

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54736

Date: 12-11-2025

Title: Still on Trial: Reading Kafka' s Modernity a Century later.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

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: Ab. Hameed shah

Reviewer's Comment for Publication

The manuscript titled "*Still on Trial: Reading Kafka's Modernity a Century Later*" (lines 1–226) presents a well-researched and intellectually rigorous re-examination of **Franz Kafka's *The Trial*** on the occasion of its centenary.

The **Abstract (lines 3–25)** effectively frames the study within the broader concerns of law, authority, and freedom, and establishes a strong connection between Kafka's vision and the contemporary age of surveillance and algorithmic control.

The **Introduction and main analysis (lines 30–95)** demonstrate a nuanced understanding of modernist aesthetics, bureaucracy, and alienation. The author situates *The Trial* within the philosophical traditions of Enlightenment critique and modernist skepticism, reflecting strong interpretive depth and command over literary theory.

The discussion of **Foucault's disciplinary power (lines 96–111)** and **Agamben's sovereign exception (lines 112–125)** is conceptually sophisticated, showing mastery in theoretical

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synthesis. The linkage between Kafka's juridical world and the Foucauldian notion of panopticism (lines 104–106) is particularly insightful.

The **psychoanalytic interpretation (lines 126–161)** grounded in Lacan, Butler, and Žižek provides a compelling alternative framework that enriches the reading of *The Trial* as a text of divided subjectivity and unconscious desire.

The **final analytical sections (lines 162–203)** successfully integrate postmodern, necropolitical, and biopolitical dimensions, especially through Achille Mbembe's theory of necropolitics (lines 176–189), thereby extending Kafka's modernist critique into the domain of contemporary power structures.

The **References (lines 204–226)** are comprehensive, current, and relevant, covering major critical theorists and primary modernist thinkers. The manuscript reflects careful engagement with canonical and recent scholarship.

Overall, the paper achieves a high level of **theoretical sophistication, interpretive originality, and relevance**, offering a compelling interdisciplinary contribution to Kafka studies, modernist criticism, and philosophical discourse.

☐ **Final Recommendation:** Accept after minor revision

The study is academically sound, theoretically rich, and clearly demonstrates the author's deep engagement with Kafka's continuing modernity.