

**A**  
**Minor Research Project**  
**Study of Existential Dilemma in John Fowles Fiction**  
**SUMMERY OF THE PROJECT**  
**Submitted to**  
**University Grand Commission Western Regional Office Pune**  
**University Campus, Pune.**  
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**Summery of the Minor Research Project on Study of Existential  
Dilemma in John Fowles Fiction**  
**September, 2015**

John Robert Fowles is one of the most significant British writers. He is known to the world as a novelist, Short story writer, novella writer, poet, nonfiction writer and screen writer; He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature in the year 1999. Fowle's work remains distinguished reputed by its author with the ideas and thoughts he mediates upon specifically, existentialism and realism lise the struggles between the sexes, the relationship of man, nature, element of mystery and the role of the artist.

The present research work aim at critical study of the novels of John Fowles as the writer who presents existential dilemma through his fiction. It also aims at analysis, interpretation and evaluation of work as an art.

John Fowle's reputation as a creative contest and existentialism and realism lies on novels, nonfiction, screen play and poems he produced out of his creative mind.

Following are the creative works from his pen.

1. *The collector ( Novel) 1963*
2. *The Aristos (1964)*
3. *The magus (Novel) Revised edition 1977*
4. *The magus ( Screen play) 1968*
5. *The French Lieutenant's woman 1969*
6. *Poem 1973*
7. *The ebony Tower ( Novella and short stories) 1974*
8. *Shipwreck ( nonfiction) 1974*
9. *Daniel Martin (1977)*
10. *Islan ( nonfiction) 1977*
11. *The enigma of stone House 1980*
12. *Mantissa ( 1982)*
13. *A short History of Lyme Regis (1982)*
14. *A maggot 1985*
15. *Lyme Regis camera 1990*

Fowles as existentialist Fowles employs his personal contempt for Victorian England as well as his acceptance of existentialism. A.A. Devitis and William J. Palmer great writer explain that fowles twentieth century perspective is look back up on a period that is dead. Fowles unlike his characters knows there is world beyond the Victorian world. Hi's detached and informed perspective confers knowledge that there are possibilities other than the ones offered within the confines of Victorian ideology.

This act of telling a Victorian tale with a (contemporary) perspective gives the narration of different consciousness. The hyper sense of consciousness that allows people to banish all assumptions and not merely exists a certain why but constantly reflect upon why they exist in that way is pervasive theme in postmodern writing. The ability to thing the way however, often necessitates a withdrawal or detachment from whatever is being reflected upon In "*The French Lieutenant's Women's* (1969) Fowles projects his consciousness onto a period rife with dogmatism and un reflected beliefs from his vantage point it is easier to see the shallow propriety of being a "Gentleman" the hypocrisy of professing piety and then viciously judging others and the oppressive, unnatural views people held

about sex. By reflexively narrating a story set in England and more specifically Victorian England and more specifically the provincial town of Lyme Regis-Fowles how un-examined lives can have such nonexistent foundations.

Fowles successfully reveals to the reader his belief that people should not adhere to a prescribed path; they should be free to pave their way of their own volition. According to this view there is no metaphysical truth that people's lives should be spent pursuing and any truth believed as such is a human construct which external lies and therefore obscures people's inner yearnings and enslaves them in a world that should be essentially free. Haropian explains that Fowles is a committed existentialist, and in *'The French Lieutenant's Woman'* (1969) his aim is to project the existential experience onto the reader by immersing him or her in a world with humorous paths that lead to inevitably different results, none of which offer the crystallization of truth and meaning.

Charles, one of the characters, forsakes his Victorian society for what he believes to be the sublime love and self-realization upon realizing that his life's answers are not to be found in Sarah (Character) he is still capable of returning to his old world because he then knows his life as a gentleman betrothed to Ernestina (Character) and his running away to be with Sarah were both ineffective attempts to solve the unanswerable question of existence.

*The Collector* (1963) and *The Magus* for the critical examinations in this chapter these novels have been examined and analyzed with reference to the above-mentioned aspect will bring forth an existential dilemma and John Fowles' contribution to the modern British Literature. 'The Collector' is the story of Clegg and Miranda which has its origin in the Bartok's opera. John Fowles confesses about the development of the idea of the novel that the idea was developed from Bartok's opera Bluebeard's Castle which contains the symbolism of the man imprisoning women underground.

