



## An In-Depth Study of Kazuo Ishiguro's 'Never Let Me Go'

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### Abstract:

The current paper presents the intricacy of the novel "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro. This work is a complex combination of themes such as memory, identity, love, loss, and the ethical impacts of scientific progress via cloning. A thorough evaluation of Ishiguro's use of narrative tools, like first-person narrative, non-linear stories, and emotional distance, will show how such methods intensify the thematic import of the novel and give it a philosophical orientation. The narrative analysis focuses on the Hailsham educational system, social control techniques and the attempt by clones to define themselves despite the limited choices they can make. Comparing with other such books, the paper locates Ishiguro's novel in a bigger literary context, highlighting its relevance in the discussions about human nature, ethics, and the risks associated with scientific advances. The last part reveals the novel's powerful take on how to treasure life, look into human relationships, and fight as humans to find a sense of purpose and meaning, even amid loss and fate.

**Keywords:** Kazuo Ishiguro, Never Let Me Go, dystopian literature, narrative techniques, memory, identity, ethical implications of cloning, human condition, societal conditioning, existential inquiry, scientific advancement.

### Introduction

The book "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro talks about the hope in the science of cloning and explores the heart of this humanistic question intensely. Ishiguro, known as no less than the Nobel laureate awarded for his one-of-a-kind writing style, presents stories inspired by memory, identity, and the indescribable accidental circumstances of life. "Never Let Me Go" represents another dystopian movie set in the future and shows our society's phobia of various uncertainties that we cannot control, moral diligence, and moral dilemmas. The novel, dealing with a parallel England, shows the lives of three young people—Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth—who are students of Hailsham School, secluded in nature. The serenity of their youth





exposes the horror of reality, and an inverse reflection is made, showing in which society one lives and what humanity truly is about (Ayar, 2016).

This paper will push the boundaries of Ishiguro's writing by unravelling the complexities of his story and illuminating how he confronts topics of love, loss, and a person's dread of death, inhabiting a world where humans are seen as mere products to be traded and used. Within this analysis, the question is about how memory and the past contribute to identity building and future planning. This common motive runs through both Ishiguro's novels and his short works. In addition, the essay will go deeply into society's implications of the portrayal of cloning in the novel and the ethical considerations that the novel raises, which reflect more severe issues about scientific advancement and responsibility.

The study will be realized via a close-reading exercise supported by critical references. This analysis will summarize Kate Chan's novel "Never Let Me Go" as a compelling illustration of the human condition, convincing the readers to upraise how they determine what is and what is not their nature, how they perceive relationships, and what obligations they have to their society. The paper examines the characters and their role in the novel, searching for meaning. While they remember the past events and their role in society, the paper explores the layers of Ishiguro's criticism of today's society's quest for perfection.

By doing this, the study highlights academic discussions on behalf of Ishiguro's work. It investigates broader issues, such as the function of literature in connecting with moral aspects of technological advancements. To sum up, "Never Let Me Go" is undoubtedly evidence of the distinguished quality of the author Ishiguro that binds the power of the narrative and the deep philosophical questions together, which confirms his prominent role in modern literature.

## Background

In Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go," a fictional narrative takes place in an alternative version of late twentieth-century Britain where humans engineer clones as organ donors to prolong their lives. The book draws dramatization through the eyes of Kathy, who is on the edge of her forties and recollecting her younger days in Hailsham, a secluded boarding school for clones that appeared to be heaven on earth. In contrast to the other institutions, though, Hailsham focuses on artistic expression and individual development, thus drawing a clear line between the clones' doom that



can apply to the ordinary. In his space, Ishiguro creates a land that, if inaccurate, has very similar issues with ethics and biotechnology to those we face nowadays, particularly the commercialization of the human body (Rastelli, 2019).

"Never Let Me Go" intricately looks at themes such as recollection, search for identity and meaning of life within the constraints of this life being had. The story is exact in terms of obscuring the boundaries between being human and not, which makes the reader do soul-searching to realize what it takes to be absolutely "human." The protagonists, Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth, navigate their friendships and love triangles, embodying the universal quest for connection, understanding, and purpose (Reguia, 2023).

