

**ABSURDITY OF LOVE IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS IN *IN THE
NAME OF OUR FATHERS* AND *A SUNDAY AT THE POOL* IN KIGALI**

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C50/CE/25659/2014

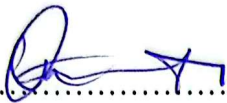
**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW, ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER
OF ARTS (LITERATURE) OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**



FEBRUARY, 2023

DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been submitted for a degree or any other award in any other University or institution:


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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the absurdity of love in the romantic relationships in *In the Name of our Fathers* and *A Sunday at the pool in Kigali* and the expression of defiance by the characters involved. It endeavours to analyse two major ideas, absurdity and romance in these primary texts. There is a convergence between love and romance semantically, thus this study employs the two words interchangeably – to convey the same meaning. Absurdity, as a phenomenon, is discussed in two sections as a progressive theory: absurdity in the novel as a genre and absurdity of love in these two primary texts. On romance, the study discusses the characteristics of romance novels in relation to absurdity and the two texts studied in order to distinguish areas of conformity or non-conformity thereof. Another integral aspect in this study is the comparison of the storyline of romance novels to those of the two works studied in reference to absurdity and conformity. The study examines in the two novels: the conformity of the two novels to the conventions of the characteristics and steps of the storyline of romance novels, the marriage stage as the major indicator of the absurdity of romantic relationships in the two novels under study and the aspects of absurdity in the two novels. The study uses the theory of the absurd to analyse the parallel romantic relationships in the two primary texts. The study employs a qualitative research methodology with textual analysis as the major method of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Primary data is drawn through close reading of the two primary texts. The data collected from the two primary texts was classified in relation to the study's anticipated chapters. Secondary data was collected from related books, projects, theses, critics, scholarly journals from both print and the Internet. In the summative chapter, the study made several findings that include: that the marriage stage is the major indicator of absurdity in the romantic relationships, that the characteristics in the romantic relationships largely conformed to the characteristics of romance novels, that the romantic relationships in the two novels did not follow the formula of romantic novels and other aspects of absurdity in the romantic relationships. Areas of further study, emanating from the findings, are suggested. It is expected that this research develops new perspectives in the area of romance and hence contribute to the already vast knowledge in the field of the absurdity romantic love.