



The Relativity Of Decolonization Of Salman Rushdie's "Midnight Children"

Dr. Amar Ravsaheb Gejage
Assistant Professor
S.B. Khade Mahavidyalaya, Koparde

Mrs. Smitaanjali Amar Gejage
Research Scholar
M.A., B.Ed.

- I. **Abstracts:** The Present research paper investigating Salman Rushdie's "Midnight Children" in the context of relativity of decolonization. The great distinguished relief from colonialism now-withstanding postcolonial as an effect on the divided or partition of India and further an eminent synchronise war consequences or political rivalry between the two countries. Comprehensive discourse of the process of decolonization, the formation of national identity with foregrounded historical relativity in the context of "Midnight children" as post-colonial novel. How the prominent figure/protagonist 'Saleem Sinai' stands as a metaphor for the 'Nation', his individual tremendous fictionalized experiences reflected or interconnected with broader highly influential historical events. This also contextualized partition trauma crises, religious conflict, portrayal of historical and diversified or political multi-culturalism. The role of Salman Rushdie's "Midnight children" and Homi Bhabha 'Nation and Narration' proclaimed the patriotic nationality and nation theory.
- II. **Key Words:** Telepathy Power, Magic Realism, Hybridity, Cultural Transmission, Decolonization, Nationality.

III. Introduction:

The present critical study interrogates an epoch-making inherited journey of the 'Salim Sinai' with contemporary significant national-socio-political consequences after-the-fact of independence or partition blood-bathing scenario, he stands as metaphor for the nation and his individual life mirroring the India's political, social-religious crises or conflict, cultural fragmentation of identities and communities. Salman Rushdie's "Midnight Children" (1981) not only emphasizes the decolonization perspectives, but also, he has given the reference of international contemporaneous 'World War I' situation, also western crises for hegemonic power, his grandfather Dr. Adam Aziz involved in it. Salman Rushdie's 'Magic Realism' technique created fictional consequential events of metaphorical partition of the "Whole/United Nation" and birth of the two countries comparing with the two children first 'Salim Sinai' and 'Shiva' and other 1001 children being born at the midnight with an extraordinary "Telepathy Power". As far as British imperialist is concerned Rushdie called them as "The Other" and furthermore decolonialization with an immediate effect of the contemporary national political subjectivity. There are number of novels demonstrated on the communal riots, religious violence and national-patriotic sensibilities, as followed by Khushwant Singh's "Train to Pakistan" (1956), "The Heart Divided" by Mumtaz Shah Nawaz, "Ice Candy Man" By Bapsi Sidhwa, "Looking Through Glass", "The Shadow Line" by Amitav Ghosh and "Azaadi" by Chaman Nahal, these writer's illustrated photocentric devastated dimension of momentous human cruelty had seen during the partition milestone happenstance, strenuous inhuman killings withstanding of religious extremity. This was an extreme darkest period of Indian national history. Salman Rushdie's 'Midnight Children' demonstrated the long-term effect of British-Colonial rule, the friction, discordance among the Western-Eastern culture, cultural transformation which had been constructed or called as 'Cultural hybridity'. Wherever, they settled a different colony for instance, many African countries. The long-term placed an effect of cultural contaminated transmission and we found relativity with colonial-decolonization. Furthermore, we interconnected for the justification to the William Shakespeare play "The Tempest", In that colonizer to rule over the original inhabitants, "*Shakespeare's single major addition to the story he found in certain pamphlets about a shipwreck in the Bermudas was to make the island inhabited before Prospero's arrival (Hulme 1986b: 69)*".

IV. The Relativity of Decolonization in Perspective of “Midnight Children” and Magic Realism:

According to Homi Bhabha, theoretical interchangeable/replaceable terms are ‘Colonialism and Imperialism’. *“Colonialism can be defined as a settlement of colony in a new inhabitant land by the western group of people, who settled down as new denizens, involving taking a whole ruling control including trade, hegemonic-cultural-imposition, enslavement and slavery”*. Now-withstanding, Colonial-Postcolonial writing captivated subjectifies diversified or variety of things in “Third World Literature”.

‘Postcolonialism’ considered as boarder theoretical concept, proclaimed various concepts like ‘Hybridity’, ‘Fragmentation’, ‘Diversity’, ‘Multiculturalism’, ‘Decentralized Despotism’ ‘The Other’ ‘Nationalism’ and “Subaltern” these terms detecting the postcolonial scenario, or ‘decolonial perspective subjectivity’.