This backdrop serves as a foundation for the novel's deeper inquiries into scientific progress's moral and ethical implications. Ishiguro's subdued critique of society's obsession with health, longevity, and the ethical quandaries posed by cloning technology is woven through his characters' personal tragedies and emotional complexities. By focusing on the emotional and psychological experiences of the clones, Ishiguro personalizes broad ethical debates, forcing readers to confront the human cost of societal advancements (Drag, 2014).

## **Thematic Analysis in "Never Let Me Go":**

### **Overview of critical interpretations of the novel's themes.**

Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" presents a rich tapestry for thematic exploration, deeply interweaving notions of humanity, ethics, and existential queries against a dystopian backdrop. Critical interpretations of this novel have been vast and varied, reflecting its complexity and the depth of its emotional and philosophical engagement. At the heart of Ishiguro's work, the narrative goes beyond the imaginative limits of science fiction, delving into the core issues of human beings regarding memories and the terrible ingenuity of death.

One central thesis of critical discourse is to reveal humanity and its core values through exploring identity. Some researchers assert that Ishiguro does more than use clones to create a piece of speculative fiction. He also makes us see and feel our human predicament in the outer world. The protagonists' acceptance issues and their search for their purpose in a predetermined existence are analogous to the complications of the universal human experience. This theme has incited a vast exploration, delving into how the novel examines the metaphysical notion of selfhood versus the social norms and dangerous limits of human existence (Panda & Bhattacharya, 2024).





Besides, memory is the major issue that Ishiguro touches upon. Critics point out the symbolic nature of how the protagonists' selective remembering of the past and their version used to survive and free themselves from their current fear of the future. The act of remembering in "Never Let Me Go" is closely connected to the construction of identity; memory creates a span that connects who these people are, who they used to be, and who they think they could have been. Such a poignancy in these memories, saturated with grief and nostalgia, has been the subject of literary scholars, emphasizing the novel's capability to capture humanity's ephemeral and complicated experiences (Drag, 2014).

The ethical element in the dynamics of scientific progress influencing society and the society consequently affected also plays a significant role in the analysis. The book's dystopian setting, where clones are bred for organ transplantation facilities, is meant to illustrate some biotechnologies and cloning ethical issues that we face nowadays. Critics focus on the fact that Ishiguro's novel addresses pressing issues such as the role of science in our society and the medicalization of life. This element gets the audience to make a comparison with the moral dilemmas in the real world, an academic subject that becomes so significant because of that.

Not surprisingly, the function of love, loss, and the ability of humans to empathize with other people in the face of an impenetrable world has provoked heated academic discussion as well. The representation of characters by Ishiguro and their struggle with emotional discomfort and, ultimately, acceptance of loss was studied to depict human existence (Black, 2009). The emotional depth involved in the subtle narration style makes the readers respect the author for his ability to engage them with the help of emotional resonances. It prompts the readers to reflect on and confront their individual views on morality, love, and the ephemerality of life.

## **Exploration of how identity is constructed in the novel.**

In the novel "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro, identity and the exploration of humanity are two prolific layers stitched into the whole novel, leading us to deep reflections on what it means to be human. Ishiguro brilliantly encompasses the





manifold aspects of self-definition via the lives of Kathy, Tommie, and Ruth, characters who are, from conception, cast as 'under men' concerning the ranking system due to the cloning profession. Such an assumption gives the author the latitude to meaningfully treat self-awareness, relationships, and societal perception, thus inviting readers to reconsider their perception of humanity (Kafshchi et al., 2023).

"Never Let Me Go" is a book in which the identity construction of the characters is mainly under the influence of the future they know awaits them—the donation of their organs. The idea of fate modelled for them by their ancestors governs how they view themselves and how they fit into the world. Hailsham, which Ishiguro equates with creativity and respect as a whole, is seen as a reflection of Ishiguro's intent to discuss outer factors' role in shaping one's identity. Here, the students are invited to show their true selves through art, which expresses their individuality and serves as a system of validation for others. Taking the example of the music tape loved by Kathy and the artistic skill showcased by Tommy in which he tried to defy the imposed societal roles, the personal identity goes further than the existing personal roles (Kukkonen, 2020).

