

THE DEEPLY AFFECTING REFLECTIONS ON HUMANITY, IDENTITY, AND ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF KAZUO ISHIGURO'S "NEVER LET ME GO"

Komilova Liliya

Uzbekistan State World Languages University,
Master's Degree 2nd Year, American and English Literature,

Abstract:

Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" is a multi-layered exploration of humanity, identity, and ethical dilemmas set against the backdrop of a dystopian England. Published in 2005, the novel unfolds in the enigmatic world of Hailsham, a boarding school concealing a haunting secret – the creation of clones for organ donations. Ishiguro's narrative intricately examines the characters' quest for identity amidst predestination, challenging conventional notions of humanity. The novel acts as a profound reflection on the ethical implications of scientific progress, urging readers to scrutinize the consequences of societal choices that exploit vulnerable populations for the sake of progress.

This article delves into the intricate layers of Ishiguro's work, prompting readers to reflect on the moral fabric that defines our society and the ethical boundaries we must navigate in our pursuit of knowledge and progress. "Never Let Me Go" stands not only as a literary masterpiece but also as a compelling call to engage in critical conversations about the profound implications of our collective journey into an uncertain future.

Keywords: dystopia, post-human, imagery, characters, humanity, dehumanization, ethical dilemmas, clone, literary, Hailsham, exploration of identity.

INTRODUCTION

Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" is a hauntingly beautiful novel that explores the complexities of human existence, love, and the ethics of science. Published in 2005, this dystopian masterpiece takes readers on a poignant journey through the lives of Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy – three students of Hailsham, an English boarding school with a dark secret. Ishiguro skillfully combines elements of science fiction, coming-of-age, and social commentary to create a narrative that challenges our perceptions and evokes a deep sense of empathy. Also he successfully navigates the complexities of human existence, identity, and ethical quandaries in a narrative that captivates readers and prompts profound introspection.

Set in a dystopian England, "Never Let Me Go" introduces readers to a society where clones are raised to donate their organs. Hailsham, the seemingly idyllic boarding school where Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy grow up, serves as the focal point of their lives. The intricacies of Hailsham's atmosphere and the gradual revelation of the characters' purpose evoke a sense

of foreboding. Hailsham, the boarding school where the protagonists grow up, serves as both a haven and a metaphorical prison. Ishiguro masterfully constructs an alternate reality that mirrors our own ethical dilemmas surrounding science, autonomy, and the value of life. One of the novel's central themes is the exploration of identity and what it means to be human. The characters in "Never Let Me Go" grapple with the realization that their lives are predetermined, and their purpose is to serve as organ donors. Despite this, Ishiguro portrays them as fully developed individuals with emotions, dreams, and desires. The quest for self-identity becomes a poignant journey for Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy, as they navigate their predetermined destinies while seeking meaning in their existence.

The novel prompts readers to question the ethical implications of using clones as organ donors. Ishiguro skillfully raises moral dilemmas surrounding science and humanity, challenging us to consider the consequences of sacrificing one group for the benefit of another. The emotional resonance of the characters amplifies the impact of these ethical quandaries, making the reader reflect on the fragility of life and the societal structures that dictate its value.

Ishiguro weaves a narrative that emphasizes the significance of memory and the act of remembrance. Kathy, as the narrator, reflects on her past at Hailsham and the relationships she forged with Ruth and Tommy. The fragility of their memories becomes a poignant metaphor for the ephemeral nature of life. Ishiguro suggests that memories hold a unique power, shaping our understanding of self and influencing the choices we make. The characters grapple with the inevitability of their fate, yet their memories serve as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Central to the novel is the exploration of love and the enduring power of memories and art. Ishiguro weaves a poignant narrative that emphasizes the redemptive qualities of human connections. Kathy's recollections of her relationships with Ruth and Tommy underscore the profound impact of love in the face of a predetermined destiny. Additionally, the role of art as a form of self-expression becomes a powerful tool for the characters to assert their humanity, adding another layer to Ishiguro's exploration of the human spirit's ability to find beauty and meaning in the bleakest of circumstances.

In conclusion, Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" stands as a testament to the power of literature to provoke thought, evoke emotions, and challenge societal norms. Through the lens of a dystopian world, Ishiguro explores timeless themes of identity, humanity, and the ethical implications of scientific advancements. The novel invites readers to contemplate the value of life, the consequences of unchecked scientific progress, and the enduring strength of human connection in the face of inevitable loss. "Never Let Me Go" is not merely a story; it is a reflection on the human condition that lingers in the mind, prompting us to question the essence of our existence and the choices we make in the name of progress. Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" pushes readers to confront uncomfortable truths about identity, ethics, and the consequences of scientific progress. The novel's enduring impact lies in its ability to transcend the confines of genre, resonating with readers on a deeply emotional and intellectual level. As we navigate the intricate web of Hailsham alongside

Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy, Ishiguro invites us to reflect on our own humanity and the choices we make in the pursuit of progress. "Never Let Me Go" stands as a testament to the power of literature to provoke contemplation, challenging us to never forget the ethical implications of our collective journey into the unknown.

References:

1. Memories in Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go: A Clone's Humanity. Francesca Boschetti, Memorial University of Newfoundland. July, 2017.
2. Generic Considerations in Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go, by Karl Shaddox. May, 2013.
3. Never let me go: science fiction and legal reality. Jan-Harm De Villiers, University of South Africa.
4. Never let me go: science fiction and legal reality. Magda Slabbert, University of South Africa. 2011.
5. A Study on Never Let Me Go from the Perspective of Ethical Criticism Si Xiao Qingdao, University of Science and Technology, China. July, 2011.