



Think India (Quarterly Journal)

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ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



Disability: The Scientific World Of Kazuo Ishiguro *Never Let Me Go*

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Children are the most beautiful gift of God and considered as a sacred treasure to mankind. They are the footsteps to the future generation. When children are born into this world, various ceremonies are held to celebrate the joyous occasion and welcome them into this world. Gifts are given and offerings are made to God to express one's thanks for the beautiful gift of life. It is considered that the birth of children makes the marriage of a man and woman more meaningful and secure. In fact, giving birth to a child establishes the real status of women in society and is also a proof of the virility of a man.

Disability is a term which may have several definitions, views, approaches in different prospective from rural to the urban, medical to the social and old to the modern. According to World Health Organization disability means "any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being". The disability may be physical, mental, emotional, and developmental or sometimes all of these. It affects not only men or women it affects much on children. The disabilities of the children in the scientific world can be in the novel of Kazuo Ishiguro *Never Let Me Go*.

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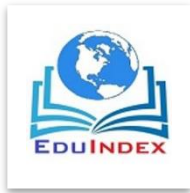
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Kazuo Ishiguro is a Nobel Prize winning English novelist, screenwriter, and short story writer. Kazuo Ishiguro's eight books have won him wide renown and many honours around the world. His work has been translated into more than forty languages. The *Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go* have each sold in excess of one million copies in Faber edition alone, and both were adapted into highly acclaimed films.

Never Let Me Go is a dystopian fiction novel published in 2005. The novel *Never Let Me Go* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in the year 2005 and in the same year it won the Arthur C. Clarke Award and National Book Critics Circle Award. *Never Let Me Go* is selected as one of the 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005 by the TIME Magazine. It also received an Alex Award in the year 2006 and a film adaptation is directed by Mark Romanek was released in 2010 and a Japanese television drama was aired in 2016.

Cloning is the process of producing similar being of genetically identical individuals that occurs in nature of organisms like bacteria, insects, plants, animals and human being. Human cloning is a genetically creating an identical copy of a human. This method of creating an artificial human cloning by reproduction of human cells and tissues. It does not mean natural conception and delivery of identical twins. Human cloning is of two types reproductive and therapeutic. Reproductive cloning is the process of making of entirely a new being from the cells or tissues. Therapeutic cloning is the method to use cloned cell for the treatments for diseases. In this type of cloning DNA is inserted into a stem cell.



In Kazuo Ishiguro novel *Never Let Me Go* the children in the Hailsham are created by the method of human cloning and they are not the natural born human beings. These children are brought up in Hailsham up to the age of sixteen and they are sent out of the school for the purpose of organ donation. In a simple word we can say them as donors. Kathy is the narrator of the novel who is created by human cloning and brought up in Hailsham School. She expresses the feelings of children and the circumstances faced by them during their childhood life. Kathy reveals her life in Hailsham and how she became donor. From her narration we can understand how Hailsham children are differ from other children not only of feelings but also from their activities.

The most pressing question that must be addressed in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* is whether or not Kathy H. and her fellow clones are human. The three friends are part of the "donation program" that is common practice in their society. They are clones and were created for the sole purpose of eventually donating their organs to non-clones to allow for the latter's continued existence. In the novel, it is evident that Kathy H., Ruth, Tommy D., and all the other cloned beings are not considered human by the society that they inhabit, namely, England of the late 20th and early 21st century. In order for the donation program to persist as it does, it must be the case that the society either does not consider the clones human, or does not consider them "human enough" to be granted the same rights as non-cloned humans. In the novel, the directors of Hailsham scrutinize the donation program because of the question of the clones 'humanity', but ultimately the people who support the program are unwilling to abandon it, regardless of the question of its ethics:

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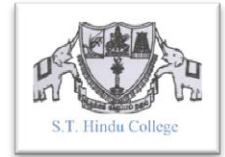
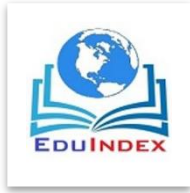
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However uncomfortable people were about your existence, their overwhelming concern was that their own children, their spouses, their parents, their friends, did not die from cancer, motor neuron disease, heart disease... You were kept in the shadows, and people did their best not to think about you. And if they did, they tried to convince themselves you weren't really like us. That you were less than human, so it didn't matter (*NLMG 4*).

The main purpose of the school is to educate the students. Education makes a student discipline and to face challenges in their life. But the only purpose of school in Hailsham in Ishiguro *Never Let Me Go* to make the students to work on poetry, art and playing football. They make the students to be creative in other things not in education and they don't know how to read and write. The art created by the students are displayed in an exhibition and the best work will be chosen by a woman named Madame and the selected arts will be kept in gallery. Tommy who is Kathy's friend is very naughty and different from others, becomes a social outcast and throws a lot of tantrums with his creative art.

