



## **Colonial Legacies: A Comparative Study of Post-Colonial Narratives in Select African and Indian Novel**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study delves into the complex aftermath of colonialism as portrayed in the novels "Nervous Conditions" by Tsitsi Dangarembga and "Midnight's Children" by Salman Rushdie and how these novels highlight the long-lasting effects of colonial control on national and personal identities, cultural legacies, and sociopolitical environments through a comparative lens. The 20th century was a crucial period of decolonization in Africa and India, when European powers conquered Africa in the 19th and early 20th centuries. At the same time, India was under British colonial rule for almost two centuries... post-colonial literature shapes its narratives around the significant effects of colonialism on socio-political, cultural, and economic landscapes. Thus, this study attempts to provide subtle insights into the similar and different post-colonial realities of African and Indian societies by examining the unique storytelling used in the novels. The ultimate goal of this study is to enhance understanding of the long-lasting consequences of colonialism and the various ways that these impacts are portrayed and explored in writing from various post-colonial settings.

Keywords: post-colonial, colonialist, cultural, identity, decolonization, Africa, India.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The words "post colonialism" refer to the historical period that followed decolonization or the emergence of Western colonialism in the 20th century. Colonial legacies impact colonized people losing their identity, causing false national borders, gender expectation, cultural hybridity, lasting a huge effect. Literature of the post-colonial period deals with the suffering, sorrow, frustration, sense of belongingness, identity crisis, gender role and race. This genre of literature reflects the struggles, identities and voices of those affected by colonialism, providing a platform for exploring themes such as resistance, cultural hybridity, and the reassertion of native identities. This study explores the complex aftermath of colonialism as depicted in African and Indian novels. By examining Tsitsi Dangarembga's "Nervous Conditions" and Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children", the research aims to uncover the shared and divergent themes, cultural impacts and historical legacies that shape these narratives.

Tsitsi Dangarembga who was born in 1959, is a Zimbabwean author, filmmaker, and playwright. Her one of the most famous African novels "Nervous Conditions". This novel won a lot of praise for post-colonial African society and its emphasis on women's experiences. "Nervous Conditions" is a strongly influencing novel set-in post-colonial Zimbabwe that follows the lives of Tambu, a strong young girl who seeks education and personal growth against the limit of traditional gender roles and the long-term repercussions of colonial control. This work mainly focuses on cultural clash, gender inequity, and the battle for self-realization.

Salman Rushdi, born in 1947 in Bombay, India, and his way of narrative stories combines' magical realism with historical fiction. His main themes tackle with migration, identity, and the blending of Eastern and Western cultures, emphasizing the effects of colonialism and post-colonialism. His book Midnight Children established him as a leading voice in modern literature. Through the lives of its protagonist, Saleem Sinai, the novel explores India's personal and national histories. Rushdie examines identity, memory, and the complicated legacy of colonialism through characters, making it a crucial piece of post-colonial literature.

Post-colonial refers to the period when the globe faced the consequences of Western colonialism. The theory of post-colonialism emerged in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, which led to seeking attention to the legacies of colonialism. Post-colonialism aims to uncover and challenge the persistent inequalities and the injustice faced by colonized societies. Post-colonialism inspects the aftermath of colonialism on people's different cultures and societies. Post-colonialism explains the connections between Western nations and the region they colonized. Post-colonialism focuses on the European colonial legacy, with many colonies achieving independence through decolonization. India gains independence in 1947 and Africa's decolonization in 1950- 1960s. post-colonial theory inquires the European cultural narratives that have historically dominated literature, history, and culture and highlight marginalized voices. The experiences of colonized people and the effects of colonialism are the main subjects of this theory. The theory's detractors examine how colonialism affected cultural identities and values and how literature reflects and challenges the power structure it created. Focusing on the experiences of colonized people, their quest for identity, and the political and cultural environment in which they live. Post-colonial literature frequently

explores resistance, hybridity, emigration, and cross-cultural impact. The genre includes various works, such as novels, poetry, drama, and essays. The most well-known post-colonial writers are Chinua Achebe, Edward Said, Gayatri, Spivak, Salman Rushdie, and many more.

The primary purpose of post-colonial theory is to analyze how colonial discourse shaped the representation of the colonized in literature and their cultural works. Understanding belonging and identity in a post-colonial environment is significantly impacted by post-colonial philosophy. It highlights how history, culture, and power intricately interact to shape identity, revealing its contested and flexible nature. Numerous post-colonial narratives centre on the experiences of Diaspora and migration, highlighting the constant negation of identity in a world characterized by movement and displacement. More historically and narrowly defined, post-colonial is typically believed to relate to nations with political independence. Post-colonial literature primarily focuses on how colonizing cultures distort the realities and experiences of colonized people.

