

Impact Factor:

ISRA (India) = 6.317
 ISI (Dubai, UAE) = 1.582
 GIF (Australia) = 0.564
 JIF = 1.500

SIS (USA) = 0.912
 PIHLI (Russia) = 3.939
 ESJI (KZ) = 8.771
 SJIF (Morocco) = 7.184

ICV (Poland) = 6.630
 PIF (India) = 1.940
 IBI (India) = 4.260
 OAJI (USA) = 0.350

SOI: [1.1/TAS](https://doi.org/10.15863/TAS) DOI: [10.15863/TAS](https://doi.org/10.15863/TAS)
International Scientific Journal
Theoretical & Applied Science
 p-ISSN: 2308-4944 (print) e-ISSN: 2409-0085 (online)
 Year: 2023 Issue: 01 Volume: 117
 Published: 28.01.2023 <http://T-Science.org>

Issue

Article



Abbosbek Azamjon ugli Urinboev
 Chonnam National University
 Master Student, Corresponding author
 General Graduate School
 College of Humanities, Department of English Language and Literature
 +821051365995
andyurinboev@gmail.com

Khusnigul Tursunali kizi Kurbonova
 Chonnam National University
 Master&Doctoral combined degree student
 77, Yongbong-ro, Bukgu
 Gwangju city 61186
 Republic of Korea

REFLECTIONS ON AMBITION AND HUMAN LIFE IN THE STORY “MALVERN HILLS” OF KAZUO ISHIGURO

Abstract: This article was written primarily in essay form. In it, Anglo-Japanese author Kazuo Ishiguro explores how musicians succeed in the music world and how they become happy in “Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall”. This article mainly describes the important points in the story “Malvern Hills” in the book. Relevant personal and learned reflections were shared. In the concluding part, the fact that a person can lose his life and neglect his family because of his ambition, as well as important considerations against or preventing this, were presented considering the review of the story.

Key words: music, life, narration, literature, reality, characteristics, challenges, ambition.

Language: English

Citation: Urinboev, A. A., & Kurbonova, Kh. T. (2023). Reflections on ambition and human life in the story “Malvern Hills” of Kazuo Ishiguro. *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 01 (117), 659-662.

Soi: <http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-01-117-54> **Doi:** <https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2023.01.117.54>
Scopus ASCC: 1200.

Introduction

Table 1. Article’s profile

Theme	Reflections on ambition and human life in the story of Kazuo Ishiguro
Purpose of the study	The aim of this work is to analyze the story and determine the author's message in it. It is to investigate what aspects or views the readers have about the content of the story. Thus, it is about the analysis of literary texts and the influence of literature on esthetic life.
Method and results	The qualitative method was used in the research work. The reason is the aesthetic interpretation of the literary text - the story and the comments about its vitality. That is, this study did not use a questionnaire or quantitative data analysis. The results are that success conundrums are common to people globally. A person can lose his life and neglect his family because of his ambitions
Main source	“Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall” of Ishiguro, the story of “Malvern Hills”.

Impact Factor:

ISRA (India) = 6.317	SIS (USA) = 0.912	ICV (Poland) = 6.630
ISI (Dubai, UAE) = 1.582	PIIHQ (Russia) = 3.939	PIF (India) = 1.940
GIF (Australia) = 0.564	ESJI (KZ) = 8.771	IBI (India) = 4.260
JIF = 1.500	SJIF (Morocco) = 7.184	OAJI (USA) = 0.350

Nowadays we are experiencing globalization. Among other things, we see people struggling in their careers for fame and/or fortune. In this case, the devotion to the professional activity takes place and completely pulls a person into its trap. As a result, a person involuntarily distances himself from his family. Therefore, I would like to share my thoughts on this subject by analyzing a passage from the work of Kazuo Ishiguro. The aim of this work is to analyze the story and determine the author's message in it. It is to investigate what aspects or views the readers have about the content of the story (Malvern Hills). Thus, it is about the analysis of literary texts and the influence of literature on esthetic life. The qualitative method was used in the research work. The reason is the aesthetic interpretation of the literary text - the story and the comments about its vitality. That is, this study did not use a questionnaire or quantitative data analysis. The results are that success conundrums are common to people globally. A person can lose his life and neglect his family because of his ambitions

2. A brief overview of Kazuo Ishiguro and his stories

In the stories of Kazuo Ishiguro, I could see a clear picture of it. That is, in this book *Nocturnes: Five Stories about Music and the Night*, the author explores the mystery of how musicians succeed in the music world – how they can live happily ever after. It can be said that the art of creating characters in his stories is given at a high level.

