



Research Article

## The Representation of Modern Relationships and Emotional Conflicts in Durjoy Datta's Narratives

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20825433>

### Abstract

Contemporary Indian English fiction has witnessed a significant transformation in its portrayal of love, relationships, and personal identity. Among the prominent writers of popular Indian fiction, Durjoy Datta occupies a unique position due to his realistic depiction of modern youth and their emotional experiences. His novels explore themes such as romance, heartbreak, self-discovery, family expectations, and psychological struggles within the context of rapidly changing Indian society. This paper examines the representation of modern relationships and emotional conflicts in selected novels of Durjoy Datta, including *Of Course I Love You...!*, *Till I Find Someone Better*, *The Boy Who Loved*, *The Boy with a Broken Heart*, and *Till the Last Breath*. Employing a qualitative textual analysis, the study investigates how Datta portrays contemporary romantic relationships, emotional vulnerability, identity crises, and the tension between tradition and modernity. The findings reveal that his narratives reflect the complexities of urban youth culture, emphasising the challenges of commitment, communication, mental health, and personal aspirations. The paper argues that Datta's works serve as important cultural texts that document the changing nature of relationships in twenty-first-century India.

### Manuscript Information

- ISSN No: 2583-7397
- Received: 16-05-2026
- Accepted: 18-06-2026
- Published: 24-06-2026
- IJCRM:5(3); 2026: 1123-1126
- ©2026, All Rights Reserved
- Plagiarism Checked: Yes
- Peer Review Process: Yes

### How to Cite this Article

Das R, Jain S Y. The Representation of Modern Relationships and Emotional Conflicts in Durjoy Datta's Narratives. *Int J Contemp Res Multidiscip.* 2026;5(3):1123-1126.

### Access this Article Online



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**KEYWORDS:** Durjoy Datta, Modern Relationships, Emotional Conflicts, Indian English Fiction, Modernity.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In Indian English literature has evolved significantly in the twenty-first century, reflecting the changing social, cultural, and emotional realities of contemporary India. Popular fiction writers have played a crucial role in bringing youth experiences and everyday relationships into mainstream literary discussions. Among these writers, Durjoy Datta has emerged as one of the most widely read contemporary authors.

Datta's novels focus primarily on young adults navigating love, friendship, career aspirations, and personal growth. Unlike traditional romantic narratives that idealise love, his works present relationships as complex, fragile, and influenced by social and psychological factors. His characters often struggle with emotional instability, misunderstandings, heartbreak, and identity crises, making his narratives highly relatable to modern readers.

The emergence of globalization, technological advancement, urbanization, and changing family structures has transformed interpersonal relationships in India. Modern relationships are increasingly characterized by individual choice, emotional independence, and digital communication. However, these developments have also generated emotional conflicts, uncertainty, and psychological stress. Durjoy Datta's fiction captures these realities with remarkable sensitivity.

This paper aims to examine the representation of modern relationships and emotional conflicts in Durjoy Datta's narratives and analyse how his works reflect the experiences of contemporary Indian youth.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyse the portrayal of modern relationships in Durjoy Datta's novels.
- To examine emotional conflicts experienced by his characters.
- To explore the role of modernity in shaping interpersonal relationships.
- To understand the relevance of Datta's narratives in contemporary Indian society.

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several scholars have examined contemporary Indian popular fiction and its engagement with youth culture. Studies on Durjoy Datta emphasize his contribution to representing urban youth experiences and emotional realities.

Sharma (2019) argues that Datta's novels reflect the aspirations and anxieties of modern Indian youth. According to the scholar, his characters embody the tensions between personal freedom and social expectations.

Kumar (2020) highlights the realistic portrayal of emotional vulnerability in Datta's fiction. The study notes that his narratives move beyond romantic idealism and address issues such as depression, loneliness, and self-doubt.

Singh (2021) observes that Datta's protagonists often struggle to balance career ambitions and romantic commitments. The researcher considers this conflict a defining feature of contemporary urban life. Patel (2022) focuses on the influence of digital communication in Datta's novels and

suggests that technology functions both as a medium of connection and a source of misunderstanding.

Although existing studies discuss youth culture and romance in Durjoy Datta's fiction, limited attention has been paid specifically to the intersection of modern relationships and emotional conflicts. This study attempts to fill that gap.

