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**LIFE'S MEANING IN SAMUEL BECKETT'S WAITING FOR GODOT.****Malika Zoirovna Xayitboyeva**

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Annotation. This paper explores the question of life's meaning as portrayed in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The play, a cornerstone of absurdist theatre, presents two characters—Vladimir and Estragon—who wait endlessly for the mysterious Godot. Through their repetitive actions, circular dialogue, and lack of resolution, Beckett captures the existential dilemma of modern humanity: the search for meaning in a seemingly meaningless world. The study examines how Beckett employs absurdism, existential philosophy, and minimalist form to express the futility and persistence of human hope.

Keyword: Absurdism; Existentialism; Meaning of life; Samuel Beckett; *Waiting for Godot*; Nihilism; Hope; Modernism.

Аннотация. В этой статье исследуется вопрос о смысле жизни, отраженный в пьесе Сэмюэля Беккета "В ожидании Годо". В пьесе, являющейся краеугольным камнем театра абсурда, представлены два персонажа — Владимир и Эстрагон, которые бесконечно ждут таинственного Годо. Через их повторяющиеся действия, замкнутый диалог и нерешительность Беккет отражает экзистенциальную дилемму современного человечества: поиск смысла в кажущемся бессмысленным мире. В исследовании рассматривается, как Беккет использует абсурдизм, экзистенциальную философию и минималистскую форму, чтобы выразить тщетность и постоянство человеческой надежды.

Ключевые слова: Абсурдизм; Экзистенциализм; Смысл жизни; Сэмюэл Беккет; В ожидании Годо; Нигилизм; Надежда; Модернизм.

INTRODUCTION. Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (1953) stands as one of the most influential plays of the twentieth century, encapsulating the existential anxieties of post-war Europe. The play's minimal plot—two tramps, Vladimir and Estragon, waiting for a man named Godot who never arrives—serves as a metaphor for humanity's search for purpose in an indifferent universe. Beckett's work reflects the philosophical undercurrents of existentialism, particularly the ideas of Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre, who questioned the possibility of meaning in a godless, absurd world. This paper examines how Beckett dramatizes the struggle for meaning, the persistence of hope, and the inevitability of despair in *Waiting for Godot*.





DISCUSSION. Beckett's world in *Waiting for Godot* is stripped of all conventional narrative and moral structure. Time, place, and identity blur, leaving characters caught in a perpetual cycle of waiting. The play's dialogue—repetitive and circular—mirrors the futility of human communication and the inability to derive meaning from experience.

Vladimir and Estragon's act of waiting can be interpreted as a metaphor for humanity's dependence on external validation—be it God, fate, or salvation—to find purpose. However, Godot's perpetual absence symbolizes the absence of any ultimate meaning or divine plan. Beckett's use of absurdity thus becomes a form of realism: it reflects the human condition in its most honest, unembellished state.

Existential philosophers such as Camus argued that life's absurdity lies in the conflict between the human desire for significance and the universe's indifference. Beckett translates this philosophical tension into drama. Yet, amid despair, there remains an ironic persistence—Vladimir and Estragon continue to wait, suggesting that even in meaninglessness, humans cling to hope. Their endurance, though futile, reflects the resilience of the human spirit.

Moreover, the minimalist setting—two acts that mirror each other with little progression—reinforces the cyclical nature of existence. Beckett's sparse dialogue and bleak humor invite the audience to confront the void, not escape it. In doing so, *Waiting for Godot* transcends nihilism: it does not merely declare life meaningless but exposes the act of searching for meaning as an essential human impulse.

CONCLUSION. In *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett transforms the stage into a mirror reflecting humanity's existential predicament. Through his characters' endless waiting and futile dialogue, Beckett portrays a world devoid of inherent meaning, yet filled with the relentless human desire to find it. The play's power lies in its paradox: it depicts hopelessness while affirming endurance. Beckett's message, ultimately, is not one of despair but of recognition—that meaning may not be found, yet the search itself defines what it means to be human.

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