

**HYBRIDITY PHENOMENON AS REFLECTED IN SALMAN RUSHDIE'S  
*MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN*  
-A POSTCOLONIAL STUDY-**

**A Thesis**

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## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas tentang hibriditas dan hilangnya sebuah identitas kebangsaan dalam novel *Midnight's Children* karya Salman Rushdie. Munculnya hibriditas merupakan salah satu dampak dari praktek kolonialisme, dalam hal ini Kolonialisme bangsa Inggris terhadap masyarakat India. Dalam tulisan ini penulis memaparkan jenis-jenis hibriditi yang terjadi di India setelah masa penjajahan bangsa Eropa serta proses hilangnya identitas masyarakat India yang tergambar melalui karakter utamanya yaitu *Saleem Sinai*, Saleem yang mengalami kebinguan dalam proses kelahirannya, mempunyai ayah seorang British dan ibu seorang India, tumbuh besar di lingkungan India yang telah terkontaminasi oleh pengaruh Barat.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan teori hibriditi dalam lingkup kajian pascakolonial. Melalui pendekatan pascakolonial dapat diketahui bagaimana proses hibriditi terjadi serta dampak dari proses hibriditi tersebut bagi masyarakat India. Penulis menggunakan penelitian kepustakaan dalam pengumpulan buku-buku dan referensi yang berkaitan dengan topik analisa. Kemudian dilanjutkan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk mengambil kutipan-kutipan yang mendukung analisa penulis. Hasil analisa tersebut dipaparkan melalui metode deskriptif.

Pada akhir penelitian, penulis menemukan bahwa Saleem Sinai adalah hasil dari proses Hibrid itu sendiri. Saleem yang besar dilingkungan India namun tidak dapat memungkiri bahwa dalam darahnya mengalir darah seorang British. Mengikuti pendidikan gaya Eropa serta lingkungannya yang telah banyak dipengaruhi oleh kebudayaan barat. Hal inilah yang menyebabkan terjadinya proses hibriditi pada dirinya yang mengakibatkan hilangnya identitas diri. Saleem Sinai tidak dapat menentukan siapa dia sebenarnya, Hidup dan besar sebagai orang India, Namun terkurung dalam pengaruh dunia barat. Hal ini merupakan representasi dari masyarakat India hingga saat ini yang merupakan salah satu dampak dari penjajahan.



## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Research

As one of human cultural products, literature could reflect the real condition of society. Literary work therefore has become a medium used by an author to express what he or she experiences. There are some genres of literary works, such as poetry, play, short story and then novel. In analyzing a literary work, we can use some approaches, one of them is postcolonial literary criticism. It focuses on the study of culture and behavior of people in the colonized world.

Postcolonial criticism also analyzes the literary work that has been written by the author who comes from colonized countries such as African writer during or after British colonial rule. In addition this approach is also used to analyze how the authors see and react to the impact of colonialism in their respective country. In the regards of this, in this research, the writer is interested to analyze *Midnight's Children*, written by an Indian-born author Salman Rushdie. The writer chooses this novel because it tells more about the condition of Indian society during British colonialism, and the impact of colonialism itself to the development of Indian politics and economy. The writer is interested in doing this research because postcolonial study is one of hot topic today.

Postcolonial study concerns on relationship between colonized nation and colonizers. One of the specific theories in postcolonial studies is *hybridity*. According to Ashcroft, Griffiths, and Tiffin in their book *Post-colonial Studies: The Key Concepts* (2002), "Hybridity commonly refers to the creation of new

transcultural forms within the contact zone produced by colonization". (118). It means that Hybridity tries to produce the new culture or behavior as the result of colonial power. The writer tries to analyze such hybridity phenomena found in Indian life as language, education, religion and lifestyle. The writer wants to see how the British colonialism has influenced some aspects of Indian life.

