



The Stranger : A Study of Sexism, Racism and Colonialism



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Abstract : *Albert Camus's present novel The Stranger widely considered as the true representation of his philosophical movement Existentialism and Absurdity. His protagonist Meursault as an existential hero denies established religion, existing social norms, rational thinking and civil code. He asserts himself freely and revolts against the constructed world and culture. He thinks the authority will not judge his behaviour and there is no law to punish him. He is free and responsible for his own action. He thinks he is free and to be free is a proof of individual's existence. As an absurd hero, Meursault remains as an outcast in society not showing any emotions or sympathy towards humanity. He thinks life is absurd and there is no meaning, so to search meaning in life itself is an act of absurdity. Apparently it is truth that this novel is a study of absurdity and existentialism. But when we critically examine the protagonist, pied noir, Meursault then we come to know that Meursault displays misogynistic attitude towards women, perpetrates prejudicial act against native people and commits a callous crime against an indigenous person. Hence, there is a paradox here, since Meursault is an atheist, existentialist and nihilist hero for some readers, but a sexist, racist and colonialist villain for others. Thus, he appears to be guilty of sexism, racism and colonialism. Through this article, my aim is to confront with Camus surface level interpretation of this novel and explore the hidden meaning of the text from the sexual, racial and colonial point of view.*

Keywords : *Existentialism, Absurdity, Rational Thinking, Civil Code*