroes and super villains in the story.
5.10. Balance of Romance and Realism

Romance is a form of narrative in which improbable adventures of idealized characters are depicted in remote or enchanted setting. Basu’s characters are superhumans who set a goal to change the world in the realistic setting of contemporary times. All characters and the whole plot are in opposition to realism. But realism lies in locale, recording faithfully the actual way of life, some cricket-crazy incidents, mob at Ram Leela ground etc. Basu’s accuracy of description of locale and presentation of superheroes in romance form balances and highlights the contemporary problems of the world. Basu’s Turbulence combines both the element of romance and realism by presenting the need of scientific and technological adventures which are useful for the betterment of society. Basu’s style of combining romance with realism is very much similar to that of H.G. Wells. Both in Turbulence and The War of the Worlds realism lies in handling of the setting and the locale. Like sWells, Basu presents war, combat, battle of superhumans with super villains or machines. Thus the researcher affirms that the balance of romance and realism could naturally be seen in Samit Basu’s work of Science Fiction. Romance appears in the form of superhumans, a very nature of superpowers, and the results of superpowers, characters and their action and decisions. Superhumans are either an alteration of human race or they are unable to cope with human race. So the very nature and function of characters is in the form of romance. All powers are not human though they desire or dream to have such powers. The element of romance is also present in physical journey of superhumans from India to London Millennium Bridge. Uzma’s life is very romantic. She travels from London to Delhi and then from common Pakistani born young and attractive girl to Bollywood celebrity, her love towards Aman and realization of power is also in romantic form. Like each and every character Basu deals with Uzma.

Like H.G. Wells Basu handles the contemporary social problems realistically. With the genre of superhumans Science Fiction, Basu highlights the problems of terrorism, poverty, global warming, debt issues, cyber security, and so on. Basu assigns the role to each and every superhuman. He seems to be very free while talking tangibly about bollywood attraction, cricket crazy world of Indians, and religious beliefs of Indians. He mentions the places, set the action in Mumbai, Delhi, London which are real. The setting is very realistic. Along with social realism Basu deals with
psychological realism as well. Basu finds a strong connection between dreams and superpowers. All 403 passengers on the flight 142 BA from London to Delhi had a dream and once they land on Indian soil, they catch their dreams and uniquely possess the powers which match their dreams. They possess what they most desired for in their lives. So emotions or desires of human beings turn out to be their superpowers. Though their superpowers are not realistic, their desire or dreams certainly are. To some extent it is also a kind of magic realism. The researcher believes that Basu succeeds like H G Wells in balancing romance and realism.

5.11. Prophetic Vision and Change in Social, Political, Cultural, Tradition of the Universe

Basu builds up a vision of the future in his book *Turbulence*. Unlike a lot of Indian novels in English, this one isn’t interested in interpreting India for the west. Many works of Science Fiction deal with future prediction. They fall in the category of future predictions- the stories that talk about what could happen to mankind or to earth or to the next century or a million years from now. It is also about calculating good and bad possibilities or potentialities. Samit Basu in *Turbulence* renders the impossible probabilities into scientific possibilities of being realized at some future time. Prophetic vision deals with the change in the present political, social, economical, geographical, scientific, technological, religious, cultural tradition of the universe or entire race. Samit Basu’s superheroes tend to visualize some changes relating to society or culture. Basu is concerned with the entire community or human race not a small group or community. So it is very important to ask ourselves whether the world needs superheroes to overcome the problems like poverty, global warming, and terrorism, as depicted in the novel. Thus the researcher believes that Basu urges the need to change the cultural, political, economical and social tradition of the world through his team of superhumans though they are very personal about their power in saving the world. Samit Basu like all Science Fiction writers, speculates or prophesies some changes in social, political, cultural, tradition of the universe in *Turbulence*. Though the story is set mainly in India, Basu deals with some universal socio-political issues in the text. His team of superhumans is basically human desires to change the society of the present time. Today the world is facing the big problem of terrorism, cyber crimes, poverty, global warming, world debt, and so on. Basu’s superhumans, Aman Sen who is a computer nerd, Vir Singh who is the flying man, Tia the splitting woman, Sundar Narayan who can produce inventions in his sleep, Uzma a super-me-
like-girl, are all desperate to bring about change to the world through their superpowers. Aman Sen tries to reshape or reconstruct the world with the help of his superpower. He controls even the dictator Jai Mathur and his ambition to conquer the world. He visualizes a fight between superheroes and super villains. With the help of his power Aman sets to reshape the world’s economical problems. He opens Colombia’s richest drug-lords and transfers their money from their Swiss bank accounts to relief agencies in Somalia. He repeats the process with Middle Eastern gangsters, American gun companies, Italian fashion brands, and politicians or representatives of Indian parliament. Aman takes his online Robin hood act a step further-he creates his merry men and assigns them a specific task to each. “He takes away billions of dollars from companies and people all around the world….He hands out money to conservationists, environmentalists, peace activists….away yours”. 7 He attacks media. He shuts down all religious, sexual, race-hate sites. He cuts science funding from universities that have won IG Nobel Prizes and put their money into research. He reads about reducing global warming using visors, suspended ceramics disks in space. He sets up funding for solar, wind and water energy plants all over India and China. He tries to rearrange the world. By doing this act Aman understands his limitations-in his own country some rich and cruel people do not exist on internet so he cannot do anything to them. He knows that the poor can not afford internet. Therefore he gives a lot of money to groups that claim to represent them. Aman is actually trying to erase corruption, greed, power, poverty, global warming. Aman admits whether his merry men act will be useful or not when they give somber warning. Basu is very particular in showing the results of aman’s adventure. Though his superhumans try to reconstruct, reshape, mould the world into a utopian state, their actions and decisions turn out miserable for the human race. Through his superhuman deeds Basu seems to convey that changes in social, political, cultural, tradition of the universe is possible at one end but at another their contribution will not suffice. Secondly Basu predicts or visualizes the existence of Indian superhumans to the world. He brings forward a possible belief that if the world is in danger Indians will definitely contribute to save it. He also visualizes a positive change in the world of globalization and IT about Indian society. The third amateur prophecy is of superhumans. Superhuman is an alteration of human. He can be friend or foe to the human. Superhumans may come out of unsatisfied conditions of human world or from another planet so as to bring cultural change in the society. Basu very realistically
projects the problem of terrorism, corruption, recession, global warming, poverty and infrastructural needs of society. Though *Turbulence* is in the mode of superhuman genre, Basu is very much a socialist in projecting the problems and possible solutions to benefit the human race. Basu projects technologically and psychologically a more advanced society in the text. The scientist Sundar Narayan invents various helpful devices. Thus Basu depicts changes both positive and negative in cultural, political, social, tradition of the universe.


