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Justification for the Use of the Genre, Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*

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Abstract

We live in the modern world, where in the world of literature magic realism exists. Magic realism is the genre enjoyed by several authors. Authors enjoy this genre with a view to utilising their creative freedom to misplace several things for their creative purpose and to create hypothetical characters and events in the story. The present paper focuses on the use of genre, magic realism in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*. The novel depicts the historic events through the portrayal of personal history of Sinai family; and to represent the story, the author uses magic realism. The protagonist of the story, Saleem Sinai is blessed with magical powers. Other children including Shiva, born at midnight are also blessed with the same magical powers as Saleem is. Salman Rushdie has enjoyed the technique of magic realism through Saleem and other midnight's children to shape the story.

Keywords: Magic realism, magical powers, midnight's children, Sinai family, Saleem Sinai

Introduction

About the author

Salman Rushdie, full name Sir Ahmed Salman Rushdie, (born June 19, 1947, Bombay [Now Mumbai], India), is an Indian-born British-American novelist. His father was a rich Muslim businessman in India. He was educated at Rugby School and the University of Cambridge where he received an M.A. degree in history in 1968. Before being a writer, he worked as an advertising copywriter in London. His first novel, *Grimus* came in 1975 but he got his international recognition through his second novel, *Midnight's Children*, which came in 1981. His novel, *Midnight's Children* was a fable about modern India^[1]. Figure - 1 is the image of "Salman Rushdie".



Fig 1: The source of the image of "Salman Rushdie" is Google Image, Wikimedia Commons^[2]

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Salman Rushdie's work often brings magic realism and historical fiction together with a view to having wider aspects to make the story and its characters interesting. Author, Salman Rushdie, in his novels mainly deals with connections, disruption and migrations between the East and West civilizations especially set on the Indian subcontinents. Salman Rushdie published his second novel, *Midnight's Children* in 1981 and the same year he won the Booker Prize. For his 1988 published novel, *The Satanic Verses*, Salman Rushdie received

several death threats. Ruhollah Khomeini, the supreme Leader of Iran, issued a fatwa calling for his head. He also faced several assassination attempts. On 12 August 2022, the novelist was stabbed by a man at an event in Chautauqua, New York where he was scheduled to deliver a lecture [3].

For Salman Rushdie's services to literature in the Honours of Queen's Birthday, he was awarded a knighthood on June 16, 2007. He stated, "I am thrilled and humble to receive this great honour, and am very grateful that my work has been recognised in this way" [4].

Salman Rushdie is known for his major works and awards [5].

Novels (fiction)

- Grimus (1975)
- Midnight's Children (1981)
- Shame (1983)
- The Satanic Verses (1988)
- The Moor's Last Sigh (1995)
- The Ground Beneath Her Feet (1999)
- Fury (2001)
- Shalimar the Clown (2005)
- The Enchantress of Florence (2008)
- Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights (2015)
- The Golden House (2017)
- Quichotte (2019)

Collections

- East, West (1994)
- Mirrorwork: 50 Years of Indian Writing 1947-1997 (1997, Editor, with Elizabeth West)
- The Best American Short Stories (2008, Guest Editor)

Children's books

- Haroun and the Sea of Stories (1990)
- Luka and the Fire of Life (2010)

Essays and nonfiction

- The Jaguar Smile: A Nicaraguan Journey (1987)
- In Good Faith, Granta Books (1990)
- Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism, 1981-1991 (1992)
- The Wizard of Oz: BFI Film Classics, British Film Institute (1992)
- Mohandas Gandhi, Time (13 April 1998)
- Imagine There Is No Heaven (Extract Form Letters to the Six Billionth World Citizen, published in English by Uitgeverij Podium, Amsterdam)
- Step Across This Line: Collected Nonfiction 1992-2002 (2002)
- The East Is Blue (2004)
- In the South, booktrack (7 February 2012)
- Joseph Anton: A Memoir (2012)
- Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020 (2021)

