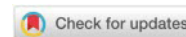


# THE SENSE OF ALIENATION IN THE NEW LAND: A PALE VIEW OF THE HILLS

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**Abstract:** One of the key postcolonial themes in the novel is the struggle for identity. Etsuko, the main character, is a Japanese woman who has been living in England for many years. She is caught between two cultures and struggles to reconcile her Japanese heritage with her British identity. Her daughter Niki, on the other hand, is a second-generation immigrant who grew up in England and feels disconnected from her Japanese heritage. Through their stories, Ishiguro explores the complexities of identity and the challenges faced by individuals belonging to multiple cultures. The novel *A Pale View of the Hills* by Kazuo Ishiguro explores themes of hybridity and Otherness through the lens of the main character, Etsuko. Hybridity refers to the mixing of different cultures and identities, while otherness refers to the experience of being perceived as different or foreign. Kazuo Ishiguro's work can indeed be seen as representative of a cosmopolitan writer who navigates global themes and perspectives. As a writer who was born in Japan, raised in England, and has lived in various countries, Ishiguro's experiences and background greatly inform his writing. One way in which Ishiguro embodies cosmopolitanism is through his exploration of universal themes that transcend national and cultural boundaries. His novels often delve into themes such as memory, identity, and the human condition, which resonate with readers from different cultural backgrounds. For example, in his acclaimed novel "A Pale View of the Hills," Ishiguro raises ethical questions about cloning and the consequences of scientific advancements, which are relevant to a global audience. Furthermore, Ishiguro's characters often embody a sense of displacement or cultural hybridity, reflecting his own experiences as a global citizen.

Keywords: Otherness, different, hybridity, immigrant.

Field: Humanities

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The novel *A Pale View of the Hills* does not depict colonization as Post colonialism originally did. As postcolonial criticism in literature developed, its themes began to include modern problems. Post colonialism can now not only be applied to novels that have vivid Western and Eastern figures, but can also analyze novels that have similar issues of other figures with "Western and Eastern" characteristics and mannerisms.

"A Pale View of the Hills" is a novel by Kazuo Ishiguro that takes place in Japan during a time of significant societal transformation. Set in the early 1980s, the story follows the protagonist, Etsuko, as she reflects on her past and grapples with the changes happening around her.

The novel is structured as a series of memories and conversations between Etsuko and her daughter, Niki. Through these conversations, Etsuko revisits her life in Nagasaki after World War II and her subsequent move to England. As she recounts her experiences, the reader is transported to a Japan that is undergoing rapid modernization and cultural shifts.

The characters in "A Pale View of the Hills" find themselves in a position that is both part of the change and affected by it. Etsuko, as a young woman, navigates the aftermath of the war and the reconstruction period, witnessing the societal and cultural transformations taking place. She embodies the tension between tradition and progress, feeling nostalgic for the past while also recognizing the need to adapt to the present. Etsuko's relationships with others also reflect the changing dynamics in Japanese society. Her interactions with her first husband, Jiro, and their friends reveal the clash between traditional values and the influence of Western ideals. The characters grapple with their own desires and aspirations, often at odds with societal expectations.

Furthermore, the novel explores the theme of generational differences and the impact of change on family dynamics. Etsuko's conversations with her daughter, Niki, provide insight into the shifting values and perspectives of the younger generation. Niki, who grew up in England, embodies the influence of Western culture and challenges her mother's traditional mindset.

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Ishiguro skillfully captures the atmosphere of a society in transition, using subtle and evocative language to convey the nuances of change. The novel's title, "A Pale View of the Hills," suggests a sense of distance and detachment, mirroring Etsuko's perspective as she reflects on her past.

In "A Pale View of the Hills," Ishiguro presents a thought-provoking exploration of a society in flux and the individuals caught in the midst of change. Through Etsuko's narrative, the reader gains insight into the complexities of Japanese society during a transformative period. The novel serves as a reflection on memory, identity, and the impact of societal shifts on personal relationships.

The novel is set in Nagasaki, Japan, and focuses on the lives of two Japanese women, Etsuko and her daughter Niki. Through their stories, Ishiguro highlights the impact of Japan's post-World War II reconstruction and its relationship with the West. The novel also highlights the impact of trauma on individuals and communities. Both Etsuko and Niki suffer from the trauma of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki during World War II. Etsuko's memories of the bombing are intertwined with her experiences of post-war reconstruction, which she sees as a form of erasure and cultural assimilation.

Niki, on the other hand, struggles to come to terms with her mother's traumatic past and its impact on their relationship. The novel explores the relationship between Japan and the West after World War II. Post-war reconstruction was heavily influenced by Western ideals and values, and Ishiguro portrays this as a form of cultural imperialism. Etsuko's experiences living in England and her encounters with British culture highlight the ways in which Japan was forced to accept Western cultural norms and values.

