

KARL MARX'S ALINEATION WITH REFERENCE TO SOCIAL ESTRANGEMENT IN
HAROLD PINTER'S *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY*

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ABSTRACT

The current research study has been started for analyzing the causes and effects of alienation on the human psyche by applying Karl Marx's theory of alienation to the work of Harold Pinter The Birthday Party, showing how a working or lower class (proletariat) person is being alienated, living in a capitalist class (bourgeoisie) society. Marx shows the consequences of social disparity and class division which could be in the form of estrangement or alienation of one person. Addressing the facts in the current article, by deeply analyzing Marx's theory (1844), discussing man's state of mind is being alienated from one's nature and society. Marx's theory has been taken from his most renowned work The Economic and Philosophic Manuscript of 1844, which was explained in detail by Istvan Meszaros in his book 'Marx's theory of alienation' where labour/working class group alienated from their jobs, products (essential needs), from their essence and others(society), is being discussed. The Birthday Party is selected to give evidence of man's alienation or estrangement, where the main protagonist is suffering from depression and anxiety due to being neglected by society and becoming alien not from others but from his essence. He is not treated well by upper-class group people around him, due to his unemployment and not being up to their standards. Other minor characters also become victims of alienation and estrangement throughout the play. Every capitalist and class-division society is responsible for the isolation and alienation of one person, mostly shown in British societies. The findings of this article provide insight into the social circumstances of the average person where lower social classes are oppressed by superior classes, which makes them estranged and alien. Close textual analysis and qualitative research has been used for the present study.

Keywords: Karl Marx, Alineation, Social estrangement, Harlod Painter, *The Birth Day Part*

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Civilization is an eminent figure in the survival of humans in society. No society can survive without cooperation and solidarity, every man has to play an equal role, to get a civilized society, most important is the equality that should exist in every aspect religious, political and cultural level, a civilized society where everyone could interact and coordinate with each other and can make a healthy environment. The interaction of a person with society determines his or her personal growth. Society directly affects one's growth towards itself and also affects character development. A civilized society plays a vital role in human life. But there can be possibilities of incorporation and inequality that exist in most societies which cause the element of alienation in people, where they feel isolated, alienated and loss of

identity, they start disconnecting themselves from the norms and values of one society, due to that reason, societies fail to be civilized. Social disparity and social inequalities can be the cause and major reason for the failure or struggle of one person especially lower-class people, that ends up being treated as an outsider and alien because they are not according to the standards of upper-class people. Their lifestyles and needs to live are limited to their earnings. They (working class or lower class) cannot get enough opportunities to earn according to their skills, regarding having potential, they survive hard and struggle for their basic needs.

Sociologists also explicate the concept of alienation in broader terms, where they look subtly to know the direct relationship between man and society. According to them, if the gap between society and a person increases, it causes alienation among the person, where he withdraws himself not from society but from himself called Self-Alienation. Side effects of such a situation cause distortion and estrangement among the person, which directly affect his/her mental health.

For example, Chris Yuill, a Sociologist, applies alienation to the study of health inequities in his 2005 article 'Capitalism, Alienation and Health,' which was published in *Social Theory and Health*(2022), where he stated the side effects of alienation, that is affecting one's physical and mental wellbeing. We can get the eminent traces of such an effect in Post-World war 2. During post-World War 2, every man became the victim of faithlessness, they were being sceptical not only toward humans but God. Such a chaotic situation led them towards pessimism. Their lives became meaningless and absurd. They lost the purpose of their lives. The one major aspect of alienation is the inability to recognize oneself or to lose one identity.

The word Alienation is rooted in the Latin language *Alienare* means to 'take away' (Shah, 2015). Alienation shows the theme of existential crisis and its consequences, when the word comes to essential crises one can relate it with the broader term Existentialism. The word existentialism was firstly renowned by the great philosopher *Soren Kierkegaard* during the 19th and 20th centuries. Where he quoted

Existentialism “**is a rejection of all purely abstract thinking, of a purely logical or scientific philosophy; in short, a rejection of the absoluteness of reason**” (Roubiczek, 2016; 10). It mostly pointed towards the existence of human beings, the term used broadly towards absurdities of people during the post-world war. Sociologists believe the notion that alienation is the major cause of identity loss which refers to rootlessness, affects the human condition and one can easily get the traces of such chaotic human situations mostly in modern literature.

