



**Unreliability of Memory in Kazuo Ishiguro's *When We Were Orphans*, *Never Let Me Go*
and *The Remains of the Day***

Sunidhi Anand
BA (Hons) English
Amity Institute of English Studies and Research, Amity University, Noida

Dr Surbhi Saraswat
Associate Professor
Amity Institute of English Studies and Research, Amity University, Noida

Abstract

This paper examines a psychological reading of two novels by Japanese-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro, *When We Were Orphans* (2000) and *Never Let Me Go* (2005). In particular, it examines the ways in which repression and displacement, themes often cited in Ishiguro's earlier works, are represented with increasing sophistication and complexity in these novels. Through a comparative analysis, this study examines how Ishiguro employs various narrative techniques to depict memory as a subjective and fallible construct, deeply intertwined with individual perceptions and emotional experiences. The paper will also focus on how in these narratives, Ishiguro underscores the elusive nature of memory and its profound impact on personal narratives and societal constructs. By blurring the boundaries between past and present, reality and illusion, Ishiguro invites readers to contemplate the subjective nature of truth and the consequences of relying on unreliable memories.

Keywords: Memory, Repression, Displacement, Trauma, Science fiction

INTRODUCTION



Kazuo Ishiguro, a Japanese writer who was born on 8th of November in the year, 1954 in Nagasaki, to be precise. The writer switched from Nagasaki, Japan to the United Kingdom soon after he was five years old. Although, he did return to his birth location when he became an adult. Ishiguro has been known to pursue his graduation in English as well as Philosophy at the University of Kent, and later was known to study creative writing from the University of East Anglia. Even though he was pushed into a British world but his family kept him reserved into the Japanese customs and regulations. The following was considered a positive trait in the world of writing, as Kazuo Ishiguro was “raised in the between worlds” or in other words, we can say that the following situation made it easy for the writers like this to shift to another linguistic world. The author became quite popular since the publication of his very first novel, *A Pale View of Hills*. The following novel as well as the other work, *An Artist of the Floating World* accounts of the story a few years later of the second world war taking place but also, the setting of the following novels have been set up in Nagasaki, Japan. The major themes across which Ishiguro’s novels revolve around are basically: memory, self delusion and time. Not only does he has written novels but apart from that, he has also worked as a script writer in television as well as in films. His major works include *The Remains of the Day*, *The Buried Giant*, *Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall*, *Never Let Me Go*, *When We Were Orphans*, *The Unconsoled*, *An Artist of the Floating World* etc.

FOGGY TEXTURE OF MEMORY

“Memory can change the shape of a room; it can change the colour of a car. And memories can be distorted. They're just an interpretation, they're not a record, and they're irrelevant if you have the facts.” The following is a phrase from the Movie, *Memento*. I strongly believe



that a special ability of recollecting of past in human beings makes them different from other creatures. There are different perspectives to the same as some people say that it can be the art of empathizing or it may relate to either self awareness or the consciousness. In order to define Memory in simple words we can say that a person learns in order to obtain knowledge about their surroundings, and memory can be defined as the reservoir or all the knowledge obtained about one's environment. There is this great fact about memory that, sometimes a person is very dear to you and in a span of time, you forget them as if they never existed whereas on the other hand, there have been situations in everyone's life where they want to forget about what happened in their past but somehow that comes around again and again. These are the different approaches from different perspectives in order to define memory, in all terms which might be helpful to give another insight to Kazuo Ishiguro's work.