One of the most interesting points in the stories is that the challenges a musician faces at different stages of his career are brilliantly portrayed. The description of the "rise or fall in the business world" situation is particularly interesting. Moreover, in this way, the musician is confronted with a fierce struggle between three things (music, life, and love) in different career situations - very skillfully portrayed. One of the highlights is the stories - little tales from the lives of humble people. These people are humble, but their accomplishments are high.

One of the strange things about the stories is that the trinity of time, music, and love also to reflect emotional details and tender human relationships. Ishiguro's works are full of wonder. These stories should be enough for those who want to imagine the world of musicians.

I mean, career, love, and marriage are portrayed in various examples of musicians and couples. From some or complete estrangement from marriage to a close union that leads to true happiness in life, these stories offer unique meanings to the reader. Ishiguro's stories have their own vocabulary. So, welcome to the world of esthetic literature!

3. The story of "Malvern Hills" and related reflections.

The name of the story I will mainly tell in this essay is "Malvern Hills." The story - told in the second person, in simple language - is wonderful. The story is set in the Malvern Hills. The main character was a young, aspiring singer. He believes strongly in his talent. He writes and sings, too. So, the young guitarist in "Malvern Hills" is also a songwriter. He fights against superficial and unrealistic dreams or visions.

So, in the story, the young singer meets a couple who serve guests in a café. And the café has come here because it belongs to the musician's sister. The musician used to play guitar here. Talking to the couple, the young musician advises them on which hotel they should spend their vacation in. The couple gets into a heated argument, which seems to be the reason for the divorce. However, they behaved like little children. The musician believes that the two are incompatible lovers. So, the musician talks to the woman while talking to the couple. The woman says, "As it is, life will bring enough disappointments [...] if you have dreams like this on top of it" [...]. The woman's key message was that music is like a dream - a dream in which two incompatible elements are mixed. These two elements are 1) beauty and purity of voice; 2) desperation is the key to success.

So, in the pursuit of success, a person can take several insults or destroy his personality. How does a person destroy his personality? Someone can wear ridiculous clothes. Sometimes one has to put up with an "unpleasant" spouse. Sometimes the opposite happens: a person leaves a happy marriage. In this case, he is sequestered for hours in small soundproof rooms as a musician and devotee. This requires a long time to practice their instruments. The author uses the phrase "you know" in the background of this narrative, which can refer to many meanings. One of these meanings can be as follows. An in-depth study of original creations and contradictory relationships is not very helpful. However, it is more useful to avoid the simplistic image of the musician who falls into a cliché. Ishiguro, then, seems to have focused on avoiding contradictory narratives rather than addressing them directly through a "you know" manner or tone.

I also want to address the image of the couple in the story. The couple was professional Swiss musicians who were a bit weird. Ishiguro uses dialog to describe life in European cities. The dialogs are interesting, though not unique. The young musician thought they were German. The man's name is Tilo, and the woman's name is Sonja. Judging by the image of the dialog, the husband is a person who praises everything. That is, as positive as possible.

A woman is a complainer, she can get angry quickly. They had a son. But because of the so-called "peripatetic life", the poor boy did not enjoy enough parental love. Now I said above that the musician had spoken to this couple.

Impact Factor:

ISRA (India) = 6.317
ISI (Dubai, UAE) = 1.582
GIF (Australia) = 0.564
JIF = 1.500

SIS (USA) = 0.912
PIIHQ (Russia) = 3.939
ESJI (KZ) = 8.771
SJIF (Morocco) = 7.184

ICV (Poland) = 6.630
PIF (India) = 1.940
IBI (India) = 4.260
OAJI (USA) = 0.350

The couple had more or less heard him playing the guitar while they were having a moody argument and turned to the musician. As said, the husband loves praise, he praised the musician and encouraged him. The wife did not encourage him in music. As mentioned before, the musician gave her "life advice" to the young man. In other words, Sonja warned him about possible future disappointments. This warning took place when they saw each other for the second time. That is, the couple met the musician again in the mood of a quarrel. For the young musician was one of the promising young people. The woman noticed it. Sonja wanted to tell the young man that his family indulged in the ambition that followed the music, and that this led to unhappiness in his family.