Jean-Paul Sartre a French existentialist further adds, existence leads us to essence, that there is a certain framework in which one should act to get the purpose of life, which is not granted by God or any institute but the man himself has to create it by acting and existing in a particular way, if a person fails in finding his purpose, he will lead himself towards pessimism and rootlessness. For philosophers and sociologists, alienation is almost the same concept with different causes. The claims made in this article that alienation for Karl Marx, a psychologist, is quite different from other writers, although the effects are the same the reason behind the alienated situation is different. It was used to discuss the separation between man and God in theological discourse, the loss of an individual's initial liberty in social contract ideas, and in political aspects, it is about the private property transformation (Musto, 2010)

The objectives of writing this article are to explicate the causes of alienation and its consequences on the human psyche according to Karl Marx, like for others alienation can be the reason for a subjective approach, where people are facing isolation due to their base reasons or due to their personal choices, for instance, how one feel, act or think regarding problematic situation or separation, is a subjective alienation but for Marx, alienation is due to an objective experience which leads one toward the alienated situation, for example, if a person is prevented by using his or her fundamentals right, not getting enough opportunities to earn or from being a civilized person, society or a group of class, using his/her personal rights for their own benefits then the such state would be the reason of alienation and isolation, which will be stated as objective alienation. Marx adds the state is responsible for individual failure in society that puts one in an alienated state, that state could be all those elite class groups that are empowering poor people's existence. Marx called it political alienation.

The article's primary subject will be Marx's crucial approach towards the alienation concept. Marx explains his theory while dealing with or rejecting the concept of capitalism. The term capitalism according to Marx is, when a society is divided into more than one group, like most societies based on three groups, an Aristocrat class, middle class, and lower/ working class, where the working class is being exploited by the upper-class group. He broadly deals with the social inequalities faced by only a few people (labour class) who work under the elite class. He examines, the condition of the poor working class living in society, by using the term alienation, which explicates the physical and mental state of the poor class (labour class)

According to Marx, what set humans apart from other animals was their capacity for consciousness, autonomy, and social productivity, all of which gave them a feeling of meaning in life; this is what human nature is for Marx (White, 2021). Human has the power to control their destiny, but if that power is being taken from or controlled by powerful communities in society, one is being powerless not towards his fundamental rights but from his nature.

Marx holds this notion in his theory that an individual is treated by the upper class to produce or to put much effort toward his work, to reap the advantages of his labour, but in return, that person is regarded as a minor or an alien. According to Marx, social status prevented workers from pursuing opportunities to advance in society or take charge of their future, and it increased the distance between people and their inherent humanity (White, 2021).

Mark's theory of alienation in *Istvan Meszaros's* book, employs the word *Entfremdung*, it is a physical and social process according to Karl Marx and describes the disengagement of the things and humans that are connected for a long time. He explained the causes and effects of antipathy among groups and things. He further elaborates that society is divided into capitalist(bourgeoisie) and working class(proletariat), where the working class is being forced to work under the capitalist class and keep the command of their(working class) power, skills and products do not even belong to them but to capitalist class, who enjoy the reward of labour struggle. So the labour class becomes the victim of estrangement (Alienation). They are not just alienated from society but from themselves, such circumstances not physically but psychologically affect them, this is what Marx says in his theory. He properly defined the terms **isolating, dehumanizing, and disenchanting effects of working within a capitalist system of production** (Crossman, 2019).

According to him, alienation is a state in which a person loses connection to and self-expression through their profession, as well as control over their destiny

In the Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, Karl Marx, where thoroughly explained his theory by giving the reason for the exploitation of the labour class by the capitalist class and how they utilize industrial techniques that are advantageous to them and abuse the workforce. This exploitation caused a rift between the capitalist and working classes. He further implies that despite trying their hardest, employees receive meagre pay or are struggling to get suitable positions in society, which causes estrangement in the working class. This estrangement is multifaceted and permeates every aspect of life-politics, religion and economic relations. Others contend that alienation is a subjective sensation of helplessness, meaninglessness, loneliness, and self-estrangement, even though Marx saw alienation as an actual reality. (Wayne O'Donohue).

