

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-53331**

Date: 16-08-2025

Title: Reading the spaces of ethics in Caryl Churchills A Number

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			✓	
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Syed Mohammed

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Review:

The abstract situates Caryl Churchill's *A Number* in its historical context, immediately after the groundbreaking event of Dolly the sheep's cloning. It highlights the play's continuing relevance in the current age of Artificial Intelligence and the approach toward technological singularity. The focus is on the ethical positioning of cloning within the binary of good and bad, presenting Churchill's treatment as nuanced and balanced. The abstract effectively emphasizes the distinction between popular interpretations of the play as anti-cloning and the article's contention that it offers a more measured exploration. Overall, the abstract is concise, thematically focused, and clearly communicates the scope and conclusion of the study.

Introduction Review:

The introduction frames cloning not merely as a scientific advancement but as an ethical issue deeply embedded in religious, cultural, and artistic discourses. The section contextualizes the skepticism surrounding cloning, citing Frazzetto (2004) to highlight how religious traditions, particularly theistic religions, position reproductive cloning as a transgression against divine creation. The contrasting perspective of Buddhism is presented through Damien Keown's

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

observations, showcasing a more accommodating stance towards cloning. This juxtaposition underscores the plurality of ethical approaches to cloning and establishes the groundwork for examining how these discourses feed into cultural and artistic representations, such as Churchill's play. The introduction is well-rooted in interdisciplinary perspectives, combining theology, ethics, and cultural studies.

Analysis Review:

The analysis places Churchill's *A Number* in the socio-cultural context of the post-Dolly era, when debates about cloning's ethical implications were most intense. It traces the genealogy of societal anxieties about human identity and technological intervention through earlier works of "clone-literature," with references to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*. Both are cited as cultural texts that depict technology as a dangerous transgression of divine or natural laws. The analysis connects these representations to broader philosophical and religious frameworks that inform human hostility towards cloning. By incorporating references such as the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Mannien, 2010), the section strengthens its grounding in academic discourse and situates Churchill's play within a wider cultural and intellectual debate. The analysis demonstrates the interplay of literature, philosophy, religion, and ethics in shaping responses to cloning, showing how *A Number* intervenes in and reflects upon these ongoing discussions.

Overall Assessment:

The article presents a coherent and well-structured engagement with the ethical dimensions of cloning as explored in Caryl Churchill's *A Number*. The abstract concisely sets the argument, the introduction provides a strong interdisciplinary background, and the analysis connects cultural and philosophical traditions to the play's themes. The writing reflects academic rigor and contextual awareness, making it a valuable contribution to the study of literature, ethics, and technology.
