Portrayal of Feminism in Ishiguro’s ‘A Pale View of Hills’**Sagar Vyas1**

Assistant Professor, Applied Science & Humanities Department, Sankalchand Patel College of Engineering, Sankalchand Patel University, Visnagar, India 1

Abstract

The British novelist, screenwriter, and traditional Japanese song writer Kazuo Ishiguro was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2017. He is also a recipient of the Man Booker International Prize. The Booker Prize (1985), the Order of the British Empire (1898), and the Order of the Rising Sun are just a few of the many awards and honours that have been bestowed upon him (2018). The female protagonists in Kazuo Ishiguro's novels experience a diverse array of feelings throughout the course of the story. Some of the characters are put through intense stress, but they are able to handle it, while others lose their minds. As a consequence of this, the only way that these characters can be comprehended adequately is if they are taught within a feminist context. The idea of equality for women in all aspects of society, including the political sphere and the business world, is known as feminism. Opinions on the difficulties that women face in the political and social spheres as a result of gender prejudice are divisive. Feminism is a social movement that originated in the 1970s. In addition, all efforts and battles that were fought with the intention of making life better for women were lumped together and referred to as "women's issues." It is possible to divide it up into three distinct categories. The first wave of women's rights activism took place in the late 19th century and the early 20th century. This was then followed by a second wave in the 1960s and 1970s, and a third wave in the 1990s.This research paper will look at some of Ishiguro's prominent female characters from his first novel A Pale View of Hills.

Keywords: **Oppression, Feminity, Human Psyche, Feminism.**

**Introduction**

The idea of equality for women in all aspects of society, including the political sphere and the business world, is known as feminism. Opinions on the difficulties that women face in the political and social spheres as a result of gender prejudice are divisive. Feminism is a social movement that originated in the 1970s. In addition, all efforts and battles that were fought with the intention of making life better for women were lumped together and referred to as "women's issues." The various aspects of the era were gradually brought into focus as time progressed. As a consequence of this, it is possible to divide it into three distinct categories. The first wave of women's rights activism took place in the late 19th century and the early 20th century. This was then followed by a second wave in the 1960s and 1970s, and a third wave in the 1990s. These various women's organisations were the impetus for the development of feminist theory. It can be discovered in a wide range of fields, such as the women's world, women's history, and women's literature criticism, among others. The dominant viewpoints in many facets of Western civilization, such as culture and legislation, have shifted as a direct result of the feminist movement. Women's rights activists have advocated for women's legal rights, such as contract rights, property rights, and voting rights; women's rights to physical integrity and independence; abortion rights; and reproductive rights, including access to contraception and quality prenatal care; protection for women and girls from domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape; and employment rights, such as maternity leave and wage equity. Women's rights activists have also advocated for the rights of women to have physical integrity and independence. White women from middle-class backgrounds in Western Europe and North America were, for the most part, staunch advocates of various feminist ideologies and movements. On the other hand, women of other ethnic groups have supported a variety of different feminisms. These women's new ideas and beliefs gained popularity as the Human Rights movement gained traction in the United States and as European colonialism in the Caribbean islands, Latin America, and Africa began to fade away.

After some time, in 1982, he finally had his debut novel, *A Pale View of Hills,* published. It starts with a talk between Etsuko and her younger daughter, Niki, about Etsuko's oldest daughter, Keiko, who recently killed herself. The story is told from Etsuko's point of view; she is a middle-aged Japanese woman living alone in England. As the story progresses, the reader learns that Etsuko's daughter Keiko was born to her from her first marriage and that Etsuko's daughter Niki was born to her from her second marriage to an Englishman. Etsuko, following her second marriage, relocated to England with her new husband and their two daughters. Keiko, on the other hand, was entirely Japanese and, as a result, was unable to communicate in English. This was in contrast to Niki, who was half-English. Because of this, he felt more and more alone in his life, which ultimately led to his decision to end his own life. Etsuko can't shake the feeling that she was responsible for Keiko's passing. Etsuko, the narrator, is attempting to restore his credibility by removing himself from the narrative.

In the novel *The Remains of the Day*, written by Kazuo Ishiguro and published in 1989, the primary character, Stevens, is a long-serving supporter at Darlington Hall, a lovely home near Oxford, England. Stevens has been there for a long time. Stevens is a remarkable Englishman who is completely dedicated to his work and never takes time off. In the year 1956, he embarked on an adventure. The primary objective of her mission was to locate a former housekeeper who worked in the hall and persuade her to go back to work. He recounts events that took place in the 1920s and 1930s based on his travels during those decades. Throughout his journey, Stevens admits to having uncertainties and regrets, and he occasionally attempts to justify his actions. At the conclusion of the trip, he has an epiphany about the absurdity of his situation and makes the decision to alter his behaviour in order to lead a life that is more satisfying to him.

*Never Let Me Go* is a work of science fiction written by Kazuo Ishiguro and published in 2005. The events of the book take place in a dystopian version of England in the late 1990s. In this version of the country, regular civilian lives are extended by a government-sponsored initiative that brings people together. Clones are brought up in schools that are closed off to the general public and are given the same education as the other students there. As soon as they reach their teenage years, they start donating their vital organs to healthy people who are in need of transplants. "Carers," also known as partners who have not yet begun the donation process, are responsible for the care of all "donors." Clones continue to give organs until they "complete," which is a euphemism for dying after they have given three or four organs. This happens after they have donated organs. Three identical twins named Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy play important roles in the narrative. They went to the same clone school, which was called Hailsham. In both their friendships and their romantic relationships, they experience highs and lows.

