

Ruth's Superiority Complex as Seen in Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go

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ABSTRACT

This study is about Ruth's superiority complex as seen in Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go. The objectives of this study were to find out the characteristics of Ruth's superiority complex and the effects of superiority complex toward Ruth's behavior. In conducting the research, the writer used qualitative research using the psychoanalysis approach which was based on Adler's psychoanalytic theory and library research to collect the data. The result of the discussion revealed that Ruth showed excuses, aggression, and withdrawal. In aggression, Ruth demonstrated depreciation and accusation, while in withdrawal, Ruth showed moving backward and hesitation. The effects of Ruth's superiority complex toward her behavior are that she created an unrealistic goal, and she lived in dogmatic life and narrow perspective

Keywords: *superiority complex, psychoanalysis, characteristics, effects*

Introduction

From time to time, a novel does not only portray social issues, but also human thoughts, feelings, and problems through setting, plot, characters, and other elements. The example of a modern novel that portrays social issues and human problems is Never Let Me Go. It is a dystopian science-fiction novel that was published in 2005 and was written by Kazuo Ishiguro. Interestingly, the novel has humanity issue as the result of science advancement since all characters in the novel are human clones.

According to an article entitled "Kazuo Ishiguro", "Never Let Me Go was shortlisted for Booker Prize, National Book Critics Circle Award in 2005 and Arthur C. Clarke Award in 2006. It received an ALA Alex Award as one of the Best Books of Young Adults in 2006" (1). Because of its success, Never Let Me Go was adapted into a film with the same title. It was directed by Mark Romanek and released in 2011.

Never Let Me Go tells a story of Kathy, Ruth and Tommy that spent most of their childhood in Hailsham – a boarding school in England. They are human clones. Kathy is depicted as a caring character; she is also a narrator of the story. Ruth is a dominant figure as she dominated most of discussion with Kathy and Tommy; she also liked to be the center of attention. Meanwhile, Tommy is portrayed as one who was struggling to have friends because of his temper and lack of aesthetic sense. His temper and lack of aesthetic sense did not make Kathy keep distance from him. In fact, both Kathy and Tommy maintained their friendship and it made Ruth jealous.

At the beginning, there was nothing strange happening between them and other students. The students were taught to stay healthy and to keep their bodies clean. The realization that they were clones occurred when one day, Miss Lucy, one of Hailsham teachers told them that they were human clones whose lives were intended to produce vital organs to be donated to real humans who have sickness or physical disabilities. This is a condition that was beyond their control and they could not do anything about.

When they were sixteen years old, they had to move to the Cottages – a place where they gathered and lived together with other clones from other boarding schools. In the Cottages, the relationship between Ruth and Tommy were getting intense so that they became a couple. However, the relationship between Ruth and Kathy were getting tense due to Ruth's behavior that made Kathy irritated until Kathy could not hold the tensions any longer. Therefore, she decided to become a carer – a nurse who took care of other clones – before she started to donate her organs. It means she would not see Ruth and Tommy for ten years. After 10 years, Kathy finally reconciled with Ruth, who had become an organ donor. However, this reconciliation did not last long because Ruth died. It was followed by Tommy's death. This left Kathy in sadness and emptiness.

What is interesting in the novel is that the three characters face inferiority feeling toward their lives as they knew they were going to die soon after they donated their organs. However, they dealt with their inferiority feelings differently. Particularly, Ruth had a different approach to conceal her inferiority by being a superior figure and she acts superiorly over her friends, especially Kathy. This shows that she suffers from superiority complex. Ansbacher, in his book The Individual Psychology of Alfred Adler says that:

The superiority complex is one of the ways which a person with an inferiority complex may use as a method of escape from his difficulties. He assumes that he is superior when he is not, and this false success compensates him for the state of inferiority which he cannot bear (256).



To compensate the feeling of inferiority, one will conceal it by showing-off his or her superiority and behaving aggressively so that it makes others clearly feel inferior even more inferior than the individual with superiority complex (Anschbacher 256).

There are internal and external factors that cause an individual to have a superiority complex. According to Feist in his book Theories of Personality, "Internal factors are the factors that come from individual's inside psychology such as overcompensated physical inferiorities and small social interest. Meanwhile, the external factors are the factors that derive from other's treatment toward the individual such as neglected style of life and pampered style of life" (79).