Awards

Salman Rushdie has received several awards for his writings. Some of them are literature's highest honours are as follows:

- Aristeion Prize (European Union)
- Arts Council Writer's Award
- Author of the Year (British Book Awards)
- Author of the Year (Germany)
- Booker of Bookers or the best novel among the Booker Prize winners for Fiction awarded in 1993
- The Best of the Booker awarded in 2008 to commemorate 40 years of Booker Prize
- Booker Prize for Fiction
- Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Letters (France)
- English-Speaking Union Award
- Hutch Crossword Fiction Prize (India)
- India Abroad Lifetime Achievement Award (USA)
- James Tait Black Memorial Prize (Fiction)
- Kurt Tucholsky Prize (Sweden)
- Mantua Prize (Italy)
- James Joyce Award-University College Dublin
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Honorary Professorship
- Chapman University Honorary Doctorate-Doctor of Humane Letters
- Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Cultural Humanism (Harvard University)
- Premio Grinzane Cavour (Italy)
- Prix Colette (Switzerland)
- Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger
- State Prize for Literature (Austria)
- The Best of the Booker Winner by public vote, awarded in commemoration of the Booker Prize's 40th anniversary
- Whitbread Novel Award (twice)
- Writer's Guild of Great Britain Award for Children's Fiction

About the novel

Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie is a 1981 published novel.

Figure 2 is the front cover of the novel "Midnight's Children".

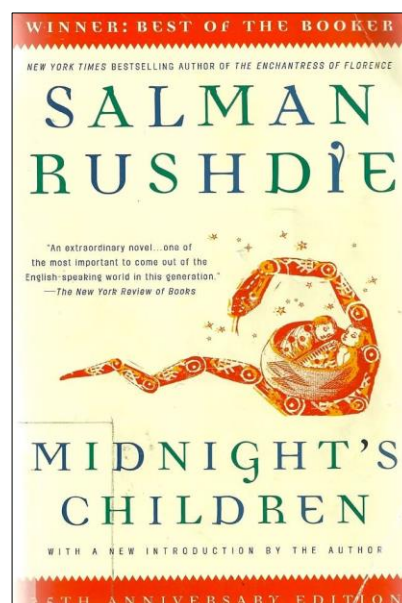


Fig 2: The wrapper of the novel: "Midnight's Children" [6]

Novel, *Midnight's Children* by author, Salman Rushdie is about the transition of India from Britain colonial rule to independence and partition. It is a postcolonial, postmodern and magical realist story. The story of the novel is set in the context of historical events. The story of the novel, *Midnight's Children* is told by its chief protagonist Saleem Sinai.

Novel, *Midnight's Children* follows the genre Magic Realism. Author, Salman Rushdie wrote it while living in London, England. The author used the genre, magic realism, with a view to making the story interesting. It is a postmodern and postcolonial novel. The setting of the story is the subcontinent of India. Most of the events within the life of protagonist, Saleem Sinai are also along with Indian and other world events. Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, of India, is also the part of the novel as the Widow which is Indira Gandhi's nickname throughout the novel. Indira Gandhi's Emergency, a country-wide state of emergency which took place in India from 1975 to 1977, is one of the most important historical events in *Midnight's Children*. Indira Gandhi's Emergency is taken to be the dark time in Indian history and the novel *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie is its critical look. The novel had also a long association with disputes. Indira Gandhi sued Rushdie for libel in 1984, but her lawsuit did not seek to ban the book or strike her name from it; instead, she sought to remove a single sentence which implied that her husband died as a result of her neglect [7].