Edward Said's work significantly approached the post-colonial literary theory, 'Orientalism,' in which he describes how the Western representation of the East served to justify and perpetuate colonial rules. Post-colonial as a literary theory converges to offer profound insights into the enduring legacies of colonialism and imperialism on societies, cultures, and identities, and it interrogates the notion of mimicry. Writers often employ mimicry in their texts to critique colonial authority and expose its contradictions. Writers gain attention to historical events like cultural upheavals, nationalist movements and independence struggles. Some examples, such as "Nervous Conditions" and "Midnight's Children," show how literature can serve as a medium for reconstructing history from a post-colonial perspective.

Post-colonialism as a literary theory offers a rich framework for analyzing colonialism's impact; through literature, post-colonial theory continues to illuminate the complexities of identity, agency, and resistance in a world shaped by colonial legacies.

Colonialism, characterized by the control of one nation over another, has permanently altered the socioeconomic, political, and cultural landscape of historically colonized nations. Colonialism's legacy endures in many forms, impacting current affairs and forming the identities and experiences of post-colonial culture.

The colonial era, a turbulent and revolutionary time in human history, profoundly impacted the societies and paths of numerous countries, especially those in Africa and India. Even now, the legacies of colonial exploitation and subjugation still shape sociopolitical, economic, and cultural landscapes. The highly ingrained psychological state known as 'colonial mentality', which endures among the colonized people, is one of the most ubiquitous and subtle effects of colonialism. A deep sense of cultural inferiority and the devolution of indigenous knowledge systems are frequently the results of the colonial mentality, which takes the form of internalizing the values, beliefs, and hierarchies of the conquerors.

The British colonial legacy in India includes the English language, legal and administrative system, and railway network. However, colonial policies also contributed to economic exploitation, social divisions, and the partition of India at independence, leading to significant human suffering and geopolitical tensions.

In many African countries, colonial legacies are evident in the arbitrary borders that cut across ethnic and cultural groups, contributing to internal conflicts. The legacy of resource exploitation has also left many African economies reliant on exporting raw materials with limited industrialization.

Colonial legacies in African and Indian communities revealed themselves in significant but unique ways. Politically, both regions inherited arbitrary borders drawn by colonial powers, resulting in long-standing ethnic and religious conflicts; in Africa, these borders divided ethnic groups, whereas in India, religious partition resulted in massive displacement and ongoing tensions with Pakistan. Economically, colonialism built extractive economies in both regions based on raw resource exports. However, India's more developed infrastructure, which included railways and ports, aided post-independence industrial growth. Cultural education programs devalued indigenous languages and customs and produced linguistic elites in both regions. European languages marginalized native languages in Africa by becoming the official languages.

In contrast, English in India evolved into a significant and widespread component of the linguistic landscape, coexisting with initiatives to support Hindi and regional languages. Colonialism solidified social hierarchies; in Africa, it exacerbated ethnic and class inequality, and in India, it strengthened the caste system. A colonial policy in both places perpetuated patriarchal traditions, limiting women's access to opportunities and education. These policies impact gender roles comparably. The political, economic, and social environments of Indian and African societies are still shaped by these distinct and common colonial legacies.

Tsitsi Dangarembga's "Nervous Conditions" is a masterpiece of contemporary African literature. It is the first book written in English by a woman of color from Zimbabwe. Local publishers rejected the work in 1984 because it dealt with extremely delicate topics in African society. Zimbabwean publishers ignored her writing because they think that her work is to 'Feminist'.

Tsitsi Dangarembga became a noticeable voice after colonization in the literature. Her famous work "Nervous Conditions," explores the complicated themes of gender, class, and cultural identity. Tambu, a young girl in Dangarembga novel faces challenge against patriarchal culture, offering an engaging perspective on the most significant social unrest and conflicts that characterized Zimbabwe's path to independence. The central idea of "Nervous Conditions" is the author's deft examination of how women, individually and collectively, deal with and overcome oppression. The story that author writes emphasize persistency and self-reliance for women they struggle with the interchanging of class, gender, and cultural identity. The novel portrayed Tambu's journey by highlighting the complexity and contradictions on Zimbabwean women, freedom for struggles were at this important period in their nation's history. After decades of colonization Zimbabwe was declared independence in 1980. This size of power marked the end of the apartheid era. Although black leaders focused on the fight against the oppressive system of racial segregation, independence did not undermine patriarchal dominance or question gender roles. Women soldiers who served in the guerrillas were cast out of the ranks of authority and reduced to poverty and

obscurity. In Dangaremba's novel "Nervous Conditions," women's responses to various forms of abuse that assail their bodies and minds emerge prominently. Women's feelings over their lack of participation in founding a new country are subsumed by feelings of loss, hatred, and betrayal, even though Dangaremba does not mention the Chimurenga, commonly known as the bush war, in the book.

