

English Language Style in the Works of Japanese-British Author Kazuo Ishiguro: A Study Using "Klara and the Sun" as an Example

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Abstract: Kazuo Ishiguro, as a British novelist of Japanese descent, possesses a dual cultural background, reflecting the contradictions between ethnicity and internationalization, as well as cross-cultural characteristics in his works. His distinct narrative features and unique English writing techniques have made him stand out in the global literary arena. In today's globalized world, this paper aims to explore how he touches the empathy of other nations and spreads his cultural ideas through his works. Using his representative work "Klara and the Sun" as an example, this paper analyzes its implied meanings and narrative of memories, and discusses the human-machine community and the human fate community, revealing the deep connotations and significance of his works.

Keywords: Ishiguro Kazuo; "Klara and the Sun"; Japanese-British Author; English Language Style; Community.

1. Introduction

Kazuo Ishiguro, a Japanese-born British writer, has published ten works from 1982 to the present, gaining widespread recognition from readers around the world. In 2017, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "for his novels of great emotional force, which uncover the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world" [1], garnering acclaim from critics both domestically and internationally. In March 2021, his new work "Klara and the Sun" was released. As an important representative figure of Japanese literature, Ishiguro's works not only hold unique value in literary art but also touch upon numerous philosophical and social issues. The creative concept of Ishiguro's published work "Klara and the Sun" is closely related to contemporary life, sparking extensive reflection and discussion. Through this work, we can feel the sense of rootlessness in Ishiguro's writings, filled with doubts and reflections on how "humans" should be defined in the post-human era. Therefore, this team explores the English language style that presents this philosophical thinking, examining how he resonates with the English-speaking world and investigates the concepts of national community and national empathy reflected therein.

Kazuo Ishiguro, as a Japanese-born British novelist, possesses a dual cultural background, which reflects the contradictions between ethnicity and internationalization, as well as cross-cultural characteristics in his works. His distinct narrative features and unique English writing techniques have made him stand out in the global literary arena. This paper aims to explore the linguistic artistry and community thought embodied in Ishiguro's works, providing a reference for a deeper understanding of his works. In April 2020, Dr. Wang Fei from the School of Foreign Languages at Hunan Normal University published the work "Anxiety and Identity: A Study on Identity Issues in Kazuo Ishiguro's Works," in which he commented: "In his novels, Kazuo Ishiguro stands on the

height of humanity, with an objective attitude towards history, and through the theme and narrative framework of 'forgetting,' he raises the question of whether painful memories and history should be remembered or forgotten, profoundly elucidating the far-reaching significance of memory and history for individuals and society." [3] The novel enlightens readers that only through recalling traumatic past events can true forgiveness for others be achieved. Therefore, our attitude towards personal memory and social history should not be repression or forgetting but should be to accept the past with an open mind, acknowledge history, learn from it, and avoid repeating its mistakes. Through the analysis of Ishiguro's seemingly calm but profoundly suggestive English language characteristics and style, this paper helps us better understand Ishiguro's works and thus deepen our understanding of his community thought.

2. Implied Meanings and Evocative English Language Style in Kazuo Ishiguro's Works

Kazuo Ishiguro's works are known for their suggestiveness and intriguing narrative of memories. Suggestiveness refers to the author's use of metaphors, implications, and other techniques to embed deeper thoughts and emotions beneath the surface meaning of the work. Narrative of memories refers to the author's use of characters' recollections and inner monologues to connect past experiences with current events, thereby showcasing the characters' internal conflicts and struggles. In "Klara and the Sun," Ishiguro uses Klara's narrative of memories to depict her deep emotions with her mother. For instance, Klara recalls intimate moments with her mother: "Mother sat by my bed, and I saw warmth and affection in her eyes." This emotional portrayal allows readers to become more invested in the plot and deeply feel the complex emotions of the characters.

Additionally, in the dialogues between Klara and the Sun, Ishiguro skillfully uses simple yet sincere conversations to

deeply convey the emotional bonds between individuals. For example, Klara says to the Sun: "Sun, you are my friend, we will always be together." This dialogue not only expresses Klara's dependence and trust in the Sun but also hints at the potential close connection between humans and technology, showcasing Ishiguro's contemplation on the human-machine community. From Ishiguro's language style, we summarize two most distinctive features: the narrative style of deep memories and the suggestiveness with metaphors and symbolism.

2.1. Immersive Narrative Style

Apart from simple memory fragments, Ishiguro is also known for his in-depth narrative style of memories. He excels at using characters' inner monologues to immerse readers into their emotional world, enabling them to resonate with the characters. In "Klara and the Sun," Klara's recollections delve deeply, meticulously portraying her emotional entanglements with surrounding characters. For example, when she recalls her last meeting with her mother, a rich sense of sorrow and attachment is conveyed: "I held onto my mother's hand tightly, tears blurring my vision, unwilling to let her go." This deep narrative style makes the work more emotionally resonant, allowing readers to more profoundly understand and feel the characters' inner world.