In the novel, *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie uses the narrative genre of magic realism in which myth and fantasy are mixed with real life. *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie is a good example of magic realism. *Midnight's Children* is an example of a loose allegory for events in India both before and, primarily after the independence and the partition. India got its independence at midnight on 15 August 1947. The chief protagonist of the novel, *Midnight's Children*, Saleem Sinai recounts the story to Padma. The events in the story of the novel are magical in nature. Saleem Sinai, the narrator of the story says that he was born at midnight on 15th August, 1947, at the exact moment India got its independence from British rule. The narrator, Saleem Sinai, discloses that all the children born in India between 12 AM and 1 AM on 15th August 1947, are gifted with special powers. Saleem acts as a telepathic conduit. Saleem uses his special power to convene those special children. Magical power of Saleem and other Children born at midnight makes the story of the novel magical, which gives freedom to the author, Rushdie to explore historical events in India before and after the independence in his way. The story of the novel deals with the story of the three generations of the chief protagonist, Saleem Sinai [8].

Midnight's Children sold over one million copies in the U.K. alone. It won both the Booker Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in 1981. Its Prize winning did not stop there, and further it was awarded the "Booker of Bookers" Prize. It was also awarded the best all-time prize winner in 1993 and 2008 to celebrate the Booker Prize the 25th and 40th anniversary. The novel, in 2003, appeared at the 100th number on the BBC's The Big Read poll which declared it the U.K.'s one of the best-loved novels of all time [9,10].

Genre, magic realism

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines magic realism as, "a literary genre or style associated especially with Latin America that incorporates fantastic or mythical elements

into otherwise realistic fiction - called also magical realism" ("magic realism") [11].

Magic realism is one of the most unique movements of the last century. It is the genre which is most commonly associated with Latin American authors, but writers from all over the world have made their wonderful contribution to this genre. It is a genre of literature that represents the real world with undercurrent of magic or fantasy. It is the genre which paints realistic views of the world while adding magical elements, but blurs the lines between fantasy and reality.

The term "magic realism" which is the translation of "magischer realismus," was first used in 1925 by German art critic "Franz Roh". "Franz Roh" used the term "magischer realismus" in his book "Nach Expressionismus: Magischer Realismus." He used the term to describe a style of painting that was much popular in Germany. He used the term as an alternative to the romanticism of expressionism [12].

Justification for magic realism is midnight's children

Magic realism has common traits through which they have the capability of inducing a narrative technique that is strong and imaginative. The genre, magic realism lies between reality and fantasy; and the genuine reason for mixing magical elements in realistic environment is to interpret the principles of reality in order to make difference between fantasy and reality.

Midnight's Children is a 1981 published novel by Salman Rushdie, who is one of the most famous writers in Indian Diaspora, currently residing in England. He began his writing career secretly, but soon became one of the most famous writers of the twentieth century. His first published book is *Grimus*, which he published in 1975. It was a science fiction book. Rushdie's first use of magic realism occurs in his second novel.

Midnight's Children Although in his first novel there are some magical elements, but it does not Qualify as a magic realist novel. *Grimus* has fantastic setting, and this novel helps in understanding the difference between fantasy and magic realism. Even Rushdie himself along with several other critics, has smartly criticized this novel because of its escaping from reality.

Rushdie has spurned the first flowering of his talent as work of artistic and intellectual cowardice. 'The thing that I disliked about my first novel' he told Rani Dhaker in an interview in an interview in 1983, was that it's a complete fantasy. It's not placed in a real place, some imaginary island [13].

However, this science fictional novel forms a ground for Rushdie to do experiment with the genre, magic the realism in the latter part of his career and he gets tremendous success through his second published novel, *Midnight's Children*.

The very first lines of the novel *Midnight's children* suggest his resection to the science fiction work and gives the rays of hope coming magic realism with which he covered not complete his first novel.

"I was born in the city of Bombay once upon a time. No, that won't do, there is no getting away from the date: I was born in Doctor Narlika's Home on August 15th, 1947" [14].

Novel, *Midnight's Children's Children* is an allegory which has the stories of modern Indian history through the lives of 1,001 children born in the very first hour of Indian

independence from the Great Britain on 15 August 1947. The stories of this book deal with partition of Britain India and the independence of India from the British. It is the book which relates the transitional period of British colonialism to Independent India. The story of the novel is manifested by various characters who were gifted by magical powers. The protagonist of the story, Saleem Sinai, narrates his story to Padma, his wife to be and to the readers. The story is about his ancestor's very own historical with his own story. Saleem Sinai, the protagonist of the story, was born on August 15, 1947, at midnight at the same time when India was declared independent. Simply, the novel is the story of Saleem Sinai based on his memories that he got while living in the nation like India.

