

# **‘THE THEORY OF EXISISTENTIALISM’ IN THE WORKS OF TOLSTOY TO TAGORE-A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This paper is an in- dept exploration of the connection between the Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore and the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy. As both, Tolstoy and Tagore were great humanists, made strong holds against colonialism and imperialism. The main motto of these writers was to have peace bent of mind globally. According to Tolstoy, A belief system should be strengthened in accordance with reason and knowledge, which an individual establishes with the infinite world around him/her, that leads to the practical rule of life. Leo Tolstoy understood religion lies in the true connection to the universe. The essence of any religion exists solely in the answer to the self-questioned is Why Do I exist? Hence the concept of existence is much appreciated in the art works of Tolstoy. Tagore’s concept of self is all about analyzing the capabilities of being human with nature. An individual finds her/him in finding an intimacy with nature. Tagore’s vision was to lift an individual out of stale air of common life to regions where man’s ordinary existence is subsumed by a life of passion and power. Therefore, the art of supreme being is overviewed in the flair works of Tagore.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. The study of Tolstoy and Tagore explores the most diverse approaches to human existence.
2. Tolstoy and Tagore are not the piece of art but the essence of life.
3. The works of Tolstoy and Tagore observes an act of conscience.
4. As writers, Tolstoy and Tagore have nurtured an importance of active communication between nature and human as co-existence.
5. Their works have metaphorically proved the art of living.

## **REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS WORK**

1. Tolstoy and Tagore by Annada Sankar Ray- [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)
2. A Lecture on “Leo Tolstoy And Rabindranath Tagore: PRINCIPLES OF GLOBAL THINKING by Dr. Choi Chatterjee.
3. Publications of Rabindranath Tagore A bibliometric study – ResearchGate
4. Rabindranath’s and Tolstoy method research papers – Academia.edu

## **IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH GAP**

Many have studied and tried understanding these both above mentioned poets in their own perspectives. But as an individual I found It is necessary to have a quality and comprehensive research methodology. As the thesis in future should be sourced by a researcher or to be presented with a pool of topics of interest for the paper. Hence its important to study Tagore and Tolstoy as a comparative study to analyze a better perspective of self and life. As Both shared identical thoughts towards nature and humanism its keynote to understand their approaches towards self-concept in their art of writings such as ‘THE MEANINGFUL LIFE’, ‘CALENDER OF WISDOM’, ‘HOW MUCH LAND DOES A MAN NEED ETC by Leo Tolstoy and CHOKHER BALI, ATITHI, BROKEN NEST, ETC by

Rabindranath Tagore. Therefore, my research revolves around their different pieces of works to have an intelligible idea of Existentialism.

#### **EXPECTED IMPACT ON ACADEMICS / INDUSTRY**

Both Tagore and Tolstoy have not only influenced academics but every individual to understand the process of a harmonious life. Both the writers in their works and as persons have influenced to set-up a creative self-expressive life. They suggested crafting our lives through art and not just academics. Therefore, it helps every academic and industrial person to know how important education with values that are imaginatively is designed an environment and a program of activities which will sharpen their identities in society as well.

#### **METHODOLGY OF RESEARCH WORK**

This research systematically takes the form of descriptive study from the primary source(texts) and helps to develop the secondary data the research. As we go through the various writings, the theory of existentialism puts greater emphasis on the complete harmonious development of individual personality. The study also holds importance on the theory of subconscious learning of self during the research study of the writings of Tolstoy and Tagore. The writers are not believed to be the source of entertainment but the tools for psychological education and reform. The study also sets a supreme medium by which we can get to know others, is just by expanding the readings of humanity and tolerance by these writers explained in their writings.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Hence, the study of existentialism in the writings of Tagore and Tolstoy is to be human, defined by an essence of existence through physical to nature's law of life. The existentialism is to give an account of what it is to exist as a human being in the world. There is no fixed concept to qualify as human being and the writers help us to understand to decide the choices of existence to be.