One of the key postcolonial themes in the novel is the struggle for identity. Etsuko, the main character, is a Japanese woman who has been living in England for many years. She is caught between two cultures and struggles to reconcile her Japanese heritage with her British identity. Her daughter Niki, on the other hand, is a second-generation immigrant who grew up in England and feels disconnected from her Japanese heritage. Through their stories, Ishiguro explores the complexities of identity and the challenges faced by individuals belonging to multiple cultures.

The novel *A Pale View of the Hills* by Kazuo Ishiguro explores themes of hybridity and Otherness through the lens of the main character, Etsuko. Hybridity refers to the mixing of different cultures and identities, while otherness refers to the experience of being perceived as different or foreign.

## 2. THE CONCEPT OF HYBRIDITY

The concept of hybridity is a significant theme in "A Pale View of the Hills" by Kazuo Ishiguro. The novel explores the idea of cultural hybridity through the experiences of its characters, particularly Etsuko and her daughter Niki, who straddle multiple cultural identities. Etsuko, as a Japanese woman who moves to England, embodies the notion of cultural hybridity. She is caught between her Japanese heritage and the influence of Western culture. Her relocation to England represents a physical and cultural displacement, as she navigates the challenges of adapting to a new environment while holding onto her Japanese roots. Etsuko's experiences reflect the complexities of living in a multicultural society and the struggle to reconcile different aspects of one's identity.

Additionally, Etsuko's daughter, Niki, embodies the hybridity of cultural influences. Born and raised in England, Niki is a product of both Japanese and British cultures. Her upbringing in a Western society has shaped her worldview and values, yet she is also connected to her Japanese heritage through her mother. Niki's character exemplifies the blending of different cultural identities and the formation of a hybrid identity.

The novel also explores hybridity through its depiction of intercultural relationships. Etsuko's first husband, Jiro, is a Japanese man who has embraced Western ideals and values. Their relationship reflects the collision of traditional Japanese customs and the influence of Western culture. The tension between Jiro's desire for progress and Etsuko's longing for tradition highlights the complexities of navigating a hybrid cultural landscape.

Ishiguro's portrayal of hybridity in "A Pale View of the Hills" goes beyond the mere clash of cultures. It delves into the internal conflicts and emotional struggles experienced by individuals who embody multiple cultural influences. The characters' interactions and personal journeys reflect the challenges of negotiating multiple identities and the impact of cultural hybridity on their sense of self.

Overall, "A Pale View of the Hills" explores the concept of hybridity through its characters' experiences and the conflicts arising from their multicultural backgrounds. Ishiguro's nuanced portrayal of cultural hybridity offers a deeper understanding of the complexities and tensions that arise when individuals straddle multiple cultural identities.

### 3. HOMI BABA'S CONCEPT OF THE "THIRD SPACE"

Homi Baba's concept of the "third space" is present in the novel *Pale View of the Hills* by Kazuo Ishiguro. The third space refers to the space between two cultures, where new identities and cultural forms can emerge.

Etsuko, the novel's protagonist, embodies this concept as she navigates the cultural divide between Japan and England. She has lived in both countries and has adopted elements of both cultures into her identity. However, she feels as though she does not fully belong in any culture and experiences a sense of displacement.

The third space is also present in the character of Sachiko, Etsuko's friend in Japan, she is able to navigate the cultural divide more easily than Etsuko because she has one foot in both cultures.

The third space is also evident in the character of Keiko, Etsuko's daughter-in-law, who grew up in America and feels as though she does not fully belong to either Japanese or American culture. Through Keiko's experiences, the novel explores the complexities of navigating multiple cultural identities and the challenges of finding a sense of belonging in a world that values cultural homogeneity.

Marginalization refers to the process of being pushed to the margins of society, while subaltern refers to a group of people who are socially, economically, and politically marginalized.

In the novel, Etsuko and other characters experience marginalization and subalternity in different ways. Etsuko, as a Japanese woman living in England, experiences marginalization in both Japan and England. She feels like she doesn't fully belong in any culture and is often seen as an outsider. Her experiences of marginalization are shown when she visits her old home in Nagasaki and feels excluded from the community she once belonged to. The character of Sachiko also experiences marginalization due to her mixed identity.

Homi Bhabha's concept of the "Third Space" and in-betweenness can be applied to the novel "A Pale View of the Hills" by Kazuo Ishiguro. Bhabha's concept refers to a space of cultural hybridity, where different cultures and identities intersect, creating a space that is neither wholly one culture nor the other.

In the novel, the character Etsuko embodies this notion of the "Third Space" and in-betweenness. As a Japanese woman living in England, she exists in a liminal space, straddling two cultures and negotiating the complexities of her dual identity. Her experiences and interactions reflect the tensions and conflicts that arise from this in-between space. Etsuko's relocation to England represents a physical displacement, but it also symbolizes a metaphorical displacement. She is caught between her Japanese roots and the influence of Western culture. Her encounters with the British characters in the novel, such as her interactions with her second husband, reveal the clash and negotiation of cultural values and expectations.