In the case of Ruth, external factor, for example, neglected living happened to clones, plays important role in the emergence of her superiority complex. There seems no internal factor contributing to the existence of Ruth's superiority complex.

Factors, characteristics and effects of superiority complex have been object of several studies by scholars and academics in forms of articles, journals, research papers etc. One of those studies is a thesis that conducted by Ubaidillah Amir from State University of Yogyakarta (UNY) in 2015 entitled "An Analysis of Holden Caulfield's Superiority Complex in Jerome David Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye". It focuses on kinds, causes and impacts of superiority complex toward the character in the novel using psychoanalysis theory by Alfred Adler.

In this study, the writer is interested to analyze the characteristics and effects of Ruth's superiority complex. This research is different from the previous research as firstly, the previous researcher uses Jerome David Salinger's novel entitled The Catcher in the Rye; meanwhile, she uses Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go as a research object to be analyzed. Secondly, the previous researcher analyzes the protagonist character in the story, that is, Holden Caulfield. Meanwhile, she analyzes the antagonist character, Ruth, in Never Let Me Go. Thirdly, although both the writer and the previous researcher use psychoanalysis theory by Alfred Adler, the previous researcher focuses on kinds, causes and impacts of superiority complex, and she focuses more on the characteristics and effects of superiority complex.

Therefore, the writer intends to find out the characteristics of Ruth's superiority complex and to find out the effects of her superiority complex as seen in Never Let Me Go by using Alfred Adler's psychoanalytical theory and library research to collect the data from libraries and electronic sources.

Discussion



Literary Review

This section discusses Alfred Adler's individual psychology concept, characteristics of superiority complex and the effects of superiority complex.

Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology

All individuals are born imperfectly. This imperfection engenders inferiority feelings as everybody wants to be perfect. Accordingly, "they are continually pushed by the need to overcome inferiority feelings and pulled by the desire for completion". Individuals have their own way to deal with their inferiority feelings. Some of them try to accept who they are, but the rest try to conceal their inferiorities. An individual who cannot accept his inferiority struggles for perfection in order to conceal his deficiencies by showing his or her superiority (Adler in Feist 72). When an individual fails to cope with his/her inferiorities, he or she tends to be an aggressive person toward others (Adler in Feist 78).

Superiority Complex

Superiority complex is defined as defense mechanism to compensate inferiority feelings that is expressed by some transitions from feeling inferior to become superior (Brett 32). It is "an outcome of the increased inferiority feeling and through this complex the individual demonstrates to himself and others his superiority, albeit in a socially useless way" (Anschbacher 256). There are two factors affecting an individual to have superiority complex; internal factor and external factor. Internal factors are factors that come within an individual's physical condition, such as weak body, easy to get ill, etc. Meanwhile, external factors are factors that come from other's treatments, such as being neglected, being insulted, being disdained etc (Feist 17).

The existence of superiority complex can be seen through the individuals' behavior as they tend to "create patterns of behavior to protect their exaggeration of self-esteem against public disgrace which is called as safeguarding tendencies." (Adler in Feist 81). Further, they try to hide their deficiencies by creating self-image and maintaining current life style based on their imagination (Adler in Feist 81)

The Characteristics of Superiority Complex

Individuals with superiority complex can be identified through some characteristics. One of them is they strive for recognition. However, there is a significant difference between individuals who strive for personal superiority and individuals who strive for success. Adler in Feist in Theories of Personalities, says that "Some people strive for superiority with little or without concern for others and motivated largely by exaggerated feelings of inferiority. In contrast to people who strive for

personal superiority, people who strive for success are capable of helping others without demanding or expecting personal pay-off and see others not as opponents, but as people with whom they can corporate with”(72). Thus, people who have superiority complex can possibly be distinguished from the people who strive for success.

Adler in Feist's book adds that there are at least three major characteristics of superiority complex which are excuses, aggression and withdrawal. The sub-characteristics of aggression are depreciation, accusation, and self-accusation. The sub-characteristics of withdrawal are moving backward, standing still, hesitating and constructing obstacles.