Person separating from the presumptive "true" or "deeper" self is a key theme in existential psychology, which emphasizes alienation feelings. Self-alienation in the individual raises the question, of whether contemporary management methods have been successful in reducing such problems in feelings. (Wayne O'Donohue)

Karl Marx further categories his theory into four types of alienation

- 1). The first one is to separate the worker from the labour product.
(Objectification)
- 2). For them, work is no longer a self-realization act (Self- Alienation)
- 3). Marks claims that workers during work/jobs are alienated from their surroundings.
- 4). Society-wide alienation (Social -Alienation)

According to him, private property is a result of alienated labour. If labour or what is produced as a result of labour, faces the worker as an outside, hostile, and autonomous power, whose service is it? It is undoubtedly in the interest of the Non-Workers or the Entrepreneurs. He goes on to say that alienation causes social division. He divided them into "the toiling masses" and "the non-workers," for example, classes are referred to as "the haves" and "the have-nots." (volume 35 (2015),51.).

The Birthday Party by **Harold Pinter** is chosen as an example in this research article to address the themes of alienation according to Marx's perspective, before this article, the alienation theme is broadly explained by different authors in their articles and belonging that are prevalent in the selective play by adopting the *theory of alienation* by Karl Marx. Alienation is a kind of defence mechanism used by man to protect himself from the domain of nothingness and destruction from the outer world, same is the case in the different plays of Pinter which mostly revolves around the same theme of alienation and shows the human psyche badly disturbed because of social disparity. *The Birthday Party*, where he intensified the estrangement feelings of characters through their minds as well as physical states and their exclusion from society and themselves.

Research Statement

Alienation is the state where one is to feel an alien especially estranged. Such a state affects man not physically but mentally also. Alienation is due to the social gap between the State and the person in society. And specifically, those societies that are based on social class divisions. The alienation that is faced by lower or working-class groups, who are neglected by State or upper-class groups, go through mental illness. The theory conducted by Marx on Alienation raised these points. So the current study's main focus is to analyze Such points by applying on Harold Printer's The Birthday Party

Research objectives

1. To explore the reflection of alienation state in the selected play.
2. To show the reflection of man's illness with reference to being alienated.
3. To show the root cause of alienation among the working or lower class groups.

Research Question

1. How does the selected play depict the Alienation state?
2. How does the selected play show man's illness while being Alienated?
3. How much capitalist class is responsible for causing alienation among the working or lower class groups?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Alienation is a situation when a person experiences being alienated, alone, ashamed, undeserving, and insignificant, causing mental illness and disorder. It develops as an existential dilemma. Existentialism term is important to understand, that directly links with the term of alienation. Existentialism took its peak during Modern ages specially, during post world wars. The philosophy to get the purpose of life by performing actions and doing efforts to make life meaningful is called Existentialism. It says existence comes before man's essence.

The synonym used for alienation is Anomie, which is the Greek work containing the meaning of self-alienation that says disorganization. In her post titled "Anomie and Alienation: Madness and the death of Rationality," a famous contributor, Yasin Azzariyan, discusses anomie and alienation in Iran. Azzariyan analyzes the connection between alienation and anomie in this piece while incorporating the ideas into a societal critique of Iran. The social division of work that emerged in the early industrial era and the increasing suicide rate are both repercussions that are discussed in Durkheim's anomie hypothesis (2022.)

According to *Kaufmann*, the sages estranged themselves from all sought of activities, from nature, society and themselves (1970). Hegel put his first contribution to get to know the alienation concept by saying that the human important part of the brain, consciousness, is responsible for an inappropriate state of isolation and estrangement, occupied and not free to its true self. He further adds, when a person's consciousness is not aware that it's a part of the universe, it starts viewing other aliens. Singer (1980) investigated in his book "Marx: A Very Short Introduction," Hegel's description of human consciousness/mind that causes the estrange state when it is alienated from itself and people start perceiving others, the

foreigners and aliens. Hegel's writings bring up the subjective theory of alienation. He used the German phrases *entausserung* (surrender or divestiture) and *entfremdung* (a state of detachment) interchangeably to describe the twofold nature of alienation in his most renowned book *Phenomenology of Mind* (1949). Working on the theme of alienation, the researcher put his point forward by making a strong statement against Hegel's view, that Marx regards social and economic context as important for the alienation theme that affects human existence.

Marx alienation is classified into two manners, Political and economic alienation (Saleem, 2014). For political alienation, human existence is not important for the state. For Marx, to eliminate economic alienation, one must get rid of political alienation. And if the state is alienated, human existence is not possible.