The most exciting part of Science Fiction is its subject or theme. Though it is claimed that Science Fiction suffers from repetition of subjects, there is ample opportunities for each writer to handle the genre differently. One of them is Man-superman with superpower, or superheroes versus super villains. It is one of the means of self-defense of the native planet in the face of superhumans’s fight. Basu in his *Turbulence* uses a team of individuals to whom he assigns the duty of repelling or destroying the invading force of Jai Mathur. This team is a mixture of superheroes, or superhumans, or individuals with profound abilities in areas that may be applicable to fighting against an enemy. One can find a similarity of such a team in the film *The Avengers* or in the comic book of the same title on which the film is based. In the film a team of superheroes comprising of Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, The Hulk, Black Widow and Hawkeye assemble together to defeat an alien army bent upon conquering Earth. Ultimately the Avengers are successful in stoping the invasion. Thus the Earth is saved from alien dominance. In Basu’s *Turbulence* the superheroes fight with enemies of the planet. Though they are not aliens but their purpose is like that of the crooked aliens who want to conquer the Earth whereas superheroes save the world which suits novum.

Basu is concerned with a new form of writing Science Fiction. It is superhero genre of Science Fiction. As such, Science Fiction, Parrinder claims, works at “the level of the social structure, of individual experience, and in the perceived nature of reality itself.”

182
It is very rare and novum for an Indian writer and readers to handle such a form. The basic parameter for such a type of Science Fiction is to present a group of superhumans in two categories—superheroes and super villains. There is conflict between them. Basu succeeds in highlighting the basic issues of politics, culture, education, entertainment etc., Basu’s superhumans have good intentions and some are having evil intentions. Basu’s superheroes accept the challenge of reshaping the world. They think that something in society really needs to be changed or improved, something needs to be altered. For example Aman and his group strongly believe in reshaping and restructuring the world. They try to create utopian world but it turns out to be the world of turbulence. Superhumans highlight a variety of problems. For example recession, corruption global warming and economy, right to education, poverty, smuggling, cyber crimes, shortage of water, food, electricity and medicine, religious beliefs, and so on. In creating or reshaping the ideal world superhumans are partly confused about taking proper decisions. They fail to read the results of their actions. Novum comprises of the kind of power each character or superhuman has in the text.

The conflict between superheroes and super villains is vivid. Basu succeeds in giving dramatic qualities, namely, suspense, action, thrill, battle and adventure among superhumans. Basu aims at moving the plot like a superhuman film. Therefore, he spends very few lines in describing the characters. One can obviously expect the sequel of the text due to Basu’s superiority of handling the genre. Each superhuman’s power is unique and each contributes something to the plot. For example Aman’s power is that of computer nerd. Today almost all human beings are connected directly or indirectly to the world of internet with mobile social applications like what’s up, twitter, face book, you tube and so on. The use of internet is increasing day by day. Basu handles the issue of cyber crime and raises questions about cyber security. Moreover Basu leads in Indian Science Fiction to publish the copy of Turbulence online format. He has set an example to emerging writers of India to utilize internet source for publishing a work of Science Fiction. In this regard, Lavie Tidhar, in his essay *The Aliens Won: SF around the World and Back Again*, states:

More and more international writers are using the Internet to sell their work to the large English-language readership. Online magazines—such
as Clarkesworld, Strange Horizons, Fantasy and Apex- are leading the way...World SF has become a global conversation. It is offering readers across the world access, as never before, to a treasure trove of fantastic- and fantastical-fiction, a body of work. 9

Thus the researcher observes that the recurring pattern of theme in Basu’s book is a variant in the presentation.

5.13. Conclusion

It seems that the writer of Turbulence is examines the scientific possibilities by creating his superhumans. Basu employs suitably the narrative structure, realistic setting and theme to the novel which generally come in the form of superhuman mode of Science Fiction. The researcher thinks Samit Basu is successful in creating a world out of words and abundance of imagination by expanding the limits of the genre.
5.14. References


