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The Shed Light On Absurdism

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Abstract:

Absurdism is a philosophical theory that is based on the belief that human life has no meaning, no existence of life, and this feeling of the situation of human being leads toward alienation, frustration, loneliness, and futility in life. Absurdism is a philosophical movement that came out after the devastation of World War II. During this war, a lot of bloodshed and killed people and their fellow beings created a terrible situation in the lives of human beings. This situation pursuit to think about their existence, the existence of these internal changes began to seem absurd and the plight of the individual futile. So, the present paper focused on the theory of absurdism, its meaning, and its existence in human life. Moreover, it also discussed the pre-absurdism movement which existed before the absurdism movement. However, this paper is an endeavor to shed light on a philosophical theory of absurdism.

Key Words:

Absurdism, Absurdity, Human Existence, Irrational, human being

Introduction:

Absurdism is a philosophical theory based on the belief that human life is having no meaning, no existence, no direction, and no purpose in life. The universe is irrational, illogical, and meaningless, and human searching for meaning in life leads him to an individual struggle in life to find meaning in a meaningless world. Absurdity derives from a combination of two things: an irrational world and a person who's looking out at it and trying to make it rational. That's why human beings search for meaning in life in this meaningless which is absurd. Absurdism, and its more specific companion term Theatre of the Absurd, refers to the works of a group of Western European and American dramatists writing and producing plays in the 1950s and early 1960s. Absurdism is a philosophical movement that came out after the devastation of World War II. During this war, a lot of bloodshed and killed people and their fellow beings created a terrible situation in the lives of human beings. This situation pursuit to think about their existence, the existence of this internal change began to seem absurd and the plight of the individual futile. The term "Theatre of the Absurd" was coined by critic Martin Esslin, in his book 'Theatre of Absurd in 1961 who identified common features of a new style of drama that

seemed to ignore theatrical conventions and audience expectations. but Theatre of the Absurd was previously used in the writing of Albert Camus's seminal essay 'The myth of Sisyphus' in 1942.

As Albert Camus said in *The Myth of Sisyphus* (1942),

“In a universe that is suddenly deprived of illusions and light, man feels a stranger. His is an irremediable exile...this divorce between man and his life, the actor and his setting, truly constitutes the feeling of Absurdity” (Abrams) Many postmodern writers initiated to write about the absurdity of life—the state of society at a time of war—after the Second World War. The theme of the plays by Beckett, Adamov, Ionesco, Genet, and other writers who examined ludicrous elements in plays broadly mirrors the absurdity of the human situation. When we label the theatre as absurd, it signifies that we have lost our sense of purpose in life. Additionally, absurdist movements that were prevalent at the time addressed the issue of the futility of human existence. “ Absurdism was a widespread tendency, especially prominent in existential philosophy of men of letters such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus to view a human being as an isolated existent who is cast into an alien universe, to conceive the universe as possessing no inherent truth, value, or meaning, and to represent human life, as it moves from the nothingness whence it came toward the nothingness where it must end, as an existence which is both anguished and absurd” (Abrams) consequently, human life search meaning of life in the meaningless world which leads towards nothingness in life.

Discuss Pre-Absurdism

Martin Esslin claims that the dreamlike imagery and linguistic breakdown of the era's silent films served as an inspiration for the Theatre of the Absurd. Charlie Chaplin's portrayal of the small man or Buster Keaton's stony-faced avatars influenced writers like Ionesco and Beckett. The Theatre of the Absurd has advanced significantly thanks to the clowning tradition in both talking and silent films. “Someone had to be the first to carry things to ridiculous lengths and to do so on principle. Someone had to explore the hopeless paradox of unanimity in the arts, to dramatize in the loudest, plainest, most blatant manner possible the joys and absurdities of organized movements in art, to furnish a protocol for Dada, Surrealism, each later attempt at solidarity” (Neil) Dadaism, Surrealism, and the Parisian avant-garde are also three key influences on the Theatre of the Absurd. the beginning of the 'movement' that was to lead to the Theatre of the Absurd to the shocking opening in December 1896 of Alfred Jerry's ground-breaking 'monstrous puppet-play' *Ubu Roi* The most notable contemporary instance of the Theatre of the Absurd could be cited as Alfred Jerry's 1896 production of *Ubu Roi*. Therefore, the major inspirations behind the Theatre of the Absurd are that of *Commedia dell Arte*, Dadaism, and Surrealism which existed beforehand the theatre of Absurd.

Therefore, first, we identify the meaning of absurd. Esslin discusses the term absurd, the word Absurd means, “Absurd’ originally means ‘out of harmony’ in a musical context. Hence its dictionary definition: ‘out of harmony with reason or propriety; incongruous, unreasonable, illogical”. (Martin) Martine Esslin has described the theatre of the Absurd in the words of Ionesco: “Absurd is that which is devoid of purpose.... cut off from his religious, metaphysical, and transcendental roots, man is lost; all his actions become senseless, absurd,

useless.” (Martin, *The Theatre of Absurd*) According to John Russell Taylor writes in the Penguin Dictionary about the theatre of the absurd,

“The Absurd Theatre, the term applied to a group of dramatists in the 1950s who did not regard themselves as a school but who all seemed to share certain attitudes towards the predicament of man in the universe: essentially those summarized by Albert Camus in his essay ‘The Myth of Sisyphus’ (1942) which diagnoses humanity’s plight as purposelessness in an existence out of harmony with its surroundings awareness of this lack of purpose in all we do... produce a state of metaphysical anguish which is the central theme of all the writers in the Theatre of the Absurd, most notably Samuel Beckett, Eugene Ionesco, Adamov, Jean Genet and Harold Pinter.” (John) thus, the definition of absurdism the meaning of absurdism and some notable writers who wrote plays which reflected the absurdism in the plays. So, Absurdism is a philosophical theory that appeared after the horrific world war-II but also existed before the war, but after the destruction of the war, people think about existence and the meaning of life which leads them towards the futility of life. Moreover, human being search for the meaning of life in this meaningless world which is irrational. So, life without meaning is the starting point of absurdism philosophy.

Research Methods:

The present study will use theoretical, analytical, descriptive, and explorative qualitative methods for the research. This research employs a descriptive method which includes a process of gathering, analyzing, and classifying the data for making adequate and accurate interpretation of collected data. Information relevant to the study will be gathered from various reference materials such as books, journals, articles, and online sources related to the topic concerned. The present paper focused on the theory of absurdism, its meaning, and its existence in human life. Moreover, it also discussed the pre-absurdism movement which existed before the absurdism movement.

Conclusion:

Absurdism is a philosophical movement that flourished after the horrific World War second but it also existed in ancient times. Therefore, Absurdism is based on the belief that human life has no meaning, no existence of life and this feeling of the situation of human beings lead toward alienation, frustration, and futility in life. Many postmodern writers began to write about the absurdity of life—the state of society at a time of war—after the Second World War. The theme of the plays by Beckett, Adamov, Ionesco, Genet, and other writers who examined absurd elements in plays broadly mirrors the absurdity of the human situation. When we label the theatre as absurd, it signifies that we have lost our sense of purpose in life. So finally, The present paper is attentive to the theory of absurdism, its meaning, and its existence in human life. Moreover, it also discoursed the pre-absurdism movement which existed before the absurdism movement. However, this paper is an endeavor to shed light on a philosophical theory of absurdism.

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