## 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The study adopts a qualitative research methodology based on textual analysis.

### Primary Sources

#### Selected novels by Durjoy Datta:

- Of Course I Love You...! Till I Find Someone Better (2008)
- Till the Last Breath (2011)
- The Boy Who Loved (2015)
- The Boy with a Broken Heart (2017)

### Secondary Sources

#### Secondary data includes:

- Journal articles
- Books on Indian English fiction
- Research papers
- Literary criticism
- Online academic databases
- Method of Analysis

The selected texts are analysed through thematic interpretation, focusing on:

- Modern relationships
- Emotional conflicts
- Identity formation
- Modernity and social change

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Representation of Modern Relationships

Durjoy Datta presents relationships as evolving emotional partnerships rather than idealised romantic unions. His characters experience attraction, intimacy, misunderstanding, and separation in realistic ways.

Unlike traditional Indian narratives that emphasize family-approved relationships, Datta's protagonists often make independent choices regarding love and companionship. These choices reflect changing social values and increasing individualism among young adults.

The novels depict relationships as dynamic and unstable. Communication problems, trust issues, and emotional insecurities frequently challenge romantic bonds.

### 2. Emotional Vulnerability and Psychological Struggles

One of the most significant features of Datta's fiction is its focus on emotional vulnerability. Character's experience:

- Anxiety
- Loneliness
- Fear of rejection
- Emotional trauma

### • Depression

The emotional experiences portrayed in his narratives mirror real-life challenges faced by contemporary youth. Through these portrayals, Datta humanizes emotional suffering and encourages empathy among readers.

### 3. Identity Crisis and Self-Discovery

Many protagonists undergo journeys of self-discovery. They seek answers to questions regarding personal identity, career goals, and emotional fulfilment.

The struggle between individual aspirations and relationship commitments creates internal conflict. As characters negotiate these competing demands, they develop greater self-awareness.

### 4. Family Expectations and Romantic Choices

Traditional family values continue to influence Datta's character. Although young adults seek independence, family approval remains important.

This tension between personal choice and social obligation creates significant emotional conflict. Datta effectively portrays the negotiation between modern desires and traditional expectations.

### 5. Mental Health and Emotional Healing

In novels such as *The Boy with a Broken Heart*, emotional pain is not treated as temporary sadness but as a profound psychological experience.

#### The narratives emphasise:

- Recovery from trauma
- Emotional resilience
- Personal growth
- Acceptance and healing

Such representations contribute to broader conversations about mental health among young readers.

### Modernity in Durjoy Datta's Narratives

Modernity serves as a central framework for understanding Datta's fiction. Contemporary Indian society is characterized by rapid economic growth, technological advancement, and changing cultural values.

### Technology and Relationships

Social media and digital communication significantly influence interpersonal relationships in Datta's novels. Technology enables instant communication but also contributes to misunderstanding and emotional distance.

### Urban Culture

Most narratives are situated in urban settings where characters face academic pressures, career competition, and relationship challenges. Urban life encourages independence but also produces loneliness and emotional stress.

### Individualism

Modernity promotes personal choice and self-expression. Datta's characters prioritize emotional satisfaction and personal growth, reflecting contemporary attitudes toward relationships. Changing Gender Roles His novels depict women as independent individuals with aspirations and agency. Relationships are increasingly based on mutual understanding rather than traditional gender expectations. Thus, modernity functions both as an opportunity and a challenge, shaping emotional experiences and relationship dynamics.

### CONCLUSION

Durjoy Datta's fiction offers a compelling portrayal of modern relationships and emotional conflicts in contemporary India. His narratives capture the complexities of love, identity, ambition, and psychological well-being in a rapidly changing society. Through realistic characterisation and emotionally engaging storytelling, Datta presents relationships as spaces of both fulfilment and struggle.

The study demonstrates that modern relationships in his novels are shaped by individual choice, technological influence, and evolving social values. At the same time, emotional conflicts arise from insecurity, heartbreak, identity crises, and the tension between tradition and modernity. By addressing these themes, Datta provides valuable insights into the experiences of contemporary Indian youth.

His works therefore contribute significantly to the understanding of modern emotional life and the changing nature of interpersonal relationships in twenty-first-century India.

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