Alienation has historically been used in sociology to relate specially to economic interaction like Karl Marx. Similar but different definitions of alienation are used by contemporary sociologists. For instance, Chris Yuill, a sociologist, applies alienation to the health studies inequities in his 2005 article "Capitalism, Alienation, And Health," which was published in *Social Theory and Health* (2022)

In their 2009 work titled "Neighborhood Dysfunction, Subjective Alienation, and Distress," sociologists John Mirowsky also used the idea to look at the connection between neighborhood disorder and mental disorder. The authors of this example define subjective alienation as "the cognitive relationship between the psychological distress and social environment" and use it to analyze subjective alienation in the context of neighborhood disorder. According to *Kaufmann*, the sages estranged themselves from all sought of activities, from nature, society and themselves (1970).

His work, *Marx's Concept of Man*, outlines his viewpoint on alienation. He asserts that alienation occurs when a person does not perceive oneself as the acting agent in his/her own life, a state in which man experiences nature, other people, and himself as alien. When a subject is alienated from the object of their attention, they essentially experience themselves and the environment passively and receptively (1986;44). According to Marx, labor constitutes the "species being" of Man, and Man is estranged to the extent that it is carried out in accordance with a labor-dividend structure determined by the market (Rosen, n.d.). Marx believed that the transition from capitalism to socialism was inevitable (Rosen, n.d.). Marx's role was the most crucial and under debate regarding the explanation of the term alienation, as some historians like Plato and Hegel used it in different terms Harold addresses the alienation experienced by the main characters as a result of socioeconomic inequality in mid-century British society. In this culture, severe social stratification creates social gaps between members of every class, which later leads to a sense of estrangement (NI WAYAN SHANTI, 2007).

The idea of alienation was first introduced to contemporary sociological literature by German idealist philosophy. While some social-contract theorists, including *Hobbes* (1950), *Locke* (1947), *Grotius* (1853) and particularly *Rousseau* (1947) have also used the idea to explain person's surrender of his personal rights, power, liberty and control to the overall will of the community or organization, they assumed alienation as desirable.

In his paper on *Marxist theory of alienation*, E. Øversveen makes the case that alienation results from the transformation of a product into capitalism and is therefore an objective

experience rather than a subjective one. The current article is pointing to the same objective experience of man while applying to the literary work *The Birthday Party*.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method to analyze this study is qualitative approach and close textual analysis is conducted in this research article. This research study is conducted to explore the alienation concept, its causes and effects to one mental state through alienation theory of Marx (1844) in Harold Pinter's work *The Birthday Party* (1959).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Karl Marx, a psychologist, has made his theory on the term 'Alienation' in his most renowned book '*Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*' (1844). The chosen theoretical framework for present study is Marx's Theory of Alienation (1844). The majority of research study is focused on human states of being alienated from society (social- alienation) and itself, (self- alienation). Alienation concept has been the most important and disputed topic of the 20th century, and Marx played a crucial role towards the discussion of alienation.

In his work "Marx's theory of alienation," *Istvan Meszaros* uses the German phrase "Entfremdung," which translates to "alienation or estrangement." Over the ages, the term's alienation changes for unlimited times. Istvan described in his book that Marx's major focus was exploitation of the working class and lower class in the hands of the upper and powerful class. Marx addresses the issue of alienation in the Manuscripts, in terms of estranged or alienated work brought on by exchange and the division of labor (Yalvac, 2022.) He properly defined the terms like **isolating, dehumanizing, and disenchanting effects of working within a capitalist system of production** (Ashley Crossman, 2019).

The basic reason to feel alienation by poor people are division of labor, Marx opposed the idea of division of labor, arguing that if someone is forced to perform a particular/fixed task repeatedly, he may grow bored with it and lose his interest to his own creativity and skills, starting detached himself from his work that mostly take place in capitalist society. The other is the mechanism of products, which is the most prevalent cause of alienation and a person feels worthless, pointless and purposeless. Mechanism of products according to Marx, mostly took place during the Industrial Revolution, when human labor was supplanted by machines in manufacturing, real exploitation started from there and social injustices reached its height and lower and working class got alienated and became jobless and meaningless to their own nature or to society.

