Globalization: A Comparative Study of Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri

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Abstract

This paper explores the effects of globalization on the works of these two postcolonial authors. The article further explores how the theme of globalization has been used to further the dialogue between the two authors and how their works represent a shared understanding of globalization. This article examines how globalization has been used to further dialogue between the East and the West and how the works of Rushdie and Lahiri have come to represent this ongoing conversation. This article provides an insightful exploration of how two renowned authors have addressed the concept of globalization and its effects on the cultural landscape of their respective countries. It also examines how the two authors responded to globalization differently and how this shaped their works' themes, motifs, and narratives. The article also examines how, in the face of globalization, the two authors have created stories, characters, and settings that reflect their own experiences and the cultural context in which they live. This article considers the implications of globalization for literature and culture and its role in creating a diverse and dynamic literary landscape.

Keywords: Globalization, society, postcolonialism, Salman Rushdie, and Jhumpa Lahiri

Introduction

The goal of the educational approach known as post-colonialism is to decode modern culture and expose the colonization forces that were concealed behind its reportedly charitable objectives. Academics have long struggled to define post-colonialism, and some have utilized its ideas to research its impacts on colonized peoples' cultures and civilizations as well as how the west has subjugated and ruled the non-west. However, it is not published to imperialism; as a result, it cannot arrive after the institution of a framework of inequitable energy interactions that expanded to many tangible, governmental, and psychological contexts. The postcolonial, as its prefix denotes, stands for whatever follows the colonization or spreading situation. The dominance and obedience structure are still a relevant subject today (Bartiza and Zrizi, 2022). The oppression of one set of people by other is the central theme of both imperialism and colonialism. Yet imperialism, which established former colonial abilities as the superior and more advanced countries and postcolonial regions as the weaker ones, forms more of a globalized political organization, controlling various fields and institutions (Affendi, 2023). The ancient evidence shows that throughout the colonial era, Western European countries relied on exploitation from other regions of the globe for their growth. The textile was a

key component of Britain's industrialization; it was cultivated on land that Native Americans were violently forced to give up and with manpower that was taken from imprisoned Africans (Hickel et al., 2021). At that point, more than 50% of the nation's internal expenditure was supported by British separation from India and other colonists, allowing for the construction of public infrastructure such as roads and houses and the security system, as well as the acquisition of raw materials for industrialization. By taking into consideration the extraction processes that shaped it, it is hard to comprehend the industrialization of high-income nations (Patnaik, 2017). Current quantitative evidence supports the idea that higher-wealth countries still depend heavily on the net absorption of labor and commodities from the balance of the globe. This equated to 182 million person-years of embedded work from less- and middle-income countries, which made up 28% of their entire consumption in 2015, and 10.1 billion tons of absorbed raw substance equivalence from high-income countries, which accounted for 50% of their entire expenditure (Dorninger et al., 2021). In the 2000 publication's approach to postcolonial and African American fiction. Several postcolonial authors perceive a prideful presumption about the requirement for non-colonial civilizations to acknowledge postcolonial authors in this action. The vast variance in the character and themes of postcolonial literature is dictated by the extremely distinct physical, political, cultural, religious, and financial issues of the many ex-colonies. Several female colonial authors link feminism and postcolonialism together. Several of these authors, who come from very patriarchal societies, find control in language and the capacity for written and spoken expression. But, in the postcolonial era, communication and the capacity for speaking, writing, and publishing have evolved into powerful instruments for postcolonial writers (Chalmers, 2019).

The term "globalization" is often utilized to describe how linked and widespread technologies, industries, and information are on a global scale. According to studies, there has been a significant shift in the worldwide environment of multinational firms during the previous several years. Increasing economic instability and escalating trade conflicts have been problems for international commerce, according to cultural patterns and growth levels. The World Trade Organization (WTO) forecasts that trade quantity development would rise by around 7.2% in 2021. Several multinational corporations (like Amazon and Alphabet) have evolved over the globalization age into very effective and profitable organizations that exceed tiny nations and increase in strength and influence (Kyove, 2021). While globalization presents a new potential for data dissemination, not all countries and organizations will be able to take use of it. Benefits are available to emerge nations in general. In particular, developing nations are not excluded. The complexity of current data technology causes innovation acceptance patterns to shift fast. As was already noted, embracing new technologies involves a nuanced process of socialization and personal growth. By transferring foreign expertise, globalization enhances technological