The blend of the realism and the illusion is a significant part of magical realism. From the very beginning, the story of the novel deals with Saleem's grandfather who lives in Kashmir is a great representation of mixing with the magical and realistic elements.

One Kashmiri morning in the early spring 1915, my grandfather Aadam Aziz hit his nose against a frost hardened tussock of earth while attempting to pray. Three drops of blood plopped out of his left nostril, hardened instantly in the brittle air and lay before his eyes on the prayer mat, transformed into rubies, Lurching back until he knelt with his head once more upright, he found that the tears which had sprung to his eyes had solidified, too; and at that moment, as he brushed diamonds nontemple to kiss earth for any so or man^[14].

In a magical realist text, we can discover the conflict between reality and fantasy, In *Midnight's Children* through the magical elements, the realistic elements create their voices and make them to be heard.

In the novel; the Character Taj, represents the appearance of magic realism. He claims to be from the ancient times. He asserts that he has watched the mountain being born and has seen Emperors die. He also states, "...I saw that Isa, that Christ, when he came to Kashmir"^[14].

The reason behind why Rushdie had produced seen and unimaginable life Spain of Tai is that wanted Tai to show the old and pre-colonial India. Further, in some way we came across the magical events like the birth of 1001 midnight's children gifted with magical powers. Later likewise the character, Tai Bibi, who claimed to be 512 years of age and she has the ability to assume the Stena of any individual isn't something that is found generally in real, Saleem got telepathic power and his capacity to smell feelings from his grandfather Adam, who also had the same enormous and mysterious nose. His mystical nose helped him in spreading from getting slaughtered in Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Literature survey

In this section, we present the works of the different authors who have used the genre "magic realism".

Most post-colonial authors use the genre, "magic realism" as their key devices because this device gives power in the hands of the authors to deconstruct the reality left by the colonisers. Authors use magic realism with a view to fusing fantasy and fiction that give them chances for misplacing things in creating characters real and unreal^[15].

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez is a 1967 novel that deals with the multi-generational story of Buendia family. This novel is one of the most loved

novels in the world. In the novel, "One Hundred Years of Solitude," the novelist has used the technique, 'magic realism' to deal with war, suffering and death in the mid-1960 of Colombia which had witnessed two hundred thousand politically motivated deaths. In the novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, author Gabriel Garcia Marquez has merged fantastic with reality to give the perfect exposition of the multi-generational story of the Buendia family in the town of Macondo. He has used magic realism well to make the story of the novel go forward by creating extraordinary events with the characters real and unreal. The story of the novel is patriarch who dreams about a city of mirrors called Macondo then creates it according to his own perceptions^[16].

The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende (1982) is a multi-generational story about a woman who has paranormal power and a connection to the spirit world. In the novel, "The House of the Spirits," Isabel Allende has used the genre, magic realism. The story of the novel has magical elements. The story of the novel is about Trueba family. Clara, a character in the novel, possesses supernatural qualities. She is one who can interpret dreams, and her these qualities are never taken as hindrance in the family. As Clara grows up, she becomes more experienced and her ability becomes the part of her everyday affairs. The present novel was the debut novel of Isabel Allende, and this magical elements based novel brought an immediate success for her, and she became a star^[17].

