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Problematizing History in Salman Rushdie's *Shame*



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Abstract

The purpose of the present research paper is an attempt to study Salman Rushdie's *Shame*, which is a postmodern historical novel and can be labeled as a "Historiographic Metafiction". The research paper will argue that Rushdie's *Shame* can be read as subversive text that problematizes the boundary between history and fiction, and questions the monology and claim to objectivity of historical representation. The text is analyzed with respect to its use of different voices and alternative histories, through Rushdie's emphasis on how history is a human construct. For instance, in this text Salman Rushdie explores the history of Pakistan's Politics from his point of view, which disrupts the historical realism of Pakistan's Politics.

Keywords

Postmodernism, Historiographic metafiction, history, Salman Rushdie's *Shame*, fiction