CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed Salman Rushdie’s *Shame*, the present writer would like to conclude her analysis based on the analysis in Chapter Two.

In conclusion, the novel presents the author’s social and political contemplation on a society that reflects Pakistani’s social and political condition by presenting it through Magical Realism. In a work of Magical Realism the author is combining the fantastic element and the realistic elements to convey his message.

*Shame* portrays a condition in a society, which refers to Pakistan. It holds a criticism against Pakistan’s government and Pakistani culture and values. It also illustrates the threat that is faced by Pakistan. Rushdie illustrates this threat by using Magical Realism; in addition, Rushdie uses history, political and social backdrop to emphasize the sense of realism.

The present writer would like to point out the characteristics of Magical Realism which are found in the novel. *Shame* employs five characteristics of
Magical Realism; The first characteristic is that its aim is to evoke emotion by creating imaginary worlds to escape from the real world. It is shown by the portrayal of the unnamed society, which reflects Pakistani social and political condition. In 
Shame, Rushdie state that the story takes place in an imaginary country. However, Rusdie’s descriptions and the content of his novel that present a lot of Pakistani culture and political condition make the reader aware that he is portraying Pakistan. The technique allows the author to deliver his political and social contemplation without being afraid of the book being banned. He also wants to say that it is wrong for the authorities to limit one’s freedom of speech by using state censorship.

The second characteristic is reality based-fiction. It is portray through the portrayal of the two Pakistan political figures Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Zia ul-Haq. This representation is used to offer a new insight of an event in history.

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 described something ‘real’, this characteristic is revealed through the strange pregnancy symptoms that is shown by the Shakil sister. Here, Rushdie attacks the concept of Izzat and Sharam (Honor and Shame), which is held by the Pakistani. He wants to point out that it is something which is over reacted and causes hypocrisy.

The fourth characteristic is that the fantastic element is a transformation of the common and everyday into something awesome and unreal but real, this element is presented through Sufiya Zinobia’s transformation to a white panther. Born as the family’s shame, Sufiya absorbs the essence of shame around her and it transforms her into a white panther. The transformation of Sufiya Zinobia is used as a warning for
the threat, which is faced by Pakistan. Pakistan sees their separation from India as a hope for a better life; however, the political turbulence and instability in Pakistan slow down the country development. In addition, the Pakistani people who longed for stability and a peaceful life, experienced social and political instability, which caused people’s dissatisfaction. These dissatisfaction and anger can transform a civilized people into an uncivilized people who are destructing the country to show their dissatisfaction.

The fifth characteristic is that the work gives ordinary a deeper meaning. It can be seen through Naveed Hyder’s multiple pregnancy. Naveed Hyder was desperate with her multiple pregnancy; yet, she cannot reject her duty as a wife to obey her husband. Rushdie criticizes Pakistani’s culture and values that regard women as the second class, having no right or roles but giving birth to their children.

In *Shame*, Rushdie conveys his messages and criticisms effectively and successfully by using Magical Realism. Through Magical Realism, he makes the reader see that the events in the novel have implicit meanings. Magical Realism also conveys the author’s messages and criticism so that the issues, which he presents in his novel, are not offending the party he is criticizing. By it he could also deliver his idea of controversial issues intensively.