

***The Misunderstanding* or the Narrative of the Murderer's Language**

Allahshokr Assadollahi Tejaragh¹

Professor, Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Persian and Foreign Languages, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran.

Mehrnoosh Keyfarokhi²

Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Language and Linguistics, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.

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Abstract

Albert Camus' *The Misunderstanding* is one of his absurd-cycle of works in which the author invites his readers to recognize the tragic condition of the human life. This play presents silence as surrender in human beings and speech as a rebellion against it. In fact, if Hamlet's mind was occupied by the "to be or not to be" question, Camus' work presents us with a "to talk or not to talk" dilemma, which is no less significant than the older question. As such, and having discovered the sad and anxiety-inducing condition he lives in, Camus' character surrenders to being murdered by his mother and sister. In *The Misunderstanding* being and not being have become speaking and remaining silent, and speaking is a weapon to defend oneself within a dark and violent world. This paper discusses Camus' views and conceptualization of the world, the defenselessness of human beings vis-a-vis their own species, and the role of nature and humankind in the formation of fate as being imbedded within his play.

Keywords: Camus, absurd, silence, mother, nature.

¹ nassadollahi@yahoo.fr

² m.keyfarokhi@gmail.com