

Never Let Me Go: Understanding The Language Used

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Abstract

Language analysis can be referred as to understand writer's saying in a piece of writing. Never Let Me Go is intended to analyze in terms of language used by Kazuo Ishiguro. The present study examines words and phrases, layers of meaning, literary techniques and how the language effects on feeling with reference to Never Let Me Go. It is concluded in this study that the novel narrated in first person singular form. Kathy's voice in Never Let Me Go seems consistent. A reader feels clear sense of Kathy's character through her discipline of speaking. Kathy also can be seen as reliable narrator and other characters' voice is distinguishable from Kathy's voice. The important words used in the novel. The words used in the novel such as: euphemism, possible, capitalization of words, donor, unzipping, you poor creatures have specific meaning in the novel.

Key Words: euphemism, possible, donor, unzipping, colloquial.

I. Introduction

Literature and media have reciprocal adaptive relations with each other. Literature is also can be conveyed with different channels as well as media. At present days, the most important thing is at present days, literature can also be conveyed by using modern technological tools, drawings, sculptures sounds and traditional way is through words. Language is traditional and common career of literature. Language also can be seen as a soul of literature. In general, language is a communication tool between human and in a specific community. In the same way, literature is also to be treated as one of the communicative channels between writer and audience. Language also can be

said as a medium of literature. Sapir Edward ((1921), A.H.Gardiner (1933), Henry Sweet (1901), R.H.Robins (1964), Chomsky (1957) and other linguists defined language as associated with human feelings and expressions.

Language and literature are associated with each other. Language is fundamental unit of literature and so that, literature cannot be created without language. In other words, language is primary and literature is secondary. People started to use sign language at early stage during olden times. The need of common language for communication became inevitable amongst people and found specific words to convey their thoughts to others. Finally, sequence of

words formulated in sentence(s) with grammar rules. Different culture and different religion produced different languages in the world. Human society succeeded language with sound for communication and then art of writing came into existence. The writing of language with sound or without sound preserved and such a preserved written property recognized as literature.

In the present study, *Never Let Me Go* written by Kazuo Ishiguro with the theme of human clone is discussed in terms of language used by the author and its effects on readers.

1.1. Discussion

The novel set during 1990s with first person narrator named as Kathy, a female protagonist. The textual language used in the novel fits with Kathy's own style to speak. Language usage in any form of literature is important section. Kathy, as a first person narrator of her life's events makes readers involved in the novel. Kathy uses common words to express her feelings but it is also observed during the study of the novel that Kathy makes some literary references to fictions, which reflect on reality of her educational career at Hailsham. She expresses as:

“I was lying on a piece of old tarpauling reading, as I say, *Deniel Deronda*, when Ruth came wandering over and set down beside me.” (Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005, p.94)

Kathy's narration is quite interesting in terms of language used by her. One of the aspects of language used by Kathy seems as a fertile soil which enables to grow seed on becoming flower. It means language acceptance level is quite good in the novel. The characters

including Kathy seem very polite in terms of using language in their talks which reflects on none of them can be rebel against their forthcoming roles and duties as donors. They all know that they are middle aged and their lives will finish in the same way. Kathy's pain becomes a powerful tool through language in the novel. She believes that her position as a donor is nothing but a gift from the society to her. Dawes (2009) reflects on transforming pain into language as:

“To transform pain into language is to exert control over it, to undo pain's original theft of autonomy.” (Dawes, 2009, 408)

Kathy's language as a narrator, takes control over the issue of how reader understands the society and interpret Kathy's character as a donor. It is also. The life of clones in the boarding school is not normal like others outside the boarding school and non-donors in the society. Gabriele Griffin comments on language used in the novel as:

“In *Never Let Me Go*, there is, seemingly – no import of scientific language. Instead ordinary or everyday language is ‘made strange’” (Griffin, 2009 p 645)

The novel, represents vocabulary such as “donor”, “carer”, “fourth donation”, “her own kind” with repetition through characters' speech with a view to establish an apparently closed world by female protagonist. In this way, the language used by the author is not only simple but use of scientific vocabulary is avoided to use as can be seen in other science fictions. The vocabulary used in the novel also creates an impression of something happening wrong in the human society from the initial pages of the novel by the reasons of keeping away scientific words in narratives. This makes reader comfort to

understand the novel and its use in academic. Kathy's level of education also reflects on her language as a narrator. The use of everyday words makes reader informed that clones especially at Hailsham have not real understanding of how Kathy and her co-donors came to be beyond the reality that created to die for saving lives of others.

Kathy and her companions get an opportunity to select the next step on being or not a donor or a carer after completing Hailsham's life. A role of carer is similar to donor but a carer is also a clone but chooses to wait to be a donor. A carer's duty is to visit donors and constitute good bonding with donors Anne Whitehead argues on meaning of carer as:

“Is caring viewed in this light, a form of labor that is socially valuable because Kathy is making a positive difference to others (preventing agitation), or given the political resonances of Ishiguro's choice of word here – is it a means of preventing resistance and unrest, securing passive compliance through endless, exhausting activity and minor compensation”(White Head,2011,61)

Carers's visiting to donors in the society does not have fruitful results in terms of help to donors but simply a way for society to keep carers occupied till they become donors. Donors' role to donate organs and they have no option. They are well-trained towards their role in the society. Anjali Pandey argues as:

“The ironic and antonymic meaning of the word in the novel is soon made apparent.”(Pandey Anjali, 2011, p 388)