Humanization is the main focus of the novels, exploring the meaning of being a human through the baby clones' struggle with their feelings. Ishiguro ultimately smudges the distinction between the human and the non-human and instigates the thought that the human identity is merely a matter of a natural given DNA condition. They come to life through their intense emotional complexity, from close friendships and love affairs to their cosmic doubts, dreams, and the wish for meaningful lives. The tendency to love, soreness due to loss, and personal objectives that transcend beyond a particular individual's living conditions are reflections of humanity's diverse experiences. Although their society refutes acknowledging their humanity, one may easily see that the basis of human civilization is ungrounded and dependent on the criteria used to exclude others (Ang, 2022).

Ishiguro makes the idea of humanity more profound because neither the author nor the characters seem concerned about the clones' genocide. As part of the outside world, we, the viewers, must deal with this acceptance of the clones' fates, which brings forth such never-ending questions as those related to humankind's moral and ethical aspects. The novel mentions that humanity is not a static trait but an action that a person performs through a deed, which is feeling another individual's pain and having a sympathetic power. It is when Kathy and Tommy ask for a reprieve from their donations. However, it is abruptly reminded that such a luxury is available to no one when reality hits them, that they are not exceptions, and that the



praiseworthiness of their endeavours resides solely in their humanity (Rastelli, 2019).

The fact that the protagonist with their skin and tongue cuts without any major rebellion clearly shows Ishiguro's introspection on the human spirit. It could be construed as a self-defeat, but it is also the human element of the wish for meaning within objectionably narrowed freedom. Her narration, a chopping board of memories and thoughts along the way, is a palpable proof of the inherent human need to phrase the narrative of one's life and to find some coherence in the unfathomable noise of life (Kerby, 1991).

## **Memory's role toward shaping the characters and their fates.**

The small but significant role of memory and past in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* is delicately highlighted as the vitality of characters and their destinies, which shed light on how the past shapes present and future situations. Narrative: Kathy H.'s reminiscences are mainly portrayed as necessary in creating self and knowing the world through memory. Ishiguro constructs a complex image of how memories -one's individual and collective – shape characters' lives, further deepening the whole immersive experience and providing insight into human existence (Reguia, 2023).

Through Kathy, the role of the narrator in the novel is similar to the engagement of memory in it. Her reflections are not just a rehearsal of events but a choosy separation of the past wounds in the purpose and connection in search of. Through this act of recollection, the characters transform their otherwise compartmentalized life experience in Hailsham to their eventual destiny as organ donors. An example is the way Kathy develops an affection towards a music tape. In particular, she likes the song "Never Let Me Go" entirely as it symbolizes the private dimension of memory. The lines depict Kathy's quest for comfort and solace, exemplifying her inner yearnings and ruminations on the Tommy-Ruth pairing. Although made on a personal level, such memories remind us of the universal desire and urge within people for love and knowledge that proves the present self to be affected mainly by the past (Nakamura, 2021).

The shared memory more effectively contributes to forming the characters' perception of their living environment. Hailsham was a site of relative happiness and a secure place; what they had experienced afterward was nothing compared to the terrible "truth." Such unified nostalgia becomes a source of solace per se: an aid to overcoming dire conditions. In this regard, Djuna leaves his corporeal body behind because he cannot take it anymore. However, the bigger purpose of Hailsham comes





out at the same period when the characters see that Hailsham taught the clones to have souls by facilitating their artistic qualities. Such a revelation changes their view on the past, as it shows that collective memory could be directed in a particular manner in order to serve specific narrative purposes (Bouacida et al., 2021)

The memory attributed to "Never Let Me Go," is also represented as the origin of hurt and loss. The heroic character's journey towards understanding his/her destiny and a sharp sensation of discretization and remorse is the loss of innocence. Hailsham memories mix the sweet and the bitter, now colored, not only by avoidance but by the full knowledge of their creators' endgame. This aspect of memory highlights its dual nature: as a mighty helper and home for their souls, they still felt the experience of the brutal struggle triggered by slavery. The severity of such self-confrontation during a debate is felt the most in the revelations of the characters' understanding that their beliefs in further pleas of deferral and thoughts of a different future were futile, reflecting the villainous exploitation of their expectations and experiences.

Ishiguro also shows us that the idea of remembrance as a weapon against oppression is very true. While their plans to dehumanize them were in full swing, the characters' recollections and the feelings they because help prove that the protagonists have a soul spectrum. Their memories and images of love and friendship, as well as those of beauty, are analogous to the story, which contradicts their roles as counterparts. Memory becomes a method employed by the characters to reassert their individuality and humanity, challenging the social norms that, by nature, define their worth solely by physical utilitarianism (Black, 2009).

