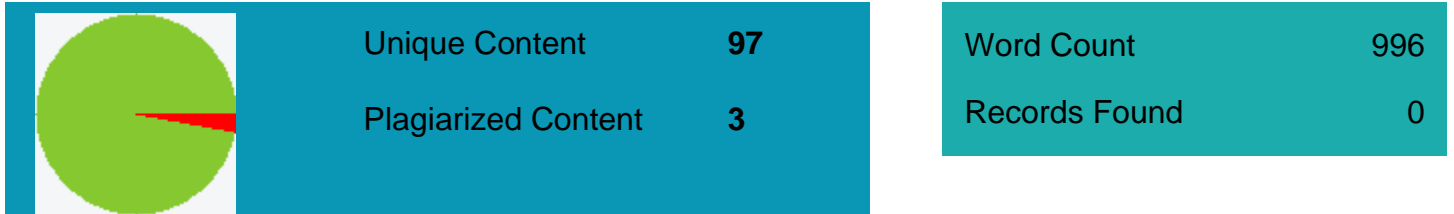


PLAGIARISM SCAN REPORT

Date April 23, 2024

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CONTENT CHECKED FOR PLAGIARISM:

I. Introduction

A. Overview of Existential Thought

Existential thought emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries as a philosophical movement that grappled with the fundamental questions of human existence. At its core, existentialism posits that human beings are fundamentally free and responsible for creating meaning and purpose in a universe that is inherently meaningless and absurd. This philosophical perspective challenged traditional notions of essence preceding existence, instead asserting that existence precedes essence – that individuals must create their own essence through the choices they make and the actions they take.

Key figures in the development of existential thought include Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir. While their perspectives varied, these thinkers shared a focus on the subjective human experience, the importance of individual freedom and responsibility, and the constant struggle to find meaning and authenticity in an indifferent world.

B. Explanation of Trauma and Identity Crisis

Trauma and identity crisis are central themes within existential thought. Trauma, whether physical, psychological, or existential, can profoundly disrupt an individual's sense of self and place in the world. It can shatter previously held beliefs, values, and worldviews, leaving the individual grappling with existential questions of meaning, purpose, and the nature of human existence.

Identity crisis, on the other hand, refers to a period of intense uncertainty and confusion about one's sense of self, often triggered by significant life events or experiences that challenge an individual's previously established identity. Existential thinkers explored the notion of identity as a dynamic, ever-evolving construct that individuals must continually shape and renegotiate through their choices and actions.

C. Thesis Statement

This research paper aims to explore the intersection of trauma, identity crisis, and the nature of human existence as portrayed in existential thought. By examining the works of key existential thinkers, we can gain insights into how these philosophers grappled with the profound impact of trauma on the individual's sense of self, the challenges of navigating identity crises, and the broader questions of what it means to exist as a human being in an often absurd and meaningless world.

Through this exploration, we can better understand the existential perspectives on these themes and how they might inform our contemporary understanding of trauma, identity formation, and the human condition. Ultimately, this research seeks to shed light on the enduring relevance of existential thought in addressing some of the most fundamental struggles of human existence.

II. Historical Background of Existentialism

A. Key Figures

The roots of existential thought can be traced back to the 19th century philosophers Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche, who laid the groundwork for many of the movement's core ideas. Kierkegaard, often deemed the "father of existentialism," emphasized the importance of subjective experience, individual freedom, and the acceptance of anxiety and dread as inherent parts of the human condition. Nietzsche, on the other hand, explored concepts such as the will to power, the death of God, and the need for individuals to create their own values and meaning.

In the 20th century, existentialism gained prominence through thinkers like Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir. Sartre's seminal work "Being and Nothingness" delved into ideas of radical freedom, bad faith, and the inescapable responsibility that comes with human existence. Camus, through works like "The Stranger" and "The Myth of Sisyphus," grappled with the absurdity of the human condition and the need for individuals to embrace rebellion and authenticity in the face of life's inherent meaninglessness.

B. Core Concepts

At the heart of existential thought lies the notion that human existence precedes essence – that individuals are not born with a predetermined essence or purpose, but must create their own essence through the choices they make and the actions they take. This radical freedom also carries with it a profound responsibility, as individuals are solely accountable for the meaning and direction of their lives.

Other core concepts within existentialism include the idea of living in "bad faith" or inauthenticity, the confrontation with the absurdity of existence, and the search for authenticity and self-creation. Existential thinkers also explored themes of anxiety, alienation, and the ever-present awareness of one's own mortality, or "being-towards-death."

Through their philosophical works, these thinkers sought to confront the fundamental questions of human existence, challenging traditional assumptions and encouraging individuals to embrace the freedom and

responsibility of shaping their own lives in a world devoid of inherent meaning.

III. Trauma in Existential Thought

A. Definition and Types of Trauma

Trauma can be understood as a deeply distressing or disturbing experience that overwhelms an individual's ability to cope, causing lasting psychological impacts. It can take various forms, including physical trauma (e.g., accidents, natural disasters, violence), psychological trauma (e.g., emotional abuse, neglect, witnessing traumatic events), and existential trauma (e.g., loss of meaning, identity crises, confrontation with mortality).

B. Trauma as an Existential Crisis

From an existential perspective, trauma can be viewed as a profound disruption to an individual's sense of self, worldview, and perceived place in the universe. It can shatter previously held beliefs, values, and assumptions, leaving the individual grappling with existential questions about the nature of human existence, the meaning of life, and their own identity and purpose.

Existential thinkers recognized that trauma has the potential to trigger an existential crisis, forcing individuals to confront the inherent absurdity, meaninglessness, and freedom that lies at the heart of the human condition. This confrontation can be deeply unsettling, leading to feelings of anxiety, alienation, and a loss of control over one's life.

C. Existential Perspectives on Trauma

Existential philosophers offered various perspectives on how to approach and grapple with the existential implications of trauma. For Sartre, trauma could lead individuals to live in "bad faith" – a state of self-deception and inauthenticity where they deny their radical freedom and responsibility. He advocated for embracing one's freedom and taking full responsibility for creating meaning in the face of trauma.

Camus, on the other hand, explored the notion of the "absurd" – the fundamental conflict between human beings' innate desire

MATCHED SOURCES:

Existentialism

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The Human Condition: Consumed in the Act of Living

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