acceptance while boosting global competitiveness. The countries that are accessible to international capital, corporations' admission, innovation, and data transmission are examples of those where innovation acceptance and industrialization are related. While globalization presents a novel potential for data dissemination, not all countries and institutions will be able to take use of it (Skare and Soriano, 2021). The manner of life has been significantly impacted by globalization. It has improved creativity, accelerated the availability of knowledge, and enhanced interaction. It has brought in a period of increased financial success, opened up vast new avenues for growth, and been crucial in integrating individuals from all cultural backgrounds together. On the other side, several problems have emerged as a result of globalization, with environmental repercussions taking center stage. Activists have made industrialization a central topic in debates about ecology by stressing its wide-ranging effects. Yet when wealth increases, ecological awareness also grows, and this becomes the main justification for reducing natural harm in later stages of industrial expansion (Zhang et al., 2022). The digital society of today reflects the globalization trend. That is, the mechanisms of globalization and information technology are inexorably connected. The practice of globalization is ongoing and has a significant influence on people's personal lives as well as the economic and social health of civilization. As a result, every person's ability to grasp the fundamentals of the societal, economical, and political activities occurring about him as well as to voice his or her own opinions depends on the availability of a data civilization. Globalization places significant demands on the quickening of manufacturing improvement and the instruction of qualified workers. This is because the formation of skilled individuals and the growth of the business are intricately connected (Abdurakhmonova et al., 2021).

Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri are the two authors included in this comparative analysis. The notions of postcolonialism and globalization are discussed in this section from the perspectives of Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri respectively.

Salman Rushdie's Perspectives

Salman Rushdie is the first author from a post-colonial society to publish in English without having first-hand contact with colonization (Švejdík, 2023). Saleem, the main character of "Midnight's Children," is created by Salman Rushdie. India was freed from British dominion and divided from Pakistan this year. The specific setting of Midnight's Children serves as a link between historical Indian culture and modern multicultural interaction. Midnight's Children, which earned the coveted Booker Award, has the reputation of being the finest book to receive the honor. The main character of this book, Saleem Sinae, reflects on the 30 years of his career that are chronicled in this book to comprehend who he is. He tells the fascinating tale of post-colonial India (Mandal, 2019).

"Let me express this very unambiguously: it is my sincere opinion that the secret goal of the Indo-Pakistani war of 1965 was neither more nor less than the eradication of my godless family off the field of the world" (397). This passage is from Book Two's "How Saleem Achieved Purity" chapter. Saleem frequently positions himself in the center of important sociopolitical occasions while presenting his narrative. The storytelling style of Salman Rushdie is excellent. At the moment, he is the narrative expert (Seyidova,2020). Salman states that his fictional nation is "Not Pakistan, or exactly," but yet he has a major statement for Pakistanis. He has used a multifaceted approach to fictional language that mixes disparate techniques including straightforward exposition, satire, and a denial of any actual goal.

Salman's portrayal of "the other" in Midnight's Children likewise reflects British Colonialism (Tasnim, 2021; Setra and Ruslianti, 2022).

Salman Rushdie's Perspectives on Globalization

Salman Rushdie has addressed the topic of globalization in his novels more and more often, and his 2005 book "Shalimar the Clown" is his most thorough reaction to the present. The book makes an effort to address the social and political consequences of economic globalization via its densely linked storyline and literary technique (Bouhala and Mehidi, 2019). Shalimar the Clown, according to this essay, reroutes postcolonial issues to emphasize the harmful effects of globalization. Rushdie explores the postcolonial from a worldwide perspective and hypothesizes that the capitalist worldwide flows have reframed nationalist and nationalistic ideologies. This is how the book situates itself at the meeting point of postcolonial and globalism (Keeble and Annesley, 2021). In "The Ruins of Empire: The Regional and Global Economics of America's Return to Rome," Vilashini Cooppan makes the following observations:

"Globalization theory's emphasis on its newness and the new mobile, transborder forms of nations and cultures that emerge in the wake of the twin territorial projects of imperialism and nationalism strikingly reproduces the version of postcolonial studies that purport to announce the end not just of empires but of nations too – and the ascendance of new hybrid forms of identity (of which it serves as privileged chronicler) over previous regimes of binarized difference."

Salman explores the postcolonial in a globalizing world in Shalimar the Clown and examines how globalization affects unrelated persons from various locations. The structure of the book connects the individuals' various histories and locations, implying that in a story about globalization and worldwide violence, the characters must consider how they fit into the larger scheme of things. Salman called these linked tales and narratives "worlds in collision" in a conversation he gave to "Jack Livings for The Paris Review in 2005 (Salman Rushdie, 110)". This concept has been fundamental to Salman's literature since The Satanic Verses, but in Shalimar the Clown it takes center stage in the social

discussions around the globalization, violence, and insurrection concerns that he earlier addressed in *Fury and The Earth Under her Feet*. Hence, the book raises new concerns about how to conceive of postcolonial identification and undermines long-held assumptions about nationalism (Mueller, 2022).