## Comparative studies on the portrayal of memory in Ishiguro's other works

Aspect	Never Let Me Go	The Remains of the Day	An Artist of the Floating World
<b>Function of Memory</b>	Memory serves as a bridge between the characters' childhood and their predetermined futures, reflecting on identity and humanity.	Memory is a tool for reflection and self-realization, with the protagonist reassessing his life and choices through past experiences.	Memory acts as a means of confronting or denying past actions and societal roles, highlighting the fluidity and selectivity of memory.
<b>Narrative Structure</b>	The narrative is structured around Kathy's reminiscences, with memory influencing the portrayal of events and character relationships.	The story unfolds through Stevens' recollections, blending present events with memories that reveal his past actions and loyalties.	The narrative oscillates between the present and past, showcasing Ono's memories and their impact on his current life and relationships.
<b>Themes Related to Memory</b>	Memory is tied to identity, love, loss, and the hope for a different future. It also explores the manipulation of memory and its impact on destiny.	Memory explores themes of dignity, loyalty, and regret, questioning the reliability of memories and the protagonist's self-image.	Memory examines guilt, denial, and the reconstruction of self, focusing on the repercussions of war and personal accountability.
<b>Role of Memory in Character Development</b>	Memories shape the characters' understanding of themselves and their places in the world, revealing their humanity and desires for more.	Stevens' memories lead to a late realization of misjudgements and missed opportunities, culminating in a reassessment of his life's worth.	Ono's memories and their selective nature reflect his struggle with guilt and the desire to maintain honour in a changing post-war society.
<b>Impact on the Reader</b>	Memory evokes empathy and reflection on human conditions, challenging societal perceptions of humanity.	Memory prompts readers to question the reliability of the narrator and the truths we tell ourselves about our lives.	Memory encourages readers to consider the complexities of historical narratives and the personal dimension of historical events.





## **Discussion of the ethical implications presented by cloning and organ donation in the novel.**

In an alternate reality led by Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go", the ethical dilemmas presented by biotechnological advances are articulated via cloning and organ harvesting. The book is about Kathy, Tommy and Ruth who are clones that are supposed to be donors in a society that values their lives only for their utility, and the story gets highlights while it is set in a dystopian England. Ishiguro's narrative takes the reader through the moral implications of such scientific advancements, making one think about humanity's essence and the moral boundaries of scientific exploration (Topal, 2023).

The moral concerns about cloning and organ donation in this story are complex. To the deep ethical research in the book the most important is clone dehumanization. They are created artificially, not as individuals with unalienable rights but rather as biological assets. This view of life based on the utilitarianism principle leads the reader to a question: what is the worth of life other than its use by others. The clones' slowly understanding of their fate and society's disregard of their suffering emphasize the disturbing truth, where effectiveness and benefits are more highly valued instead of human empathy and moral principles. The novel raises complex ethical issues on the role of science and society in the case of cutting-edge sciences. Thus, it invites us to contemplate whether the advancement of science serves as a sufficient ethical basis for the sacrifice of human lives or whether society's benefit is morally greater than individual dignity.

Ishiguro's narrative is predominantly powerful in getting the clones across physically; thus, the ethical dilemma of the cloning saga is brought to light. By the end, they manage to acquire not purely a vessel of organs but also emotions, dreams, hopes, and feelings that make them actual personalities and individuals. The conflict becomes evident with regard to the clones' skills to be creative and to the composition of the collections at Hailsham, as illustrated in the film. Humanize: The very idea that one's soul can be disclosed via artistic expressions questions the clones' mere utilitarian implication. This statement is not just as powerful as the long critique of performing societal expectations.



Many critics have fully addressed these ethical issues, and in some places they can be seen to bring themes from Ishiguro's novels into the real-world debates in bioethics. Scholars have noted that the novel is a tale that serves as a warning about the ignominious progress of science, which is considered neither morally nor ethically. Take into consideration another ethical issue regarding the authenticity of stem cell research and genetic cloning in the present world, as the novel does the same with organ cloning. Since ethical discussions are focused on the confrontation between scientific advancements and humans' dignity and rights (Gill, 2020), they lead to the creation of strategies.

