



## SAMUEL BECKETT'S NEW THEATRE AND BADAL SIRCAR'S THIRD THEATRE

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### ABSTRACT

The present paper aims at the New Theatre emerged in Paris in the 1950s which led a surprise in the world of theatre. And Third Theatre which is considered as a living art form in the 1960s in India and its changes continuously. The New Theatre is not totally French as simply Parisian. Europe as a part of world of theatre and Paris had staged a number of playwrights in Europe and, indeed, made their reputations. This new kind of theatre was ready to embrace any developments in Parisian theatre as well as Europe. The three leaders or supporters such as Adamov, Ionesco and Beckett were leading lights of this theatre. The Indian theatre roots are surely very deep and old. The expression of theatre has been an integral part of Indian life and Indian theatre made a fundamental changes since the last two or three thousand years widely. Badal Sircar is considered as one of the leaders and founders of Third Theatre in India. As a proscenium plays writer in the 1960s which led to change in Indian Theatre as well as language through his plays. Badal Sircar has written many works including concepts such as free theatre, humanity in theatre, masks in theatre and the term with which he is most closely identified, the Third Theatre. Then Third Theatre changed to Street Theatre or Free Theatre which deals with rural urban life in order to know and identify their real existence in life and this kind of theatre tries to find a readymade solutions to the issues and challenges in the modern life in India.

### Introduction

A new kind of drama emerged after the Second World War which is called New Theatre or Theatre of Absurd which focuses on absurdity of human existence. This kind of theatre has been exposed and used widely, and has given more importance and applied in reality by Samuel Beckett. And a new kind of theatre has emerged and used widely in India is called Third Theatre founded by Badal Sircar through his literary works. Both Samuel Beckett and Badal Sircar use theatre as a tool of social changing and reforming with showing and make people aware of their real existence in this materialistic and modern society through using absurd plays with a new kind or form of theatre.

Briefly, existential philosophy held that we human beings simply exist in a universe that does not have any overarching moral order or meaning. We are not essentially good or bad, we are what we make of ourselves, and we are what we choose to believe. Interpretation of Beckett of this position of philosophy

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sounds that the world has lost its sense of location. Beckett tries to use New Theatre as mirror to the actors as well as audience in order to know and aware themselves in the play and life. The relationship between actors and audience is problematized as is the relationship between fiction and / theatre and reality. Beckett plays expose and show the limits of both theatrical/ real action and theatrical/ real language. Beckett utilizes this kind of theatre in order to deal with and heal with a lot of issues, problems and difficulties of human beings in this modern life and tries to expose and cure them through New Theatre.

Indian Theatre started to be more realistic, naturalistic and demarcate in national terms. Theatre is considered as one of the most influential and powerful tool in social change and reform in Indian society. Badal Sircar played the main and most important role in developing and progressing steps in the Third Theatre in India. Theatre in India originated and developed broadly and it can be divided into three stages. The first is marked by the high\_quality Sanskrit dramatic literature, imaginative staging styles. The second stage starts after the decline of the classical Sanskrit theatre. The third stage consists in the encounter of Indian theatre with the West in the 19<sup>th</sup> century resulting of new kind of theatre growth in urban centers. New Theatre and Third Theatre can be considered as a rebel against traditional and classical theatre. Sircar uses this kind of theatre in order to reveal struggles of life in its various forms especially in Indian rural urban life cities. Third Theatre is the brainchild of Badal Sircar and its popularity lies in the interchange of reaction between performers as well as spectators. Theatre is Badal Sircar's passion as he says:

" I wrote plays to perform them, I am a theatre a person, that's all, . Sircar believes that through theatre, changes and reforms can be solved and treated. Sircar plays has been translated into English, Kannada, Gujrati, Marrathi, hindi etc.. . But Indian Theatre emerged under the impact and imitation of the Western theatre but in the scene today theatre audience has grown with good performance and publicity scripts are product simply by men and women or even small casts. Theatre is a place where all human beings can be performed, created, spectator and directed without any complicated requirements as its imposed in the traditional or classical theatre. Sircar concerned with rural urban life to make his plays more realistic and purposeful to the readers as well as society. Theatre of Sircar is a combination of East and West features. Sircar's theatre is anti-traditional or conventional theatre for instance, props, sets and costums should not be used or applied in the new form of theatre ( Third Theatre) because these thinds create difficulty, dishonesty of theatre performance and illusion of reality so, new form of theatre must be freed from these costly things in order to be more useful, honest, cheap and real to the actors as well as audience. Theatre is a live\_show and direct communication which can be considered as one of the integral part of modern theatre to make the performers and spectators play the same role in the theatre as well as the stage.

