Common Perceptions of Indian Americans, Techniques of Presentation, and the Unique Arrangement of Segments

Indian American immigrants are often portrayed to be handsomely-paid and successful professionals such as “doctors, lawyers, and engineers” and they live in the upper class of the society. People also hold that Indian Americans possess a tradition of trying hard to send their kids to college so that their kids can climb the ladder in the top tier of the American society. Additionally, Indian Americans can also be found in every section of the American society, performing many kinds of jobs.

Minhaj adopts the techniques of dramatic or sharp contrast to make his points more overwhelming and appealing to the audience. For example, Hasan Minhaj says Indian Americans give Americans an impression of being notable and admirable professionals. He uses this general impression as a background for impressing his audience with what American Indians are. However, he quickly declares a dark side of American Indians against the glittering background. He states that although American Indians are successful and morally good, some Indian Americans are doing something illegal. He uses John Kapoor as an example to illustrate his point. Kapoor was laid quite several fraud charges for his illegal acts. During presenting the case, he does not forget to make his presentation interesting and fun by mentioning that when he was bailed out, he was leg cuffed, but he complained that the leg cuffs made it convenient for him to jog. Such a contrast brings about an explosive laugh from his audience.

Placing this second segment after the first one on the Khashoggi case can make a big difference in the effect of his presentation. First, such an arrangement makes the presentation more dramatic and interesting. The king and his family empire have a considerably strong financial background. Such a background is similar to that of what American Indians are perceived to be, namely lawyers and alike. The victim of the case shares many similarities with the presenter himself. One of them is that Khashoggi and Minhaj are both an American and a Muslim. Such a similarity can naturally invoke the audience’s positive feelings about the victim, which can lead to the audience’s emotional response to what he has been presenting.There is no doubt that such an arrangements of segments is purposefully made to create a desirable effect of audience involvement.

Works Cited

Minhaj, Hasan & Venkataramanujam, Prashanth. “Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj.” *Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj*, presenter Hasan Minhaj, Episode 2: Saudi Arabia, Netflix, 2008, https://www.bilibili.com/video/av35129517/