ANALYSIS OF *WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS* BY KAZUO ISHIGURO

The following novel narrates a setting of England and further shifting to Shanghai just after the time of World War II. Christopher Banks, who is the narrator as well as the protagonist of the novel was born and brought up in Shanghai. Later, he was sent to his aunt's home in England after his parents disappeared. Shanghai was a place of memories for him as there he had many friends. From his friends, Akira was the most closest of all. She was the neighbor of Christopher Banks. On a sudden disappearance of his father, Akira became his support and she helped Christopher to find his father and also, became his only support. In order to find his missing parents he decided to become a detective. He practiced in London where he became quiet famous as he used to solve many cases that turned up to him. Also, he became famous because of the fact that he was able to solve the cases that others could not. In the



beginning of the formation of his career, the difficult cases used to frustrate him but at the same time he enjoyed solving it and it gave him satisfaction that other errands could not. Whenever he thought that he has succeeded enough in his profession he would always had this craving of visiting Shanghai and solve the case of his parents, which were rumored to be kidnapped. He feels responsible for each and every person's problem. He feels responsible for solving the mystery and saving them from the problem they have landed into. With the time, he became lonely and he adopted an orphan kid, Jennifer. He used to feel disgusted just by the feeling of abandoning little poor child, Jennifer. He also starts feeling that she would not respect him if he would ever neglect when she is calling. When he arrives back in Shanghai, he looked at the state of the city he spent his precious moments of life, his childhood to be precise, and he realizes that the state of his city has ruined due to the wars been taken place during his absence in the city. He found out that the officials he needed help from all turned out to be corrupt and thus all the clues he found out does not lead them anywhere in the search progress. This makes him very frustrated and he feels less motivated. He feels this way more because of the fact that everything has changed so much in that place and he feels like he should not have started to solve the case and he feels miserable on even thinking of solving the case.

Meanwhile, he was in Shanghai he met Sarah Hemming. He knew her from the early days of his career. On meeting her, he realized that she is married to a guy who is highly addicted to opium as well as gambling. She is not happy with the man. She founds a hope when she meets Christopher and also, asks him to escape to Macao with Sarah. Leading to disappointment as his case could not be solved as of now, and in order to solve it he decides



to show up to the place they were about to meet up. There, they met and even shared a kiss and with keen interest of solving the case he follows that one lead which might end him solving the mysterious case of his parents and might brought him near to the place where his parents are imprisoned. Whereas, he also thinks of returning with her but maybe, it was not in his destiny to be with her so she goes to Macao, leaving him here all alone and shattered as after that they would never see each other ever again. The lead which he was supposed to get for solving the case of his parents was a complete waste of time. With time, he got access to a man who knew everything. The man, was known to be Uncle Philip. He grew up calling him by this name. Christopher was well aware of the fact that Uncle Philip had a role to play in his mother's kidnapping. Christopher, as a child always believed that their parents disappeared because of their courageous step that they took against the use of opium but later he realizes that it was due to the less noble acts that they performed. He got to know that his father was suffering from typhoid and thus, he went to Singapore with his wife and ended up dying there. Later, his wife was kidnapped by someone to become his mistress. His wife was kidnapped by a War Lord. He could find her mother in a mental institution situated in Hong Kong. The ending of the book shows that Christopher is content that he decided to took his mission to an end. He feels happy as he did not follow his vocation and ended up continuing his own task. He still keeps that in his mind that maybe he would have made a life with Jennifer where he would have married her and have kids with her. This is one of the disappointments he have in his life as this could not be fulfilled.

The following novel is set in the early 20th century where the protagonist narrates his unpleasant story of turning into an orphan kid. The setting for the novel stands out to be in