Furthermore, acceptance and societal recognition of the clones' fate in the novel make us examine the role of the people who enable it while raising the issue of "accountability." In the critical essays, the painting of apathy by Ishiguro is regarded as an image of our own world, where advantageousness or preferable options are at the centre of our minds, yet we leave ethics on the margins. As such, the novel not only criticizes the scientific advances and the possible trips we could take in the future, but it also represents our current ethical dilemmas and the moral compass we use while navigating the ethical issues we currently have (Hodson, 2011).

## **Insights into how Hailsham's educational system reflects on broader societal values and conditioning.**

Kazuo Ishiguro personifies the concept of "Never Let Me Go" through the fictional educational establishment of Hailsham which is not only a setting but also a window of critical vantage point through which the author exposes the role of education and the societal conditioning in the making of an individual and shaping of social values. At Hailsham, educational system although reveals consideration and concern, bit-by-bit conducts the students to a belief that they are inherently doomed to donate their organs. By delving into the subtle ways in which educational institutions may mirror the dominant societal norms and attitudes, this intricate portrayal highlights how the educational system can either reinforce or reach beyond what is considered the norm, affecting identity construction of students and all those within them (Ang, 2022).

The educational philosophy of Hailsham seems to be cantered on creativity and development of a student's personality by giving them the chance to do art and provide an outlet for their individuality. However, this facade masks a more sinister purpose: to prove so that clones are indeed humans and the element of their souls, thus justifies the ethical legitimacy of organ donation from clones. The educational





method, therefore, with its dualistic approach, represents the broader scenario in society that sees education as the way of social control and conditioning individuals to accept predetermined roles within the society. Hailsham's students live in a sheltered environment, secluded from the harsh realities of the true world, with teachers possessing guided control over how the world is seen by their wards. The ability to fake knowledge which is the essence of education is reflected in the ascendancy of perception and identity such that the individuals will have a blind acceptance of their societal roles (Pattison, 2024).

To begin with, education in every-day life has distinct importance in different settings, yet it most commonly revolves around two main areas: identity formation and social integration. Through instances such as the Montessori method which centres on individual learning and creativity, Hailsham is much likely to be similar too. Nevertheless, in contrast to Hailsham, Montessori education helps children to take the position of independent thinkers by allowing them study what they like and what will benefit them in the future. This opposition brings emphasis to how education philosophies can either shrink or widen the horizons of those who receive education, to a great extent affecting who they become and which role they think they have in the world (Hansen, 2019).

In the same vein, characteristic of the theory of hidden curriculum where the society's values and norms are reinforced by implicit lessons and practices in educational waters. One of Hailsham's focal points in the teachings lies in art and creativity, where students have to prove that their being is human despite being used for such evil causes. Such process goes hand in hand with the deep socialization which is done to teach everybody to adjust to social norms and expectations, thus the individual's autonomy and potential are getting heavily affected. In other words, instead of valuing and developing qualities such as empathy, originality, and compassion that Hailsham is trying so hard to cultivate in the young students; those very same traits are used to justify their captivity—and to sustain it under the mask of the benevolent policy (Black, 2009).

## **Examination of how the themes of love and loss are intertwined with the clones' acceptance of their fate.**

Kazuo Ishiguro explores the spheres of love, death, and acceptance, which are provocatively presented through his beautiful prose and intensive narration. Herein, he raises the eternal questions of life and characterizes humankind in his book. The lives of Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth unveil in Ishiguro's work the relationship of the examined themes to the acceptance threshold of the clones of the final days, making

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it possible to tell us a sad story about how people can make the final meaning of their lives. The novel's topics are the main reason for the character's difficulties and, at the same time, comment on the bigger aspect of human life (Reguia, 2023).

Through the lens of "Never Let Me Go," love is translated as one of the most difficult forces, which can explain each action of the characters and provide them with a view of themselves and their world. The interpersonal relationship between characters Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth is full of jealousy, suffering, and finally, reconciliation, where we all learn from this struggle what love truly is and its ability to make us happy and sad together. The love theme illustrates how a clone finds shelter amidst the harshness of existence, emitting a wave of warmth and reassurance in a cold world. Nonetheless, love accentuates an enormous tragedy of their existence because this poignancy is due to the fact that, in contrast to permitting them to be classified as completely human, society is still keenly unaware of their own soul. This pictorial contrast furthers a grave ethical question of what one calls a person when emotions and love do not count (Harris, 2011).