Marx described the state of Alienation as, The separation of a person from the components of his own nature as a result of the division of work and living in society with stratified social classes (Meszaros, 1927). While focusing on his theory, the two major terms that are under discussion is Capitalism and other is Social disparity, where an individual is being alienated. Capitalist society holds the concept of private properties, the more one has property, the more he is being called a wealthy and powerful, that comes in the term of upper class group, and who is not having much property, will be excluded from society or consider to be an alien and outsider, that group will be a working class or lower class group, such concept creates social disparity and its consequences will be in the form of Alienation, isolation and estrangement. Marx was against the concept of division of classes in society, whichever he called Marxism, the division where one class is superior, aristocratic class, and one is dealing as a subordinate, a working class or lower class. Marx asserted that the worker is alienated by

capitalism's material conditions (Smith, n.d.) Particularly, the division of labor and private property reduces the worker to the lowest form of a commodity. When Marx described the private property of an individual that is considered to be alien or foreign to him, namely refers to 'essential needs' and 'human essence'(Schmitt, 1996) When a member of the working class or lower class is unable to meet his fundamental or basic necessities, the aristocratic class is in charge.

Marx's idea of alienation, according to Erich Fromm, refers to the fact that man is being fail to act an important agent or powerful man in his own world, where nature, others and he himself, remain aliens to him, standing(up) above and against him as objects, despite the fact that they(objects) might be his own creations (Yalvac, 2022.) Marx's alienation theory is of great importance and crucial one for holding power, needs and for human development. In Marx theory, he explained the contradiction that describes modern capitalist societies, is of social status and loneliness, in which the feelings of worthlessness and estrangement are amplified despite objective gains in humanity's social status and reciprocity. The foundation of Marx's philosophical, social and political philosophy was the estrangement of man, alliance with the state as a citizen (Mandel, 1970.)

Marx divides his concept of alienation into four main categories. For example, alienation from the product, basic needs and private property of the working class or labor(objectification), alienation from fellow employees(Species alienation), alienation from society and community(social alienation), and alienation from Self nature(Self Alienation).

1. Objectification (from man own product or essential needs).

This type of alienation is basically a loss of control towards your product and private property by the aristocrat class. Rich people are becoming more and more wealthy, by controlling the power class's fundamental rights. They are being aliens to their own property and basic rights. Production is the basic need for one to exist or to earn livelihood, engaging in producing or being employed is very important for survival because for Marx, man is a laboring animal by birth. Every community or society is bound to give people equal rights to produce things. One is alien to his own rights to survive or being isolated from the product he produces, he has no right on his own object is what this alienation is according to Marx. When a person is alienated from his basic rights, the world becomes an object to him and sometimes hostile towards him. Marx put his objection towards exploitation of the labor class by the aristocratic class.

2. Self-alienation(from nature)

This kind of alienation in which one is not self- satisfied, physically or mentally not engaged in his activities and considers himself being alienated is what self-alienation is, alienation from human essence and from one's own nature. Consider himself an outsider from his product or from his doings. For him work is no longer a self- realization act. His demotivation leads him towards isolation and estrangement. Marx was against the concept of capitalism, where the power working class is under control by the aristocratic class and considers them an outsider or they themselves consider outsiders. Man becomes alienated from himself and his own behavior. In that case, a man starts to doubt himself and denies his affirmation, which destroys him and results in self-isolation. He remains unmotivated and unhappy towards his own life and nature. He starts feeling not being at home and miss-fit to elite class society.

3. Species Alienation

Marx theory on man must be taken into account, in which he claims, man is nothing without society. He views the man as a whole. For Marx, man is not alone or being an individual but considered as a universal being. Man during production considered being alienated from species beings and from the process of production, because it is imposed on him to work according to their demands, worker own willingness is not considered anymore. In another broader aspect, Marx condemned the division of labor, because workers start feeling exhausted from his own work which he is doing continuously and from the workers he is working with. Marx suggests that another cause of alienation from the species is the requirement for workers to put in more time at the office than they are capable of, indulging in work without spending enough time with those surrounding them. It is the time of competition, the more you earn the more you will be powerful and acceptable in society, specially in capitalist society that causes communication gap and estrangement among people.

4. Social alienation(alienation from other people/society)

If a man is in conflict with himself and his nature he automatically reduces his connection to society and its people. In capitalist society, especially lower class people are treated continuously by upper class people. He is considered an outsider and not getting enough essential needs, he is controlled by upper class people that causes estrangement and alienation for that person. He started to consider himself low and without any potential, for that person alienation is a kind of defense mechanism to protect himself from the outer world and its destruction. Alienation from essential needs, from nature leads one person towards social alienation.