Shanghai in China. The story seems to be a bit strange, also as the protagonist ends to lose his parents when he was just 10 years old. His father got disappeared while he was on his way to work. Just a few weeks after his father's disappearance, his mother also got disappeared with no proof. There was nothing he could do about it, he had no source of living in such a mere age so he was sent to his aunt's place to continue his life and England. His aunt was his only surviving relative, thus he had to go there because it felt like lonely in a foreign country for Christopher to be in Shanghai without his parents. He tries his best to fit into the world of the British, thus he decides going to the boarding school and tries to be all welcoming about his new life. Also, he was busy discovering what his new life has to offer him. After completing his college, Christopher tries hard to accomplish his goal of becoming a detective. He was highly inspired by Sherlock Holmes as he has read numerous stories about him which fascinated him to pursue this as his profession. Also, the mysterious disappearance of his parents also played a major role in inspiring him to be a private detective and wanted to solve his own but also, others problem. As soon as he begins as a private detective he undergoes great success in no time, thus getting popular among the society. Soon, as he gains attention from the huge masses of people he digs deep into his own past and tries to find out the truth in his own story. He goes in search of his mother and his father, the real reason he thought of becoming a detective. Even after gaining years of experience in the field of being a detective and building influencing contacts in the city, Shanghai he comes back to China in order to find his parents. When he came back to Shanghai, he finds a lot to be changed and does not feel the same familiar world as he used to earlier in that place.



After so many years he kept on looking for all the leads and also, the now when he has made so many contacts within the childhood city he grew up, taking everything into consideration he reaches China in order to take some final steps and finally find his long lost parents. He realized during this time that he has been carrying false hopes regarding the fate of his parents. When he comes across the truth about them, he is shocked as it comes out to be much weird and very tragic to what he actually thought.

Basically, the following novel is known to be one of the detective novels but I would not consider the following under the detective genre. Even if the protagonist in the novel is shown to be a private detective by profession but it does not talk much about any of his cases. The entire attention of the novel or the story of the novel basically revolves around his own case of finding his mother and father. Infact, the attention basically lies on the psychological as well as emotional aspect of the story and the way Christopher narrates his own story by folding the past, this is the primary attention of the novel whereas the secondary seems to be the case of finding his own parents. The setting of the following novel lies during the period of Second World War where the author gives an insight to the western centric thoughts which seem to be a bit arrogant as it somehow, included racism as well as discrimination.

Inspite all the different themes related to the cultural as well as political the novel is much more about finding love, companionship and also friendship in its own terms. I found it less of a detective story and more of a coming of the age story. It is the story of love among all the friends, among the family and also lovers. The recurring theme of love from family in the novel drives a reader to give it another reading, especially the bond between the mother and



the son. The emotional connect the son, Christopher and his mother had between them and also the sacrifices her mother made for him is beyond words to explain.

UNRELIABILITY OF MEMORY IN *WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS*

When We Were Orphans is considered to be fifth novel written by Kazuo Ishiguro, a nobel prize winning author which was published in the year 2000. The following novel falls under the genre of crime as well as detective fiction. It was nominated for the Man Booker Prize in 2000 itself. But it was considered to be his one of the most weakest works as he himself once said “ It is not my best book.” The following novel revolves around the central character, Christopher Banks who is an English man or considered as British. In the following novel, the author talks about the different texture of memory and also focuses on a specific kind of memory, nostalgia. Throughout the novel, the author discusses memory in three different perspective, beginning with its advantages, the texture and also, memory as a theme. These three techniques as discussed by the author shows his massive interest in memory as a theme that he frequently uses in his works. Christopher Banks is not only the protagonist but the narrator of the novel, *When We Were Orphans*. Christopher is a well known detective of the early twentieth century of England. He was so well known that he became quiet an important figure of the British audience, specially his well known. He becomes nostalgic, remembering his encounter with Miss Sarah, he is really happy about the fact that he has found success in his profession as a detective and also he became close to Sarah. The first half of the novel consists of a compilation of his childhood memories which is another example of nostalgia in the novel, this part consists of his childhood days that he spent in China and also talks about his long lost friend, Akira. Akira was his Japanese neighbor. His childhood had an