The world-spanning places Shalimar the Clown frequents make the story's universal scope instantly clear. The drama begins in Los Angeles and travels to "Kashmir and Delhi, 1940s Strasbourg and France, 1960s London, back to Kashmir, the Philippines, and finally 1990s Los Angeles", where it comes to a dramatic conclusion. The story seamlessly goes throughout the world, and in establishing several but related story threads, it compresses time, crosses multiple timeframes, and weaves together disparate but related threads. Salman demonstrates how tales and civilizations have become intricately entwined as he illustrates how a complicated case about violence and globalization develops from these crossings:

"It used to be possible to write a novel about, say, London or Kashmir or Strasbourg or California, without any sense of connection. But now it's all one story. […] Now I feel more and more that if you're telling a story of a murder in California, you end up having to tell the story of many other places and many other times to make sense of that event and that place. To try to show how those stories join. (Incredible Lightness 2)"

In this sense, one could say that Salman is performing his kind of directness globalization throughout the book. India, Boonyi, Max, Shalimar the Clown, and Kashmira are the names of the chapter titles in Salman's character-driven storyline, which he uses to connect many geographical regions, economic and governmental realms, and historical periods. India/tale Kashmira frames the plot and depicts her tumultuous interaction with her father Max Ophuls, the US ambassador and head of cybersecurity. Kashmira must deal with the fact that Shalimar the Clown, who has entered her father's home as his driver and attendant, killed her father (Murugesan et al., 2020). The crime's true motivation which first seemed to be political is exposed. Kashmira must face her father's involvement with the US military as part of her quest to explain her father's death, though:

"Was she, in mourning her butchered parent, crying out (she had not wept) for a guilty man? Was Shalimar the assassin the hand of justice, the appointed executioner of some unseen high court, was his sword righteous, had justice been done to Max, had some sort of sentence been carried out in response to his unknown unlisted unseen crimes of power […]? (335)"

The approach we take to dealing with the concepts of dominance and opposition that have developed as a result of colonialism and anti-colonial activities, and with which postcolonial academics has been fascinated, is questioned by Shalimar the Clown. The reaction to the World Trade Tower assaults, the so-called "War on Terror," the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the violent strikes in London and Mumbai serve to emphasize this even more. In

Colonialism/Postcolonialism, Ania Loomba claims that "these violent occurrences are also related to the phenomena we conceive of as globalization, providing new reasons for assessing the applicability of postcolonial concepts to the globe we now occupy" (213) (Liang 2020). By examining transatlantic terrorist networks and the effects of globalization on governments, civilizations, cultures, and identification on a provincial and worldwide scale, Shalimar the Clown reroutes assumptions common to postcolonial literature research in this regard.

Jhumpa Lahiri's Perspectives on Globalization

For many centuries, globalization's consequences for every country on Earth have made it one of the most often discussed topics at the forefront of debates (Noda, 2020; Stevenson, 2020). These effects may be seen in the financial, social, and intellectual spheres. It may be summed up by saying that it is the mechanism by which cultures from extremely distant regions of the globe can instantly communicate with others through fully advanced technology methods, making unexpected occurrences and specifics apparent and recognizable to people who live hundreds of kilometers apart (Khan et al., 2022). The interplay of cultures across countries may vary noticeably as a result of this contact, giving rise to fresh ideas and perspectives on how cultural identities are formed and what makes them unique (Bloom and Cadarette, 2019; Anim et al., 2022).

A south Asian author who resides in the United States and has a propensity to "address modern realities of changing national borders, numerous sites of residence, multilingual and heterogeneous orientations by expertly yoking together the localized with the worldwide" is Jhumpa Lahiri. Her cast members exhibit clear evidence of globalization while residing in America and of maintaining a localized connection to their original society in India while relocating far from home (Cant, 2020). Lahiri's readership may include people of Indian descent as well as long-term residents of the West and major cities, in as far as

"The contemporary modality of globalization creates spaces for South Asian authors to articulate their imaginations in ways that are both specific enough to be regionally ethnic, and general enough to appeal to a global uniformity"

Because of this, her work appears to represent individuals who experience some form of cultural development difficulty that results from the current cross-cultural federal legislature along local and world borders. Her book The Namesake, which is based on the challenges and tribulations of a Bengali couple who immigrate to the United States from India, as well as their son Gogol, who was born in the United States, may be read in the context of globalization (Malar, 2022). Given the two perspectives on globalization debated above and their effects on the cultural characteristics of people and countries, the author may have anticipated that globalization does not produce a one-sided cultural environment with the characteristics of Western or American

principles; rather, it tends to produce people or countries that can quickly attain their native civilizations and customs through present advancements in science and innovation while being in Immigrants in Western metropolises like New York are not necessarily more likely to get estranged from their original cultures and origins as soon as they start to invest time in America and other Western countries because they are distant from their home countries and family members (Chambers, 2021).