One of the main concepts of the novel is colonialism's impact on Zimbabwean society. The Colonial rule by Britishers imposed Western educational system, region and values. Tambu's fight against patriarchy and for her education not only shows Western knowledge's captivation and potential empowerment but also talks about the cultural conflicts and gender expectations. Her passion for education is both a personal goal and to oppose the patriarchal norms faced by African women. Gender dynamics are another important theme in the novel; it is emphasizing the patriarchal norms of Shona society, where women faced gender expectations and are often mineralized by the society. Tambu's mother Ma'Singayi symbolizes traditional expectations of women, who are burdened with domestic duties and forced by limited opportunities.

On the other hand, Tambu's aunt Maiguru who was an educated and financially independent women still faces gender discrimination and has to struggle with the expectations and limitations imposed on her because of patriarchal society. Colonial missionaries introduce traditional Christian beliefs. This religious duality creates internal and external conflicts for the characters. Tambu's grandmother's, custodian of traditional practices, represents the spiritual cultures of the Shona people. Tambu's nature requires duty and deference. She is appreciative of Babamukuru, no uncle, for providing her with educational opportunities and respects his authority. He is "as nearly divine as any human being could hope to be," in her opinion. She is not like Nyasha, who consistently challenges his authority and conventional wisdom. Tambu prefers things to be established and in order, thus she finds Nyasha's nontraditional ways upsetting. Nonetheless, Tambu is significantly influenced by Nyasha

One of the main social conflicts in the novel is the convergence of gender expectations and educational system. Tambu's passion for education and to be independent is vital to the narrative as she faced challenges like traditional gender roles and expectations. Tambu's desire for education signifies a huge impact on women, symbolizing empowerment and self-determination against the society that often forces women into domestic chores and works.

Dangaremba relevantly represents the interaction of traditional Shona culture and colonial influence, disclosing the complications and often painful process of negotiating identity, power and belonging. She provides a disturbing exploration of social dynamics in the context of post-colonial Zimbabwe. The novel excellently shows how gender expectations are made and emphasize through social customs and cultural norms and how women like Tambudzai resist and challenge their coercion. Tambu's dream for an independent nation symbolizes a form of quiet rebellion act against gender norms and expectations.

A Historical maker book by Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*, was released in 1981. Salman Rushdie, the British-Indian novelist, is renowned for his fashion of historical fiction with magical realism. He was born in 1947 in a Muslim family; his birth occurred during a pivotal period in Indian history when the British colonial region over South Asia was about to end after almost a century. The year shortly after Independence proved to be turbulent; in addition to the disastrous event known as partition, the separation of India into two distinct countries, political and social tension between Muslims and Hindus also resulted in violence that took thousands of lives. He was raised in England and India, so his Cross-culture upbringing has a solid literary effect. He worked as an actor and advertising copywriter in Britain and later became a full-time writer. After the release of *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie's career took off, and the book received the Bookers in 1993 and 2008, honoring the finest book among all Booker winners.

In the "Midnight's Children", Salman Rushdie makes the instance that there are intertwined shared relations and that the universe is complex and hybrid. To move from the traditional national to cultural identity, one must reject the nation, religion, and convention as determined elements. *Midnight's Children's* events occur during India's independence from British colonial authority and the subsequent division of British India. The story revolves around Saleem Sinai, the protagonist born on 15 August 1947, the day India gained its independence. Because of this vital timing, he is endowed with the usual capabilities and becomes connected to the children born in the first hour of India's independence, each of whom has particular abilities. Rushdie examines post-colonial India's intricacies and turbulent events via the title of Saleem and the Other Midnight Children.

