

existentialism are (1) the alienation and strangeness of man in his world; (2) the contradictoriness, feebleness, and contingency of human existence; and (3) the central and overwhelming reality of time for man who has lost his anchorage in the eternal (Horton and Edwards 512).

This study will be based on some special aspects that strike me for the very first impression about Albee's *Zoo Story*. They can be summarized as follows: social phenomena in such a depressing atmosphere experienced by the characters (both Jerry and Peter); alienation, which refers to pessimism, frustration, anxiety, withdrawal; a sequence of isolation and intrusion; the lack of communication and attention in which each character is forced to get involved; and above all, the idea of existentialism concerning human existence.

Representing the works belonging to the Theater of the Absurd, *The Zoo Story* is chosen here merely because of Albee's dramatic vision in viewing the nature of human interaction to gain significance of being human. Significantly he uses the character of Jerry (one of the only two characters) to visualize his methodology, his

viewpoints, and his philosophical attitude toward human relationship. *The Zoo Story* provides Jerry's realization preceding his meeting with Peter at the park, that the refusal of love and hate is the refusal of making contact and of recognizing other's existence. Jerry has already learned from his experience with the dog, that "neither kindness nor cruelty by themselves, independent of each other, creates any effect beyond themselves; and that the two combined together, at the same time, are the teaching emotion" (Albee 44). Accordingly, through Jerry, who first learns and then becomes a teacher to Peter, and his method of indirectness in telling 'The Story of Jerry and the Dog', it seems that Albee has got him (Jerry) to give the message about the teaching emotion to not only Peter, but also to us as the readers.

From these points, I come to the basic idea of this analysis, that is: how one could find the significance of his being-a-human being while he isolates himself from any meaningful human relationship. At last, it is hoped that we will be able to see the nature of human interaction all through *The Zoo Story*.

B. Statement of the Problem

The following questions are supposed to make a clear focus on the problems and to underline some specific topics to be analyzed later:

1. How do the two characters lead their lives that bring them into a state of alienation?
2. How is the nature of human interaction revealed through the teaching emotion that Jerry enlightens Peter?

C. Objective of the Study

Since the play deals with the Theatre of the Absurd, which cannot be separated from existentialism, exploring the way of life, a state of mind, both characters (emphasis on Jerry) experienced prior to their meeting at the park, should be placed on the first. Thus, since men live in the zoo and have so many problems that are eradicated, according to Jerry, I will also examine thoroughly the way Jerry gives the message of the teaching emotion to Peter, respectively.

D. Significance of the Study

Revealing some specific aspects previously stated in the background of the study indicates revealing human existence with all its humanity. Thus I hope that through this study, the reader should understand, firstly, the nature of human interaction, then realize that this is our humanity to know man, to love man, to reach other men, and finally finding the significance of being human.

Moreover, I also hope that the conducting of this analysis will give a meaningful contribution to the development of literature in general, and in particular, it is hoped that this study will give the readers more information about *The Zoo Story*, Albee's first play, in particular that the reader could see through it: the nature of human interaction.

E. Scope and Limitation

To avoid the enlargement of the analysis, I am going to limit the analysis only on the nature of human interaction in finding the significance of being human as is shown in *The Zoo Story*. Thus I will need to discuss some elements in the work itself, a philosophical

attitude in human relationship will arise. Another discussion about the idea of existentialism implied within the play is also inevitable since all plays of the absurd can be termed as existential works, yet I have to emphasize here that this study is not to analyze existentialism in detail, but merely supporting the analysis.

F. Theoretical Background

By using a certain theory we can be aware of what is valuable in a literary work we read. In spite of that fact, I will concentrate the analysis of this study on the objective theory, which offers a particular entity lying within its internal relation. To support the theory, I will also apply an intrinsic approach, which focuses the study on the actual work itself. The internal elements that will be explored here are: the characters and dialogues; plot structure; symbolism and repetition; and especially the interplay among the elements from which the theme of this analysis is drawn out.

And finally, an application of some existential principles will also be used. This philosophical point

of view is only to support the various aspects-- previously mentioned, and not as an external influence which is probably assumed to have inspired the playwright.

G. Method of the study

This analysis is purely conducted utilizing library research. Some related data and sources are taken from original writings, critical studies, collections of essays, periodicals, encyclopedias, etc. Quotations are also needed to ensure the theory, approaches, and the analysis itself. The proper method that is going to be used here is descriptive and analytic. In this way, after reading the play, describing the problems with the data and information related to the analysis, I will accumulate the sources, which support the analysis. Afterwards, those that have been discussed will be employed to analyze the main problems concerning finding out the significance of being human through the nature of human interaction.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Nature: qualities and characteristics, physical, mental and spiritual, which belong to a person or a thing.

Human Interaction: the process that occurs whenever human beings respond to the actions of other human beings (Dressler 7).

Humanity: human nature, quality of being human.

Teaching Emotion: neither kindness nor cruelty by themselves, independent of each other, creates any effect beyond themselves; and that the two combined together, at the same time, are the teaching emotion (Albee 44).

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RELATED STUDIES