In "Like Water for Chocolate" Laura Esquivel has used the genre, magic realism. *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel (1989) is a novel, which deals with a story of a woman whose emotions are infused in her cooking, causing unintentional effect to those whom she feeds. The genre of magic realism in *Like Water for Chocolate* blurs the line between reality and supernatural. In the novel, Tita's magical ability to infuse her cooking with her current emotional state makes it supernatural. In *Like Water for Chocolate*, Laura Esquivel relates the story of protagonist, Tita's birth. This story remarks how she is very talented in the kitchen, and in fact born in the kitchen. Nacha, the cook at Tita's house, who is more loving towards her even than her mother, dies, but very soon she finds that she can communicate with Nacha. Tita is so skilful while cooking that it seems that Nacha herself is in Tita's body while Tita is cooking. Tita's power to communicate with the ghosts is very essential to the story. The communication between ghosts and humans is an extraordinary event or a magical event^[17].

Beloved is a 1987 novel by American novelist Toni Morrison. In the novel, Toni Morrison uses the technique, magic realism. The story of the novel deals, with the time period after the American Civil War. In *Beloved*, Toni Morrison uses the genre, magic realism, to talk about the cruelty of slavery, and this genre 'magic realism' allows her own way to represent the characters, who can tell their own story and create their own version of history. It is not only the story of the protagonist Sethe, who killed her daughter in order to save her from the cruelty of slavery, but also the composite story of all slaves and their quest for freedom, and even of those who died in the "Middle Passage" during their journey by slave ships^[19].

Orlando: A Biography is a novel by Virginia Woolf. It was Published in 1928. In the novel, Virginia Woolf has used the genre, magic realism to make the novel reach a good end

while doing justice with its characters, real or unreal. The protagonist of the novel is Orlando, who lives for ages, but remains the same. In the novel, Orlando also changes his sex from male to female. The central magical event in Orlando - although not the only magical irreducible event - is Orlando changing from a man into a woman. Gabriel Garcia Marquez has pointed to Virginia Woolf's work, especially Orlando, as an integral influence on his own within the genre of magical realism. According to Fairs, another significant characteristic of magical realism is "historical anchoring" often expressed by "a character who experiences historical forces boldly ^[20].

The story: A short summary

The characters in the story (Course Hero 21)