The novel weaves experiences with broader national happenings and explores issues like identity, nationalism, and historical destiny. It addresses pivotal occasions such as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Emergency period (1975-2977), capturing independent India. Rushdie reveals political power and historical revisionism through his magical realism fiction, providing a complex shape of India's hardships and changes after the independence. The novel's historical context is based in the end of colonial period in India. The struggle for independence was based on many events. These events were led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, And Subhash Chandra Bose. The fight for independence led to the partition of British India into two nations- India and Pakistan; the partition was a traumatizing event. This event caused violence, displacement and mass migrations.

Saleem Sinai, the novel's protagonist, illustrates the identity of post-colonial India. He was born on the day of independence, symbolizing the birth of a new nation with many challenges and different contradictions. The impact of partition of India caused problems on Saleem and his family. They experienced displacement and violence caused by partition, which also impacted on their identities. Saleem's journey is based on finding his identity and belongingness in the post-colonial nation. The realism in the novel is shown in Saleem's capability to communicate with other midnight children (children born in the first hour of independence). Saleem's family reflects their cultures and religious background; conflicts like the generation gap and cultures also mark the relationship with his family. His parents think differently; his mother, Amina, follows traditional values and cultures in pre-independence India. Whereas his father, Ahmad, represents a modern nation filled with challenges. Saleem's contending to direct these conflicts shows the complexity of traditional values and modern nation. Saleem's relationship with Parvati is also shaped by hybridity and culture. As *Midnight's Child*, Parvati shows the mixture of magic and realism, tradition and modern life. Their relationship unfolds the story of a new, challenging India. At last, this novel tells us how human lives shape and shape historical forces, making a cornerstone of modern literature.

Examine post-colonial narrative through a comparative study of *Midnight's Children* and *Nervous Conditions*. The writing of writers who address the intricacies of culture, identity, and the legacy of colonialism have enhanced the post-colonial world's literary scene. The stories told in both novels follow people as they deal with the difficulties and changes brought about by colonial control.

Rushdie waves broad magical realist narratives in *Midnight Children* that combine the turbulent history of post-independence India with the protagonist Saleem Sinai's journey. In the novel, He narrates the story of his hero and the nation's history. He talked about the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi and the sacrifices he made for the nation to be free of colonial rule. He fought against the Britisher and has done many protests. Rushdie also describes Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and how his work supported India's for peace and non-violence and wanted happiness everywhere, his love for children and his efforts for the nation. That is how Rushdie praises India and his leader, who supports freeing India from the west. Rushdie's novel, in particular, tackles the intricacies of individual and collective identity, as Saleem's personal story is closely related to the foundation of the Indian nation. The journey of India from colonial rule to independence and then partying, the novel explores the personal and national struggles of the characters. The protagonist, Saleem Sinai, narrates his life story throughout the book. His biography is intricately entwined with Indian history, drawing parallels between the history of the country and his own journey. There are several changes in time and space throughout the non-linear story. Saleem tells stories in episodic fashion, breaking the chronological flow with pauses and flashbacks. The disorganized and complex character of postcolonial India is reflected in this disjointed architecture. Rushdie uses historiographic metafiction, which is the art of fusing historical details with fictitious characters. Saleem's untrustworthy narration casts doubt on the idea of objective historical truth by obfuscating the distinction between fact and fiction. Among Rushdie's key stylistic decisions is the use of magical realism. The story is interwoven with supernatural themes, such as Saleem's telepathic ability and the children of the midnight's particular abilities. Rushdie tells Saleem's story using a variety of literary devices and approaches. The book is historical, allegorical, gloomy, humorous, and sardonic all at once. The vocabulary is varied, ranging from poetic prose to everyday vernacular. Sentences run more than a page, with hyphens connecting words in between. Saleem even uses a completely new vocabulary of literary phrases that he created in order to explain his work. He creates a new kind of sentence by bending and breaking the laws of grammar. Furthermore, there is a clear connection between Rushdie's writing and Bombay culture's movie, which is a significant aspect. Saleem frequently used cinematic arts to describe his existence, and on some occasions, his viewpoint resembles that of a camera hovering the landscape. The dynamics of Rushdie's language contributes perhaps more than anything-else, to *Midnight's Children's* popularity, controversiality and complexity. It brings out all the important shades of novels's perspective, which is evidently postcolonial and postmodernist. The fractured and metafictional narrative structure is a reflection of postcolonial India's fractured national identity. Rushdie exposes the arbitrary character of historical memory and questions established narratives by fusing history and fiction. Indian culture is a composite one, which is seen in the usage of complex tales and magical realism. Rushdie's artistic decisions honor the variety of voices, civilizations, and national histories that make up the country.

