

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to locate the workings of utopian ideology in Sartrean fiction. It establishes through a symptomatic study of Jean-Paul Sartre's major novels, that Existentialism is an active philosophical vision of life - individual and social; with a concern to individual and societal values: a moral philosophy like Utopia, but of course by virtue of an entirely different schema and mechanism. The careers of utopian philosophies, Plato's The Republic and Thomas More's Utopia, have lost their appeal for the modern man. The search for a new utopian ideology, where utopia is located within the world is now required. Sartre's fiction promises the same.

The method of the research is based on Hermeneutic school of thought, focusing on 'understanding' rather than on 'explanation' as the interpreter of a text has a moral duty to understand it in relation to its original context. Moreover, the text does not offer same face to every reader. The text is never fixed as the meanings and their significance shift from reader to reader and from one age to other.

The project undertaken does not deal with the historical survey and development of either Utopian or Existential philosophy, and also it is not Existentialism versus Utopianism. This study, however, hopes to bring to surface Sartre's visions of life, individual and society/community, by maintaining that Sartre outlines a theory of future values in his novels. The study, obviously, refrains from any value judgment of this 'existentialist utopia'. It just discovers one very primary force working through all of Sartre's major works: the consciousness of the self. Sartre's works further man's struggle to achieve a sublimity of existence, which is an end in itself.

The contents of the study include, first of all, a background to the thesis statement by exploring a link between the two philosophical thoughts. A theory of future values that arises from Sartre's visions of life and the conditions he proposes and advocates for man, and as expounded in Sartre's philosophy and elaborated in his fictive worlds. The focus of the study is Nausea and Sartre's trilogy, namely The Roads to Freedom. The trilogy contains the ideals and hopes of Sartre's 'existentialist utopia'. The study concludes that through this theory of values, the individual attains a state of existence and a mode of being ruled by freedom. This developed consciousness of the individual then determines his relationship with life and other human beings in a societal framework. Therefore, utopianism finds its revival in Sartre's existentialist novels.