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AN INTERTEXTUAL EXAMINATION OF MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN GECEYARISI ÇOCUKLARINA METİNLERARASI İNCELEME

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ÖZET

1947'de Bombay'da dünyaya gelen Salman Rushdie, yirminci yüzyılın en önemli ve tartışmalı yazarlarından biridir. "Grimus" başarısızlığı ve "Şeytan Ayetleri" eserinin dünyada yarattığı olumsuz ve sansasyonel etkinin çoğu zaman Rushdie'nin diğer romanlarının önemini ve detaylı incelenmesini gölgede bırakmasına rağmen, ikinci romanı 'Geceyarısı Çocukları' 1993'te "Booker of Bookers" ödülü ve 2008'de "Best of the Booker" ödülünü almıştır ve halen günümüzde en dikkat çeken eserlerden biridir. Bu romanda Rushdie, Hindistan'ın tarihini kitaptaki başkahraman Saleem Sinai'nin hayatı ile birleştirmiştir. Saleem Sinai'nin otobiyografisi kendi özel hayatını değil sömürge dönemi sonrası Hindistan'ın tarihini anlatmaktadır. Çünkü başkahraman Saleem ve yeni bağımsız olan Hindistan; 15 Ağustos 1947'de aynı anda dünyaya gelmiştir ve ikisinin kaderi birbirine kelepçe ile bağlanmıştır. Bundan sonra ülke tarihinde yaşanan her olay Saleem'in hayatını da derinden etkileyecektir. Aslında Rushdie, ülke tarihinden ziyade kendi otobiyografisini anlatmıştır. Sömürge dönemi sonrası Hint ve İngiliz edebiyatının önemli temsilcilerinden biri olan Rushdie, kendi hayatındaki çok ulusluluğu romandaki başkahraman Saleem'e yüklemiş ve Hindistan'daki birçok farklı kültürü bir araya getirerek mozaik bir eser meydana getirmiştir. Bu mozaik yapıyı oluştururken de Batı edebiyatından ziyade kendi ülkesinin tarihinden, mitolojisinden, inançlarından ve geleneklerinden yararlanmış. Kısacası, Hindistan kültürün, dinin, dilin, mitin ve geleneğin ortak paydasıdır ve Rushdie'nin eserleri için ilham kaynağı olmuştur. Bu makalede "Geceyarısı Çocukları"nın tarih ile olan ilişkisi metinlerarasılık bağlamında incelenecektir. Çünkü metinlerarası teoriye göre bir metin hiçbir zaman bağımsız, tek anlamlı, bozulmamış ve eşsiz değildir tıpkı Saleem Sinai, Salman Rushdie ve sömürge dönemi sonrası bağımsız Hindistan'ın olmadığı gibi.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Metinlerarasılık, Tarih, Salman Rushdie, Geceyarısı Çocukları

ABSTRACT

Born on June 19, 1947, in Bombay, India, Salman Rushdie is one of the most prominent and controversial novelists of the twentieth century. Despite the failure of "Grimus" and "Satanic Verses" sensational and negatory effect of upon the world mostly overshadow Rushdie's other works significance and detailed examination, his second novel 'Midnight's Children' take awarded 'Booker of Bookers' in 1993 and 'Best of the Booker' in 2008. And, at present, 'Midnight's Children' is one of the most remarkable works in literature. In this novel, Rushdie compound and harmonize to Indian's history with the protagonist Saleem Sinai's life. Saleem's autobiography solely narrates not only his individual life story, but also the entire history of postcolonial independent India. Because, Saleem Sinai and freshly independent India was born at the very moment on 15 August 1947 and due to both of them fate handcuffed to each other. Thereafter every incident taken place in India redound on Saleem's life profoundly. Rushdie narrate his autobiographical story rather than the history of India. Rushdie load and transfer to his transnational backgrounds upon the Saleem Sinai's life and when he did these, he had benefit his county myths, history, traditions and values. Shortly, India is the common ground of many cultures, languages, religions, myths, values, traditions and India is the source of inspiration for Rushdie's works. In this article, 'Midnight's Children' and its relation with history will be analyzed in the context of intertextuality. According to intertextual theory, a text has not ever independence, univocal, undistorted and peerless just like as it's not Saleem Sinai, Salman Rushdie and postcolonial independent India.