The term **Magic Realism** can be defined as representation of realist background or realistic setting as style foregrounded or converted or depicted into the fantastical or fictional scenery or mythical elements, and characters. Main proponents of the theory are **Gabriel Garcia Marquez** and **Jorge Louis Borges**.

The relativistic corelation of Salman Rushdie’s tremendous novel “Midnight children”, he developed characterization as well as story narration with contemporary social-political significant national biographical event. It sometimes called as national allegory and like some inspired autobiographical event of Rushdie’s life too reflected in the novel. He emphasizes on the crucial national consequential political struggle and blood-shedding partition event, how’s Mother-India divided in to three parts as independent democratic countries e.g., India, Pakistan, and much later on Bangladesh. Definitely this fiction demonstrated political chronological progress of the colonial or British India as compare to the inherited ancestry life of grandfather Dr. Adam Aziz, Grandmother Naseem Ghani and their love story and decolonization process with Saleem Sinai. This is the critically acclaimed book, won many awards including, ‘The Booker Prize, 1981’, “The James Tait Black Memorial”, and ‘The Booker of Bookers 2008’. Basically, this novel divided in to three parts, first part deals with the 1915 to 1947, Second part 1947 to 1965 and last part 1965 to 1978.

Saleem Sinai started illustrating the novel with his birth statements

“I was born in the city of Bombay ... once upon a time. No, that won't do, there's no getting away from the date: I was born in Doctor Narlikar's Nursing Home on August 15th, 1947. And the time? The time matters, too. Well then: at night. No, it's important to be more ... On the stroke of midnight, as a matter of fact.

Clock-hands joined palms in respectful greeting as I came. Oh, spell it out, spell it out: at the precise instant of India's arrival at independence, I tumbled forth into the world.” (P.1)

Age of Salim Sinai is 31 old, when the first point of view narration is started, although, meanwhile grand-celebration of freedom is ongoing, prominent figure or character of novel Salim Sinai was too born at midnight on 15 August 1947 with tremendous power of ‘Sense of Smell and Telepathy Power’, at the same nursing home “Shiva”, too entered in the world fortunately and unfortunately exchanged by the nurse, ‘Mary Pereira’. The writer of the novel ‘Salman Rushdie’ too born during the partition or independent year 1947, Metaphorically, it was a birth of a whole subcontinent in two parts as India and Pakistan. Furthermore, Padma metaphorically uttered sentence “*You will be the two hundreds years old before you manage to tell about your Birth*” (p.39) but she symbolically straightforward pin-pointed towards the two hundred years enslavement of British imperialization or colonization over the entire Indian subcontinent. It was a British Colonizer’s strategy of “Two Nation Theory” to divide one nation in two parts in terms of or based on the Hindu and Muslim religion. This Blood-shedding partition event having great impact on the minds of nations country people. This is the second novel of Rushdie, this reflected semi-autobiographical story of family, biography of nation, with the effect of magic realism with first person narration covered the developmental journey from the first World War 1915 up to the 1978 Indira Gandhi’s Emergency period. How ‘Saleem’ became victim of three, or representer of these countries Indian, Pakistan, Bangladesh in the warlike situation. How political an extraordinary journey of the Bharat nation was divided into different parts, with anti-colonial or decolonial aesthetical perspective. The novel ‘Midnight children’ might be followed the term ‘Cultural-National-Hybridity’ because, an exploration with different generation or illustration of British Indian crises for the freedom from centuries slavery, freedom of celebration with partition bloodshed, independent political journey with Indo-Pak war of 1965, ‘Bangladesh’ established as new Islamic nation in 1971 and Political journey of “Ghandhi dynasty”.

Being born at the independence midnight both Shiva and Saleem got the special spiritual power. Sometimes Saleem called or recognised as ‘Buddha’ or ‘The Peace of The Moon’ with many other names as he mentioned in the Novel.

Actual Historical development of this novel starting from 1915, exploration of Kashmiri scenery of spring season with accidental description of Saleem's grandfather 'Dr. Adam Aziz', meanwhile, he came to India from the Germany although, story opens at that movement, World had been facing the very disastrous crises of that is 'World War I & II', and British India was struggling to get independent protesting with satyagraha movement.