The writer chooses the Novel of Salman Rushdie for the object of the research based on some reasons. Firstly, the writer is interested to analyze this novel because the novel clearly tells about British colonialism in India as well as the impact of British colonialism to the main character itself. This novel tells about the main character Saleem Sinai as the first person who was born on the day of Indian Independence declaration. People believed that the baby who was born when India gained independence had been blessed with supernatural talents such as telepathy, such as the ability to see the future, etc. The novel directly shows the problem of religion as we can see in Saleem's identity which consists of many aspects and layers. He was born in Bombay, his biological mother was Hindu woman Vanita and His biological father was not her Husband Methwold is British people and his Ayah who raised him is a Christian. Saleem Sinai himself got education in British's school and he learnt more about British's culture.

Second, the writer chooses this novel to be analyzed because *Midnight Children* is a novel by Salman Rushdie, Indian native author. *Midnight Children* is one of the best novels by Salman Rushdie, it is his second novel and it has got many awards. It won both the 1981 *booker prize* and the *James Tait Black Memorial Prize* at the same year. It also got '*Booker of Bookers*' prize and the best all-time prize winners in 1993 and 2008. *Midnight's Children* is the only one



Indian novel on *Time's* list of the 100 best English-language novels since the paper's founding in 1923.

Third, the writer is also interested to know more about the background of the author Salman Rushdie as he is the best author of India. He is a controversial author until now because he has created many literary works that tell about his country India, its religion and magic. *Midnight Children* is the second novel, he wrote this novel based on his experience and creativity. Salman Rushdie was born in Bombay, India (now known as Mumbai). He was educated at Cathedral and John cannon school in Mumbai, Rugby school and the king's college Cambridge, where he studied history. He took British education in Mumbai, after that he continued his study to King's College Cambridge, England. Indirectly, this Novel describes about his life itself, the influence of British colonialism to his country, India.

Finally, the writer thinks that Hybridity is appropriate to analyze *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie because the novel talks more about colonialism and the impact of colonialism itself to Indian people. The novel also describes about the struggle of Indian people to get their independence. Based on that fact, the writer has a great interest to analyze this novel that is represented with the title *Hybridity Phenomena in India as reflected in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children. A postcolonial Study.*

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

In this analysis, the writer takes hybridity as the key problem. The writer wants to find out the impact of colonialism in India as well as the issues of

hybridization. After the coming of British, India people had to live under the control of British. They came and brought their culture such as, culture, language, religion, education, and life style along with them. Then, Indian tried to adopt and mix their original culture (India) with colonizer culture (British). As the result, the culture of Indian people became Hybrid. In this research, the writer has found that Saleem Sinai as the main character has lost his identity. Losing identity is the impact of Hybridization.

### **1.3. Scope of the Research**

To make the analysis clear; the writer has to limit the problem of the analysis. The writer focuses on Hybridity phenomena happened in Indian life when British settled down the country. The writer tries to find some interesting points to be analyzed and limits the analysis to answer several questions, comprising:

1. Hybridity phenomenon (Hybridity in culture) as seen in the Novel *Midnight Children*.
2. The impact of Hybridity toward Saleem's identity.

### **1.4. Objective of the Research**

The study is aimed at finding out the Hybridity phenomena in Indian life, such as language, education and lifestyle as the impact of British colonialism. The Losing of the national identity is one of the impacts of hybridity where Saleem Sinai as the main character has experienced the mixture of national Identity.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The British came to conquer India and brought their influence in terms of culture, such as language, education and life style. Indian people started to follow British culture and mixed it with their culture that is called Hybridity in culture. Hybridity in language that the writer found is the mixture of English and India language. After the coming of British, the language had changed and became hybrid. Hybridity in Education can be seen through Indian people who studied in British's school or university. Doubt in religion is also the impact of Hybridity, and the way of Indian life had changed after the coming of British colonialism. The impact of Hybridity is losing the identity that was felt by the main character Saleem Sinai.

The history of British Empire began when the Muslim Mughal emperors that had the political power over most of India were not overthrow, the British rulers substituted them and therefore the consequent reaction was delayed. The Muslim influence under their rulers had been too strong to be absorbed; the Indian society had cut itself off and left the Muslim community to be an alien element under the angrezi raj. The oppression however had not been forgotten and the reaction came almost instantaneously when the peacekeeping British army had stood down from their task. The British's assumption or even fear that the Indian subcontinent would be covered with violence if they left India and their influence ceased came finally true.





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