**Portrayal of Women:**

It is important to point out that the majority of the female characters in Ishiguro's books are caricatures of stereotypical "Japanese women." To begin, the major protagonists, Etsuko and Keiko, as well as the minor character Sachiko and Hanada's wife, are overly dependent on the company of others in the novel *A Pale View of Hills*. This is also true of Hanada's wife. Aside from Keiko's narrative, these supporting structures are the men in their lives. Even though Etsuko and Jiro's marriage was not tumultuous, it did not live up to expectations. Following the dissolution of her first marriage, she found solace in the affections of a man from the United Kingdom, whom she subsequently wed.

One of the aims of this marriage is to improve Keiko's well-being, but so far, that endeavour has not been very successful. In fact, Keiko exhibited a negative response to the situation. It had been forced upon him to be separated from his family. His low self-esteem was validated, and he ended his life by taking his own life, which is yet another fundamental component of Japanese culture. The Japanese culture has a long-standing tradition of glorifying suicide as a form of athletic competition and viewing it as a means to reclaim one's dignity. This belief is illustrated in the novel by a news article that discusses the protagonist's death by suicide. When Etsuko found out that the English considered the Japanese to be committing genocide, she was taken aback. In contrast to Niki, Keiko was known to be a devoted Japanese woman, a fact that was mentioned in more than one publication. This makes sense when one considers that both of them are examples of traditional Japanese women. After the passing of her first husband, Sachiko is portrayed as a widow who has a strong desire to find a new partner. Her inspiration comes from the same place as Etsuko's: the desire to give her daughter a better life. In spite of the numerous betrayals committed by her American partner, Frank, she is determined to relocate to the United States together with him. Her fealty has long been seen as a symbol of Japanese women's submissiveness to their husbands because of the traditional gender roles in Japanese society.

The event that took place in Canada, in which his wife voted for different candidates, is an illustration of the typical expectations that Japanese women have. Many people think that women shouldn't be allowed to have their own thoughts. It is expected that their perspectives will be comparable to those of their husbands. "Should they decide to go against the decision that her husband has made, she will be severely punished for it. Is that the case, for sure? asks Ogata-San". Since I got back from having tea, he hasn't said a word. The laughter of the other three died down, and one of them, a man with a pale face, looked at Ogata-san with surprise.

Miss Kenton, who appears to be in love with Stevens, does not accept the proposal because she believes that it is unbecoming for a woman to propose marriage to a man. Stevens believes that it is unseemly for a woman to propose marriage to a man. He is holding his breath as he waits for Stevens to make the first statement. After learning that Stevens is not interested in marrying her, she decides to look for love with someone else and begins her search. She was dissatisfied with her life and had planned to get a divorce, but when she found out that her daughter was going to get married and that she was going to have grandchildren, she changed her mind and decided not to get a divorce. He asserts that he has developed feelings of love for her. This is a representation of chastity and submissiveness. Ruth's motivations were zealous and self-serving. Tommy is the person he loves because he needs a companion, not because he really loves him. She even broke up with him at one point. However, he later discovers that Tommy is drawn to Kathy and that Kathy reciprocates his feelings. He makes the decision to join them. Finally, in his final days, he makes up for his error. However, it would never be enough to make up for lost time. "You should have been two. I don't think I ever saw that. I really did, from the back, as I remember. But I separated you. I'm not asking you to forgive me for that. That's not what I want now. What I want is for you to get it right. Fix what I messed up. “(NLMG,)

The decision that Sachiko made to continue living with Frank, who is an alcoholic, was the source of her stress. He is putting in an incredible amount of effort in order to accumulate sufficient funds for a move to the United States. On the other hand, Frank squanders it all on alcoholic beverages. The actions taken by Mark are also very concerning. Frank is not kicked by Sachiko because he is desperate for a better life in the United States, and Sachiko sees Frank as his ticket to a better life in the United States. On the other hand, it is highly improbable that Frank will be able to bring Sachiko and Mariko to the United States. Despite this, you continue to live with Frank despite the fact that you are in constant pain. The reason for her pressure is that she wants a better life for her child, which is similar to the narrative that Banks' mother told. The strain that is placed on Canadian wives is felt all over the world, as wives everywhere appear to be losing their rights to advocate for their partners and make decisions on their behalf. Even the right to vote was taken away from him in this scenario. As a result of his refusal to vote for the party that was favoured by Canada, he was threatened with physical harm. When other people hear the story, what surprises them the most is not that he will hit her if she votes for a party other than the one that she supports; rather, what surprises them is that he will hit her if she votes for his wife to vote for a party that is different from the one that she supports.

**Conclusion:**

In the end, one could say that Ishiguro did a great job of writing about women in his books. Still, the vast majority of these women live up to the traditional image of a Japanese woman, and the natural story of a mother that they tell has the power to draw in people from all over the world. They often show that they can and are willing to go through pain for the sake of their children. In addition, Ishiguro's understanding of the position of women in various cultures is reflected in the domestic and social practises that these women engage in. He portrayed the struggle that women face and the mental abilities they possess, illustrating how women bear and overcome suffering in their lives.

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