instantaneous end as his father as well as his mother both disappeared to which, Banks was sent to England. The novel then shifts to his present and exclaims that he is a successful detective, taking the advantage of his own profession he tries to solve the mystery of his own life. He returns to his birthplace, having high hopes of finding his parents alive as well as in good health, and if so he would save the world from a calamity. He was born and brought up in Shanghai, which was now in turmoil because of the war. In the search of his parents, he reaches to the center of the battlefield. There, he tends to find a Japanese soldier who is wounded due to the war, the narrator mistakes the soldier for his long lost childhood friend as well as neighbor, Akira. Thereafter, when they two have been rescued from the very dangerous battlefield, Banks is told by his Uncle, the truth about his father. He tells him that his father ran away with his mother and later died due to typhoid, two years later they disappeared. After his death, his mother was kidnapped. Towards the end of the novel, it is discussed that Banks visits his mother, who is kept in a mental institution and later he finishes his drafts in order to complete the book.

Memory can be regarded as one of the important tool while writing a story. Writing a story, without the use of memories can be a quiet boring, moreover it also depends on how effective the use of memory is done in the works. The more the effective work, the more it enhances its quality. Ishiguro's works depict a major role of memory as it can be seen in each of its novel as an important theme, as if the whole novel revolves around the following theme as well as technique of use of memory. Ishiguro's technique of using his memory in each of his work is quite distinctive which can also be a great advantage. The following can be used as a technique or a theme which allows the author to escape from the walls of a plot. Memory



enables the author to paste a scenario or a situation from the past to a scenario which is being developed in the present. *When We Were Orphans* is a collection of episodic memories in the life of Christopher Banks, the narrator. Throughout the novel, we can see that there have been a reference from the past with the plot smoothly running in the chronological order. Memory enables the author, Kazuo Ishiguro the freedom to look into the past memories of the narrator as well. As the genre of the novel allows it to create a suspense till the end of the novel. The detective fiction helps in the use of memories being brought up from the past to the present. The first half falls under the category of flashbacks as it only talks about the flashback of his childhood. Memory not only works as a major theme but it helps in setting the mood of the novel, the narrating of the story does not offer control as narration of plot in memory does. Memory can be unreliable, too. Ishiguro, in his works have depicted the foggy texture of the memory. The author utilizes this as a way of adding up layers to the plot as Christopher Banks is considered to be the narrator as well as the protagonist of the novel, *When We Were Orphans*. The memory in the following plot stands out to be unreliable due to the fact that Christopher Banks can be considered as a loyal character when it comes to becoming the protagonist, or in other words we can say that it does do the justice to its character but on the other hand this would not prove him to be trustworthy enough of being the narrator. Thus, he is not reliable to be a narrator. He could, very consciously present the plot in a total different manner to the audience. Adding up to his another quality of being an unreliable narrator is the fact that he brings up past situations or scenarios. He basically talks about the things that took place in the past, throughout the novel. He expresses about some twenty years of his life in the account of the novel, also expressing his doubts about the accuracy of the plot.



“To take, for instance, this episode I have just recounted concerning my mother and the health inspector: while I am fairly sure I have remembered its essence accurately enough, turning it over in my mind again, I find myself less certain about some of the details.”
(Orphans, 80-81)

Whenever we remember scenes from our past, we only tend to like them or remember them in case they match to our perspective. If in case the memory is totally opposite of what we believe of ourselves and our character to be then we would prefer forgetting it. If we consider ourselves to be a jolly and friendly kind of a person, then we may not prefer being reminded by someone about any instance where we were seem to be the harsh one. There could still be two possibilities where you might think that your cruelty was truly justified or you believe in yourself completely that you were not as harsh as the other person tells you were. Through the following observations it can be noticed that the memories of the narrator, Christopher Banks is highly influenced by the theory of self schemata. It is in the rarest of rare cases that the memories that does not fit the image we have of self in our minds, stays with us for a longer period of time. For Example, we can take into consideration all the humiliations we have faced so far, we always tend to remember them. Even if you commit a small silly mistake you can end up remembering it for the rest of your lives and it can go worse by haunting one for the rest of their lives.

