PROLOGUE

Long before mankind learnt how to read and write, there was born in the human mind the desire to express and communicate thoughts, ideas and experiences through which mankind lives and which when accumulated give rise to what we call wisdom.

For centuries, the transmission/communication of this wisdom took place through the word of the mouth from the teacher to disciple, from father to son and from one generation to another. The day man discovered symbols by means of which he could communicate, the seed was sown for the attainment of a magical world - a world of inter subjectivity and communication. It was the beginning of a creative appropriation of human relationships, which had hitherto remained unperceived by the keen eye of the perceiver and which had not been subjected to the structure and the schemata of language.

Thereafter, human thinking and experience in the form of collective wisdom found the channel for transmission through this structure of language, and language became a collective means of communication. Thus began literature. Today language is a
vast kind of reality, as Sartre maintains, something which encompasses me and which is something like a practice-inert entity within which I find myself living. It is only subsequently that the awareness of its function as communication dawned upon mankind and alongside that emerged the necessity to philosophise on the nature and function of literature which today we may call 'Philosophy of Literature'.

Literature benefits human society in as many aspects as human life itself but the best in the literature would be that which ennobles and elevates the human soul. That, in essence, would be the unifying factor of all branches of literature and shall enable us to understand, clarify and enrich the realm of literature. This in other words is the realm of philosophy of literature.

I too have been tempted to work in this direction and my humble attempt to study and analyse the philosophical foundations of Sartre's literary works are presented herewith.

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