Excuses

Making excuses is one of three major characteristics of superiority complex. It is actually a defense mechanism or safeguarding. According to Adler in Feist's book entitled Theories of Personality, “The most common of the safeguarding tendencies or the characteristics of superiority complex are excuses which typically expressed by ‘yes, but, if only’, for example; *if only I did not have this physical weaknesses, I could compete successfully for a job*. This excuse protects a weak, but artificially developed sense of self-worth and delude others into believing that they (people with superiority complex) are more superior than they really are (82).

People with superiority complex will make flimsy excuses to avoid mistakes and their inferiorities in front of other people. Sometimes others do not notice that people with superiority complex giving excuses to avoid mistakes; others might think they only make excuse based on the true condition.

Aggression

Another characteristic of superiority complex is aggression. Alfred Adler in Feist's Theories of Personality states that, “some people who are known have superiority complex use aggression to cover their exaggerated superiority by protecting their fragile self-esteem, thus their fragile self-esteem can be invisible.”(82). Aggression takes some forms or sub-characteristics as a safeguard. They are depreciation, accusation and self-accusation.

1 Depreciation

Depreciation is “the tendency to undervalue other's achievements and to overvalue one's own...this tendency is evident in such aggressive behaviors as criticism and gossip” (Adler in Feist 82). People with superiority complex may behave aggressively to others by threatening them both physically and mentally. They consider others as rivals that should be oppressed. Thus, their inferiorities cannot be seen.

2 Accusation

People with superiority complex are concerned with their image by avoiding mistakes. These people believe that if they make mistakes, it will degrade their image. Accusation is the tendency to blame others for one's mistakes, failures and to seek revenge. By blaming others, individuals with superiority complex can safeguard his or her own's tenuous self-esteem."(Adler in Feist 82). In addition, Wolfe states in Understanding Human Nature that "individuals who live with superiority complex invariably act to cause the people around them to suffer more than they do."(54). Individuals with superiority complex want to see others suffer more than them to cover their inferiority.

3 Self-Accusation

While accusation is tendency to blame others for one's inferiority feelings, self-accusation is marked by self-torture, guilt, depression and suicide in order to seek sympathy and pity from others. According to Adler in Feist's book Theories of Personality, "self-accusation is the reverse of depreciation, though both have purpose to gain personal superiority. In depreciation, people who feel superior devalue others while in self-accusation, people devalue themselves to impose suffering on others while protecting their own magnified feelings of self-rating."(82). By doing self-harm, people who surround individuals with superiority complex will take pity on those individuals.

Withdrawal

The third characteristic of superiority complex is withdrawal. Withdrawal is a safeguarding in which people with superiority complex escape from difficulties. According to Adler in Feist's Theories of Personality, "some people run away from life's problems by setting up a distance between themselves and those problems." (82). By distancing themselves from their problems, they might think that those problems do not belong to them or even they might not exist, hence they can strive for personal superiority among others.

Additionally, Adler in Feist's book Theories of Personality maintains that there are four modes of withdrawal, "(1) moving backward, (2) standing still, (3) hesitating and (4) constructing obstacles." (83).

1 Moving Backward

Moving backward is first mode of withdrawal. It refers to a more secure period of life. Adler in Feist's Theories of Personality says that "it has similarity to Freud's concept of regression. Regression takes place unconsciously and protects people against anxiety experiences; meanwhile, moving backward may sometimes be conscious and it is directed in maintaining an inflated goal of superiority." (83). In moving

backward, people with superiority complex will look back to reflect their secured-phase of life where they feel comfort without being anxious thinking about their inferiorities.

2 Standing Still

Standing still is another mode of withdrawal. Adler in Feist's Theories of Personality says that "people who stand still do not move in any direction. Therefore, they avoid all the responsibilities." (83). They avoid to make mistakes and failures. Ansbacher in The Individual Psychology of Alfred Adler states that "it is as if a witches' circles had been drawn around the patient, which prevents him from moving closer toward the reality of life, from facing the truth, from taking a stand, from permitting a test or a decision regarding his value" (273). Furthermore, people with superiority complex have tendency to do nothing in order to avoid failure or any mistakes, thus they can safeguard their image or prestige.