Keywords: Intertextuality, History, Salman Rushdie, Midnight's Children

1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of India is one of the South Asian countries and it is the second-most populous country in the universe. It has 29 states and many nations and territories and Delhi is a national capital state of India. India has 23 official languages and many different dialects. It was farther than two thousand ethnic groups and religious minorities, for instance; Muslims, Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs and Buddhists. Over the course of history, India confronted the incursions by the several rules, especially; Islam, Mughal Empire, Portuguese and British Empire. Their colonial period continues until 1947. When British Raj rule came to end in 1947, India was partitioned along religion lines into 2 separate countries (India with a majority of Hindus and Pakistan with a majority of Muslims). In other words, throughout civilization, India could not be achieved unity, tranquility and ordonnance. Because of their multinational, multilingual and multireligious, colonial and post-colonial backgrounds triggered of Indian writers fantasy and they mostly adverted this mosaic and colony region in their works, just as an Anglo- Indian novelist Salman Rushdie. Rushdie had many sensational novels, significant articles and who was using many methods while narrated story to the reader. But in this article only will examine his second book "Midnight's Children" and this article will be demonstrating the book main protagonist's inseparable link with Indian history under the favour of intertextuality.

2. INTERTEXTUALITY

The theory of intertextuality is the most prefer literary analysis method at present. This theory coined by the feminist and psychoanalyst philosopher Julia Kristeva in 1967. Kristeva had effectuated her theory via many different novelists, critic and linguist contributions, such as; Ferdinand de Saussure, Roland Barthes and Mikhail Bakhtin. On the contrary of traditional approaches, Kristeva had repudiated both the figure of omniscient author and unique, constant meanings in the text and she had believed, every text has got two axes; horizontal and the vertical axis. In horizontal axis, the text makes a connection with the reader, in vertical axis, the text make a connection with other or previous texts. For Kristeva, the text isn't a desolated and accomplished work, the text must be relationship or dialogue with social contexts, cultural contexts, pre-existent works, pre-existent discourses and so on. Videlicet, composer manage not to do constitute his text by his imagination or worldview, total opposite, who compiles his works by way of pre-existent works or discourses, this new transference text's meaning stay both inside and outside. And at the same time the author talks to the reader, their works talk to as texts. However, Kristeva had described intertextuality 'is a mosaic of quotations; any text is the absorption and transformation of another. The notion of intertextuality replaces that of intersubjectivity. And poetic language is read as at least double (Orr, 2003:21). As a consequence, the text is not only an agent of consumption but also it's an agent of production and reader or critic must be reading complicated texture rather than a given texture by the figure of the Author-God. They have to endeavour to find many meanings in the transfer text and if they have essential sociocultural accumulations, they will find out great numbers of unforeseen details or intertextual relations in the texts. Because their sociocultural accumulations increase their chance while who are discover the text intertextual relations with other text.

3. SALMAN RUSHDIE

Ahmed Salman Rushdie was born in Bombay on 19 June 1947 into a liberal and opulent family solely 2 months ago India to obtain its independence from British Raj (his family had emigrated from India to Pakistan in 1964 based on the massacres of betwixt Hindus and Muslims in India). He was received history degree at King's College Cambridge in 1968. Then graduation, he firstly pays attention to theatre and playwriting for an advertising agency, In fact, since adolescence, Rushdie was growing multinational, multireligious and multilingual environment, this cosmopolite background was activating his imaginary world and who had become written novels and articles. Despite the failure of his science fiction novel 'Grimus' and his scandalling book 'Satanic Verses', his second novel "Midnight's Children" come between as one of the 100 best novels all time in the world and take awarded 'Booker of Bookers' in 1993 and 'Best of the Booker' in 2008. Throughout his career, he has got many important novels, such as; Shame, Fury, Haroun and Sea Stories, and so on. Besides this, he has my article and who was co-editor of The Vintage Book of India Writing. And, due to his constructive contribution to literature, he had acquired an order of knighthood in 2007 by the British government and he was the

