



**THE POLEMICS OF PROTEANISM AND THE QUEST FOR
A PROTEAN POISE IN SALMAN RUSHDIE'S
MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN AND FURY**



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ABSTRACT

Salman Rushdie in Midnight's Children and Fury depict characters who undergo cultural, religious and spatial metamorphosis or proteanism and it is rather difficult to remain fixed to a particular space for a very long time. These protean characters assume many protean spaces and easily mutate to different roles. Characters deconstruct spaces and shift consciously or unconsciously their identities depending on the situations in which they find themselves such as cultures, religion, history and other spaces.

There is a troubled confusion sometimes surrounding proteanism. The many shifts through wobbly borders can alter characters from attaining selfhood without conflict and identity formation. And if a protean poise is not maintained, the various shifts might lead to an inconsistent identity formation and contradictions in one's being. If the protean character does not maintain a protean poise, then identity formation becomes very challenging and disadvantageous because it may attack the very core of identity since characters may fail to reconcile their multiple changes.

The postmodern theory greatly applies in the analysis of this paper because the term itself, is as flickering and superficial and mutating as the protean space. Grounding on the theory of deconstruction, this paper uses deconstructive ideas to transcend the various steps of the protean ladder.

KEYWORDS

protean, protean poise, deconstruction and metamorphosis.