Not only, as a texture but talking about thematically as well, memory plays a greater role in Kazuo’s work. It has been noticed that the protagonists of the novels explore more about their past, and ultimately ends up finding that nothing really was as it seemed to be or they thought. Similarly, in the novel *When We Were Orphans*, Christopher Banks can be seen



returning back to his childhood memories due to the fact that he cannot easily let go of these memories, as they are treasured in his heart. He feels that he was one of the most happiest when he was a small child, living a stress free life in Shanghai with his family, also he remembers the days he used to play with Akira. It is very difficult for him to accept that the past has gone, and that too for his own good. Thus, we can consider Nostalgia to be one of the central themes of the novel, *When We Were Orphans*.

As we are aware of the multi cultural background of the upbringing of Kazuo Ishiguro, similarly he gives the hint of his roots from the Japanese culture and his upbringing as done in the English culture. He blends the whole story in his own terms. He also, fictionalises the history in the plot of the novel in order to create a post modern mystery detective novel. He makes use of the past as well as present incidents to present its fact.

THE POST MODERNISM ERA

Talking about both the novels, be it *When We Were Orphans* and *Never Let Me Go* we see that they both were written during the Post Modern period in the literary world. Post Modern Literature is the literature written basically after the World War II. The characteristics famous during the time of post modernism are paradox, unreliable narrators, fragmentation, parody, games and various such elements describing the work to fall under the category of post modern literature. The critics as well as the scholars categorise the post modern work that goes against the popular fiction of the earlier time, specially the one falling under the modernism time period. Basically, the post modernism period is tend to mock the works that has been completed or published in the modernist era. The works of Post Modern period are greatly influenced by the post modernist philosophy and various movements that took place



during the time. According to the post modern philosophy, various facts as well as knowledge are relative to particular kind of situations. Post Modern Literature is tend to blur the reality of the content and fiction. On the same time it includes historical falsehood. Post Modernism can be referred to as a time where there was a huge shift in terms of art, literature, architecture, fashion, technology and communication as well. The time period brought a lot of change in the perception of people. The term Post Modernism itself tells the relationship between the term Modernism and Post Modernism. Modernism on the other hand, implies of the time period that falls under the early 20th century. Post Modernism consists of many features of the Modernism era. Post modern literary works gives a shape to the voice of people of the modern time.

THE MEMORY BOOM

Its has been noticed that there was a keen interest in talking about Memory, be it as a technique or as a theme, in the literary works of Post Modernism. This phenomenon of memory being talked about a lot during the time period is known as the 'Memory Boom' by the scholars. There were many factors that influenced the decision of talking about Memory a lot during that time. Most interesting fact about memory being talked about at that particular time is that it was used and talked about in various fields and not only literature. The factors that influenced the use of memory include the scientific, political, technological as well as philosophical. In terms of politics, people want to know more about what happened with the ancestors in order to give them a tribute or to feel the sense of pride. In terms of Technological advancements, the advancement of the technology led to the birth of the term memory boom, and most importantly it was spread due to technological advancement. Thus,



the success of memory boom was due to the technological advancement. Now, it has become easier to record each and everyone's story and keep it as a record due to the development in terms of technology. Due to the following process it has become easy for the journalists to reach out to people and to preserve their works and to reach out to the witnesses in order to testify. In the later half of the 20th century, there was a rise to the discussion of memory in a traumatised manner. After the end of the World War I, there was an increment in the number of soldiers going through the state of shock, so many stories revolved around the same topic helping everyone to cope through the loss. It was realised soon after the end of Vietnam war, that the soldiers fighting in different wars of that time period are going through the same feeling. Also, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was also a common issue talked about during the time. Whereas it was revealed much later that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was not only limited to the soldiers who survived in war somehow but also related to the victims of the war.

THE THEORY OF TRAUMA AND MEMORY

The theory of trauma and memory became quite popular in the middle of twentieth century. Freud's psychoanalysis theory gave a rise to the theme of memory and trauma as a whole. Trauma not only referred to physical injury but psychological as well. The concept of memory was not only an interest to the the writers but to scholars as well.