Furthermore, Etsuko's daughter, Niki, also embodies the concept of the "Third Space" and in-betweenness. Born and raised in England, Niki's identity is shaped by both her Japanese heritage and her British upbringing. She exists in a space where she is simultaneously connected to and distanced from her Japanese roots.

The novel explores the tensions and complexities that arise from this in-between space. Etsuko and Niki's conversations reflect their negotiation of multiple cultural influences and their struggle to find a sense of belonging. The characters' experiences reflect the challenges of navigating the "Third Space" and the conflicts that arise from cultural hybridity.

By applying Homi Bhabha's concept of the "Third Space" and in-betweenness to "A Pale View of the Hills," we gain a deeper understanding of the characters' experiences and the complexities of their cultural identities. The novel explores the liminal space that exists between cultures and highlights the challenges and conflicts that arise from navigating this in-between space.

As retired Delhi University professor Ravi P. Bhatia writes in his essay "Sameness or Difference/ Otherness-Rethinking the Concept of Identity" despite these differences and similarities, there is the question of identity which can be similar or completely different. . So the concept of truth or otherness largely depends on the question of the identity of the person. In today's complete world, the issue of identity is one of the key factors that can result in conflict and occasional violence.

He says that identity should be considered ideologically despite the genetic and biological sameness of human beings. The identity of the people listed above depends on several factors. In addition to this, a person's or community's historical background and belief systems also play a significant role in shaping identity. They are ingrained in the person themselves and often impossible to change. Similarly, political processes and modern technology enable the democratization of most countries in the world. Now there are only a few countries in the world ruled by military dictatorships, ortho-totalitarian regimes.

The postcolonial world is a world of displacement, diaspora, exile - Homi Baba calls it "of the

homeless" (Baba 2004: 31). Such a world, a world of intermediate states, without clear linguistic, national, racial and cultural boundaries, in which migrants play a major role, is at the heart of contemporary literature, including British literature.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In "A Pale View of the Hills" by Kazuo Ishiguro, the theme of the East versus the West is explored in relation to the notions of inferiority and superiority tied to one's home of origin. The novel delves into the complex dynamics between different cultural backgrounds and the perceptions of power and privilege associated with them. The protagonist, Etsuko, embodies the clash between the East and the West. As a Japanese woman who moves to England, she is confronted with the contrasting values and expectations of both cultures. Etsuko's experiences reflect the inherent power dynamics that exist between the East and the West, with the West often being perceived as superior and the East as inferior.

The novel explores the lingering effects of World War II and the impact it had on Japan's perception of itself in relation to the West. Etsuko and her first husband, Jiro, represent the generation that witnessed the defeat of Japan and the subsequent occupation by Western forces. This historical context contributes to the sense of inferiority that Etsuko and other Japanese characters feel in the face of Western influence. Etsuko's interactions with her second husband, a British man named Ogata, further highlight the power dynamics between the East and the West. Ogata embodies the Western perspective and often asserts his superiority over Etsuko and her cultural background. His condescending attitude and dismissal of Japanese customs and traditions reinforce the notion of Western superiority and Eastern inferiority.

In contrast, Etsuko's daughter, Niki, who was born and raised in England, represents a new generation that is more comfortable navigating between different cultural influences. Niki's character challenges the notion of inherent superiority or inferiority tied to one's home of origin. She embodies a more nuanced understanding of cultural hybridity and rejects the binary opposition between the East and the West.

Overall, "A Pale View of the Hills" explores the East versus West dynamic in relation to the notions of inferiority and superiority associated with one's home of origin. The novel highlights the power dynamics and cultural clashes that arise from these perceptions, while also challenging the notion that one culture is inherently superior or inferior to another.

The theme of postcolonial homelessness, 'in-betweenness' is the narrative, exploring the complex experiences of characters who find themselves caught between different cultural and historical contexts. Ishiguro delves into the psychological and emotional struggles of individuals navigating the space between their native Japanese culture and the influence of Western colonialism.

Etsuko reflects on her experiences during and after World War II, a period marked by Japan's defeat and subsequent occupation by Western powers. Through her memories and interactions with other characters, Ishiguro highlights the tension between traditional Japanese values and the encroaching influence of Western ideals and cultural norms. This is mutually manifested in Etsuko's own identity and the clash between her Japanese heritage and the changing times.

The novel also explores the generational divide and the transmission of cultural values. Etsuko's daughter, Niki, represents the younger generation that is influenced by Western ideas and values, further highlighting the postcolonial interdependence experienced by those who navigate different cultural contexts. The tensions between mother and daughter reflect the struggle to negotiate identity and cultural belonging in a rapidly changing world.

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