The word “donation” does not reflect on forceful or coerced act but reflects on voluntarily commitment. Kazuo Ishiguro crafts the novel by using words or phrases in a simple way but reflects on multiple meaning. From the time, Kathy and her companions so called as students in the novel but they become carers or donors after completing themselves. They are brought up very close to the society. Kathy's feeling on the society is commented by Griffin as:

“Her measured account suggests normalcy, the everydayness of what she describes.” (Griffin, 2009 p 351)

Kathy's narrations on society creates particular strangeness in the world where she lives in. She is unsure on evaluating societal values in her own world to which she belongs during the journey of becoming carer or donor. The clones are ornamented with the words like; student, carer, donor in the novel. Kathy and her companions keep saving life of people in the society by completing themselves is the essence of their human nature during the course of their duties as carer or donor. They remain ignorant and do not react on reality behind their organs.

Kazuo Ishiguro pods readers to view organic sense in which specific terminology of fiction used in the novel. The language used by the author also reflects on questions raised on having soul to clones. The term “reality” on having soul in clones in the novel is differently reflected in the novel. If the clones have no soul, they should be treated as normal human and make free to live as normal human. If there is no soul in clone, there should not any discrimination between normal human and clones. It is a bare fact that society treats clones as inferior to humans. Kathy's statement on Gallery's importance and their future donations are reciprocally associated with each other. It is such as:

“...about how one day we will start giving donations. I don't know, why but I have had this feeling for some time now, that it's all linked in, thought I cannot figure out how.” (Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005, p31)

The power of words can be seen in the novel. The language allows atrocities to continue. It also permits the society to believe that everything is alright and nothing is to be changed. The clones compel to believe that nothing can be changed and their path of life is absolutely true. There is no any other way to carry on their lives till their completion. Griffin comments as:

“At the heart of *Never Let Me Go* is the question of the relative status of the clones and of it means to be human. “(Griffin, 2009 p 653)

Kazuo Ishiguro uses some words in the novel are seem very indicative. The word “possible” is used by the donors as a noun. Ruth is clear with word “possible” that she has seen her “possible” in a magazine advertisement. It is also studied that many time Kathy uses capitalized words as a narrator. The reason behind it that exchanges happen four times during a year and In fact, the students see forward to themselves indicate their hungriness of being something with excitement. The word “unzipping” used by the author in the novel seem for particular meaning. The word “unzipping” makes donation process as manageable in the eyes of the students in Hailsham School in sense of joke.

Kathy's narration seems as building a sense of despairing which also give chance to readers for brainstorming on language used by the author. The narration is quoted as follows:

“I tried to run to him, but the mud sucked my feet down. The mud was impending him, too, because one time when he clicked out, he slipped and fell out of view into the blackness.” (Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005, p212)

The words used such as: “mud”, “kicked”, “out of view”, “sucked”, “down”, “fell”, “treid”, “impeding”, “time”, “blackness” are creating a sense of despair.

In the novel, the word “complete” also used by the author in sense of not end of donation or also can be said as the death of the donor. Such usage of a word can be interpreted as euphemism. It means the author avoided to use offensive or unpleasant word(s) for the death of the donors.

Another narration used by the narrator on the theme of exchangeable words is quoted and interpreted in the following manner.

“You poor creatures “she repeated, almost in a whisper. Then she turned and went back into her house.”(Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005, p210)

The words phrase “you poor creatures” used by the author through the narrator in the novel is not in sense of sociological of financial poverty but Madame believes the two persons as inhuman. The word “creatures” is exchangeable with “animal” or “human being”. Madame uses such a word phrase betrays her deep discomfort with clones. The word “guardian or guardians “used by the author implies safety but also it indicate to restraint. The word “feeling” used by the author through the narrator is also very significant in terms of naming negative emotions. Kathy narrates on Tommy as:

“I used to be able to do it twice in a row easy. But I can't any more Then

that feeling would come right to the fore and I 'had have to put my hand over his mouth. Whenever he said, things like that,, just so we could go on lying there peace. I'm sure Tommy felt it too, because we had always hold each other very tight after times like that , as though that way we'd manage to keep the feeling away. "(Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005, p184)

Kathy uses such word(s) during her narratives as protagonist in sense of "emotions" but she refers as "that" feeling or "the "feeling instead of labeling the feeling in a particular frame.

The words used by Kathy H as narrator such as: "I'd (p355) ", "I'm", (p187), and we'd (p230) are seem as well dominated to other characters as a narrator. Such type of first person narratives is used 763 times in the novel. (Ullah Japhar, 2019, p 91) The author also used joint words to evaluate an alternative style of writing. The joint words are such as: some response", "fromtrash", "felt". The term "Miss" is used for Hailsham guardians in the novel. "Miss" seems prominent in the novel on its usage before the name of guardians or teachers. As for example; Miss "Emily" (head of Hailsham), Miss" Lucy." These words indicates rosy and ugly sides.

III. Conclusion

The language used by first person narrator reflects on themes of the novel in such a way that would create specific image of readers. Kathy and her companions use a combination of formal as well as informal language. Kazuo Ishiguro crafts the novel as more realistic through the language. The author also allows readers to know that no discrimination between clones and human at their same age. The language used in the

novel also opens the doors of involvement in Kathy's life Reader's connection with Kathy's narration on her life, aims and societal thinking are making smooth path to enter in the story of Kathy. At summing up, the language used by the author seems as colloquial language.

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