It is said that whenever your memory will fail you, you will start forgetting. There are some things that one forgets straight away. Whereas there is such information which keeps on fading away with time. The speed at which we tend to forget varies and mostly depends on



the initial stage of the memory. Sometimes, it is also a case that you tend to forget something but you don't know what it is.

ANALYSIS OF *NEVER LET ME GO* BY KAZUO ISHIGURO

Never Let Me Go is a novel published in the year 2005. It is a science fictional novel. The novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize of the same year and also, some other awards. The Magazine 'Time' named the following novel to be the best book to be published in the year 2005. The title of the following novel is inspired by the song on the cassette tape. Kathy, who is the narrator as well as the protagonist of the novel. She is a very jolly and fun loving girl from the beginning of the novel, she has always stood by with what's right. With the progress of the novel, she is not bothered about her past anymore. Becoming an adult is quite difficult for her as she has to start accepting the past of her friends. Tommy, one of Kathy's friends and also, a donor. A lonely guy who was totally uncreative and lived at Hailsham. The following novel gives an account of a dystopian world, which gives a whole new insight of the creative world of human clones who can grow up to be young adults and be able to donate their organs. It is a story about Kathy, who is brought up at a school which is famously known for "Future Donors." As it is an art of the author to talk about the story or narrating a story in flashbacks and thus he gave a whole new turn to the story. He starts by narrating the story when Kathy was thirty one years old and was willing to make her donations. From last eleven years, she has been assigned the duty of the nurse taking care of the clones those who are in between of making any donations. Kathy remembers the time that she has spent at Hailsham. Most importantly, she remembers the time she has spent most of her time with her



best friends, Ruth and Tommy. Ruth, who is known to be the ‘queen bee’ and talking about Tommy, he is the kind boy but he has a bad temper, also not liked by other people.

Kathy remembers the time and the situations which led to the change in the relationship of Kathy with her two best friends, Tommy and Ruth. Hailsham puts a great attention to the forms of writings, arts and other forms of creative forms. In the novel, there is this woman who was named Madame who used to put the best artworks of the campus in a gallery. Tommy who is not good at these artworks could never make it to the gallery. At the age of thirteen, Tommy learns that it was totally fine if he is not able to put his creativity forward through his teacher, namely Miss Lucy. He is shocked by the following revelation. Further, after some time Kathy was revealed to Ruth’s lie, that she was keeping from everyone. It was related to her pathologically. There was a point in the novel when she used to pretend that she knows how to play chess but in reality she did not know how to play the game. Also, there was an incident where she claimed that the pencil box that she owned was gifted to her by her professor whereas she bought that by herself. Even after all this, Kathy became friends with Ruth. They became really good friends that when she lost her cassette which featured the song- Never Let Me Go, on which the name of the novel is kept, Ruth helped her find that. Miss Lucy, the teacher was delivering a lecture to the students and told the students about how they are going to face difficulties after they became donors. It is very difficult for the students to take and understand this situation. From around the age of sixteen, Ruth and Tommy fell in love with each other and they started dating each other. Kathy was jealous of everything happening between Tommy and Ruth but still she tries her best to hide all her feelings for Tommy. Few Months later from when they started dating, they got graduated



from the college. This was the time they decided to visit the Cottage. There, they were free on their will and they could do whatever they wish to do without seeking any permission from anyone. Also, Ruth tried her best fixating on impressing the elder students. Out of the students she tried impressing, two of them, Rodney as well as Chrissie took the three friends, Kathy, Tommy and Ruth to a trip to Norfolk as they believed that they have found the original of Ruth, from with she has been cloned. While travelling, the two veterans tell Ruth and Tommy that if they two are in love then they can get their donations to be delayed and can have a few number of years together with each other. No one among them have heard about such a thing in Hailsham but Ruth pretends as if she knows about it from the very beginning.

