



## Research Paper

# Theology from the perspective of Wittgenstein's late philosophy

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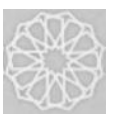
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## Abstract

Wittgenstein's philosophical life is divided into two periods. This division is due to the fact that at least once he underwent a deep intellectual transformation and built a new philosophy. Wittgenstein's main concern was language and how language works. This question occupied Wittgenstein all his life. But the sphere of influence of Wittgenstein's ideas was not limited to the realm of language and expanded to other spheres including religion. The following article describes Wittgenstein's later philosophical view and its connection with his view of theology. This article tries to explore the characteristics of philosophical research from the point of view of late Wittgenstein with a descriptive-analytical method and then express its consequences for theology. According to Wittgenstein's later philosophy, knowing the correct use of language can have results in understanding religion. From this point of view, the skill of linguistic analysis gives strength to philosophical analyzes about religion. The author believes that many of Wittgenstein's ideas and claims are true and are part of the philosophical problems arising from the fact that we have not understood the logic of the language of religious propositions correctly and we use words and sentences incorrectly. We really sometimes fall under the spell of our language and correct linguistic analyzes make us aware of the magic of language. But the late Wittgenstein's method of dealing with philosophy, which examines not the phenomena themselves, but the grammar and the use of words, may cause the neglect of important questions about metaphysical realities, and the philosopher of religion entertains linguistic analyzes and distracts him from deep and important issues. is blocked

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## Introduction

Wittgenstein's entry into the field of philosophy of religion had a significant influence on certain religious discussions in the 20th century. Even though his views were strictly philosophical, and his analyses were limited to the meaning criterion of propositions, his impact was far-reaching and affected numerous sub-disciplines within philosophy. Wittgenstein's theological accomplishments can be seen in both his philosophical inquiries and responses. Although he rarely expressed his views on religion openly, his influence was pervasive. As one of the most renowned philosophers of the 20th century, Wittgenstein's importance stems from the fact that he developed two highly significant philosophical systems and that his writings are widely considered classics and significant contributions to the field. His influence on subsequent philosophical thought is substantial, and his impact on the philosophy of religion is similarly significant, with ongoing debates about his ideas.

### 1. Method

This research used a library and descriptive approach to study, collect, and examine data. The data for this research was derived from a thorough reading and analysis of various works by and on Wittgenstein.

### 2. Results

Wittgenstein's writings on religion were relatively sparse and scattered, as his focus was primarily on language. In his later intellectual period, as detailed in "Philosophical Studies," he introduced a new method of philosophical inquiry that aimed to describe the function of linguistic expressions. Wittgenstein emphasized that description, rather than explanation or theorizing, was the key to seeing things as they are. While his thoughts on philosophy and language had an impact on theology and religious studies, his influence

was more methodological than substantive. Wittgenstein abandoned theoretical approaches to religion and focused on the description of religious propositions and their usage within the language of the believers' community. According to Wittgenstein, the philosopher of religion should not explain religious actions and expressions, but describe them in their actual use by believers. This approach provides a more accurate picture of religion than complex theoretical ideas about religious beliefs. This research explored Wittgenstein's unprecedented method for philosophy and its impact on religious studies, addressing questions about (1) whether he adhered to his own method, (2) how philosophers can correct errors in human thinking if all philosophy does is describing, and (3) whether he was right that philosophy is limited to language analysis. The findings of this study revealed that: (1) the answer to the first question is positive: Wittgenstein did not present a theory in his later intellectual period, (2) intellectual errors related to religious thought are rooted in language, and the philosopher of religion must clarify the special order of words in religious language, and in this way, correct intellectual errors related to religious thought, and finally, (3) not all philosophical problems can be solved through language analysis alone. Nonetheless, this study finds Wittgenstein's views beneficial for religious reflection and action.

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### Authors' contribution

The paper was written individually and the author is corresponding to the article.

### Conflict of interest

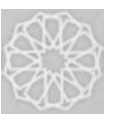
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