

Alienation and *Anatta* Concept: A Comparative Study

Samantha Ilangakoon¹

Alienation, is a concept discussed with a great deal of interests by both existential and Marxist philosophers, especially in the 20th century. They addressed the true nature of human existence. While existentialism argued that it is human destiny, Marxism argued that it can be defeated. On the other hand, *Anatta* is a concept dealt with in Buddhist Philosophy from its outset to elucidate the real nature of human beings.

In comparison, it seems that these two concepts contradict each other. According to *Anatta*, there is no eternal entity within the human nature to distinguish as *Atta*. Therefore, alienation can be taken positively as this process leads to realization. According to most contemporary philosophers, alienation is a negative position that leads to frustration.

This presentation seeks to show how early Buddhism used *Anatta* concept to explain *Dukkha* and how most contemporary philosophers used the concept of alienation to explain suffering. It is concluded that both these traditions interpreted the human nature in two different ways in order to lead a successful life.

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¹ Dept. of Religious Studies and Comparative Philosophy,
Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka
Email: ilangasamanta@yahoo.com