

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Quest for Authentic Existence in Jack Kerouac's On the Road

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By

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Approval Letter

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Abstract

This research attempts to study Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* as an expression of the quest of authentic existence. By creating the characters who attempt to confront the issues of existence with varying degrees of courage and cowardice, Kerouac contrasts between authentic mode of existence and mere existence. The portrayal of Kerouac's Dean Moriarty as an existential hero committed to attain authenticity is contrasted with Salvatore Paradise and other characters who in spite of being involved in the search of authentic existence, finally embrace ordinary existence and give up their real search. Contrarily, Dean remains determined in his quest, despite his miseries that have surrounded him because of his actions for authenticity. Dean denies surrendering to the public domination and violates the accepted norms and values of the society. Consequently, his quest can be noticed in his act of going beyond the boundaries of economic, religious and social conformity, and in creating personal values.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Introduction

1

Jack Kerouac and the Beat Generation

Existential Concerns of the Beats

II. Existentialism: Study of Human Situation

12

Authentic existence

Kierkegaard: Subjective Truth and Choice of Way of Life

Nietzsche: Superman

Heidegger: Being

Sartre: Nothingness, Freedom and the Bad Faith

Camus: Rebellion against Meaninglessness

III. Quest for Authentic Existence

30

Non-conformity: A Revolt against Capitalistic Values

Living Life in the Moment

Spiritual Revolution

Existential Awareness

Search on the Edge of Society

Struggle for Individual Freedom

III. Conclusion

51

Quest Goes On

Works Cited

55