

Postmemory in Salman Rashid's *A Time of Madness: A Memoir of Partition*

Deepanjali Baruah

Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Jagannath Barooah College
(deepanjalibaruah73@gmail.com)

Abstract :

The term postmemory as a concept was first introduced by Marianne Hirsch in her book *The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture After the Holocaust* (2012) which refers to the working of memory and the transmission of traumatic individual and collective memory of the Holocaust by the hinge generation to the later generations. Unlike memory, postmemory is not just recalling an event but a process of mediation, redeeming connections with generations and filling up the gaps in knowledge. The concept of postmemory can also be applied to other traumatic historical events of the world. Like the Holocaust, the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 has been regarded as the greatest migration of history, displacing millions of people from their roots but has not been treated in such magnitude as the Holocaust. Salman Rashid's memoir *A Time of Madness: A Memoir of Partition* speaks of the violence and trauma but also at the same time it expresses the writer's postmemorial responsibility for connection, redemption and resilience of the human spirit. In this paper an attempt shall be made to theorize how postmemory of Partition helps one to think more broadly, deliver insights about a past and one's relation to it. This paper will also shed light on the role of postmemory in promoting and prohibiting rapprochement in the light of Salman Rashid's memoir.