



MIXING CULTURAL IDENTITIES IN SALMAN RUSDIE'S *MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN*: A POSTCOLONIAL STUDY

THESIS

**Written by:
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2014**



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THESIS

Presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters,
Jember University, as One of the Requirements to Obtain
the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my dearest Father, Laukhil Mahfud and my beloved mother, Jamilah Hidayati. Thank you for the endless prayer, struggle, love, and for being a great parent;

MOTTO

Character is power.

(Booker T. Washington)*

*) <http://mobile.brainyquote.com> [Accessed on March 7, 2014 at 08.06 pm]

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “*Mixing Cultural Identities in Salman Rushdie’s Midnight’s Children: a Postcolonial study*” is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, September 15th, 2014

The Candidate,

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APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled *Mixing Cultural Identities in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children: A Postcolonial Study* has been examined in front of the board of examiners at the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

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Siti Nur Aisah

SUMMARY

Mixing Cultural Identities in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*: A Postcolonial Study; Siti Nur Aisah, 080110101028; 2008: 45 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Midnight's Children is one of Rushdie's popular novels. This research is conducted to show the blend of old and new India's culture through the characters of midnight children in *Midnight's Children* and how this novel shows India's hybridity to estrange and subvert colonial power. In this novel, the characters of midnight's children live between two or more cultural identities without applying a clearly particular identity. There is a mixing of identities as an effort to estrange and disavow colonial authority. Therefore, I use Bhabha's theory about hybridity.

In this research, I use qualitative method to evoke the moment of hybridity, hybrid's character and the space "in-between" as the consequence of hybridity through selected events and characterizations in *Midnight's Children*. Hybridity in this research is not simply discussed about cultural mixing between the colonized and colonizer. However, it is a strategy appeared by Bhabha to solve postcolonial issue in the third world. Homi Bhabha's hybridity occurs as the ambiguity of identity that brings a person in a position of "in-between", to be Indian and to be British, even Pakistanis. This research also evokes the concept of in-between to remake India's history. History is the fact and the fiction.

The characters in this novel have successfully made their own destiny and narration that destabilizes the factual history by making his own India's history that is not clear whether it is fact or fiction. As the result, they are able to play India's history by demolishing British's power that although his characters' identities are tied to their colonial histories, they can change the domination of British.

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