

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

Postmodern novels are challenging to analyze as most of them voice the issue that is formerly taboo to be discussed, such as: the class, gender and racial issues. Some postmodern novels are also against the conventional idea and form that are commonly used in former novels. This makes a development of a new technique in writing as it is stated in Meriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature:

The postmodern literature has amounted to a reaction against an ordered view of the world and therefore against fixed ideas about the form and meaning of text. This reaction is reflected in eclectic style of writing through the use of such devices as pastiche and parody as well as in the development of such concepts as the absurd, the anti hero and anti novel, and magic realism. (1995; 899)

Magical Realism as one of the developments in postmodern literature 'is an international movement with a wide-ranging history and significant influence among the literature in the world' (Magical Realism Theory, History, Community, ed. L.P

Zamora and W.B Faris). Magical Realism is widely used because of its unique combination of reality and fantasy. The use of Magical Realism is not merely to make the work entertaining but it also has an implicit meaning. In a work of Magical Realism the author uses magical elements to convey his message.

There are various definitions of Magical Realism. Yet, the clearest definition of Magical Realism is stated by Jeb Barnett in his article, Magical Realism Theory, History, Community: “Magical Realism is a fusion of dream and reality and a form of expression that is reality based with several fantastic elements that are regarded normal by both the readers and the characters.”  
<<http://www.southern.ohiou.edu/realmagic/JebBl.htm>>

In the works of Magical Realism the author tries to convey the reality which exists or has existed. The Magical element in Magical Realism is not a fantasy element but a manifestation of the reality which is seen from the perspective of the people who live in our world and experience a different reality from ours. In other words, the works of Magical Realism try to give their readers a new insight of the world.

The present writer would also like to point out some characteristics of Magical Realism as these characteristics will help both the present writer and the readers to analyze and understand a work of Magical Realism. The first characteristic is that it aims to evoke emotion by creating imaginary worlds to escape from the real world, the second characteristic is reality-based fiction, the third characteristic is that anything that seems uncanny or unfamiliar to western eyes becomes ‘magic’, while to

a native of that culture the events or ways of thinking describe something 'real', the fourth characteristic is that the work gives the ordinary a deeper meaning, and the fifth characteristic is that the fantastic element is a transformation of the common and everyday into something awesome and unreal but real.  
<<http://www.southern.ohiou.edu/realmagic/identfy.html>>

Salman Rushdie is one of the prominent writers in Magical Realism as it is stated in Magical Realism Theory, History, ed L.P Zamora and W.B Faris; “ In the works by writers as diverse as Salman Rushdie and many others, magical realism intensifies its existence and becomes a worldwide phenomenon.” Rushdie is an Anglo- Indian writer. He is considered a prominent writer since he was selected as one of Granta’s Best Young British Novelists in 1983. The present writer is impressed by the way Rushdie narrates the story because he blends fantasy and reality to deliver his criticism toward issues in a society and gives a deeper meaning to the ordinary things.

Due to its significant characteristic of Magical Realism, the present writer has chosen to analyze Salman Rushdie’s third novel, Shame. As the winner of The Prix Du Meilleur Livre Etranger and shortlisted for the Booker Prize, Shame “is a testament to the courage of Salman Rushdie that the novel documents the situation in Pakistan so accurately with the actual political crisis dividing Pakistan.”<<http://www.postcolonialweb.org/self-conscious/shame.html>>. Rushdie uses Shame not simply to tell about a fictional story of a certain society but he also uses it as a tool to criticize the condition of Pakistan, and a voice that speaks the issue that is faced by the Pakistani.

Therefore, the present writer would like to identify the characteristics of Magical Realism that occur in the novel. Such identification can help the present writer to understand the whole work and to produce better interpretation of the work. In addition, the present writer could reveal the author's purpose, which is to deliver his criticism toward Pakistan.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In order to analyze the novels, the present writer states the problem as follows;

1. What are the elements of Magical Realism that can be found in Salman Rushdie's Shame?
2. What are the author's purposes of applying Magical Realism in his work?

### **Purpose of the Study**

The analysis employs purposes of writing, which are;

1. To identify the element of Magical Realism that can be found in the novel.
2. To point out the author's purposes of applying Magical Realism in his work.

### **Method of Research**

The method of research which the present writer applies is library research. She begins by reading Salman Rusdie's Shame and the present writer reads other materials from the Internet that are connected to the topics to be discussed. Then the present writer analyzes the primary text by using some reference books and adds

some materials from the Internet to support her analysis. Finally, the present writer draws some conclusion of what has been discussed in her analysis.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

The present writer divides the thesis into three chapters, the Bibliography and the Appendices.

In Chapter One, the present writer presents the Introduction, which contains the Background of the study, the Statement of the problem, the Purpose of the study, Methods of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, the present writer analyzes the elements of Magical Realism in Salman Rushdie's Shame and the author's purpose of applying Magical Realism in his work. Later in Chapter Three, the present writer makes a conclusion concerning the discussion and analysis in Chapter Two. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendice

