

Caroline Kuhnlova, **An exploration of Rushdie's narrative strategy in *Shame* and *Midnight's Children*, its usage to create a social commentary on the political situation of India and Pakistan, and placing Rushdie's literature in the context of post-colonialism.**

B.A. thesis

Supervisor's Report

This student's thesis was, from the outset rather ambitious, as she attempted to survey, analyze and reflect upon Rushdie's treatment of Post-colonialism, narrative strategy and national political events in both India and Pakistan .It is clear that the student has read and is enthusiastic about Rushdie's writings but struggles to cram the fruits of her research into the necessarily limited frame of a B.A. thesis.

While accepting these limitations, it would be perhaps unfair to criticize her for not going *further still* i.e. beyond *Shame* from 1983, as her thesis itself explicitly stakes out the early writings of Rushdie as her field of interest. An update to the biographical facts of Rushdie's life would have been welcome but it does not seem critical to the core functionality of Caroline's writing.

It is valid to point out that Caroline's use of terminology is at times a little slapdash ; perhaps lacking adequate underpinning with reference to post-colonialism and Rushdie's particular engagement with this discourse and its associated terminology. That said Caroline's work demonstrates an instinctive recognition of valuable narrative strands (the stated goal of her thesis after all) and she has correctly identified areas which reward detailed analysis even if her own approach to these is uneven and stunted. I feel that her focus upon magical realism in both novels is important although the scope of her thesis could have been expanded by pruning back some more extraneous historical data and excising repetition of simple narrative facts.

Caroline has attempted to wring a lot of facts from Rushdie's early work and had she restricted herself to a more streamlined thesis, she may have been able to develop her thoughts in a more orderly manner. As it is, I feel her thesis has value at BA level and would recommend a grading of 2 or at very least, 3.

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