- Saleem Sinai, child of independence and protagonist of the story
- Shiva, born exactly at midnight on August 15, 1947, just a few moments after Saleem and is one of the midnight's children, with powers as strong as those of Saleem. He is switched with Saleem.
- Padma, who cooks chutney for living. She is the witness of Saleem's story.
- Aadam Aziz, Saleem's German-educated grandfather
- Naseem Ghani, bride of Aadam Aziz further becomes gas station proprietor and lovelorn adviser.
- Jamila Singer, Saleem's sister
- Mian Abdullah, assassinated leader
- Aadam Aziz's father, who suffers a stroke
- Aadam Aziz's mother, who runs a small gemstone business after her husband suffers a stroke.
- Alia Aziz, daughter of Aadam Aziz and Naseem Ghani
- Emerald Aziz, youngest Sinai sister, who marries General Zulfikar.
- Hanif Aziz, movie-maker son of Aadam Aziz and Naseem Ghani.
- Mustapha Aziz, son of Aadam Aziz and Naseem Ghani, who is Saleem's uncle.
- Pia Aziz, wife of Hanif Aziz
- Sonia Aziz, half-Iranian wife of Mustapha Aziz
- Ayooba Baloch, a soldier with Saleem in Pakistan
- Lord Khusro Khusrovani Bhagwan, an Indian religious teacher
- Resham Bibi, an old woman in the magicians' ghetto in Delhi
- Tai Bibi, a prostitute
- Evelyn Lilith Burns, Saleem's first love and a deranged American girl
- Homi Catrack, lover of Pia Aziz
- Toxy Catrack, disturbed daughter of Homi Catrack
- Cyrus, a childhood friend of Saleem, and dies in Pakistan War.
- Shaheed Dar, a soldier in the Pakistan War
- Lifafa Das, a Hindu-street entertainer
- Joseph D' Costa, lover of Marry Pereira
- Durga, a washerwoman and Aadam Sinai's wet nurse
- General R.E. Dyer, British General (1864 -1927) who leads the massacre at Amritsar.
- Eyeslice, a childhood friend of Saleem; he dies in the Pakistan War.
- Indira Gandhi, is the Prime Minister of India from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 to 1984. She is referred to in the novel as the Widow.
- Hairoil, a childhood friend of Saleem; he dies in the Pakistan War.
- Ismail Ibrahim, an attorney and adviser to Amina Sinai
- Sonny Ibrahim, one who is born just after Saleem.
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the first President of Pakistan
- Glandy Keith, classmate of Saleem
- Nadir Khan, also known as Qasim Khan, a communist poet, and the first husband of Amina, who was then known as Mumtaz.
- Alauddin Latif, known as Uncle Puffs; he is Jamila Singer's agent.
- Ilse Lubin, a friend of Aadam Aziz from the days of his medical school
- Oskar Lubin, the husband of Ilse Lubin
- Maharaja of Cooch Naheen, who competes against Picture Singh.
- William Methwold, fictional descendant of British merchant William Methwold
- Masha Miovic, a friend of Jamila, Saleem's sister, who comes to Saleem's aid.
- Musa, Sinais' bearer or house keeper
- Dr Narlikar, owner of the nursing home where Saleem and Shiva are born.
- Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India from 1947 to 1964 and the father of Indira Gandhi
- Parvati-the-witch, one of the midnight's children, who loves Saleem and manages his return to India after the war between India and Pakistan.
- Alice Pereira, Marry Pereira's sister and aid to Ahmed Sinai
- Fat Perce, a bully classmate and torture of Saleem
- Marry Pereira, the midwife who switches Saleem and Shiva at birth.
- Rani of Cooch Naheen, who presents newly-weds Nadir and Mumtaz khan with jeweled spittoon.
- Rashid, a rickshaw-wallah
- Farooq Rashid, a soldier in the Pakistan War
- Commander Sabarmati, husband of Lila
- Lila Sabarmati, mother of Eyeslice and Hairoil
- Dr Schaapsteker, a scientist
- Ramram Seth, a fortune teller
- Roshanara Shetty, person of power in a particular field and takes revenge on Shiva.
- Aadam Sinai, Saleem's stepson
- Ahmed Sinai, Saleem's father
- Amina Sinai, who at first is the wife of Nadir Khan, but after two years becomes the wife of Ahmed Sinai.
- Picture Singh, a snake charmer
- Tai, a boatman
- Vanita, Saleem's real mother and the wife of Wee Willie Winkie
- Wee Willie Winkie, Vanita's husband
- Zohra, Ahmed Sinai's cousin
- General Zulfikar, Emerald's husband and one of the seven wealthiest men in Pakistan
- Zafar Zulfikar, son of Emerald Aziz and General Zulfikar

Story elaboration

Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* begins as narrator Saleem Sinai who is the protagonist of the story. Saleem's death is at hand and so he tells the story fast because he wants to complete it before his death. He tells the story of his life. He is the child who is born at the exact moment when India becomes an independent country. He is born with telepathic powers, as well as a big and always dripping nose with an extra sensitive sense of smell. Saleem is not the only child that is born with these powers, but several other children are also born the same night with the same powers. Saleem Sinai elaborates his story in the presence of Padma, who is his loving companion and a maker of chutney. Saleem lives and works in a pickle factory. Padma supervises the pickle factory.

In the story, Saleem begins from 1915 in Kashmir. Saleem's grandfather, Aadam Aziz, returns from Germany, where he studied medicine for the purpose of beginning a medical practice at home. Aadam Aziz marries to Naseem Ghani, the daughter of a wealthy landowner. But Aziz's marriage is not peaceful one; nor is the world peace to be a feature of 20th century life. Aadam Aziz and his wife Naseem travel to Amritsar for their honeymoon, and on April 13, 1919, Dr Aziz witnesses the massacre of Indians by the British at Jallianwala Bagh. Dr Aziz treats the wounded in the crowd. Dr Aziz returns to the hotel where his wife, Naseem, is present, and to see Dr Aziz's bloody appearance, Naseem is horrified and remains disturbed. Aadam encourages Naseem to enjoy her sexuality, but she does not feel comfortable. Aadam encourages Naseem to maintain modern behaviour and dresses, but she refuses to do so. This intrusion by Aadam in the life of Naseem marks the beginning of Naseem's resistance and dedication to domestic warfare.

