

MULTIPLE FACETS OF DISPLACEMENT IN THE WORK OF KAZUO ISHIGURO

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Abstract: Starting from the common assumption which considers Ishiguro a spokesman of the literature of displacement and de-territorialization, the paper aims at deciphering those types of human exile materialized in the person of the orphan bereaved of childhood and deprived of connection and community. Focussing on Ishiguro's latest novels, When We Were Orphans and Never Let Me Go, the present paper analyzes the way in which Ishiguro's consciousness of exile is transformed into the tragedies of those who are not at home in a world that breeds conflict, exploitation, aggression and alienation. The nostalgic mood of alienation of his former novels is abandoned in favour of dark, dystopian images that transform Kazuo Ishiguro into a "scandalous, even catastrophic commentator of the present." This is the deformed ethos of a society that institutes cloning for the sole purpose of harvesting organs, while narrating the emotions and desires of the parentless victims in Never Let Me Go. The complexity of Ishiguro's literature of exile is therefore shown as as shifting from migrants and expatriates to a decentered and borderless post-imperial global order.