



Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children , Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist and Alice Sebold's The Lovely Bones

• Maryam Afzal • Niharika Shrivastava • Rupali
• Shahla Rehana

Received : November 2012

Accepted : March 2013

Corresponding Author : Shahla Rehana

Abstract : *Magic realism in literature is defined as the mingling and juxtaposition of the realistic and the fantastic, bizarre and skillful time shifts, convoluted and even labyrinthine narratives and plots, miscellaneous use of dreams, myths and fairy stories, expressionistic and even surrealistic description, arcane erudition, the elements of surprise or abrupt shock, the horrific and the inexplicable. In magic realism texts the frame or surface of the work may be conventionally realistic, but*

contrasting elements—such as supernatural myth, dream fantasy invade the realism and change the whole basis of the art.

The fantastic attributes given to characters in such novels—levitation, flight, telepathy, telekinesis— are among the means that magic realism adopts in order to encompass the often phantasmagorical political realities of the twentieth century. These texts often contain authorial reticence which incorporates the deliberate withholding of information and explanations about the disconcerting fictitious world. The narrator does not provide explanations about the accuracy of events described by characters in the text. Instead, the narrator is indifferent; and proceeds with “logical precision” as if nothing extraordinary took place. A glimpse of these can easily be seen in the novels studied under this project namely: Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children, Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist, and Alice Sebold's The Lovely Bones.

Maryam Afzal

B.A. III year, English (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Niharika Shrivastava

B.A. III year, English (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Rupali

B.A. III year, English (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Shahla Rehana

Assistant Professor, Department of English,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : shahla.rehana@yahoo.com

Keywords: *Magic realism, Telepathy, Fragmentation, Ordinary magic, Alchemy, Omens.*