Soon after all this, Tommy as well as Kathy got split from the others. Tommy suggested Kathy to look in the second hand stores for the cassette tape she lost many years before. They finally got it and had an emotional moment with all the memories they had of it. Ruth, finally tends to notice the closeness between Tommy and Kathy. She tried whatever is in her hand to sabotage their budding friendship between the two. She goes and tells Tommy about Kathy's disliking of his paintings and goes to Kathy to tell her that Tommy can never fall in love with a girl who has ever had casual sex, just like Kathy had. Kathy gets really upset hearing all this, and leaves as she does not understand what to do about her situation. She leaves the place and decides to start her training for nursing. Many years passed by, and rumors were that Hailsham has shut down. Years later, Kathy met a friend from her college days who tells her that Ruth began donating and she is not very good at it. Keeping all the coldness aside due to all the past situations, Kathy volunteered to take care of Ruth. Kazuo's works depict a



magical depiction of memory. Ruth, then takes the advantage of the situation and tells Kathy to visit some place and thus, they stop visiting Tommy. Tommy, who has started making donations, his nursing centre was near the place Ruth has asked her to visit, thus, Kathy realizes the reason behind their visit.

The trio when comes back together after a while, Ruth becomes apologetic about creating differences between Kathy and Tommy. She asks them to apply for the deferral so they all could be together for a few years again and it also somehow give them the address of the Madame who would be of a great help to them. Soon after, Ruth died. Kathy has to take care of Tommy. Till this time, Tommy had already made his third organ donation and was just about to make his fourth one. Kathy and Tommy approaches Madame who tells them that there was no such deferral programme and it never existed in the first place. She tells them that there is a school named Hailsham which was one of those progressive schools and that she along with the others were just activists for the humane treatment of the clones. Their emphasis was to show the people that even the clones had their souls. However, this could not work out as the school lost its funding.

They decide to return back to the recovery center but on their way, Tommy becomes very emotional and starts throwing the tantrums on. However, he soon recovers from his condition and accepts the fact that he will be dead soon. He thinks he is suffering from some medical problems and thus he asks Kathy to stop acting like his carer. Kathy agrees to whatever he says and she bids him goodbye as Tommy goes to make his fourth organ donation.

Coming back to the present, Kathy is developing herself to make her first donation. She is very chilled but also happy about this change in her life. This will bring a change in her life



and her own individual self as well. She permits herself only and only one indulgence weeks after the death of Tommy. She pays him visit in order to mourn in the empty field of Norfolk. She imagines there that she has lost many important things of her life which even includes Tommy, she thinks that somehow those will return to her back.

THE RELENTLESS PASSAGE OF TIME AND THE INEVITABILITY OF LOSS

As the novel begins, Kathy is of the age thirty one but she seems to have reached the end of her own life, making her donations. She feels that she has lost everyone she ever knew from Hailsham, all she has now is the pieces of memory with each one of them. Her narration shows the inevitability of the losses she has gone through in her life and now all she wants is a break from the losses she is going to face in the future. Basically, a deferral is a brief extension on the life, a temporal hold that puts off on the future rather than changing it. This is a desire held in mostly people who carries out donation programme.

THE POWER OF MEMORY

Kathy tries her level best to cope up with the losses that has been occurred in her life by turning to all her past memories. She keeps the memories of the Hailsham in her heart. Even after so long that it has been closed, she still keeps it with herself and does not even try it sharing with any one else. All the memories of her friends, Tommy and Ruth even long after the death of two are kept safely inside her heart. The novel has been named after a famous phrase 'Never Let Me Go' which falls between the category of either a demand or a plea which describes its meaning as a deep human desire to hold onto some one or some thing. It can also stand for being held by some thing or some one. Basically, according to the novel the following phrase stands for the fact that Kathy hold up to the memories of her friends,



