

Narrative Techniques in *Never Let Me Go* —A Note on Kazuo Ishiguro

Kazuhiro ANDO

This article is an attempt at decoding some of the narrative techniques that Kazuo Ishiguro deployed in constructing Kathy H's narrative. The emphasis is on how the perception of time on the part of the reader as well as Kathy herself is significantly manipulated by the particular narrative techniques that Ishiguro prepared for Kathy to utilise. The ultimate aim of Kathy's narrative is to "delay" the progression of time, be it the narrative time itself, time as Kathy perceives it as one of the major determinants of the tragedy of her life, or time as it is experienced by the reader when he/she reads Kathy's narrative text, so that life, both for the cloned humans in the story and for us readers in the "real" world, will feel longer and fuller than certain social institutions, fictional or real, would have it. The article also explores some issues to do with the "origin" of human life and literary texts as Ishiguro envisaged them as part of his literary experiment in writing this novel.