The more Saleem's narrative comes closer to the present, the more it loses its deep perspective and becomes fragmentary and grotesque. Using the metaphor of cinema, he reflects on this question of perspective:

*"Suppose yourself in a large cinema, sitting at first in the black row and gradually moving up, row by row, until your nose is almost pressed against the screen. Gradually the stars' faces dissolve into dancing grain, tiny details assume grotesque proportions; the illusion dissolves-or rather, it becomes clear that the illusion itself is reality."*

The movement towards the movie screen suggests the narratives progress towards the present. As it nears the contemporary events, it becomes partial or fragmentary showing only blobs on the screen and not the whole picture. The reflection stems from Saleem's confusion and lack of certainties which Padma's absence have generated in him.

In the same way, *Nervous Conditions* by Dangarembga delves into Tambu's journey in navigating gendered, cultural, and societal limits in post-independence Zimbabwe. Tambu's progression in the narrative is characterized by her attempts to close the cultural and educational divide between her countryside village and the urban areas impacted by colonization. Both stories focus on the theme of alienation and the search for cultural and national identity. The characters in these works, whether immigrants or from oppressed communities, face challenges with being displaced and a desire to fit in. The main character Tambudzai (Tambu) shares her perspective on the book, giving readers a deep and introspective glimpse into her life. Readers can relate intimately to Tambu's innermost thoughts, emotions, and obstacles through this narrative presented from a first-person perspective. The plot unfolds in a linear fashion, commencing with Tambu's childhood and progressing into her adolescence. The linear progression of the story emphasizes the protagonist's growth and maturation, as Dangarembga includes aspects of her own life as a Zimbabwean child. Focusing on her characters' everyday challenges and lifestyles, Dangarembga's realistic style adds depth and emotional complexity to the narrative. This grounded approach allows readers to understand the socio-cultural setting of colonial and postcolonial Zimbabwe and connect with the characters. The writer utilizes striking visual descriptions and symbolism to communicate intricate topics. The title "*Nervous Conditions*" refers to the social and psychological fears faced by characters in a colonial society. The narrative's realistic and introspective approach highlights the impact of colonialism on personal and collective identities. Tambu's personal growth and academic endeavors are shaped by the broader context of colonial domination and cultural mixing. Gender and empowerment concerns are brought to the forefront writing by authors mostly from African and Asian countries that were once colonies of European powers like Britain, France, Belgium, and Portugal is known as postcolonial literature, of which *Nervous Conditions* is an example. These kinds of pieces frequently highlight the native culture of the country, which the colonists treated with disrespect and occasionally nearly eradicated. Characters that have assimilated a great deal of colonial culture at the price of their own must frequently contend with feeling like they have two identities in postcolonial reading. A good illustration of this is Nyasha from *Nervous Conditions*. Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory by Peter Barry describes the three stages of postcolonial literature as starting with the adoption of European models or literature and working within that tradition. The writer "aims to adapt the European form to African subject matter, thus assuming partial rights of intervention in the genre" is the second stage of

the writing process. The final stage is when the postcolonial writer uses forms and genres native to his or her own culture, without feeling the need to defer to European standards. *Nervous Conditions* would belong in the first and second categories, since it is written largely in the form of a traditional coming-of-age story in Western literature, but the setting is entirely African, and some importance is attached to traditional African culture. Tambu eventually learns to assess information for her rather than accepting it all at face value. She calls this "a painful and long process." She grows a little when she finds the strength to stand up to her uncle and decline to attend her parents' wedding, which she finds to be an absurd show. She starts to understand that her admiration for her uncle "stunted the growth of [her] faculty of criticism." She has thus far shown the bravery and tenacity to transcend the constrained role that her impoverished rural family imposed for her, and by the book's conclusion, she is well on her path to becoming a mature young woman's the mission schools christen teaching considers the asses colonial values.

One of the most contentious subgenres of literature is post-colonial literature. Post-colonial literature generally refers to writings that focus on the effects of colonization in the former colonies after they gained their independence. The intriguing books "*Midnight's Children*" by Salman Rushdie and *Nervous Condition* by Tsitsi Dangarembga elegantly piece together a tapestry of related themes that delve into the intricacies of post-colonial identity and the quest for self-determination. Both stories struggle with the idea of cultural displacement and the difficulty of bridging the gap between conventional norms and the attraction of modernism from the west.

In these pieces, the main characters, Tambu from *Nervous Conditions* and Saleem from *Midnight Children* set off on a quest for self-discovery, facing the effects of colonial tyranny and the forces of social change that challenge their sense of identity.

