

## **Saleem Sinai and His History. Time in Midnight's Children**

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### **Abstract**

The present article analyzes the way the issue of time is dealt in Salman Rushdie's novel *Midnight's Children*. The essence of the novel springs from the relation between Saleem Sinai, the unreliable narrator who re-writes the history of India, India, the sum of myths and dreams of its people, and time, the multi-layered participant in Saleem's story. Saleem offers a personal account of the history of India based on the merging of reality and fiction, of reality and the fantastic. Time takes different forms: subjective/ objective, mythical/ real. Two layers define time and history: the time of miracles- associated to the mythical India- and the time of aggression - the time of changes, the time of a new India. Using irony, metaphor and symbols, Rushdie questions the truth of official histories, emphasizing the possibilities of literature to re-create the past.