member of the kingdom royal association in Britain. Over the course of his career, who was put to account the postmodern narrative techniques; such as; digression, allegory, a stream of consciousness, magic realism, polyphony and intertextuality. Moreover, Rushdie was rake together with truth and phantasy, history and fiction, Occident and Orient in his fantasy novels. In this novel, who mostly mentioned the theme of nationalism, migration, third worlds political events, religion, fragmentation and so on. Generally, he was using a satirical language while mention the history, religion and especially political events and leaders. Due to this sarcastic language, dozen of times, he had encountered the censored by the Iranian government on the grounds that blasphemous libel, they had given a fatwa about Rushdie, not only they but also all Muslim world want to kill him. Despite all, he defended the power of free speech and free describing during creating fiction and he declared; 'If there's an attempt to silence a writer, the best thing a writer can do is not be silenced. If somebody is trying to stifle your voices, you should try and make sure it speaks louder than before (Reder, 2000:174).

4. MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN AND ITS RELATION WITH HISTORY

Midnight Children is a fantastic and influential long – termed story of Saleem Sinai and newly independent India's history. The narrator Saleem Sinai feeling his death is imminent, while nearing his 31 birthday, who decided to illuminate both his life story and India's story, just because, Saleem and freshly independent India was born at the very moment on 15 August 1947 and in this direction he had believed, his life's and newly independent India's life handcuffed to each other. In the country, many newspapers and the prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru celebrated his birthday, and the prime minister Nehru send a greeting letter and he declared; "...We shall be watching over your life with the closest attention; it will be, in a sense, the mirror of our own." (Rushdie, 1981:167). After that, like a neonate baby, newly independent country come up against many compelling and confusing phases. This all of the phases or conflicts mostly had effect on Saleem Sinai's and his family lives. Actually, in the novel, Saleem Sinai declared that he was a blameless victim and he revealed his and nations indissoluble bond had occurred both literally and metaphorically ways. In a sense, he has attended Indian history sometimes directly or indirectly and sometimes actively or passively.

In this regard, this article will clarify Saleem Sinai's depictions concerning his and his nation different connections method with each other. Firstly, he has depicted the term of 'active-literal'. In the case of active-literal, his behaviours must be stimulated the historical events or confusions in India. For instance, after independence, the states organization committee had decided to divided many states in 1955. This second division had arranged as for that states language. But, they had neglected a few states, such as; Bombay. Hereupon, in the city begun the language riots. Saleem Sinai comes up to language riot of 1957 and in this riot, each political party defended their language, such as; Maharashtra Party or Maha Gujarat Party, etc. During this disturbance, Saleem's rigmarole had provoked the riots and fifteen people murdered and three hundred people or more than people injured and the city had divided and which became the capital of Maharashtra.

Secondly, he has mentioned the term 'passive-literal'. For Saleem Sinai, passive-literal express his and his family situations after that historical or national incidents had impressed on them. Exempligratia, after the hundred years of the colonial period, India obtained its independence from British Raj and divided 2 country due to religious troubles; India and Pakistan. They had divided many autonomous regions among them, but Kashmir and a few regions had hovered over autonomous. In these regions, Kashmir had possessed geopolitics significance for both of them, Until today, Kashmir problem comes not to a conclusion among them and plenty of time, they were confronted with each other. Hence they were wager war with each other three times, this massacres had redounded on people's fate and especially Saleem and his family fates profoundly. In this period, Muslim people had encountered bad treatments by the Indian people. Ahmed Sinai's bank accounts get blocked by the government due to suspicion laundering of illicit money and family be faced with not the only economic crisis but also a mental crisis. After the freezing, Ahmed Sinai's health deteriorated day after day. As a result of this crisis, Ahmed Sinai had won his lawsuit against the government and in virtue of this happiness, baby Saleem has started to walking too early and therewith, he grew up with legs that were irretrievably bowed." (Rushdie, 1981:205). Another crucial example, in 1965 war among the India and Pakistan over the Kashmir, Saleem lost a lot of his family members and who had lost his memories and had started to work a tracker like a dog in Pakistani army until gain back his memories.

