

Desire for Human Nature in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*

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Abstract

This theoretical study aims to show how clones portray humanity while outlining the therapeutic quality of Kazuo Ishiguro's sixth novel *Never Let Me Go*. The world depicted accepts human cloning as a form of preserving the human body. Although the narrating character Kathy and her friends, Ruth and Tommy, seem at peace with their destiny as donors, their burning desire to be treated as human beings underlies the dystopian nature of the novel. In the first part, social distortion is explained in connection with nature's golden ratio. Clones' interaction is then analysed with the help of Eric Berne's transactional analysis and the three ego states of each human personality. Kathy, Ruth and Tommy's lack of reaction towards the (ab)normality of genetic modification is identified as a form of the Daoist *Wu wei*, in the third part of the study. By learning to master her unfulfilled desire for human nature, Kathy will eventually let go.