

## THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARACTER OF MEURSAULT IN THE NOVEL “THE STRANGER” BY ALBERT CAMUS

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### Abstract:

This article looks at the analysis of the image of Meursault and the image of the hero in the novel “The Stranger” by Albert Camus, one of the bright representatives of modern literature, a famous writer of French literature, philosopher, journalist, creator whose works have caused great controversy among readers.

**Keywords:** literature, French literature, modern literature, writer, novel, analysis, interpretation.

The famous figure of French literature, the writer Albert Camus was born on November 7, 1913 in a poor family in Algeria. His father died when he was one year old. To support the family, her mother works as a housekeeper in rich households. Albert studies at the University of Algiers. He established a theater in 1935. His first two lyrical essays were published in 1937 and 1939. In the spring of 1940, Camus came to Paris and started working in one of the major newspapers. He also actively participates in anti-fascist activities. The artist was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1957. Albert Camus died in a car accident on January 4, 1960, on his way to Paris on Christmas Day.

The writer left us a great legacy. In particular, Albert Camus’s novel “The Stranger” was completed in 1940. The work was published in 1942. This work has caused great controversy among readers. What is the reason for this? In our opinion, this is because Meursault, the main character of the novel, is so selfish and indifferent to his surroundings that these incomprehensible feelings in him directly cause pity, disgust, and internal rebellion in the reader. The play begins with the image of Meursault’s mother’s death. Meursault is not surprised by his mother’s death and takes it for granted as if nothing had happened. In order

to make these scenes more impressive to the reader, the author draws the reader's attention to the scene where Meursault's neighbor Salamano's dog is lost. How much he feels sorry for his dog, how much he misses him, but what about Meursault? As long as Salamano felt sorry for his dog, he did not feel sorry for his mother, he did not shed a single tear for her. Albert Camus tried to create a portrait of Meursault as a human being with the image of a mother who has no dog value.

Can we really blame Meursault? Can we blame Meursault alone for the way he grew up? No, of course. During the play, we only have to know Meursault's life path from the death of his mother to his own death. We did not see the conditions of his upbringing, his relationship with his parents, his youth, and his teenage years. In our opinion, no person can look at life without such attention, without feeling, without purpose. Meursault has nothing to do with anything. Even with the court, which may be the last decision of his life. There is only today for the hero. He lives with neither the past nor the dreams of the future. Just today... The hero does not even know what his purpose in life is. This can be understood through this passage in the work: "When I was closing the window, I saw in the mirror a corner of the table, a grill on it, and bread on it. Moreover, I thought. It's Sunday, we buried my mother, I will go back to work tomorrow, and basically nothing has changed".

Meursault does not even explain to the prosecutor why he killed the Arab. Because he did not know why he killed him. While reading these images in the work, the reader cannot accuse Meursault or criticize him. Cannot hate him as a human being. Maybe, in some sense, he wants to sympathize with him, to justify him, if possible, to save him from the court decision. Maybe we should not blame Meursault! This is how he wanted to live in life. Hypocrisy is alien to him. He accepts what happens in life as if it would happen one day. Including death. He is not interested in career or wealth. He lives with today. He is alienated from the rules of etiquette established in society, which serve only for representatives of a certain class. Even he himself does not know why he lives. Such modesty, false sincerity, false laughter, false life, deceitful feelings made him tired of the world he was living in.

While reading the work, the novel does not choose a nation. What is happening does not depend on mentality or era. Such events can happen to representatives of any nationality, regardless of their religion or belief. For example, let us take the work "Black Eyed Majnun" by Said Ahmed, a member of Uzbek literature. Burivoy, the son of Saodat Aya, does not feel any pity when he hears about his father's death, just like Meursault. Be it Turkish, Russian, or French feelings are not isolated to any nation depending on the era.

On the one hand, Meursault did not have to live with any emotions. He is completely alien to fake tears, fake politeness, fakes of this society, lying just to look good to someone. Of course, Meursault cannot be justified with such qualities alone. He lived the life he was given, as he wanted. He did not know what would be the end of his work without any goal or

thought. All he knows is that he will die one day or another. The events of the play begin with a death scene and end with death.

The society does not forgive Meursault not for his murder, but because he is not like others and condemns him to death. At the end of the play, he finds comfort in the fact that he is leaving this world not out of repentance, but at least not telling lies to justify himself, but staying true to his truth. He even thinks about falling asleep during his trial. What is happening seems absurd to him. He prefers sleep to it.

In the work, the writer wants to show the relations of fake people in the society, fake polite society, and the people who live, as they know, not as they want. The reader who reads the work will grow to hate Meursault, but if we think about it, Meursault is not to blame for this state of society. Fake tears and excuses are alien to him. He lives only in truth. He knows that he will die one day today or tomorrow.

In conclusion, it can be said that the novel "The Stranger" by Albert Camus is a vivid example of modern literature, in which the representatives of this direction put forward "Man creates his own destiny forever, and he lives this life given to him by himself". They have the right to live as they wish. Meursault, the hero of the play, is one of the characters who has these qualities.

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