# NEGOTIATING CULTURE THROUGH LANGUAGE IN RUSHDIE'S *SHAME* AND *SHALIMAR THE CLOWN*

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## *ABSTRACT*

*Salman Rushdie's novels function as linguistic laboratories where the postcolonial condition—marked by migration, hybridity, and fractured identity—is continuously negotiated through language. A diasporic writer working primarily in English, Rushdie deploys the imperial language not as a tool of domination but as a site of resistance and re-creation. Through Shame (1983) and Shalimar the Clown (2005), he redefines the narrative possibilities of English, transforming it into a multilingual, intercultural medium that reflects the layered realities of South Asia. It is intriguing to note how language becomes a mechanism for negotiating culture in Rushdie's novels, focusing on linguistic hybridity, gendered discourse, narrative voice, the effects of nationalism and violence on cultural expression, and the diasporic condition.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Migration, Hybridity, Identity, Diaspora, Multilingual*