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri, therefore, deals with the cultural consequences of globalization onto specialization while simultaneously expressing the impacts of specificity upon globalization. The author claims that because of telecommunications technologies and transit possibilities, globalization does not seem to be a phenomenon that can evolve independently of local customs. These technological advancements highlight the ease with which cultural norms may move between Western and Eastern cultures by overcoming physical barriers. The viewer can see how the Indian family in the book uses modern technology to maintain local ties with their homeland, which is far away from America, and succeeds in undergoing their native heritage there, despite being incapable to prevent being impacted by American culture in aspects of daily routines and national traditions (Devaraj et al., 2020).

Many authors have studied and debated globalization, including Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri. Both authors have explored globalization from different perspectives and have written their views on this complex topic. Salman Rushdie's work often examines the impact of globalization on identity and culture, with a particular focus on the Indian diaspora. He argued that globalization had created unique challenges for diaspora communities, including the loss of cultural identity, clashes between traditional and modern values, and economic disparities. In his novel Midnight's Children, Rushdie uses a variety of characters to explore these issues and shows how different individuals and groups cope with the effects of globalization.

On the other hand, Jhumpa Lahiri has focused her work on the experience of immigrants living in America. She examines how immigration and globalization have impacted their lives and how a new environment has challenged their culture and identity. In her collection of short stories, Interpreter of Maladies, Lahiri gives an insight into the struggles and triumphs of immigrants and shows how globalization can be both an opportunity and a challenge.

Rushdie's works often feature characters dealing with the clash between their traditional Indian culture and the modern culture of the West. In contrast, Lahiri's works focus more on the struggles of immigrants and the difficulties of maintaining ties with the homeland. The article suggests that both writers have used their works to explore the idea of globalization and have presented different views on the matter. This article argues that both Rushdie and Lahiri have used their works to comment on the effects of globalization on culture, identity, and belonging. Rushdie's works often feature characters who struggle

to balance their traditional culture and the modern world, while Lahiri's works focus more on immigrants' difficulties in their adopted countries.

Globalization has played a significant role in the work of Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri. Both authors explored the effects of globalization on identity and culture through their respective writings. In Rushdie's works like "Midnight's Children" and "The Satanic Verses," he addresses the impact of political and economic changes on the Indian subcontinent, where he was born. He examined the themes of cultural assimilation, displacement, and loss of identity due to colonization. His works also highlight the effects of globalization, such as the increasing presence of international products and services, the movement of people and ideas, and the emergence of transnational identities. Lahiri's work is rooted in the experience of globalization, specifically through the lens of the South Asian diaspora. Her stories explore the struggles of immigrants and their children as they try to reconcile their sense of self with the cultural norms of their new homes. By focusing on the characters' daily lives, she captures the complexity of life in a globalized world, where individuals must grapple with fractured identities and conflicting loyalties.

Globalization has been studied extensively in recent years. Two authors, Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri, have used their works to explore the impact of globalization on their characters and the broader world in which they live. Salman Rushdie's 1998 novel The Ground Beneath Her Feet explored the consequences of globalization on the lives of two protagonists, Umeed and Vina. Through this novel, Rushdie examines the root causes of globalization, such as increased migration and technology, and how these changes have allowed people from different backgrounds to come together. From the perspective of Umeed and Vina, Rushdie explored the effects of globalization on their lives, from the creation of new opportunities to changes in language and culture.

In contrast, Jhumpa Lahiri's 1998 collection of stories, Interpreter of Maladies, focuses on the experiences of Indian immigrants in the United States. Lahiri examines the stories of immigrants and their attempts to assimilate into the American culture while maintaining their Indian heritage. Through her stories, Lahiri can explore the effects of globalization on the lives of immigrants and the difficulties they face in trying to reconcile their traditional culture.

Conclusion

Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri are two highly acclaimed writers of the postcolonial era. Both have used their work to explore the complexities of globalization, and their impacts on their respective societies. Globalization has been explored by many researchers. Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri are two authors who have tackled the subject of globalization in different ways. Through their work, they provided insights into its effects on culture, identity, and human experience. Salman Rushdie's work depicts globalization in a very broad way, exploring its effects on people of different backgrounds, cultures,

and religions. It is evident that his characters are rooted in their culture and identity, yet it is also clear that they are constantly in flux, adapting to new environments and experiences. He particularly focuses on the tension between globalization and religion, portraying how religion can be both a source of unity and division. Jhumpa Lahiri's work focuses on the effect of globalization on the Indian diaspora. Her characters often experience a desire to assimilate into their new environments, while also yearning to maintain ties with their roots. Through her work, she sheds light on the struggles of immigrants and their children who are constantly trying to reconcile their identities. Both Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri have provided a unique perspective on globalization through their works

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