

**QUEST FOR SELF IN PAUL AUSTER'S THE BOOK OF ILLUSION AND THE BROOKLYN FOLLIES**Pooja Kumari¹, Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat²

Article History: Received: 27.05.2023

Revised: 10.06.2023

Accepted: 31.07.2023

Abstract:

The presented work reflects the existential concerns and human habitation of the postmodern society. The essay examines Auster's books through the perspective of existential ideology. Crisis of existence, existential crisis, and conflicts of the soul are terms used in psychotherapy and psychology to describe the idea that a person's life should have purpose. In their own notions, some writers have also highlighted the ambiguous definition of a person's identity. Existential difficulties are often accompanied with worry and anxiety that they reach a point where they interfere with a person's ability to function normally in life and make them depressed. Their dark side or pessimistic outlook on life and its purpose reveals several traits of the various philosophical movements known as existentialism. Existential dread, existential vacuum, alienation, and absurdity are terms that describe it. There are behavioural, cognitive, and emotional components to the many crisis-related features. The emotions they arouse, such as despair, guilt, emotional agony, hopelessness, anxiety, and loneliness, are referred to as emotional components. The challenge of meaninglessness, the loss of values, and reflections on one's own death are examples of cognitive components. Addictions, obsessive behaviour, and antisocial behaviour are typically accompanied with outward existential crises. Theorists attempt to address this by categorising it into various existential crises. The basis for classifications is typically the idea that the problem at the heart of these crises differs from the person's stage of life and level of personal development. Teenage crises, quarter-life crises, mid-life crises, and later-life crises are some of the various stages and varieties of these crises that are frequently discussed in literature. They are all at odds with one another over the meaning and purpose of life. The early crises tends to be more forward-looking: the person is uncertain and worried about the course of action in life to be taken, particularly regarding schooling and employment as well as one's identity and freedom in social life. Life's crises are typically viewed from the past. They can be sparked by indicators that a person is at the pinnacle of their existence and is experiencing regret, guilt, and a fear of dying. There are many distinct levels of personal growth; therefore the age of a person does not always correspond to their level of experience. And everyone's experience varies with regard to the various stages. Some people discover the answer to their existential crises sooner than others and some discover it much later. A person, however, finds it simple to avoid or resolve crisis that he experiences later in life if he discovers resolution at an early stage.

Keywords: Existentialism, identity crisis, meaninglessness, postmodern world.

¹Research Scholar, Department of English, School of Humanity, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab

Email ID: pooja26061989@gmail.com

²Associate Professor, Department of English, School of Humanity, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab

Email ID: muzafar.25623@lpu.co.in

DOI: [10.31838/ecb/2023.12.3.779](https://doi.org/10.31838/ecb/2023.12.3.779)

Eur. Chem. Bull. 2023, 12 (S3), 6978 – 6991

6978

1. INTRODUCTION

In all phases of existential crisis, the problem of meaninglessness in life is crucial. It may manifest as cosmic meaning, which is connected to the meaning of life or the reason why we are here. The search for a purpose, goal, or value specifically for one's own life is

crisis" to signify that something's continued existence is in jeopardy.

The major problem is meaninglessness in this postmodern world. Most theorists find it as the main issue around which Existential crisis moves. In this way, they may be interpreted as crisis of meaning. The problem of meaning



ECB European Chemical Bulletin



NANO STUDIES

Search for title, author, doi.

Search

ISSN 2063-5346



ECB European Chemical Bulletin



NANO STUDIES

European Chemical Bulletin

ISSN 2063-5346

Open Access E-Journal

AA

eurchembull.com