He synthesized it with a contemporary newspaper report of a boy who captured a girl and imprisoned her in an air-raid shelter at the end of his garden. These peculiar features about the case fascinated John Fowles and finally it came out as the novel Clegg tries to please Miranda by providing for her immediate needs; however, fails to understand human relations except in terms of things. Miranda attempts to escape several times. When she is finally desperate, she attempts to kill Clegg and tries to seduce him. The section ends with Miranda's death and Clegg's plan to commit suicide.

Miranda understands the fact that he is interested in her not as a human being but another butterfly as a collector she quotes' " It's me he want's my look, my out side, not my emotion or my mind or my soul or even my body, not anything human. He is a collector clegg is disturbed individual. His disturbed mind dreams to rule Miranda.

'*The Magus*' (1966). The magus addresses these issues is more complex commoners both in terms of the power of a male character over women and in terms of the power. The story of Alison and Nicholas represents the material. The story of Lily and Nicholas is the masque. It represents the psychological aspect of reality and existential Dilemma.

The magus is first fall distinctive as a story of initiation. Its protagonist Nicholas Urfa, has just about finished his higher education as he encounters the opportunity of getting a teaching post in Greece. His behavior towards women is rather in consequential and irresponsible, with this behavior he accepts the post, which also offers him comfortable way of dropping his girl friend Alison. He has little contact with his colleagues. He meets the fascinating Maurice conchis who is definitely the character that is implied by the novel's title In a series of riddles and sometimes occult experiences conchis tries to teach Nicholas about existential authenticity and the general mystery of world can never be captured in whatever categories we consider appropriate at the end of the novel, there is continuing uncertainty about whatever Nicholas has really achieved existential authenticity.

John Fowles in *The magus'* attempts discover true nature of personal freedom. He brings in god like power to create and control fictional world of his characters.

John Fowles in '*Daniel Martin*' employ's number of symbols. The novel basically reinforces the theme of freedom versus determination most of the events are couched in metaphors of artistic creations relating to theatre, novels and film. These metaphors bring out Dan's confusion between actual self and a hypothetical fictional projection of himself.

In *Mantissa*, 'woman is the complexity and mystery that the male narrative drive has to pursue. The symbolic aspect of the novel brings out fact that sex and fiction have been regarded as analogous activities. The novel tries to parody this very obsession *A Maggot*' is probably the most difficult book of John Fowles

difficult opus and the most philosophical. The novel illustrates Fowles playful taste of experimenting with literary genres and conventions.

As a contemporary artist and novelist he creates a cozy place for himself with any contradiction. Thus he emerges as a loyal pilgrim who proceeds towards goal of serving basic ideal and purpose of humanity. He ponders seriously on the themes and issues he deals with. This very aspect leads him to consider himself as post-modern writer with existential aspect used identity his zeal for factory metamorphosis of the society change in the ideals and ethics of humanism with the progress of time are elements noted in his literary endeavor.

For John Fowles writing fiction has always been about the process the act of Imaging and creating rather than the end product, so much so that he often becomes depressed after one of his novels was published. This process invariably included some form of express of the Humanist philosophy that has always been concern to him, with the central thesis usually relating to the nature of freedom. In this own life, he cultivated the freedom. He cultivated freedom in terms of remaining outside or literary establishment and minting a fierce independence in an increasing conformist world. Fowles presents both challenges and rewards. Thus he is considered to be the path finder and light house for the scholars of the generation with his strong crave for improvement of the art of fiction with the quality and vision for the progress of mankind global vision, human and bold experimentation he emerge as a strong contemporary British and the world writer.

The present project present an account and general estimate of existential dilemma in the novelist under Scrutiny John fowles was a novelist whose book made an outstanding impact on the 1960s generation of readers of serious fiction. He made his way on the basis of the novels that incorporate elements of mystry realism and existential thoughts.

The aim of the present critical inquiry is to make the existential dilemma in the novels of John Fowles known to the students, scholars, readers and critics of literature. The present study also aims at considering the development of John Fowles with reference to contemporary British novelist in general.