DATA ANALYSIS

In Harold Pinter's play *The Birthday Party*, the modern-day lifestyles of the characters serve as representation of how socio economic condition affects people's lives. This section of the research is to analyze the inequality in society that *The Birthday Party* is trying to portray in mid-century British society. *The Birthday Party* play reflects the reality of society, it is also called 'kitchen sink drama' that gives realistic depiction of British society in a post-war era. Social disparity and social class were the prominent themes of modern writers, especially of Harold Pinter. His main motive is to give a realistic picture of the human condition, who cannot fit themselves according to the values shared by society.

The play is about the division of social classes within a society and its consequences towards different groups of people that are characterized through different characters. The state of the environment and surrounding people put an important impact on the life of an individual and how one perceives his own life that will be seen through this play which is under analysis. The author imitates what he sees in his surroundings through his work, same is the case with the author Harold Pinter, who in his work portrayed the social disparity and capitalistic approach and how lower working class or poor people are being the victim of isolation and alienation. The main motive of literary works is to show the poor condition of the lower class group under the elite class group. Similarly, *The Birthday Party* also includes the representation of the aristocracy and lower classes through different characters and their perception regarding each other. *The Birthday Party* tells the story of a person Stanley, a man

who lose his job in past due to different misfortunes, he is now in a big city, during the era of prosperity and vast supplies and due to the development of great technologies, to find a job for his surviving should not be difficult for him but he fails to get an appropriate position there. All the residents were given the opportunity to live better lives as the state's economy rapidly improved, but the people like Stanley who are suffering from being unemployed and considered an outsider to those people who are having a great position in society. Stanley is considered a misfit and alien around those people (social-alienation). Everyone is provided with better opportunities to live a better life but not the same in Stanley case, he has been deprived from all those opportunities and he is unable to accomplish a successful life. He is cut off from his surroundings because he is unable to meet the requirements of modern life styles and he is being demotivated, surrounded by powerful people. He is refusing to attend his birthday party, which Meg, Petey's wife and the proprietor of the boarding house, where Stanley is staying as a guest, is hosting. Goldberg and McCann, who later join the boarding house as guests, also want to join the party.

Stanley. Yes I'm going out to celebrate quietly, on my own.

McCann. That's a shame. (Pinter, 1975;25)

Stanley is a man who likes to remain quiet while surrounded by the people who are rich and holding certain positions. Stanley used to work as a pianist in past, but he was treated very badly at work by certain group of people, while he mention "They" it was not revealed throughout the play who those people were, but they most probably holding certain position, Stanley has to let his home and his job there, and run in big city to hide himself from the past which is unrevealed too. The way he was being treated at job is also showing the exploitation of working class people by others, as Stanley was performing in a concert hall.

Stanley. They came up to me.... They want me to crawl down on my bent knees. (Pinter, 1975;13)

This shows how badly he was treated during his performance in the hall. Living in the city and being surrounded by wealthy and powerful people who act inappropriately toward him, does not make him feel good. And he wants to leave that place soon. Any person who fails to contribute to the economic development of the society is viewed as being unproductive in a capitalist society. Stanley's character seems to be unproductive that he does not actively or aggressively participate in work. Image of Goldberg and MacCan seems to be stable and represent the state. They have the opportunities to exploit Stanley's character because it is the society who is allowing the one to rule over others, especially those who have power, wealth and good position living in society.

Stanley says that without home, no place is comfortable and peaceful, which is the harsh reality of living in capitalist society because lower class people are considered outsiders by an outer world and such groups of people get themselves alienated and such states cause alienation not from other people but from inner self.

McCann. Do you find it bracing

Stanley. Me? No...I'll be moving soon. Back home...No place like home..., (Pinter, 1975;27)

He lacks potential and is not getting proper opportunities to live a happy and prosperous life. And identity crises are the major cause of isolation and being lost. As Stanley lose his true identity and he continuously saying today is not his birthday and when Goldberg ask him why he changed his name here in city

Goldberg. He's got a birthday, and he has forgotten all about it. (Pinter; 1975,22)
And when he deny in front of Meg, that it is not his birthday today, get the glimpse of his identity loss, he is not even sure about his own birthday
Stanley. This is not my birthday, Meg.
Meg. Of course it is. (Pinter; 1975, 24)
As he is not happy for his birthday party, he is the most depressed man, who do not feel easy around people and keep himself away from them mostly
McCann. You know, sir, you are a bit depressed for a man on his birthday (Pinter; 1975, 27)

This play is a true representation of class division in Britain during the 1950's and such a situation is still facing today. The class distinctions were based on property and wealth, so the upper class got the most opportunities to earn more and more, while the lower class remained unemployed and uncivilized throughout life. The state is responsible for it because of the social gap. Lower class in British society viewed as belonging to a lesser class. Similarly, the characters in the play *The Birthday Party* are shown to come from various social classes; Goldberg is from a higher class group(also working for an organization), Meg belongs to the middle class group, McCann and Petey are from the working class group, while Stanley is from the working to lower class group.

