**Absurdity in Beckett’s Waiting For Godot**

**Abstract**

Samuel Beckett was an Irish writer. He belonged to catholic society. He was a teacher of English in Paris. Then he moved to France and became a lecturer in French literature. His most famous is to be presented in Ireland. He mostly wrote in French language but after his translator in English language 'Waiting for Godot' was also written in French language. Then the play was translated by him into English language. In this play, he presented his characters Vladimir, Estragon, Pozzo and Lucky. In this play, he presents absurdity in the modern period. The movement is known as 'Theatre of Absurd'. Samuel Beckett is known as the father of 'Absurd Theatre'. He is also known for his most famous play 'waiting for Godot'.In this play, he has presented the concept of absurdity. Beckett displays the absurdity through irony and characterization.

**Keywords:** Beckett, Absurdity, Godot, Valadimir, Pozzo, Lucky

**Introduction**

'Waiting for Godot' is a play written by Samuel Barclay Beckett. He was an Irish novelist, dramatist, short-story writer, director, poet and literary translator. He was born on 13th April 1906 in Foxrock, Ireland. He was the last modernist writer. Most of his work was written in French language and translated into many languages. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin to study Arts. There he was greatly influenced by romantic language. Professor. Thomas Rudmose Brown taught him about Milton, Chaucer, Spenser and Tennyson. He produced dramatic works like 'Waiting for Godot'(1953), Endgame(1957), Krapp's Last Lape(1958), Happy Days (1961), Play (1962),' Not I'(1972), and Catastrophe (1982).

'Waiting for Godot; is Samuel Beckett's greatest play of 20th-century English literature. it was originally written in the French language. Its French title is 'En Attendant Godot'. This play was originally published in 1952 in French. It was first produced in 1953 and achieved great theatrical success. This is a two-act play. This is the First English edition of Waiting for Godot, translated by Samuel Beckett and published by Network's Grove Press in 1954.

In this play, Beckett gives a great characterization of Vladimir, Estragon, Pozzo, Lucky, a messenger boy and Godot. It is an existentialist play. Vladimir and Estragon both were searching for their life existence. They searched for life. So, they were waiting for Godot. But all are meaningless because the messenger boy said that Godot will not come. So this drama became absurd. Beckett also presents absurdity through his characters and the entire situation produces meaningless.

What is Absurdity?

Absurdity is the most important theme of modern playwrights. Absurdity means "meaningless" The word absurd is derived from the middle English 'Absurdite' which means 'plainly illogical' or from late Latin 'Absurditas' the most perfect definition of Absurdity which are as under.

"The quality of being stupid and unreasonable or silly in a humorous way is called absurdity"- Cambridge Dictionary

"The fact of being extremely silly and not logical and sensible"- Oxford Learners Dictionary.

"The quality or state of being ridiculous or widely unreasonable"- Oxford English Dictionary.

'The Theatre of Absurd' was introduced by Albert Camus. The word absurdity was first used in his book 'The Myth Of Sisypheus' the play is meaningless. This play's famous quote is

"I think, therefore I am"

The theatre of Absurd' was a dramatic movement in Europe from the 1950s to the late 1980s through this concept emerged the theory of existentialism. This concept was used by many modern writers in their plays and created many absurdist plays and playwrights like Eugene Ionesco, Jean Genet, Harold Pinter, Edward Albee, and Martin Esslin. It is an absurd theatre group it has been coined by Martin Esslin in his famous book 'The Theatre of Absurd'

Many writers follow this concept and write some absurdist plays like Eugene Ionesco's 'The Bald Soprano' Samuel Beckett's 'waiting for Godot' and Harold Pinter's 'The Birthday Party' In the absurd drama has no plot, no characterization, no logical sequence, no rising and falling actions, no proper beginning middle and end, finally it's language is not poetic.

Absurdity in Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot'

The play begins with a country road.it is a lonely road. The characters Vladimir and Estragon both stand under the leafless tree.in this play, Vladimir and Estragon were found of his existence of life and waiting for Godot but Godot had not come. The title of the play 'Waiting for Godot' reflects absurdity in the sense that it too is replete with situations of human existence. Also title is 'Waiting for Godot' but still nobody knows who is Godot. The subject matter of the drama is not Godot Vladimir and Estragon are waiting without knowing the purpose they are waiting but again the boy informs them that Godot is not coming and they wait for Godot till the next day. So this situation presents the absurdity in the play. In the act one and two present that they commit suicide two times and speak this dialogue.

VLADIMIR: We'll hang ourselves tomorrow

Unless Godot comes.

ESTRAGON: And if he comes?

VLADIMIR: We"'ll be saved. (Beccket,p.42)

This dialogue through we know that they commit suicides the continuous waiting for Godot increases their despair and their lives are disgusted in this way. The dialogues of Vladimir and Estragon revolve around one thing in the whole drama they repeat the same dialogue.

VLADIMIR: Shall we go?

ESTRAGON: yes let's go

(But they do not move) (Beccket,p.42)

They do not make proper decisions. This shows the absurdity of human life. Thus, this play 'Waiting for Godot' contains all the elements of absurdism.

**Conclusion**

Thus, the play 'Waiting for Godot' by Samuel Beckett presents absurdity through the main characters Vladimir and Estragon. The absurdity is presented in all situations like the repetition of meaningless dialogues, purposeless, foolishness and confusing situations. Many critics and writers said that the play 'Waiting for Godot' is a masterpiece of absurdist literature. It is an attack on modernism. This play deals with the meaninglessness and aimlessness of human life.

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