Tommy and Ruth in her heart. Also, to hold onto all the long lost things that she has ever loved and were lost. Thus, i feel that the title of the novel completely epitomises this desire of holding onto things or people. Her memory is incomplete. She confesses her feelings as if it helps her in undergoing a process of recovery and it also, somehow helps in making sense about all the memories she had kept hidden in her case of memories. She also agrees to the fact that there is a high level of possibility that she might have forgotten some details about the incidents proving that memory is not only powerful but also fragile in some terms. The narration as she gives in the first person narrative gives an insight to the memories which has certainly made the readers feel their absence to the memories of the other characters. It has also been observed that after the death of Ruth and Tommy, both the characters have just been seen through the memories of Kathy, or in the memories she used to hold onto about her two best friends. This is a sign which clearly shows that their own thoughts as well as motivations remained ambiguous as they could not reflect it on their own.

THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

The narrative of Kathy gives a brief of a testament about the humanity as well as the dignity of her own students as much as she remembers. Her students basically have less time in comparison to the counter parts of the outer world, not forgetting that their lives are full of joys, hopes and various disappointments which together constitute human experience.

Memories of Kathy also include the efforts that Madame and Miss Emily took in order to demonstrate the humanity of their students through all the art work that they prepared. Even after all the good intentions or all the efforts the students put in through their hard work, both Madame as well as Miss Emily starts feeling disgust for the students whose life they tend to



improve in all their ways possible. Kathy, on the other side, is seen sharing the memories of all her loved ones. She shares the memories with tenderness and calmness. Even her narrative shows the humanity Kathy depicts throughout the novel in comparison to Madame as well as Miss Emily, both of them who are not capable of doing anything, or showing any kind of humanity. Kathy's narrative shows it all.

CONCLUSION

The main aim of this paper is to tell the author's art of playing with the memory in its unique way, also there is a unique quality about the author that others depict the narrator as a story teller but it is quite different in the case of Kazuo Ishiguro as the narrator is not depicted as a story teller in his all the six novels, including *When We Were Orphans* and *Never Let Me Go*. Kazuo Ishiguro uses his narrators in two techniques, stating Benjaminian as well as Arendtian. The unique art, where the author constitutes retelling about the past which can be used as a strategy in order to redefine its present and by regaining the sense of tradition which was lost by war as well as violence. Kazuo Ishiguro tells during an interview that he is not at all interested in writing about the topic of story telling, but he is more of a writer about explaining about what a nation declares about itself from its past.

The story of Kathy gives a brief of a confirmation about the humankind just as the respect of her own understudies as much as she recalls. Her understudies fundamentally have less time in contrast with the partners of the external world, not overlooking that their lives are loaded with delights, trusts and different disillusionments which together establish human experience. Recollections of Kathy likewise incorporate the endeavors that Madame and Miss Emily took so as to exhibit the mankind of their understudies through all the craftsmanship



that they arranged. Indeed, even after all the well meaning plans or every one of the endeavors the understudies put in through their diligent work, both Madame just as Miss Emily begins feeling loathing for the understudies whose life they will in general improve in the entirety of their ways that are available. Kathy, on the opposite side, is seen sharing the recollections of all her friends and family. She imparts the recollections to delicacy and tranquility. Indeed, even her story demonstrates the mankind Kathy delineates all through the novel in contrast with Madame just as Miss Emily, them two who are not fit for doing anything, or appearing sort of humankind. Kathy's account demonstrates to everything.

WORKS CITED

When We Were Orphans. London: Faber and Faber, 2000. Reprint, New York: Vintage, 2001.

Lewis, Barry. Kazuo Ishiguro. Manchester: Manchester University Press: 2000.

Wong, Cynthia F. Kazuo Ishiguro. Tavistock, England: Northcote House, 2000. Wood, James.

“The Unconsoled.”

Review of When We Were Orphans, by Kazuo Ishiguro. The New Republic, 16 October 2000.