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Jean Paul Sartre

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In the period of time that most people choose to rely on technology, some really do not realize that their thoughts have been restricted and some overlook to appreciate themselves. However, there is an idea, existentialism, of Jean Paul Sartre that insists on believing in human being. It is very interesting in the way he popularized the idea of existentialism to be the best way for human to live, do and think.

Jean Paul Sartre was born on 21st June 1905 in Paris and died on 15th April 1980. He is not only a well known philosopher who strongly believes in existentialism-freedom, liberty and choice- but also a playwright, novelist, screenwriter, political activist, biographer, and literary critic. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature and refused it because of some personal reason.¹ Sartre has put his philosophy and presents his feeling in his work. Then 1943, Sartre published the literature named Being and Nothingness and also called An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology. This work was influenced by Martin Heidegger's Being and Time researched by Husserl or Heidegger's teacher.² Consequently, Being and Nothingness became popular also became the main resource for philosophy studies and then the existentialism has been known.

¹ MLA style: "Nobel Prize in Literature 1964 - Press Release". *Nobelprize.org*. 9 Feb 2013. <http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1964/press.html>

² Wikipedia contributors. "Being and Nothingness." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 9 Feb 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Being_and_Nothingness#Influence_and_reception>

Existentialism is a philosophy focusing on individual being, freedom, liberty and choice. Sartre's view relies on the basis that there is no God who organizes the essence or nature and only humans can freely choose how they act and live or exist but humans have to be responsible for their choices and this becomes a principle of existence precedes essence.³ Sartre believes that all humans have their value in themselves and the value is difference from each other therefore humans' beings are depended on the value in themselves and what choices which they choose. Humans' being is created only by humans not created by God, laws, rules or tradition etc. And to fulfill the satisfactions of humans, existentialism can be used to find the complete way of life which is nothingness. Humans have infinity needs and they choose the best choice for themselves because they have freedom and liberty. Nothingness is a consciousness about what humans choose them themselves to be or it means that humans have to choose and respond the result.⁴

From the existentialism concepts, humans can apply to live well in a freedom society. However, there is a society called communism where these concepts cannot be applied because communism is a society where people are controlled by center authority to make the society fair by force then there is no liberty in this society. They have to follow the center authority even though they do not accept. In the other hand, there is a society called democracy, the society where humans have right to say or they have freedom and liberty to express. Therefore, humans can use the concepts of existentialism; they can freely act and think and they can choose what they want to be.

³ Wikipedia contributors. "Existentialism." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 9 Feb 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Existentialism>>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Being and Nothingness." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 9 Feb 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Being_and_Nothingness#Influence_and_reception>

And there is a university where covered by liberty, Thammasat University, it's motto is that there is a freedom in each inch so humans can also use the philosophy in this university but importantly they have to be conscious about what they do. Freedom, liberty and humans being or existentialism is very important to their life. They can live in their own ways and no one control them. Then the society class will be equal because they know that they have the value in their own and there is no one who better than each other.

From the paragraph above, nowadays, do humans have to follow existentialism for the best way to live?-Not at all-because humans do not have only unlimited need but also infinity greed. From Sartre's view, almost humans are afraid to use their rights and think that they are lower than other. This leads to the inequality in the society. The man who has infinity greed will do everything to satisfy it by either negative or positive ways. They use freedom and liberty that they have to choose what they want to be in wrong ways. It seems like the idea of existentialism but they do not respond for their choices. For example, the politicians have their right to say and show what they will do after they are selected in the election for persuading people but, after they are selected, they cannot follow their promises. Meaning that, they just use liberty to get power more than ordinary man and they are not conscious for their speech. And also there is some bad humans who use their liberty in a bad ways, thief, they freely do every things but they forget to respond for the consequent and this makes others are in the trouble. If humans use the idea of existentialism for the way of life, there will be no rules or laws which obligate our life and also there will be no tradition which forces someone to do even he or she do not want to do it.

However, it seem like existentialism is not suitable for a present society. It makes some conflict about what humans believe; tradition, God and etc. Also existentialism is too ideal because of humans' greed.⁵

In conclusion, existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre is not the best philosophy in the world. However, it teaches people to have liberty and freedom in their life and stimulates humans to think that they have own value to decide the best way for their life. Importantly, humans have to accept the consequent from their choice in order to have a beautiful life.

⁵ AllAboutPhilosophy. "Existentialism-A Philosophy." *AllAboutPhilosophy.org*. 8 Feb 2013 <<http://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/existentialism.htm>>