

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Traits of Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children

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Abstract

Salman Rushdie, one of the most notorious pens of Indian Diaspora, settled in England, shot into fame through his stunning success, *Midnight's Children*. The symbolic novel "The Cacodemonic Verses" rankled Muslim monotheists who issued a fatwa sentencing Rushdie to death. The erudite significance of night's children is linked with a style of jotting or fashion that incorporates magical or supernatural events into realistic narrative without questioning the improbability of the events. *Night's Children* won both the Booker Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in 1981. It was awarded the "Booker of Bookers" Prize and the stylish all-time prize winners in 1993 and 2008 to celebrate the Booker Prize 25th and 40th anniversary. This paper attempts to show how the conception of magic literalism is applicable *Night's Children* and its impact to the erudite work. The criterion of physical attributes to abstract the inner realities is well reflected. Colorful themes and rudiments of magic realism like the themes of diversity, disturbance, immigration and decomposition are symbolically used in colorful incidents in the textbook.

Keywords: magical literalism, night children, post colonialism

Magic Literalism is a fictional movement connected with a style of jotting that incorporates paranormal proceedings into realistic narrative without questioning the implausibility of the events. Magic Realism is a fabulous movement connected with a style of jotting or performance that incorporates magical or metaphysical events into realistic narrative without questioning the questionability of the events. Magic literalism is a fictional movement connected with a style of jotting that incorporates paranormal proceedings into realistic narrative without questioning the implausibility of

the events. Magic Realism is a fabulous movement connected with a style of jotting or performance that incorporates magical or metaphysical events into realistic narrative without questioning the questionability of the events. Rushdie can be considered as a pen who plays with the description fashion of magic literalism. He has earned every right to be called one of the topmost magic realists ever. *Night's Children* is a fictitious response to a series of real life conditions that have been ingeniously fictionalized through imputations, disguised as well as direct, to the country's recent and not so recent history. The novel has an emotional reach covering about Sixty times in the history of the Indian key. The time from the Jallianwala Bagh incident to April, 1919 to the birth of the promoter, Saleem, on 15 August, 1947 is portrayed in Book one; the end of the Indo-Pakistan war in September includes the Bangladesh war as well. This paper is an attempt to assay critically the magical literalism in the Salman Rushdie's Novel *Midnight's Children*.

This article integrates the ideas of theorists/writers like Salman Rushdie, A. D. Smith, Craig Calhoun, Walker Connor, and Josna Rege. It makes use of their various theoretical insights towards the concepts of nation, nationalism, and nationality. I have selected only a few characters who express the notion of nation as to describe all the characters and perspectives in this paper is not possible. In a novel, character, like plot, is an important element. A novelist narrates his story; characters are made to speak in such a way that the situations desired by the writer are created. In *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie mixes and juxtaposes the realistic and the fantastic, attempting to comprehend and analyze the layered and complex reality of the socio-political life of the Indian sub-continent. He also attempts to associate the reality of individual life to an all-embracing reality. Rushdie gives us a glimpse of this colonial political system and postcolonial agony by giving Saleem Sinai the magical powers of reading people's minds. Saleem Sinai tells the story of his grandfather Aadam Aziz by entering into his

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grandpa's mind. Thus, the experiences of Aadam Aziz, become that of Saleem, and through Saleem, we get to experience the same. The double consciousness of the people during the colonial and postcolonial era is brought to us through Aadam when he attempts to pray when he returns after a span of five years in Germany. Aadam's pretence here is a reference to his divided self and a feeling of alienation in his homeland. It also reflects on the quest for identity of the people who had to migrate during the colonial era and had lived - for a significant time - a European lifestyle.

Rushdie creates some bold and unique female characters who break the stereotypical barrier of conventions and adapt to the new realities that they face. The first example of this being Aadam's mother who comes out of her traditional purdah to make sure Aadam goes to Germany to study while her husband remains paralyzed. The women in *Midnight's Children* are powerful and dynamic. Rushdie extensively uses Magic Realism while describing these characters. There is Mary Pereira who owned a pickle factory under whom Saleem worked. Durga and Parvathi-the-witch are shown to possess fantastic powers just like Saleem. One of the central characters of the book is the Widow. The Widow is the Prime Minister of the country; Indira Gandhi. Salman Rushdie uses Magic Realism in a very naturalistic manner to show readers the realities and harsh truths of the world. Rushdie explores the flexibility by expressing the various process and displaying the history, fiction, and tragedy. His mastery in the language just augments our experience. He defines the undefinable, makes us experience something new, gives us the vision to see the unseen, helps us capture the unimaginable, makes us comprehend the incomprehensible. Magical realism is a genre of literature that depicts the real world as having an undercurrent of magic or fantasy. Magical realism is a part of the realism genre of fiction. Within a work of magical realism, the world is still grounded in the real world, but fantastical elements are considered normal in this world.

CONCLUSION

Magic realism uses traditional storytelling as an important and useful tool in expressing opinions or transferring knowledge via literature, which is significant because in the indigenous cultures of storytelling had a great importance. Saleem uses magical realism, with its blending of mythology, realism, fantastic elements, and history, to tell his story, and this remains the most effective way for him to continue his story and to express his position as a postcolonial Indian citizen. The novel's major themes, the creation and telling of history, identity and stories arise through the structured hybridity of magical realism and without magical realism it would be extremely difficult to connect these free themes, along with the discussion of the problems of post-coloniality. *Midnight's Children* uses the technique of magical realism to solve the problems of post-coloniality because people would like to create their own identities, histories, stories, beliefs, customs, and tradition, and to share them with others. The novel focuses on Saleem's personal and familial events and by doing so it actually discovers Indian historical events; Saleem's birth, growth, development, and destruction are India's. The novel also shows how the postcolonial people invent their own historical narrative by getting away from colonial narratives. They do it by emphasizing personal and familial histories and by using humor in depicting these histories.

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