Different from the others, the loss infuses the novel. It is the promising loss of life for the clones, the loss of innocence, dreams, and opportunities. Ishiguro excellently shows how the feeling that their fate will finally come up weighs down the characters, making their lives tangled in tragic melancholy. With the slow introduction of their role and the destruction of people to come sooner, here are the characters with early experience of death. To avoid being unnecessary, why don't you overcome the biases that we develop as children and hence plagued with the disease of racism? Nevertheless, it is out of toil, which is the basis for the characters, especially Katy, in their understanding of what love is all about and the fact that life is made up of lots of incongruous moments of happiness. The loss concept, on the other hand, becomes a courage, a courage that springs these intellectuals to reflect and ponder their lives, meaning they wish to live and leave before their deaths (Deacon, 2006).

The prominence of the theme of acceptance is directly related to the fact that the clones try to come to terms with their fates, which are predetermined by their own biological structure. While you may believe that acceptance is represented by a movement of epiphany, it is rather a process of maturing and discovering the personal truth. This happens not only through love but also from loss and from the deep inner feeling that tells us where to look for a fulfilling sense in our lives. Kathy's narrative, full of reflection and often with a nostalgic feel, is key to this acceptance, for while she reflects on her life, she acknowledges a mixture of regret and gratitude. The fact that both Kathy and the others have to embrace their destiny is twofold,





thus both tragic and moving. What is more, their ability to uphold their dignity in the face of it makes it outstanding. Yet this acceptance of AI would raise an uneasy concern in which humans are overshadowed by complacency and society falls into the dark side of moral debates.

Ishiguro revealed the motivation of the main characters' lives through their existential despair and quest for meaning, which are the keys to the main theme of the novel. Through the protagonists' efforts to discover a meaning for a dismal universe that offers no hope for their future, this work also delivers to us a message about the bigger existential concepts of the meaning of life and identity search. Throughout the storyline, it is implied that meaning is created in the bond with others, in art, and in tiny moments of love and resistance toward inhumanity. This quest to impart their lives with a sense of importance even in the face of hardship is what keeps them from being just objects and distinguishes the characters from others in a way that makes them look human and heroic. But this quest also makes readers question their own values and ask if society judges people the way the characters are being judged.

Critical viewpoints of "Never Let Me Go" typically zero in on existential torment and the characters' understanding of love, grief, and forgiveness. According to scholars, the novel's power is its capability to invoke empathy and self-examination on the part of the reader, compelling him or her to confront the questions of what it means to live a meaningful life. In a sense of the clones' life, 'Ishiguro throws a criticism at the idea of society we live in and suggests we be more critical of some 'ethical standards' that are being erased in the advancement of scientific knowledge (Holt, 2022).

## **Analysis of Ishiguro's storytelling techniques and how they serve to deepen the novel's thematic impact**

The nature of Kazuo Ishiguro's writing in "Never Let Me Go" is unique because it includes its subtleness, concentration on details, and above all its great depth; factors that help to reinforce the thematic impact of the book to the readers. He employs his narration techniques saliently to create a gripping setting with first-person narration, a non-linear storytelling structure, and a simple tone, that intrigues the readers in a deeply immersive and reflective experience. This story has a strong influence on the reader's mind because Ishiguro has mastered the use of different techniques to make the reader think. The narrative crafted by Ishiguro is haunting and beautiful at the same time, and this kind of emotion last long even after we finish reading the book (Alspach, 2016).



Narrating the plot in Kathy H's first-person view is a basic element of Ishiguro's storytelling methodology. According to this opinion, a person could have an extremely engaging look at the emotional experience of the clones and especially be very involved in them. So the reader could expect to find a specialized feeling of togetherness with them. Nostalgia and introspection are at the core of who Kathy is as a KEEP (SAY LOUDLY) speaker, through whose voice the interweaving of themes like memory, identity, and the human condition is revealed. She exposes what underlies the crazy events in her narration and questions the issues of morality and the discovery of oneself that the novel puts forth. Establishment of this intimacy is important for fostering empathy for the reader and letting Ishiguro explore complicated themes with sensitive and deep content (Price, 2011).