As I mentioned earlier, the café where the young musician came from belonged to his sister. The young man helped out there and tried to write a song. Ishiguro shows us the following picture using the example of a young man and a couple. A musical career has its own arrogance. For a reasonable person, this is a bitter truth. He befriended the musical couple and listened to them talk. It is as if, through this silence, Ishiguro is telling us about the inner problems a person has after a career. Or, through the silence, he wanted to give us advice on self-control.

Although the text of the story seems simple, it contains many remarkable images. Coming back to the musician, he indeed seems to be a selfish guy who dreams of fame. Why did he go to Malvern? Why did he leave? Finally, he had gone to Malvern to prepare for London. Her sister, who runs a busy café in "Malvern Hill", has become a "refuge" for her.

As I mentioned above, was not this guy supposed to be helping with coffee? What was he doing? He played guitar, wrote music, and met and befriended a tourist couple. And why? Because he prefers to give priority to his compositions! But he had to work for his hands. Why are a couple and a young man told together here? Because, as said, he and his wife heard the young man "singing a little" and the husband praised him (the musician, narrator, musician). Praise exalts a person. When a person is praised, he flies, he feels satisfied in his work, and he strives to grow.

So, the author Ishiguro loves artists. However, against the background of this story, the author shows that musicians and artists are very selfish. The dialogs and images of this couple's situation embody the repressed drama. Because the couple had a long musical career. As I said before, this musical career did not bring happiness to the family.

4. About a wonderful aspect of this story

Another aspect of this story is that the musician is also the narrator of the couple's story. Ishiguro tells of this man who was a songwriter. The path of this young man can be understood as a "journey to success." For he encountered many minds. Therefore, the background of events in Malvern Hills embodies

love, serenity, warmth, musical inspiration, affection, and belonging, especially nostalgia. It is also amazing that the story of the experiences of this young musician shows feelings of discipline and loneliness. Also interesting is this man's encounter with Maggie and Geoff. Why is this interesting? Because this couple does not like the man's music. Was the musician in their café! However, this couple has a different attitude towards music than the man. That is, they see the musician as having an "unacceptable career" in real life. Instead, it seems that they want the young man to work hard in their café. The young man's attempts to love music appeared to them as "laziness" and "inactivity."

The narration of the places where the young man plays music reflects that the young man wants to share his music with them, as he did when he was a child. I wish they would listen to the music and support him as he sings. But the young man is faced with the opposite reaction. In one of the strangest passages, he has tried to write loud songs for Geoff's ears. But instead of appreciating his music, the family preferred to watch a movie. This may have been their way of expressing that they should value family time more. One of the interesting points is that the musical composition in the background of this episode can be compared to working in the café - in terms of usefulness. So, even though the young man was faced with these objections, he held on to his musical dream. This is also a very interesting fact. Because, as already mentioned, he was motivated by two professional Swiss musicians?!

Eventually, the Swiss musician found out that the couple was making music while on tour in Europe. The Swiss couple liked the man's guitar playing. According to the author, they looked at the young man with love and joy, delight, and happiness, as if they were looking at a baby. The Swiss woman gave him life advice, but their general attitude was very positive. They praised the young man's talent with their smiles and applause. The guy flew into the sky as if. Although they explained to the young man that a professional music career does not depend on material wealth, but on his belief in music. So, the Swiss couple liked the young man more. With their encouragement, the young man began to find the strength to overcome other negativities.