3 Hesitating

Hesitating is marked by hesitation or vacillation. Adler in Feist's Theories of Personality says that, "some people who have superiority complex vacillate or hesitate when they deal with problems. Their procrastinations give them chances to make excuses." (83). People with superiority complex do hesitation in order to waste time, so they do not have to face the problem. If they do not have to face the problem, they can conceal their deficiency and can keep their prestige in front of others. In hesitating, people who are indicated by superiority complex will vacillate some decisions in their activity,

4 Constructing Obstacles

The last sub-characteristic or mode of withdrawal is construction of obstacles. Here, people with superiority complex construct obstacles, and later they solve the problems. Linton and Vaughn in Social Interest: A Challenge of Mankind asserts it is a least severe characteristic to protect prestiges of individuals with superiority complex (70). Additionally, Feist in Theories of Personality "By dealing with their obstacle, they protect their prestige. If they fail, they can always restore excuses." (83). Therefore, individuals with superiority complex have tendency to construct obstacle in order to enhance her image as superior ones.

The Effects of Superiority Complex

There are some effects of superiority complex happened to the individuals with superiority complex. In Feist's Theories of Personality Adler maintains that individuals undergo maladjustment or effects toward their social life. Although they seemingly can adjust or adapt themselves in society, individuals with superiority complex consider others as rivals instead of partners who they can cooperate with. They also tend to put pressure in

terms of reaching achievements to him or herself and others by creating unrealistic goal (79).

There are three types of superiority complex effects as Brett in Understanding Life: An Introduction to the Psychology of Alfred Adler maintains that "neurotics tend to set their exaggerated goals, live in their private life and narrow perspective and have a dogmatic and rigid life style." (90).

Creating Unrealistic Goal

Individuals with superiority complex create an extravagant goal despite the fact that they consciously know they may not achieve the goal due to some reasons, such as limited access or organ-physical inferiorities. Instead of looking for the alternative goal that they may be able to achieve, they tend to inflate their goals and consider other's goals as less powerful. Ansbacher adds that "an individual sets his or her goal higher than other normal person and strives it more rigidly to compensate his or her increased inferiority feelings" (242). This inflated-inferiority feelings can be tracked from individual's childhood. Further, he states that "an increased inferiority feeling in childhood causes a higher and more irreversible a goal-setting, a striving which goes beyond human measures" (101).

Individuals with superiority complex tend to overestimate and to be too confident with their abilities to achieve their goal. By setting higher unrealistic goals, they will feel more superior and they may think their prestige and self-esteem will increase as well.

Living in a Dogmatic Life

Individuals with superiority complex tend to see everything based on their imagination and they set a belief in it. According to Ansbacher in The Individual Psychology By Alfred Adler, "the stronger the feeling of inferiority, the more accentuated the fiction becomes through increasing abstraction from reality, and the more it approaches dogma." (246). They keep their dogmas in order to preserve their intention to compensate deeply rooted inferiority feelings. This dogmatic behavior also leads them to the style of rigid life where they cannot see everything into wide perspective because what they believe, including goals, dreams, and ideas are true and cannot be denied. In fact, it should be acknowledged by others.

Living in a Narrow Perspective

The last effect of superiority complex is people live in a narrow perspective. As the result of maintaining their dogma and rigid lifestyle, they narrow their perspective to strive for personal superiority. According to Feist in his book Theories of Personality "people set extravagant goals as overcompensation for exaggerated inferiority feelings. These goals lead

to the higher goal setting, the more rigid, the more striving and dogmatic behavior. As for the compensation for deeply rooted feelings of inferiority and inadequacy, these individuals with superiority complex narrow their perspective for unrealistic goals.”(80).

Narrow perspective affects individuals with superiority complex. They only focus for themselves and their goals. Adler in Feist’s book states that “their view of the world is not in focus with other individuals and they possess ‘private meaning””(80). Their life only focuses on how they achieve their unrealistic goal and they become selfish individuals. Adler adds that “they approach the problems of occupation, sex and friendship from personal angles which obviate successful solutions” (80). They tend to cause difficulties to others that make them apart from community.

Ruth Superiority Complex as seen in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Never Let Me Go

The Background of Ruth’s Superiority Complex

Since superiority complex is a defense mechanism of inferiority feelings, it is necessary to see the main character’s or Ruth’s condition that contributes to the existence of this inferiority to understand her superiority complex.