Ishiguro not only uses non-linear narrative structure but also forms a topical relationship between the past and the present, which will be relevant to the major theme of the novel: memory and time. The textual organization follows the principle of reminiscence, which means that memories flash in an unstructured order and create a unified picture of consequences for the perception of oneself and destiny. The banal formation of the story characterizes a reader who has to gather all parts of the story themselves, thus contributing actively to the determination of the meaning. Thus, the storyline of the character through memory moments is not only similar to their self-discovery journey but also brings readers to question their own importance of memory.

The underlining narrative of the book also constitutes a significant element of Ishiguro's writing style. The emotional restraint and subtle delivery work wonderfully for this novel, creating an eerie and thought-provoking setting that ultimately forces readers to read between the lines. Such censorship plays a vital role in making the life of Clones a tragedy instead of a melodramatic one. The peaceful submission to their destiny shown through Kathy's straightforward narration just leaves one feeling very sad and accepting of this. This concise method of narration facilitates an examination of the ethical consequences of the story, which, in turn, causes the readers to doubt society's norms and values (TAN & YAN, 2018).



## Comparative analysis with other dystopian novels exploring similar themes.

Theme/Aspect	Never Let Me Go (Kazuo Ishiguro)	Brave New World (Aldous Huxley)	The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood)
Societal Control	Societal control is exerted through the indoctrination and manipulation of clones, who are raised to donate their organs without questioning their fate.	Control is maintained through genetic engineering, conditioning, and a caste system, ensuring individuals remain content with their predetermined roles.	The regime uses strict laws, religious justification, and surveillance to control women, particularly handmaids, stripping them of autonomy and identity.
Individual Identity	The clones struggle with their identity, grappling with the knowledge of their creation for organ donation, yet finding moments of individuality through love and art.	Individuals lack true individuality, as their desires and behaviours are engineered. The struggle for identity is seen in characters who question or feel out of place within this society.	The protagonist, Offred, navigates a loss and reclaiming of identity, using memory and subtle acts of rebellion to maintain a sense of self within oppressive confines.
Ethical Dilemmas	The novel presents the ethical dilemma of cloning and using humans for organ donations, questioning the morality of	Ethical questions arise regarding the use of technology and conditioning to achieve a seemingly peaceful society at	Atwood presents ethical dilemmas around reproductive rights and the objectification of women, exploring the consequences of

	sacrificing some lives for others' benefit.	the cost of freedom and individuality.	extreme patriarchal control.
Quest for Meaning	Characters seek meaning and purpose in a predetermined life, finding it in personal relationships, memories, and the hope for something beyond their societal roles.	Characters like John the Savage seek meaning beyond societal norms, challenging the notion that happiness and stability justify the suppression of individuality and morality.	Off red's reflections on her past life and her acts of resistance serve as a search for meaning in a life defined by oppression and loss.
Response to Fate	Acceptance and subtle questioning of fate are central, with characters coming to terms with their destinies while still seeking moments of beauty and connection.	Varies from acceptance (by most of society) to rebellion (by outliers like John), highlighting different responses to a controlled existence.	Resistance against fate, both in overt actions by Mayday and in Off red's internal defiance, underscores the human spirit's resilience.

## Analysis of Ishiguro's storytelling techniques and how they serve to deepen the novel's thematic impact.

Technique	Example from Novel	Impact on Thematic Exploration
First-person narrative	Kathy H. as the narrator, recounting her memories and experiences.	Creates an intimate connection with the reader, enhancing the exploration of memory, identity, and ethics.
Subtle foreshadowing	Early mentions of "donations" and "carers" without full explanation.	Builds suspense and curiosity, gradually revealing the dystopian reality, emphasizing themes of fate and societal control.
Emotional restraint	Kathy's muted reactions to distressing revelations about their future.	Amplifies the emotional impact by focusing on internal rather than external drama, highlighting the clones' acceptance of their fate.





