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Dr. Thomas M. T.

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A Stylistic Study of the Language Play in the Select Novels of Salman Rushdie

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Abstract

The most versatile contemporary author who has ‘played’ with language extensively and whose literature has become synonymous with the most subtle linguistic experimentations is Salman Rushdie. He consciously plays with the language, not merely to incorporate the linguistic richness in the narrative framework but simultaneously to insert the stylistic aestheticism into his creative writing. Salman Rushdie has been lauded for his energising use of language. In Indian writing in English, Rushdie is generally accepted as an initiator and catalyst of a style that saw English being used imaginatively and with ease. Rushdie’s use of the expression “chutnification” epitomizes his use of language in his novels. The process of chutnification of English provides a tasty flavour to Rushdie’s works, which is obviously made possible through the abundant blending of Hindi and Urdu words with English, thereby reflecting India’s hybrid culture. This paper looks into how the postcolonial writer Salman Rushdie does a work of “magic” with language in order to find his own voice to tell his unrooted and hybrid stories. Hybridity and unrootedness are essential aspects of his writing. This study traces Rushdie’s experiments with language in his select novels. An examination of the language of Rushdie within the ambit of Stylistics, will yield a rich dividend, and an analysis and a study of this kind will add new insights to his works.

Keywords: stylistics, chutnification, Hinglish, wordplay, collocation, foregrounding

Introduction

Ahmed Salman Rushdie (b.1947), the widely acclaimed Indo-Anglian writer, attracts the attention of the readers from different parts of the world. He is now heralded as a representative figure of the contemporary British literature and has emerged as an extremely important voice in the field of postcolonial and English literary studies during the last several decades. Since the publication of his second novel, *Midnight’s Children* (1981), Rushdie’s works have made a lasting influence on various Indian and migrant writers, sparking an extensive body of critical and theoretical

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