

## Sociology in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*

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### Abstract

Sociology is the scientific study of society, patterns of social relationships, social interaction and Culture. The sociologist aims to conduct research that may be applied directly to social policy and welfare. And others focus on the social processes. The traditional focuses of sociology include social stratification, social class, social mobility, religion secularization, law, sexuality gender and deviance. With an attempt to show the struggle of the Man's inner and outer conflicts is expressed by the Salman Rushdie's novel *The Midnight's Children*. The novel deals with the India's transition from British colonialism to Independence and the partition of British India. It also exposes the political, economic and the cultural Re-identification and it lacks the understanding of the myths and fictional representation up to creating a Parallel existence. The Saleem Sinai who recounts his life story orally to his wife and it also recalls indigenous Indian culture particularly recounted the Arabian Nights. His life and the social evolution flows in the same Indian history.

**Keywords:** Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*, India, Independence, Identity, Modernization, class, and social structure.

### Introduction

Sir Ahmed Salman Rushdie is a author of the novel *The Midnight's Children* ". He is a British Indian novelist and essayist. He combines the magical realism with historical fiction. Much of his fiction is set on the Indian Subcontinent. His Second novel *Midnight children* published in 1981 and won the Booker prize and was deemed to be the best novel of all winners on two separate occasions.

Post-Colonial literature is the literature by people from formerly colonized countries. It exists on all continents except Antarctica. It always addresses the problems and consequence of the decolonization of a country, especially questions relating to the political and cultural Independence of formerly subjugated people and themes such as the racialism and colonialism. It always concentrated on the social discourse between colonizer and colonized. It was emerged at the same time that many colonies were fighting their way to Independence. The movement was started in the mid 20th and many post colonial texts were published between the 1950sand 1990s.

The writers of post-colonial period mix the past, the present and the future and the Imperial and the colonial culture in their fiction. They explore and expose the residual effects of

foreign domination in the political, social and economic spheres. The book *Midnight's Children* is divided into three books. The book begins with the story of the Sinai's family particularly with the events leading up to India's Independence and partition.

*The Midnight's Children* follows the tumultuous transition into India's and to a lesser extent, Pakistan's Independence after the partition of British India. The story itself is allegorical with the main events being almost about the life of the Saleem Sinai, a boy who was born at the stroke of midnight with the exceptional powers on the same day that India gained its freedom from England. Salman Rushdie the novel author himself was born in 1947 just 2 months before the country's liberation in August. As such he had a unique perspective on the country's adolescent years as they coincide with his own. These same ideas are injected into the Saleem's story; the changes that befall Saleem in terms of "wealth and identity" are the indicative of the India's growth. Here he mainly employs to express the post colonial theory, how imperialism handicapped the countries like India trying to reestablish their "culture and identity".

"To understand just one life and you have to swallow the world".

Saleem's story is multivocal and metronomic. It imposes to overlook on the Saleem's journey through the India's different social structures. Saleem begins his life in an upper middle-class family enjoying a beautiful home and having enough money to be comfortable. Their wealth is created by the capitalistic lifestyle left over from the British Imperialism. But soon as his parents split up and his social standing is lowered once the India enters the war. Saleem loses all hopes of ever belonging to respectable society. Saleem's life is representative of the vast difference in class and social structure present in India. In this Sinai's family the author gave more importance to the identity crisis.

The Saleem's mother changed her name after getting married, essentially leaving their unmarried identity behind and becoming a new person in union with their husband, and it also proceeds later in the Saleem's life of forgetting his own history and identity. Memory is important for the diasporic subject, but he loses his name and everything. His family moved into the grand estate owned by William Methwold, who was an Englishman instructs them to use the proper English manners and habits. The tenants were out of place in their own country. The people are angry about having to use the western customs, things like kitchen appliances and cocktail hour become a second nature to them. It shows the domination of the British makes them to adopt their culture.

Before becoming an independent nation, India was under the rule of the British Empire used the influence to erase the customs of India and impose their own culture and morality. The shadows of the British Empire still clouded the India's vision and making it difficult to move forward with their own identity. Amina goes into labor and her son born on August 15, 1947 as one of the midnight children. But the lady Mary Pereira who diverts the story on changing the name tags between the babies. So, the Saleem lead his life with his non-biological parent. But their original son Shiva raises to live in the slums of a poor singer. The time of the Saleem's birth infused him with the power of telepathy, a gift he used to find the other children born near midnight on the same day. Later he acquired a gift of smell that allowed him to discern the emotions and personalities in people. With the magical powers they vary in strength based on

how close they born in midnight. Apparently, he came to know about the boy Shiva whose life he was supposed to have. After India invades the Pakistan, unfortunately he loses his memory and joined in the Pakistani army and becomes disillusioned with his orders to constantly kill the Indians. And later he become a father to the Shiva's child who was one of the twin brother to Saleem.

With the help of the Shiva's strength and Saleem, the fourth Prime Minister Indira Gandhi took a captive and had all the surviving members of the midnight Children's council captured and sterilized, so that their magical powers couldn't be passed down, thus securing her claim as the only "legitimate child of India". He recalled the mystical events of his life on his deathbed and his story filled with supernatural elements set against a realistic world. Hindu, Christian, Greek and other religious mythologies are the Saleem's due respect to elaborate his tale of India's creation. He sets his grandfather up as a progenitor by comparing him to the first man in Christian Mythology Adam. With respect to his evil part, Shiva compares to the Hindu God as a major player in the story with the God's own influence on people's lives.

"I learned the first lesson of my life nobody can face the world with his eyes open all the time. "

### Conclusion

Finally, the Salman shows that the people are forced to live their life according to the British Modernization and they has to left over their own customs and culture. In some places It is still existing. Throughout the novel, Saleem struggles to contain all of India within himself to cramp his own personal story with the themes and the stories of his country only to disintegrate and collapse at the end of his attempt.

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