

Absurdity in Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot"

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Abstract:

This research paper explores the absurdity in Samuel Beckett's notable play "Waiting for Godot". Samuel Beckett is considered to be a prominent figure among the *French Absurdist*. "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett, is one of the masterpieces of absurdist literature. The creative features of this play such as title, setting, structure, theme, characters, dialogues, and actions are overviewed through the lens of absurdity. The play "Waiting for Godot" was first written in French in 1948 and called En attendant Godot. Elements of absurdity for making this play are very lively and charming. Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot" focuses on the absurdity of life. This play completely deals with the life of a modern man who feels tense and its meaningless life. According to the Absurdist, "There is no meaning in life. The life is permeated men but there is no man. Human life is like a bubble" This work based on the belief that the present world is irrational, purposelessness, and meaningless and the search for order brings the individual into disagreement with the universe. This paper is an enterprise to shed light on "Waiting for Godot" as an absurd play.

Key Words: Absurdity, Samuel Beckett, Belief, Waiting for Godot, En attendant Godot.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Absurdity means meaninglessness, purposelessness, silly, strange, incongruence, ridiculousness, bizarre, nonsense. An absurdity is a thing that is awfully unreasonable, so as to be foolish or not taken seriously, or the state of being so. According to Oxford English Dictionary, Absurdity means "the quality or state of being ridiculous or widely unreasonable". The word absurd was coined by "Martin Esslin to delineate the anti-realistic post-war drama of playwrights as Beckett, Arthur Adamov and Jean Genet" (Nelson, 1993, p. 67). Absurd play is the complete denial of old values. It has no plot, no characterization, no logical sequence, no rising, and falling action, no story, no clear theme, no proper beginning, middle, and end, no pointed dialogues and finally its language is not poetic.

Absurdity is in fact a condition where man is compelled to exist without his individualism in society and hence does not possess any degree of effective communication (Robert, 1995). Martin Esslin at first used this term in his writing. The term actually used to delineate the nonsensical, irrational, meaningless, purposeless, foolish, and silly aspects of human life. The French philosopher Albert Camus also believed, "Accepting the absurdity of everything around us is one step, a necessary experience: it should not become a dead end. It arouses a revolt that can become fruitful"

There are many dramas in literature world based upon the philosophy of absurdism. Absurdism is applied to the plays written in the 1950, and 1960, by the writers including Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee, and Holder Pinter. Among those writers Samuel Beckett is more important because he has written many plays. "Waiting for Godot" was his first play which proved to be the most successful absurd play.

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989) is one of the leading literary and dramatic figures of the twentieth century. Samuel Beckett was an author, playwright, and a critic. He was born on April 13, 1906 in Dublin in Ireland. During the 1930s and 1940s he wrote his first novels and short stories. He wrote a trilogy of novels in the 1950s as well as famous plays like Waiting for Godot. In 1969 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his outstanding contribution in literature. Samuel Beckett started his literary career as a novelist. He published many stories and poetry. He was well known for his notable play "Waiting for Godot".

"Waiting for Godot" is an absurd drama and it presents the absurdity of human life. There is no female character and the characters of the play are not sure about their identities. The entire situation produces meaninglessness which is another characteristic of absurd play. In this drama nothing is happen and no development of plot is found.

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Table of Contents Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction

1. Understanding the eBook Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction User Reviews and Ratings
 - Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction Free and Paid eBooks
 - Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction Public Domain eBooks
 - Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction eBook Subscription Services

- Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction Compatibility with Devices
 - Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Interactive Elements Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
- 8. Staying Engaged with Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Setting Reading Goals Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Development Of Samuel Becketts Fiction
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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