They all experience very diverse lives with different social classes. The alienation state and sense of estrangement in British society are due to social disparity and due to various socioeconomic classes. The less active a person is, the more he is being considered an alien and outsider. Stanley, who is unemployed, frequently feels worthless and subordinate to other people and he has no purpose for existence. Goldberg, who is enjoying a great position in his job but still becomes the victim of alienation and isolation. The emphasis in British society is mostly on wealth and power. They judge their achievement as they become wealthier. Similarly, Goldberg is also seen alienated and become nostalgic during his duty, he and McCann who work for a certain organization and looking for Stanley. He used to remember his peaceful life before, and claim that his life now is more in trouble as compared to the past.

Goldberg. My uncle Barney used to take me to the seaside, regularly...(Pinter,1975; 17)

Goldberg, prefers to possess a good position in his job and puts his focus on money instead of his peaceful life with his wife and Uncle Barney. He is telling his companion McCann, about his late father's advice.

Goldberg. My father said to me... go home to your wife...keep an eye open for low-lives...I lost my life in service of others... I am not ashamed.(Pinter,1975; 53)

This shows how one is bound to do a job for hours and not put an effort towards his family members. People are too busy in getting suitable positions for his acceptance by society. Goldberg admits that while working he lost his life for serving others, but as it is clear that he prefers his job first and he is not guilty for not listening to his father's last advice. He further advises his companion not to do the same.

Goldberg (To McCann). Never forget your family. (Pinter, 1975;53)

His relation with family will reveal through his conversation with McCann, that how he has a distant relation with them

Goldberg. But of course, I have been a family man

McCann. How many did you have?

Goldberg. I lost my last two, in an accident. But the first, the first grew up to a fine boy.

McCann. What is he doing now?

Goldberg. I often wonder that myself... (Pinter, 1975; 18)

Goldberg is the second one who is alienated from his family and friends and he lost his life while performing his duty and getting a higher position. He exclusively talks about his accomplishments, hoping that everyone in society would admire him for his position. In every high distinct class structure, achieving the highest class required a lot of effort. Such a state causes workers to get alienated not from their surroundings but from their self and society.

Goldberg. I've reached my position, McCann... my motto. Work hard and play hard. Not a day's illness. (Pinter, 1975; 53)

Living in a complex society both Stanley and Goldberg experience estrangement and isolation. They begin to feel the sense of meaninglessness in their own actions and sense of isolation from others around them. They start to see the world as an object and consider themselves aliens to that world (objectification). States oppresses the individual that is a metaphor of alienation. The play by Harold Pinter depicts the state of realistic society at a time when discrimination against individuals was apparent.

McCann who is working with Goldberg, under a certain organization, is treated as a subordinate by Goldberg, he used to order him to work according to his wish. McCann gets sick off by listening to his order and refuses to listen to Goldberg. When he order to bring Stanley from upstairs down and he denied going there again

McCann. I am not going up there again. (Pinter, 1974;49)

You can go up yourself next time.

This shows social division within a society, how a worker, a subordinate, is being treated at his job by listening to the orders of his boss and feeling monotonous during his job, is shown through the Goldberg and McCann character by Harold. Working with your fellows also causes alienation as McCann works under Goldberg. Goldberg complains of distrust of McCann towards him. The reason is not visible in play but it could be because of their social status gap and McCann considers himself an outsider and estranged towards Goldberg. (Species- alienation)

Goldberg. You do not trust me like you did in the old days (Pinter, 1975; 18)

He complains McCann disorganized himself from Goldberg before doing a job.

Similarly, Stanley is in a lower position as compared to them, he is treated badly by both men, during the birthday party. He is being treated like an animal and put him outside all the time. It was his party and he was the least one who was enjoying it. While Goldberg, Meg

and lulu feel comfortable and enjoyed the party as they were up to the standard for party, as upper class people.