In "Klara and the Sun," Ishiguro constructs a world where technology reigns supreme, with productivity greatly enhanced by machines, leading to new desires as people's living standards are met. This has led to the emergence of new technologies. Firstly, gene editing technology has categorized children into "enhanced" and "unenhanced" groups before birth, widening the gap between people. For instance, Josie and Rick serve as examples; the former enjoys quality education and admission to prestigious universities, while the latter, despite his talents, cannot access similar opportunities due to lack of enhancement. In "Klara and the Sun," Ishiguro constructs a world where technology reigns supreme, with productivity greatly enhanced by machines, leading to new desires as people's living standards are met. This has led to the emergence of new technologies. Firstly, gene editing technology has categorized children into "enhanced" and "unenhanced" groups before birth, widening the gap between people. For instance, Josie and Rick serve as examples; the former enjoys quality education and admission to prestigious universities, while the latter, despite his talents, cannot access similar opportunities due to lack of enhancement.

2.2. Metaphors and Symbols: Implied Meanings

Beyond narrative memories, Ishiguro's works are also rich in metaphors and symbolism, containing profound implications. He skillfully uses detailed descriptions and subtle language to present the complex emotions and thoughts of his characters. In "Klara and the Sun," the Sun, as a robot, is imbued with human-like qualities, becoming Klara's friend and support. This metaphorical approach gives the work a more symbolic meaning, prompting deeper contemplation on the relationship between technology and humanity. For example, the Sun tells Klara: "We will always be together." This simple phrase carries deep discussions about humanity, emotion, and belonging, leading readers to consider the potential symbiotic relationship between humans and technology. In "Klara and the Sun," humans attempt to use technology to avoid their own vulnerabilities, leading to

disasters. AFs replace humans, making people increasingly machine-like, with humanity being constantly eroded. Ishiguro uses this to hint at the contemporary society's over-reliance on machines.

Human actions are fundamentally different from those of the robot Klara. Professor Eggleston uses Hannah Arendt's theory to explain this. In her work "The Human Condition," Arendt proposes three fundamental modes of human activity: labor, work, and action. Action is people showing themselves in the public realm through speech or deeds, expressing "who they are," thereby demonstrating human subjectivity. The primary difference between action and work is its unpredictability and irreversibility. Humans cannot foresee the consequences of their actions. In "Klara and the Sun," Josie's mother's action is to let Josie undergo gene enhancement technology, unable to predict its negative impacts. Based on this characteristic, Arendt introduces "forgiveness" as a way for actors to escape the irreversibility of actions. Professor Eggleston distinguishes between non-apology behaviors and real acts of forgiveness. Non-apology behaviors are instrumental norms, false apologies. Josie's recovery occurs after she truly forgives her mother's actions, showing forgiveness as necessary for humans to move forward as actors.

The climax of the story is Josie's recovery. Whether Josie could be replaced by Klara can be considered from two angles: first, to Rick's family, Klara is just a substitute; they know they truly like Josie, not someone else, regardless of how well she is imitated. Moreover, Klara is an AF, not a human. Second, Klara herself believes Josie cannot be replaced. Her father suspects modern science has proven there is nothing unique about his daughter that cannot be unearthed, replicated, or transferred by our modern tools. The irreplaceable aspect of Josie lies in the hearts of those who love her. Josie's parents were clear about the plan to replace Josie with Klara from the beginning, driven by a desire to control their daughter's life rather than give her freedom. It was only after Josie's recovery that they realized this illusion. Ishiguro critiques the unsocialized nature of family relationships in modern society.

3. The Concept of Community in Ishiguro Kazuo's Works

3.1. Exploration of the Human-Machine Community

The concept of "community" has been an imagined ideal since the unprecedented development of human societal productivity. Anderson, in discussing nations as "imagined communities," pointed out the limitations of this imagination: "No nation imagines itself as coterminous with mankind. Kant proposed the idea of a world citizen, advocating for shared life and destiny among all humanity, achieving global peace and prosperity. This idea aligns with Ishiguro's thoughts on a community of human destiny, emphasizing that humanity should transcend national and racial boundaries to face global challenges together. Although at times Christians imagined the world would become a Christian planet, even the most messianic nationalists dreamed that one day, all of humanity would become members of their nation. Anderson believes that nations or states, as imagined communities, need to overcome objective and subjective gaps between their members." [2] Ishiguro sees the limitations of modern communities and boldly proposes a world where humans and AFs live together in his novel. In this world, different humans

and machines. coexist. Ishiguro explores this human-machine community, reflecting on how technology and humans can mutually support each other in their lives and destinies.

3.2. Pursuit of Human Destiny Community

In addition to the human-machine community, Ishiguro's works often reflect on the concept of the human community, focusing on themes of shared fate and mutual support. For instance, in "Klara and the Sun," the relationships between characters reveal the interconnectedness and dependency within human society. The portrayal of Josie's illness and the subsequent impact on her family and friends highlights the theme of shared human vulnerability and the necessity of communal support. Ishiguro suggests that true human community transcends technological advancements, requiring empathy, understanding, and mutual care.

4. Conclusion

Kazuo Ishiguro, as a Japanese-British writer, uniquely combines his dual cultural background to create works that reflect both ethnic and international conflicts and cross-cultural characteristics. His distinctive narrative style and unique English writing techniques have earned him a prominent place in the global literary world. Through analyzing "Klara and the Sun," this paper explores Ishiguro's suggestive language and recollective narrative style, as well

as his thoughts on human-machine and human communities, providing insights into the deeper meanings and implications of his works. Ishiguro's language artistry and community ideas not only enhance our understanding of his works but also offer valuable perspectives on addressing contemporary global challenges and promoting cross-cultural empathy and cooperation.

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