His grandfather Dr. Adam Aziz was in the Kashmir, the inheritance/ancestry of Salim Sinai belonged to the Muslim family. The romantic relationships of Dr. Adam Aziz with Naseem Ghani whom he later on got married and having six children within that three daughters Alia, Emerald, Saleem's Mother Ameena Sinai and two sons named as Mustafa, and Hanif.

Saleem spent fantabulous memory with aunt in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Saleem's family migrated to the Pakistan after the India loses the war to country China in the 1962, during the India and Pakistan war (1960). The entire life of Saleem's sister called 'Jamila' was changed after migrated to the Pakistan. Because, she got name and became infamous as singer. Furthermore, tremendous consequence happened in the life of Saleem Sinai, he suffered a lot. In reason, he went or undergoes very difficult medical surgery of congested nose, as he mentions that he has tremendous power to talking to the each other's mind or the telepathy power. Meanwhile, he loses having an extraordinary telepathy power. Furthermore, he acquired the fantastic incredulous power of organic sense of smell, which can be sleuthhound the internal emotions of the human being. Another, Phenomenon happened with the Saleem Sinai that incident totally changed his life because crucial secret information was revealed that Ahmad Sinai was not the biological father of Saleem, the Saleem was the biological son of British officer William Methwold and biological mother 'Vaneeta' a wife of street performer. Ahmad Sinai and Amina sinai is the biological parents of 'Shiva' but shiva was raised by Wee Willie Winkie in Bombay slum with disadvantaged life in poverty, He was unaware of his wealthy familial history but became an active war hero with excellent fight skill with promotion as Major in Indian Army and He is the biological father of Saleem's son 'Adam'. Representation of Shiva as "without conscious thought" as beginning of uniformity and his violence nature.

This novel reflected influence of postmodernism with nationalism or national consciousness. When India had been going through the extreme controversial situation during the "Internal Disturbance" Emergency period between from the 1975-1977 due to the external threats or the threats of an enemy country, when Indira Gandhi was the contemporary Prime Minister of Indian democratic country. She suddenly declared

the Emergency, according to the Indian constitution Under the 'Article 352' some critics considered that this was the darkest period of mass-sterilization-camp again. Furthermore, the diachronic period has been created deep impact in the life of central character in the novel Saleem Sinai as well as in reality writer Salman Rushdie too. According to the 'Midnight Children', 'The widow' is the villain of the novel, she destroyed the Saleem Sinai's home named as "Magician Ghetto" constructed or built in the low capital area, all is directly referred to the Indira Gandhi. Notwithstanding, Similar kind of illustration found in the novel "Life of Pi" by Yaan Martel, the 'Pi' father wanted to sell the "Zoo" migrated to the country Canada. Rohinton Mistry's 'A Fine Balance' and 'Such a long Journey' highlighted many political consequences or crises in the culturally and 'Rich Like Us'.

The novel ends meanwhile narrating the story of his future life-wife, impassionate lover, performed as role of an audience 'Padma'. Novel ends with the same scene discussing and elaborating or describing the ancestral history of grandfather in the Jammu and Kashmir.

V. **Critical Reception and Controversies:** The contemporary India's Prime minister Indira Gandhi (1984) claimed that defemination of her character, the taking control of her son 'Sanjay Gandhi' and Conspiracy of his father Firoz Gandhi's death with her inclusion by the author Salman Rushdie in his novel 'Midnight Children' and sued in the British Courts during that time. Other controversies also happened to opposed by many Muslim countries around the world. In the Pakistan and Iran, the Muslim community started spreading protested against the Salman Rushdie.

VI. **Conclusion:** This research study emphasizes post-Colonialism or decolonization in perspective or concrete relativity of Salman Rushdie's "Midnight Children" with the effect of magic realism with multidimensional fictionalized relativity of Saleem Sinai life story. Multi-awards winner author Salman Rushdie in many of his novels frequently depicted the subjectivity of decolonization and Subaltern perspective. As far as Midnight children is concerned, he focuses that entire biographical history of a nation and its different analytical illustration of one country in to the different parts with highly relative contemporary political situation or partition in to the new developing countries with synchronic narration of the India as "Nation". The epic journey of the central figure 'Saleem Sinai' with his exceptional telepathy power and how he became the an integral of the three countries with tremendous journey of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

I. **Reference:**

1. Rushdie, Salman, "Midnight children", Oxford publication, 1981