In sober fact, afterward independence Indian politic and government system had not possess organisation, success, expansion, peace and etc because of, language riots, Kashmir wars with Pakistan, religious disputes, class differences and financial failures (Their first and second five-years development plan failed) not only affected Saleem and his family but also affected Saleem's forum. Due to Saleem Sinai was born at the midnight on 15 August 1947, he had the magical telepathy ability, he was reading and understanding people's thought and his head is filled with many voices, this voices not only belong to different people but also belong to his brothers and sisters exactly like other midnight's children. In this night, the total amount of 1001 children come into the world in sovereign India. But only 581 children remained alive in so far as starvation, epidemic illness, chance events, etc. All of them had the special qualities just like Saleem and they had gathered in Saleem's mind and they work towards a solution for the future of India, but class, economic and religious differences ruined their conference. Apart from that, during Indira Gandhi's period of emergency in 1977, all midnights children were arrested by the government. Because government and especially Indira Gandhi believed this child have a threat risk for the country's fate and while the interrogation many of them were killed and wounded and they were lost their extraordinary abilities and hope and Saleem said; "...No, we are no longer five hundred and eighty-one." (Rushdie, 1981:609).

Thirdly, Saleem has to illuminate mode of the 'active- metaphorical' and he said; "which groups together those occasions on which things are done by or to me were mirrored in the macrocosm of public affairs, and my private existence was shown to be symbolically at one with history." (Rushdie, 1981:331). In a word, this type of connection refer to power of fate, because in this mode, Saleem was not changing or interfering his fate, and his destiny may be seen Indian destiny (just like Saleem, India never change its destiny, at present this country is known Third World Country) because of their interwoven connections. For example; Saleem had not designated his birth date, he had not intervention his and his rival Shiva's switch after their birth by Mary Pereira. Scilicet, he was living the life determined by fate and he was the victim of events and fate. Except that; after the mutilation of his middle finger, he and his family had learned his real identity and his finger and blood detached his body and he was never control of this event like the country of India. Pakistan and many autonomous regions were etached from India and India were not prevent and conduct this process. Latest example; during the Pakistan days Saleem had witnessed the military coup plan against the government by his brother-in-law and during the plan of the coup, he had contributed to them by using the pepperpots when under the influence of his imaginary world. And at the end, he confessed; "What began, active- metaphorically, with pepperpots, ended then; not only did I overthrow a government- I also consigned a president to exile (Rushdie, 1981:405). In sum, Saleem would get involved many tragic incidents whether he was the desire or not...

Fourthly, he has mentioned the last mode of the 'passive – metaphorical' and he said; "encompasses all socio-political trends and events which, merely by existing, affected me metaphorically (Rushdie, 1981:331). For sure, Saleem mentioned about the significance of 'figure of speech'. Mostly, Rushdie was using the metaphorical, fantastical, exaggerated elements during narrated his story. According to him, these elements must be increase works incredibility, because people mostly have a tendency give credence to fiction rather than the truth. The reason is that most of the time truth is bitter and people are not want to agree to this truth and they hold on to the world of dreams and fiction just as Saleem Sinai and the country of India. In this model, the protagonist's spent time to be explained with metaphoric and fantastic items. To illustrate, after independence, the policy of India dispersed and conquered overseas and unexplored regions. Their project was seen as an illusion due to their economical, militarily and strategic inadequacies. Their absonant struggle resembled the neonate baby Saleem's absonant growing struggle day by day amazingly and he told his situation; "From my very first days, I embarked upon a heroic programme of self-enlargement. (Rushdie, 1981:169). Like this, if the country's growth ceases, Saleem's growth may cease, such as; after migration to Pakistan, Saleem went into the adolescent period and his growing comes to an end. Another example, while the India- China war in 1962, India was defeated by the Chinese army in Delhi and at the very moment, Saleem was defeated by his parent. He was operated on his nasal and he had lost his magical telepathy ability. After all, both India and Saleem get lost their power and Rushdie give us this with the help of metaphors and fantastic elements.

5. CONCLUSION

In the light of this brief analysis, throughout the history, the narrator gave us many detailed on the subject of Saleem Sinai's and Indian history's inextricable links with each other with the help of many truth or fiction examples. This link gave us sometimes directly indirectly ways. Meanwhile, Rushdie and his alter ego Saleem Sinai used literal, metaphorical, fantastical elements due to increase novel's cogency. Just like Saleem Sinai's geography teacher, at this article, ask; " In the face of these ugly apes you don't see the whole map of India? (Rushdie, 1981:321). This article leaves the answer to this question to the reader like intertextuality, Salman Rushdie and Saleem Sinai...

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