<b>Non-linear narrative</b>	The story oscillates between past and present, reflecting Kathy's memories.	Mirrors the process of memory, emphasizing the theme of how past experiences shape identity and perception.
<b>Symbolism</b>	The song "Never Let Me Go" and Kathy's tape.	Symbolizes the clones' desire for love, connection, and a sense of belonging, reinforcing the novel's exploration of human emotions and relationships.
<b>Imagery</b>	Descriptive passages of Hailsham and the surrounding countryside.	Evokes a sense of loss and nostalgia for a seemingly idyllic past, deepening the themes of innocence and loss.
<b>Repetition</b>	Repetitive mention of key memories and objects, like the boat.	Highlights the significance of certain memories in shaping the characters' identities and their understanding of their world.
<b>Ambiguity</b>	Vague references to the world outside Hailsham and the fate of the clones.	Engages readers to actively fill in the gaps, contemplating the ethical and societal implications of cloning and organ donation.
<b>Character development</b>	The evolution of relationships among Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth over time.	Showcases the complexity of human emotions and relationships, challenging the notion of clones as less than human.
<b>Dialogue</b>	Conversations that hint at the larger world and the characters' futures without explicit exposition.	Serves as a subtle method of world-building, allowing the themes of hope, despair, and acceptance to emerge organically.

## In-depth analysis of "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro

Theme/Scene	Suggested Analysis Approach
Kathy's Memories and Nostalgia	Explore how Kathy's reflective narration, filled with longing and nostalgia, emphasizes memory's role in identity formation and coping with inevitable loss.



<b>The Concept of Completing</b>	Analyse discussions around "completing" to understand how the novel grapples with existential themes and questions about the value of life and acceptance of death.
<b>Importance of Creativity at Hailsham</b>	Examine the emphasis on art and creativity to discuss its significance in asserting humanity and individuality against the backdrop of the clones' intended utilitarian purpose.
<b>The Role of Guardians</b>	Look into the guardians' complex roles to unveil themes of authority, protection, and the moral ambiguities of guiding the clones towards their fates.
<b>Tommy's Artwork and the Gallery</b>	Investigate Tommy's belief in the gallery and his artwork as a means to explore themes of legacy, societal validation, and the inherent human desire to be remembered.
<b>The Trip to Norfolk</b>	Use the journey to Norfolk as a metaphorical exploration of the clones' quest for identity, belonging, and the harsh confrontation with their realities.
<b>Kathy as a Carer</b>	Reflect on Kathy's role and her introspective views as a carer to delve into themes of empathy, self-sacrifice, and the nuances of the human condition.
<b>Ruth's Regrets and Confessions</b>	Analyse Ruth's moments of regret and her confessions to discuss character development, the possibility of redemption, and the complexities of interpersonal relationships.
<b>The Concept of Hope and Deferrals</b>	Examine the clones' hopes for deferrals as a lens through which to view the human capacity for hope, the impact of delusion, and the acceptance of reality.
<b>Madame's Reaction to Kathy's Dancing</b>	Discuss Madame's emotional response to Kathy dancing as a moment that reflects external perceptions of the clones and their internal longing for a normal life.
<b>The Ending: Kathy's Reflections on Life</b>	Consider Kathy's final reflections as a poignant commentary on loss, the passage of time, and the acceptance of one's path in life, inviting readers to introspect.
<b>The Social and Ethical Context</b>	Delve into the novel's societal and ethical undertones, examining how it addresses the implications of cloning, the value of life, and





societal obligations towards the marginalized.

## Conclusion

In "Never Let Me Go," Kazuo Ishiguro creates a story that cannot be confined to the boundaries of literature of a usual dystopian nature, pursuing questions over the depths of human emotions, a memory's intricacies, and the moral intricacies of scientific advancements. Via the characters of Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth, Ishiguro explores the issues of love, loss and acceptance, interweaving the tales that pose the question of whether cloning is just copying of the original or it is an art of creation and whether it is ethical. He used atypical writing techniques involving personal





narration, a non-linear timeline, and an austere tone to create a close relationship between the characters and the reading audience and to direct the readers to reflect deeply on the value of life and the question of existence. Human memory is one of the most potent powers in man's existence. It can shape one's identity; it can make a person strong and determined when the universe is cruel, and in the end, searching for meaning in life is the main goal for all living creatures.

Ishiguro's novel "Never Let Me Go" is a classic example of using narrative skilfully to cause elaborate and thought-provoking interactions on ethical and existential questions. Readers step into the imaginary world that is the novel to ponder over issues such as self-identity, implications of moral standpoints on technological advancements, and the qualities that define what it means to be human. Ishiguro skilfully portrays these themes by using subtle but powerful tools of expression. This is a perfect shield to look at the world and show the significance of empathy, personal relations, and the overwhelming influence of love and loss on humans. In doing so, "Never Let Me Go" emerges as a critical exploration of a dystopian future and a profound meditation on the timeless and universal aspects of the human condition.

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