

## THE AESTHETICS OF ABSURD IN EDWARD ALBEE'S PLAYS

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**Abstract.** *This article explores the aesthetics of the absurd in the plays of Edward Albee, one of the most influential American dramatists of the 20th century. Through an analysis of selected works, particularly *The Zoo Story* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, the study examines how Albee incorporates elements of absurdism such as existential anxiety, breakdown of communication, and the illusion of reality. The paper follows the IMRAD structure to investigate how absurd aesthetics function both as a stylistic device and as a philosophical framework in Albee's dramatic world.*

**Keywords:** *absurdism, Edward Albee, existentialism, theatre of the absurd, communication breakdown.*

**Ключевые слова:** *абсурдизм, Эдвард Олби, экзистенциализм, театр абсурда, нарушение коммуникации.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *absurdizm, Edvard Olbi, ekzistensializm, absurd teatri, muloqotning buzilishi.*

### Introduction

The Theatre of the Absurd emerged in the mid-20th century as a response to the disillusionment and existential crises following World War II. Edward Albee stands as a prominent American playwright who adapted absurdist techniques to reflect the psychological and social tensions of modern life. Unlike European absurdist, Albee blends realism with absurdity, creating a unique dramatic style. This paper aims to analyze the aesthetic features of absurdity in Albee's plays and to understand how these elements contribute to the deeper philosophical meanings of his works.

### Methods

This study employs qualitative textual analysis of selected plays by Edward Albee, focusing primarily on *The Zoo Story* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. The research uses a comparative and interpretative approach to identify key elements of absurdism, including:

- Disruption of logical dialogue
- Cyclical or unresolved plot structures
- Exploration of identity and isolation
- Use of symbolic settings and characters

### Results

The analysis reveals that Albee's plays demonstrate several core features of absurd aesthetics:

1. Breakdown of Communication

Characters often engage in conversations that are repetitive, contradictory, or meaningless, highlighting the inability of language to convey truth.

2. Existential Themes

Albee's characters struggle with identity, purpose, and isolation, reflecting existentialist concerns about human existence.

3. Illusion vs Reality

In *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, the line between illusion and reality becomes blurred, showing how individuals construct false realities to cope with dissatisfaction.

4. Symbolism and Minimalism

Settings and actions are often symbolic rather than realistic, reinforcing the abstract nature of the themes.

**Discussion**

Edward Albee's use of absurd aesthetics serves not only as a stylistic choice but also as a critique of modern society. His plays expose the emptiness of social conventions and the fragility of human relationships. While traditional drama relies on coherent narratives and clear resolutions, Albee deliberately disrupts these expectations to mirror the chaos and uncertainty of real life.

**Conclusion**

The aesthetics of absurd in Edward Albee's plays reveal a complex interplay between form and meaning. By employing absurdist techniques, Albee challenges audiences to confront uncomfortable truths about communication, identity, and reality.

His contribution to modern drama lies in his ability to blend absurdism with psychological realism, creating works that are both intellectually stimulating and emotionally impactful.

**References**

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