

# THE NOVEL: AN ESSAY ON SALMAN RUSHDIE'S NOVEL *The Enchantress of Florence*

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ABSTRACT

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**Abstract** 

RECOMMENDATIONS

My essay intends to analyze the dialectic relationship between historical reality and fiction in the novel *The Enchantress of Florence* by Salman Rushdie. I will point out a sophisticated and playful story in which the author interweaves elements of history and literature, a game-story that transcends the canonical limits of postmodernism where the novel has constantly been placed by the critical establishment, and goes back to the beginnings, to the anthropological function of play as an essential human activity that was once defined by Johan Huizinga in *Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play-element in Culture*. Moreover, my paper will explore how this play becomes Rushdie's attempt to return to the original function of literature which used to enchant and inform at the same time. Once these roots have been reached, however, and the secondary reality of the literary game is well-established, Rushdie manages to break the barriers between reality and fiction, and through versatile textual mechanisms, to intermingle history and reality in a way that makes them merge. Consequently, he composes a play within fiction that is just as powerful as reality itself and suggests the fact that representation has more ontological consistency than the represented body or event itself. We exist as long as we are written and talked about, and nothing in the order of reality can be as powerful as the reality of language.

Keywords: [Rushdie](#); [reality](#); [history](#); [representation](#)



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The magic of 'Magic realism' in language acquisition with reference to salman rushdie's midnight's children and the enchantress of florence. Gopalakrishnan A. Department of English, Alagappa University Model Constitution College of Arts and Science. Gopalakrishnan A., The Magic of 'Magic Realism' in Language Acquisition with Reference to Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children and the Enchantress of Florence. words, Magic Realism has all the requisites which Krashen has jotted down in Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition: ... language acquisition, first or second, occurs when comprehension of real messages occurs, and when the acquirer is not 'on the defensive' The Enchantress of Florence is the ninth novel by Salman Rushdie, published in 2008. According to Rushdie this is his "most researched book" which required "years and years of reading". The novel was published on 11 April 2008 by Jonathan Cape London, and in the United States by Random House. The central theme of The Enchantress of Florence is the visit of a European to the Mughal emperor Akbar's court and his claim that he is a long lost relative of Akbar, born of an exiled Indian princess and an