



Study of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*

Dr. Dinesh Sharma,

Principal, R.S.D. College, Ferozepur City

Abstract:

The episode is described in a mock-serious manner by Salman Rushdie, although he still uses fire in his prose. There's no arguing with his historical veracity. *Midnight's Children* (1981) by Salman Rushdie elicits a wide range of emotions on numerous levels. Humans have an incredible ability to bounce back from adversity. Disillusionment, sadness, and frustration ensue when there is a lack of balance in one's life. Confidence and hopelessness pervade. Postmodernist authors are driven by a need for a life-giving sap to make a massive effort to convey the current socio-political scenario's ruling chaos in images that are hideous and incorrigible. To keep the audience's attention, the storey is told in a surrealist style.

Keywords: Historical ,Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie

Introduction

It was Linda Hutcheon who coined the term "historiographic metafiction" to describe writings that are both self-reflective and claim to be historical. Indeed, metafictional historiography, such as the works of Salman Rushdie and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, are "primarily postmodernist novels that deal with socio-historical materials based on textual plays/intertextuality, parody, irony, and self-conscious historical (re-)narrativization, which are written in the context of post-colonial history and politics. Because the past cannot be truly erased, the postmodern response to the contemporary is quiet, but it is quiet with sarcasm rather than with innocence.

Magical realism in *Children's Midnight*

Throughout the first 30 years of modern India's history, Rushdie has rewritten its history in order to challenge the colonial paradigms so that the building can take place. This includes the country's independence, the war between India and Pakistan, Indira Gandhi's rise to power, famins, and sterilisations. Rushdie's metanarrators recognise that this history or a substantial part of it ends in fiction, since when truth ceases to exist, or is corrupted and invisible, imagination is the only means of finding what is hidden. Historical anchorage (historical characters, dates, events) is used to tell India's postcolonial history and interpret its multifaceted



reality as part of Rushdie's social-political vision. The novel describes the three generations of the Sinai family, which are located historically in different periods of Indian modern history.

The Historicity of Text

As a result of their research, new historicists believe that the time period in which a work of historical literature was composed has an impact on its content. It is important to recognise that every piece of literature is a product of its own period and place. When it comes to historical events, the writing process itself influences how they are viewed by authors. Aside from their own psychological and social origins, it is vital to check into what books or ideas they may have read that may have influenced them.

Birth

Born on June 19, 1947, the day India earned independence from the United Kingdom, Salman Rushdie is a British Indian author and essayist. On August 15, 1947, exactly three months after Rushdie was born, India gained its independence from the British Empire, marking a watershed point in the country's history. Rushdie may have drawn inspiration for *Midnight's Children* from the fact that the narrator, who is also the novel's major protagonist, was born at exactly 12:01 a.m. on August 15, the hour of India's declaration of independence” from the United Kingdom. Saleem was one of a zillion babies born on the same night. With one another and with their country's future, they're known as the midnight children. As a newly independent nation, it had to overcome a number of difficulties. Partitioning the peninsula into two sovereign nations based on district-by-district Hindu or Muslim majorities occurred when colonial control in South Asia came to an end, and India and Pakistan were awarded sovereignty over their respective dominions. Violence between Muslims and Hindus erupted before the partition, including a massacre on August 19th that claimed the lives of 3000 people, as well as riots on September 4th, 1946, in Bombay. Thus, the early aftermath of independence was turbulent.

Family Background

Rushdie, like Saleem Sinai, the story's protagonist and narrator, was the only child of a wealthy Kashmiri family. Salman Rushdie was raised by a well-to-do businessman whose father graduated from Cambridge University. In his boyhood, he was surrounded by books and enjoyed reading them. To help him realise his childhood aim of becoming an author, his family boarded him at Rugby School in England when he was five years old. It was at Cambridge University that he earned a Master of Arts degree in history. Rushdie had an interest in and



sensitivity to history because of his academic training. Several of Salman Rushdie's works, such as *Midnight Children* and *Shame*, are based on historical calamities. When Rushdie graduated from Cambridge University in 1968, he relocated to Pakistan with his family, who had left India in 1964 following the Partition. Muslims in India gained their own nationhood in 1947 with the establishment of Pakistan, officially known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Rushdie and his family should return to Muslim Pakistan, where Hindu-Muslim riots occur on both the western and eastern borders, where he was born into a Muslim home. According to the book, Saleem's parents were not his biological parents since he was relocated at infancy.

Religious beliefs

Muslim culture had the greatest impact on Rushdie, he said in a 1989 interview, and he was raised in an affluent Muslim family. However, he was educated in England, which is often considered to be one of the top educational systems in the Western world. "Because of the interconnectedness and interconnection of his familial and educational backgrounds, and the fusion of Muslim and British Christian cultures, he considered himself as a lapsed Muslim. As a non-believer, my perspective is that of a human being. My faith in supernatural beings is unaffiliated with any one religion, whether it Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or Hindu. He now identified to himself as a "hardline atheist," much like the boatman Tai in the storey. Tai claimed to have seen Christ, or Isa, when he landed in Kashmir. Grin, smile, because I'm archiving your history in my mind. Long-forgotten novels included it. He has seen Kashmir's transformation from a land of purity to a colonial power. There are various faiths and civilizations in the world, even though Tai is a Muslim. In his art, he displays a complex personality.

The Textuality of History

The characters' personal experiences in *Midnight* are intertwined with the history of India and Pakistan. Real historical events are used as a background for the fictional storey. Because they were both born at the same time, the protagonist symbolises the Indian country, and the author made this very clear in his work. Something occurs in India every time, his nose senses it and he's not comfortable. He not only sees and hears what happened in the past, but he also takes part in it. For example, he assists his uncle General Zulfikar in the revolution against the Pakistani government that turned General Ayub Khan as Pakistan's second President. The wars between India and Pakistan in 1947, 1965, 1971, and both the Sino-Indian and Indo-Pak wars



in 1962 are all examples of historical happenings. Rushdie depicted and assessed these events via the points of view of several people. For example Rushdie opposed the Sino-Indian War and believed it wasn't a suitable period for war as people still suffer. India has a long way to go before it reaches its full potential as a developed country". However, as Rushdie documented, the President was a big fan of the war at the time. The disease of optimism War optimism has grown like fat According to him, the United States is over. Bankrupt. Funtoosh.' In addition, Saleem's family might be considered as a historical incarnation because of how large the group is. Saleem's grandfather, Aadam Aziz, had a prominent nose. As a result of his nose, he has a high threshold for historical events. When Saleem Sinai's son, Aadam Sinai, was born during the emergency, which is also a momentous day in Indian history, it marks the beginning of a new Saleem Sinai. Rushdie's writing, according to Riemenschneider, is almost entirely imbued with both a personal and a historical relevance. So human life and experience are inextricably linked to history, and humans themselves are historical manifestations.

Conclusion

Interpretation of the text by *Midnight's Children* examines the history of the text by looking at author's birth date; family history; educational background; religion; and focusing on historical events. Rushdie's status as a Muslim and a person of many faiths has a big impact on *Midnight's children's* books. Personal experience and historical events are intertwined in such a way that the writer's and the characters' personal experiences are affected by historical events.

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