The themes of alienation and the need for assimilation are central to these similar stories. The protagonists in both books are torn between the competing forces of their native cultures and the prevailing sociopolitical system that wants to shape them into a uniform, western-centric identity. The marginalization of particular communities, a recurrent theme in post-colonial literature, further contributes to this tension. The struggles of Tambu and Saleem to be accepted as individuals and to take up their proper place in society are reflections of the giant fight of oppressed people to gain recognition and authority. In addition to highlighting the everyday experiences of people negotiating the intricacies of post-colonial realities, the writers' examination of these comparable themes emphasizes how important it is to acknowledge a variety of tales and views in the literary canon.

"*Nervous Conditions*" novel defines the outcomes of colonial period on the shona people. The narrator Tambu, directs the problems of studying western education system and the cultural. Complexity it creates. The novel points out how colonialism disturb people's way of living, their traditional life and how colonial rule is imposing foreign values, which leads to a struggle for identity crisis. In *Midnight's Children*, describes the impact of british rule to India's independence and the partition. The narrator Saleem Siani describes the nation's complete identity. The novel depicts the outcome of colonialism on nation's identity and the problems of postcolonial identity which conflicts in social and political upheaval. Both the novel shows the impact of cultural hybridity, which affects gender discrimination and identity, the problems faced by females in finding their cultural landscape.

As gender and patriarchy plays as an important theme in *nervous conditions*, Tambu's cousin Nayasha lives shows the effects of colonialism and traditional patriarchal norms. By looking after the lives of female characters in the novel we can analyse the problems, conflicts and challenges of gender inequalities and patriarchal norms. Tambu's fight for educational system is one of the main conflicts; she fights against gender norms and traditional expectations. The expectations of giving Priority to boys and where girls education was not necessary, except the fact she still fights for her education against patriarchal norms. Tambu searches for her identity, breaking the social norms; her fight for education becomes a challenge against gender limitations. "*Midnight's children*" the female character, Saleem's mother Amina and his companion Padma faced patriarchal norms. Both the novel joins gender norms and patriarchy together, explaining how Britishers and tradition exploitations shapes a women's life Amina and Padma's experiences in postcolonial time reveals the cultural and modern part, similarly Tambu.

Fate and history are also another theme in *Midnight's Children* as shows in these lines from the novel "*No, I'm no monster, nor have I been guilty of trickery. I provided clues...but there's something more important than that. It's this: when we eventually discovered the crime of Mary Pereira, we all found that it made no difference! I was still their son: they remained my parents.*"

Thus, fate and history conspire against Saleem Sinai's life from the very first minute of his existence, making an emblem of India out of him and simultaneously tearing him apart from his real roots. This situation makes the readers aware of a plain and simple fact to which everyone of us is bound no one can choose the place and circumstances, not even the historical atmosphere in which we come into life. This may seem a truism, but it really affects the most essential right of any human being: the right to enjoy one's own freedom. Freedom is proclaimed, vindicated and highly valuable for everyone, but, to a certain extent, freedom seems to be a mere illusion in the light of Saleem's narration. No matter how unbound and free we may feel, all of us have our freedom restricted by a common tie whose name is fate:

*"I, Saleem Sinai...had become heavily embroiled in fate-at the best of times a dangerous sort of involvement. And I couldn't even wipe my own nose at the time."*

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## CONCLUSION

The critical nature of postcolonial theory means destabilizing Western ways of thinking, creating opportunities for subordinates or marginalized groups to speak, and producing alternatives to the dominant discourse. Cultural identity is a multifaceted concept, a concept influenced by the diversity of India. The history of colonized and displaced countries has consequences in the complexity of culture, language, communication, and religion. Diversity has negative and positive outcomes, as different religious groups have different identities and cultures. The term post-colonialism is often taken literally to mean the period after colonialism. As post-colonialism deals with cultural identity in colonized societies, these novels depict how the people of these

societies suffer from colonialism and the dilemmas of developing national identity after colonial rule. By comparing these two novels, "Midnight's Children", and "Nervous Conditions", can look out the colonialism and the impact it caused on Africa and India is huge. As we can see in the novel "Midnight's Children" how India experiences false national borders like partition of India and Pakistan and loss of many people, whereas in the novel "Nervous Conditions" shows how gender expectations, education system and colonial power oppressed in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). In conclusion both the novels point out on the legacies of colonial power offering to focus on postcolonial conflicts and by enlightening the diverse opinions of global literary landscape.

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