5. Discussion.

One of the interesting points I must raise here is why the woman advised the young man I briefly mentioned some aspects above. The man (Tilo) was prone to praise, was not he? Therefore, we gave the young man an ideal perspective so that he could start a group in London and succeed! However, the answer to the question is that the woman's advice is essential that "success" in real life sometimes requires disappointment. The woman's point is that if this young man learns from his negative experiences and

Impact Factor:

ISRA (India) = 6.317
ISI (Dubai, UAE) = 1.582
GIF (Australia) = 0.564
JIF = 1.500

SIS (USA) = 0.912
PIIHQ (Russia) = 3.939
ESJI (KZ) = 8.771
SJIF (Morocco) = 7.184

ICV (Poland) = 6.630
PIF (India) = 1.940
IBI (India) = 4.260
OAJI (USA) = 0.350

is encouraged by his positive experiences, he can achieve his dreams even in times of despair and difficulty

I said earlier that this Swiss couple did not seem to fit the musician. In what way were they not suitable? They were just different in terms of marriage and marriage. But in music, they were very compatible. Because even if they quarreled and bickered as a family, they showed mutual tolerance in disagreements. So, Sonja and Tilo are very compatible in music. They also tolerate disagreements in marriage, despite having different points of view. Tilo is an ideal and bright personality compared to Sonja.

6. One of the central points

While commenting on this story, I would like to share another wonderful observation about the Swiss couple. Because it is one of the central points of the selected store.

According to some commentators, in the music of the hill called Elgar, the country was seen in the imagination of wonderful landscapes that exceed Tilo's imagination. In contrast to this view of the man (Tilo), the woman (Sonja) imagines the real hills as a simple garden. Therefore, Sonja considers the actual hills to be a public park that cannot be compared to the "magnificent and mysterious" Elgar hills. This serves to distance Tilo from Sonja.

Sonja's character is such that, according to some analysts, she learned to be brave and critical from a woman named Mrs. Fraser. At the same time, it can be said that tolerance of other points of view in

resolving disagreements and responding to real life is one of the highlighted points.

Now back to the young musician he encounters, "love, discipline, frustration and encouragement" on his path to music. These things are brought into focus: "truth, determination, and tolerance." So, this young man is a hero in this story in the style of a youthful narrator. It is no wonder that in the person of this young man, the author embodies the image of a teenager who is on the "awkward threshold" of maturity. Thus, a young musician should maintain a balance between the ideal and the practical in his determination. He should strive for mutual tolerance with his family.

7. Conclusion

So, I will mention here some points that should be understood. In this story, there are indications of what strategies a person can use to fight against the trials of life. We have already said something about this above. At the same time, a person should know how to deal with disappointment. We need to know when it is appropriate to be angry and upset. In this case, it is important to consider whether anger or denial is the better strategy.

We ought to comfort each other in the face of an unknown future. We have learned from history that every career always falls victim to one of two things: rise and fall. To make a career, the following things are necessary: talent and effort. The important point is that a person can lose his/her life and neglect his/her family because of his/her ambition.

References:

1. Aitkenhead, D. (2015). "The G2 Interview: Kazuo Ishiguro". *The Guardian*. 27 April 2009. Clark, Alex. 'Kazuo Ishiguro's turn to fantasy'. [The Guardian, 19 February 2015].
2. Enniss, S. (2016). 'Taking Note of the Kazuo Ishiguro Archive', [15 June 2016].
3. Garrett, D. (2009). *Rev. of Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro*. *Review of Contemporary Fiction* 29.3.
4. Hagen, W. M. (2010). *Rev. of Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro*. *World Literature Today* 84.2.
5. Hoffert, B. (2009). *Rev. of Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro*. *Library Journal*.
6. James, D. (2019). *Discrepant Solace: Contemporary Literature and the Work of Consolation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. Krider, D. O. (1998). "Rooted in a Small Space: An Interview with Kazuo Ishiguro". *Kenyan Review* 20.2.
8. Matthews, S. (2010). "I'm Sorry I Can't Say More": *An Interview with Kazuo Ishiguro*. *Contemporary Critical Perspectives: Kazuo Ishiguro*. London: Continuum International Publishing.
9. Robson, L. (2009) "Laughter in the Dark." *Rev. of Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro*. *New Statesman*.
10. Salinsky, J. (2009). "The Green Bookshop." *Rev. of Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro*. *Education for Primary Care* 20.5.
11. Seaman, D. (2009). *Rev. of Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro*. *American Library Association* 105(2).