

Presence of Absurdism in Shakespeares King Lear related to the Theatre of the Absurd

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The dictionary definition of the term 'Absurd' is "out of harmony with reason or property; incongruous, unreasonable, illogical," yet the Theatre of Absurd does not refer to the dictionary definition of the word "absurd". Their work concentrated predominantly on the concept of existentialism and explored the meaningless or purposeless existence of human life. The term 'Theatre of the Absurd' was coined by Martin Esslin in his book (1962) by that title. Shakespeare's magnum opus King Lear (1605), is a basis of the theatre of absurd and unintentionally furnished with fine elements of absurd drama. Later these elements prevailed in the theatre of absurd which was a reaction for the world War II. This paper deals with the idea that in King Lear Shakespeare uses the features like the plays of the Theatre of the Absurd, presenting a disillusioned, harsh, and stark picture of the world. The nature of the research is Qualitative and descriptive. "King Lear" is the text which is taken as a sample to explain the presence of absurdism. Library and internet sources have been used as secondary data in the study. Theatre of the Absurd endeavors the senselessness of human condition. This same absurdist idea is present in King Lear. King Lear is pioneer in presenting concept of the meaninglessness of life. Accordingly, common features between King Lear and the Absurd plays extend beyond the thematic concern with the meaningless existence of mankind in an adamant world.

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