**Features , Themes and Functions of New Theatre and Third Theatre**

The present paper focuses on features, themes and functions of New Theatre and Third Theatre in East and West and make a comparison between these two new kinf of theatre which emerged to deal and treat with the modern life's issues and challenges and it shows how human beings can face them smartly and strongly, so through these two modern theatres people can be aware of their reality and positions in life. Due to having highly unusual and innovative form, 'New Theatre' can be considered as a rebel against traditional dramas and thereby anti-theater. The surreal, illogical, distrust of language, anti-conflict and anti-plot establish it as beyond convincing and incomprehensible (Mitra, 2011). Since it lost its validity. The circular form of life does not have any moral values, religious belief and any existence of time as well as space concept. Purposeless human existence portrays the characters mechanically with unexplained theme. New Theatre features are:

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There is no regular rules are followed while staging a story, therefore, common people will find difficulty in understanding the character's words as well as behavior.

**2. Anti-language**

It is the most critical element because of the dysfunction of the language and the repetition of words that makes the language as a tool for passing time.

**3. Anti-drama**

Actions are not incomprehensible, the audience and readers fail to identify the characters in the play.

**4. Anti-plot**

In the plot of theatre of absurd, there is no beginning, no end, and no results, but in traditional drama the plot is arranged.

**Third Theatre features are:**

1. Rural and urban unity of theatre means it deals with rural and urban life and Third Theatre is a combination of both rural and urban features.
2. Spectators participation should be emphasized
3. Nature of theatre must be anti-proscenium which means no need for steps, props, spotlights, costumes and make up, these create illusion of reality
4. Portability, flexibility and inexpensive means performing at no cost to the audience
5. Act of approach means it emphasizes on the human body
6. West and east synthesis states that Third Theatre is a combination of West theatre features and East.

Themes of New Theatre and Third Theatre are nearly same both emphasize the absurdity of human beings existence which is purposeless, illogical and meaningless and these two new kind of theatre try to find the deeper meaning of life and modern theatre also deals with social, political, and educational aspects and issues. These are following themes of new theatre:

1. The crisis and cruelty of human being.
2. The dissimulation of the society.

It means that many abnormal things have appeared after the wars such as disease, hunger, crimes, violence, evil, and there is no trust among people, all these things are exposed by theatre of absurd.

3. The meaningless of the existence of human beings.
4. The isolation among people.

**Functions of New Theatre and Third Theatre**

The main function of modern theatre is to expose, deal and treat with issues of life and it deals with social, political, cultural, psychological, mental, physical and spiritual aspects. Modern theatre basically concerns with human being existence and reveals the strange isolation of human beings and expose their

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pessimistic outlook in the society. So theatre deals with life in realistic, naturalistic and surrealistic ways to find the real existence of human beings.

Therefore, functions of New Theatre and Third Theatre come to make changes in society as well as in traditional or classical theatre functions. Modern Theatre functions are; theatre can be a servant of nationalism which means that modern theatre can mix between rural and urban life, theatre is considered as a tool of political ideology, theatre as a handmaiden of democratic socialism.

**Conclusion**

Theatre has made a strong impact on people with its pragmatic and philosophical approaches. Modern Theatre aims at bringing and transferring people from unawareness to awareness, from unconscious to conscious to know their reality in life, and it makes men and women face the fears, doubts, difficulties, and despair in life smartly. It makes people aware to know their positions in the world. It helps us to explore of different cultures and traditions and it shows what is right and what is wrong, justice and injustice, life and death, and simply theatre keeps our cultures and traditions alive and it can be considered as a powerful tool of social change. Modern Theatre states that in spite of wars, sufferings, difficulties, disillusionments, despair, excommunication, frustration, and loss of human values people can make their life purposeful and meaningful and make the human being strong enough to face all these issues and challenges smartly and strongly and we should strive, fight, and struggle to make our life better instead of waiting for someone to make our life better. Modern Theatre can make readymade solutions to the issues of modern life.

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