Aadam Aziz, who has kept his pledge to avoid religious practice, allies himself with Mian Abdullah, Chairman of the Free Islam Convocation, a Muslim group that resists partition. Mian Abdullah is also known as Hummingbird, who inspires optimism throughout Agra. Aadam also meets Nadir Khan, Hummingbird's private secretary, who takes refuge under Aadam's floorboard after Hummingbird is assassinated while living under the floor, Nadir falls in love with Aadam's daughter, Mumtaz, and the two are married. Nadir and Mumtaz spend three years together; but ultimately, it is discovered that Nadir is impotent. Nadir is forced to divorce Mumtaz, who is left heartbroken. Mumtaz soon remarries Ahmed Sinai, who changes her name to Amina. When Amina is pregnant the two move to Bombay. Amina with her husband live in Bombay. Time passes, and the final day of the child's birth comes. Amina goes into labor on the eve of India's independence, along with another pregnant woman from Methwold's Estate named Vanita, the wife of a poor accordionist who entertains the residents of the estate. Both the women give birth at the stroke of midnight; however, Vanita dies shortly after, leaving her infant son, Shiva. Mary Pereira, who is a midwife, is alone with the two children, and she switched the nametags of the children, effectively replacing rich with poor. Further, Mary Pereira becomes the ayah to care for infant, Saleem. Mary returns to Methwold's Estate with the Sinais, where she continues to keep her secret for several years.

As Saleem grows, it is clear that he is not a normal child. The boy has a huge nose shaped like a cucumber. Saleem discovers that he is telepathic to hear voices in his head and to know what others are thinking. The voices turn out to

be the survivors of the 1,001 children born on Independence Day. Saleem has turned 10. He also knows that there are 581 children alive out of the 1,001 children born on Independence Day. He learns that the remaining 581 of his birth mates have magical powers. Saleem has magical powers to organise the children, creating a forum for them in his mind, but Shiva who succeeds in dividing the children, and Saleem remains helpless.

Saleem moves to Pakistan with his family. In Pakistan, he becomes helpless because an air-strike kills his family. Saleem is also hit in the air-strike and he forgets his identity. He forgets his name, too.

Saleem is drafted into Pakistani Army. While in Army, Saleem becomes the witness of several untellable events. One day he runs into the forest to avoid violence. When the war is over, he comes out. India is the victorious, and Saleem is still not sure of his identity. Saleem, further, goes to Parvati-the-witch, who is a fellow child of midnight. Parvati identifies Saleem, and the two fall in love. When Saleem is unable to father Parvati's children. Parvati puts a spell on Shiva and he impregnates her. Shiva loses interest in Parvati, and so she is free to marry Saleem, who agrees to father her unborn child.

Parvati gives birth to a son, but she is killed. On the other hand, Saleem is kidnapped by Shiva. Shiva kidnaps other children of midnight, too. In India, it was the period of emergency, declared by Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister. Midnight's children are forcibly sterilized during Mrs. Gandhi's sterilization Program. Finally, Mrs. Gandhi's Emergency ends, and Saleem with other midnight's children are released from their imprisonment. Saleem moves to Bombay. Saleem meets Mary Pereira, who is the owner of a pickle factory. Saleem meets Padma, who is the employee of the pickle factory. Saleem and Padma are married on Independence Day. Further Saleem dies leaving his son Adam Sinai ^[21, 22].

Conclusion

Although many authors have used 'Magic Realism' as their narrative technique to have opportunities and freedom to misplace things for their creative purpose. This genre also gives opportunities to set different types of characters in their own ways, especially while telling the story of multigenerational families. The present piece of work, *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie, also deals with the genre, magic realism and it reminds us of the famous novelists and their work Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits*, Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate*, etc.

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