Goldberg and McCann try to exploit Petey and Meg, who were kind towards Stanley by saying that he is suffering from nervous breakdown and it is hard to cure such disease, they should throw him out from his boarding house, or let them to take him with them as they had success getting Stanley to leave the residence and preventing him to live there, the only place he has to live. Goldberg and McCann try to harass him verbally by saying that he is useless and meaningless because he has no job.

Goldberg. What makes you think you exist?

McCann. You are dead. (Pinter,1975; 36)

While living in a society which is divided into different classes, causes disturbance, chaos throughout and inequality shown through such situations. The working class is compelled to work more hours than usual, they have to face hectic routines and not getting enough time for the people around them, especially, to their family members. Petey works as a deck chair attendant and he is compelled to be on time for work regardless of weather conditions. Since he must work throughout the year, he cannot take much time off. Even having breakfast at home with his wife is not something he can do. He feels boredom at his work which is boring and repetitious and he feels not being at work (alienation from the product or process of production) He feels not comfortable at work (Shanti, 2007) As Marx was against the division of labor that causes boredom and alienation to one's own activity, which he is doing regularly.

Meg .What time did you go out this morning, Petey?

Petey. Same time as usual..."

Meg . Your tea...

Petey. That is all right. No time now (Pinter, 1975;8)

It also shows lack of connection and alienation through the conversation between husband and wife. A sense of rootlessness and insignificance caused by alienation from family, friends and even from work. Meg was taken care of by a nanny, she looked after her and her essential needs, she used to stay with her every night and sing for her, commonly seen in upper class families.

All working people have less leisure time, the same is the case for Goldberg and McCann. They are bound to their work and have no freedom for their personal lives. Goldberg considers his job a funeral for him as working for an unknown organization. In British society, workers have tight-schedule and time-consuming work.

Goldberg. Everywhere you go these days it's like a funeral.

McCann. That is true.(Pinter, 1975;18)

The upper class group controls one's life and treats the lower class as their slaves. In the play's last act, Petey confronts Goldberg and challenges his authority over Stanley. Petey's words, when Goldberg and McCann take Stanley with them, are ironic, which Harold

deliberately used to depict a realistic picture of Capitalist society. As upper class group aware of its rights to suppress others

Petey . Stan, don't let them tell you what to do! (Pinter, 1975;58)

That says, do not allow anyone to control you and your life, be the owner of your own life. As they both take him to asylum apparently. The main purpose of asylums is to confine and produce useful people so the capitalist system can continue to function. That is why Goldberg wanted to take Stanley to asylum. The so-called lunatics were instructed in how to work and create commodities.

The play 6 characters serve as a picturing of society from one point of view. Where hegemony and a capitalist outlook are evident. Particularly, they reflect the fundamental economic divide in society between exploiters and exploited people, of which Goldberg and MacCan are obviously examples. Both the unidentified powers that are in charge of society and the administrators, operators and decision-makers who comprehend those powers well enough to employ them for their own purposes

CONCLUSION

The play is the best example of alienation and man's cut off from society, affects the human psyche through different characters that belong to different classes, one from higher class, middle/working class and lower class. Writer through his main character depicts the bad human psyche due to state of alienation and considered outsider by other powerful people, though, he needs support of his family and close ones but he has to leave his family and job behind, due to his bad experience during job and come in big city to get job, he keeps himself alien from people around him. Exploitation of lower people by high class people that cause alienation among those people, can evidently see through selected play. They are treated as subordinates and slaves. Research shows the gap between state and individual that affects the existence of man and his potential for not getting rights to live. Protagonist is unable to utilize his potential as he is a pianist, because he is not getting any platform to do more concerts as he used to do in the past. Therefore he is using alienation as defense to protect himself from an elite class group. One important factor to note is identity loss can also cause alienation, as the protagonist lost his real identity in a big city, putting him in a depressed state. That finally declared, identity crises, is one of the major factors for the failure of individuals performing in society. Harold Pinter's other work gives a glimpse of alienation like this play.

Alienation sometimes is not forcefully imposed on an individual, it is most probably his own choice to get alienated from others so while discussing state of alienation one should focus on such points. According to the Marxist concept, a person's outlook, value system, and points of view are all influenced by the social class to which he or she belongs. Therefore, additional research that applies these theories to various literary works to represent their influence on human existence in general may strengthen the validity of the findings of this study.

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