Boarding school provides education for students those who are away from their native and for the orphan children. The word boarding means room and board. It facilitate lodging and meals too. Boarding school is available for both girls and boys. In Ishiguro *Never Let Me Go*, Hailsham is a boarding school in England where the teachers are guardians for the students. They care them well but the students are never allowed to leave the school even Hailsham ground. If they leave out of the school, they will be punished by the guardian. The Hailsham School is

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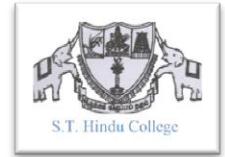
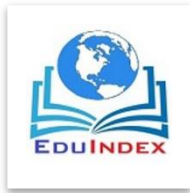
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covered with woods and grounds, so the guardian says terrible stories for the students as they should not cross the wall. The horrible story said by the guardian as:

Once, not so long before we well got to Hailsham, a boy had had a big row with his friends and run off beyond the Hailsham boundaries. His body has been found two days later, up in those woods, tied to a tree with the hands and feet chopped off. Another rumour had it that a girl's ghost wandered through those trees. She'd been a Hailsham student until one day she'd climbed over a fence just to see what it was like outside. (*NLEG* 50)

Friendship is a mutual affection between people. Friendship is a stronger bonds than other relationship and it also an interpersonal bond. Friendship gives kindness, love, virtue and good qualities to the human being. Francis Bacon gives an important implication of friendship in his essay *Of Friendship* as "Whatsoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god". The writer says that a man without friendship is compared with wild animal or god. In Ishiguro's novel *Never Let Me Go*, the students in the school suffer from disability of having no family relationship except friendship. From their birth they never saw their parents or any relations. So their only strong relation is their friends. Kathy who is the protagonist has friends named Tommy and Ruth, the both characters play an important role in this novel. Tommy is being different from others students and a social outcast he was left alone by others. But Kathy created a special relationship with him even though he was very rough and rude to her. Kathy observes her views on Tommy in the school as:

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Tommy was wearing the light blue polo shirt he'd got in the Sales the previous month – the one he was so proud of. I remember thinking: 'He's really stupid, playing football in that. It'll get ruined, then how's he is going to feel?' Out loud, I said, to no one in particular: 'Tommy's got his shirt on. His favourite polo shirt'.

(NLMG 8)

Kathy's another best friend is Ruth both have a well and strong relationship. Even though they hurt one another's feelings and they find some solution. They forgive their hurting and talk about their problems directly. Their life is like a roller coaster. Kathy wants her friends throughout in her life even though they hurt and avoid her.

Children are the flowers in the garden of life. They bring cheer and joy into the family. Their innocent pranks and sweet smiles spread happiness. They are the future of the world and give hope to the society for a better tomorrow. They are considered as a means through which the parents fulfill their dreams and aspirations. According to Francis Bacon in his essay *Of Ambition*, he clearly pictures the value of ambition in human life. He says that "AMBITION is like choler; which is an humor that maketh men active, earnest, full of alacrity, and stirring, if it be not stopped".

Human beings in the world will have certain goals or ambition to achieve in their life. Normally children are very active and develop their ambition in their younger days itself. The students in the Hailsham suffer from disability in the scientific world because they are not even allowed to think about their life. The students have different kinds of wishes hopes, plans and dreams to achieve in their life. The students wish to go to America to become actors but their



aim cannot be fulfilled because they are made only for the purpose of organ donation. When Miss Lucy tells very frankly that they exist only for the purpose of organ donation, the students are shocked and they are not able to understand what is happening in their life. Miss Lucy says that:

None of you will go to America, none of you be a film stars. And none of them will be working in supermarkets as I heard some of planning the other day. Your lives are set out for you. You'll become adults, then before you're old, before you're middle aged, you'll start to donate your vital organs. That's what each of you was created to do. You're not like the actors you watch on your videos, you're not even like me. You were brought into this world for a purpose, and your futures, all of them, have been decided. So you're not to talk that way any more. You'll be leaving Hailsham before long, and it's not so far off, the day you'll be preparing for your first donations. You need to remember that. If you're to have decent lives, you have to know who you are and what lies ahead of you, every one of you. (NLGM 80)

She reveals the truth, not to upset their feelings harm but to make them to realize their fact. After knowing the condition of the students in the school she was not able to work in the school. So she resigns her job immediately. Then Miss Emily announces that Miss Lucy had resigned her job and will never return to this school, the students feel very sad.

Like Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* the novel of Lousie O' Neil *Only Ever Yours* reveals the disabilities of the students. As they were not able to fulfill their dreams and even they are not allowed to think about their life as per their wish. freida who is a young girl was unable

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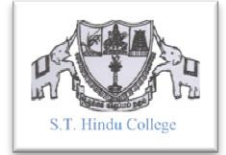
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to understand what is happening in her life and she does not have the ability to think about her life. The main purpose or ambition of the students is to get attention from the inheritants and they are used for the society only for the pleasure of boys. Frieda is an unreliable, uncertain and lack of awareness about her surrounding in the society. When Frieda came to know that she is under the chastity category she was not able to bear this. She was depressed when she saw her reflection on mirror, her words:

I open my eyes and I am confronted by my reflection in the ceiling mirror. My thighs are too big, my hair is too messy, I hate myself, I hate myself, I hate myself. (OEY 283)

The intent and the main purpose of the novel Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* is to portray the disabilities that happen for children in the scientific world. The novel makes the reader to feel sympathy for the children in the Hailsham and also makes us to know the disabilities of the scientific world.

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