



ABSTRACT

NAME OF INSTITUTION: De La Salle University-Dasmariñas

ADDRESS: Dasmariñas, Cavite

TITLE: A Comparative Study of Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard's Concept of Existence

AUTHORS: Joanne G. Ballaran and Marissa J. Masongsong

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

A. General

To compare and contrast the concepts of existence of Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard.

B. Specific

1. To analyze the similarities between Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard's concept of existence.

2. To analyze the differences between Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard's concept of existence.

Scope and Coverage:

This study aimed to analyze Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard development of their own concept of existence. First, Buber and Kierkegaard described their own point of view of existence by pointing out first on man as an individual, then their



relation with the other, and their relation to God. Second, after analyzing their own point of view about existence, the authors proceed to discuss the similarities and differences about Buber's and Kierkegaard's concepts of existence.

Methodology:

This study employed the descriptive method, in particular, the library and document research method to secure proofs namely, citation from Buber and Kierkegaard's writings. The authors analyzed and elucidated these citations to achieve the set objectives.

Major Findings:

The researchers believed that Buber and Kierkegaard's philosophy could influence the spiritual life of man. Martin Buber's concept of existence was that man should participate with the world of I-Thou relation, in which he must involve with the other, especially to God. On the other hand Soren Kierkegaard's concept of existence is all about individuality each man had to attain. He believed that man should experience leaps in his life and strive in realizing the importance of God. The similarities between Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard's concepts of existence do restrict man in his relation to the other alone but it must transcend his whole being towards God. The differences between Martin Buber and Soren Kierkegaard's concepts of existence are that for Buber man should not isolate his whole being with the other because participation involves a genuine relation. Kierkegaard, on the other hand, asserted that man should seek first his individuality before he associate with the other.



Conclusion:

The researchers found out from the concept of Buber on man's existence that every man should live in the I - Thou relation rather than focusing only on his whole being. Through the I - Thou relation man can transcend his whole being to God. On the other hand, Kierkegaard believed that the authenticity of man's existence could be achieved through recognizing the existence of God after fulfilling his tasks as an individual who related with the other.