Ruth and her mates live in a condition that makes them have inferiority feeling. They actually are treated not as humans because they are raised in good hygiene to be strong and healthy, but at the end their organs are harvested, like harvesting crops. Consequently, they would die in the third or fourth harvest. In some cases, they died even earlier in the first or second harvest or organ donations. It means that they have limited period of life and do not have future. The condition that they are not real humans makes them feel inferior to the real humans.

Besides, they are treated as second-class “humans” who are not as precious as the real ones, who are created by God; for example, they regularly receive secondhand goods donated by real human beings. These goods usually are not in good condition. It shows that their existence is neglected by real humans. Therefore, this neglect creates inferiority feeling to the clones like Ruth, Kathy and Tommy.

In addition, their isolated place to live has limited their view about and access to the outside world. As a result, they have limited knowledge and perspective. In their life, they simply create imitations based on what they see from television without thinking into wide perspective as they are like living in a cage. Being placed to live in a limited place to be isolated from the society of real human beings indicates their lower worth as compared to that of the real beings. Such conditions are the background of Ruth’s inferiority that finally engenders superiority complex.

The Characteristics of Ruth's Superiority Complex as Seen in Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Ruth shows three characteristics of superiority complex. They are making excuses, doing aggression and doing withdrawal

Ruth Makes Excuses

The first characteristic of superiority complex is making excuses. Individuals with superiority complex make some excuses to avoid some mistakes and failures, and Ruth also makes some excuses. One of the examples is when Kathy asks Ruth to teach her how to play chess. Ruth is actually unable to play chess, but she acts as if she were an expert. When Kathy asks her to teach her to play chess, she makes an excuse that she had an urgent thing to do as she tries to conceal her inability to play chess (Ishiguro 44).

Ruth Does Aggression

Individuals who live with superiority complex sometimes shows aggression. In the novel, Ruth shows two types of aggression, which are depreciation and accusation.

Ruth Does Depreciation

Depreciation is done by an inferior person to elevate his or her image by disparaging others such as giving criticism, gossiping, insulting, etc (Adler in Feist 82). In the novel, Ruth's aggression mostly can be seen in the type of depreciation.

Ruth undervalues Tommy when he and other students gather in North Playing Field to play football. When one of the students chooses football players, Ruth, who at that time watches the event with Kathy, and other girls through the window, surely says and predicts that Tommy is not going to be chosen because of his bad temper. Ruth and other girls see Tommy is excited because he believes he will be chosen as part of the team. Ruth is right, Tommy is not chosen to be part of the team. All the boys even make fun of him so that he screams in anger. Ruth and other girls except Kathy laugh at him as well. Ruth even insults Tommy indirectly by saying he is an idiot (Ishiguro 8). This illustrates that she thinks she is smart in measuring one's character and that she is better than Tommy. This indicates her superiority complex.

During the trip to Norfolk, Ruth also depreciates Tommy when Rodney and Chrissie, the seniors of the Cottages, ask the information about the deferral (the term of getting a postponement to donor organs). She says that Tommy is not a good student at Hailsham as he always lacks of knowledge and information and that everybody in Hailsham always laughs at him. Thus, he is not the right person to ask for such information. This makes Tommy feels insulted and angry (Ishiguro 119).



Devaluing Tommy is Ruth's effort to make her look more superior than Tommy.

Ruth also devalues Kathy when she tries to advise her to be kinder to Tommy as she knows that Tommy is often upset with the way Kathy treats him. However, she patronizingly, she tells her that she knows that Kathy has a feeling to Tommy, yet Tommy never sees Kathy as a girlfriend (Ishiguro 155). Ruth knows that Kathy cares about him; thus, she is jealous to her. To cover her jealousy and to make herself worthier than Kathy to be with Tommy, Ruth devalues Kathy by saying she is not a proper girlfriend for Tommy.

Ruth Does Accusation

An inferior person does accusation to blame others for his own deficiencies, mistakes, or failures to make them suffer more and to make them feel inferior.

Ruth accuses Kathy for being upset as she is not able to move on and make new friends after they move to the Cottages. The accusation is done by Ruth after Kathy finds out that she imitates the acts and gestures of Chrissie and Rodney and does them to Tommy (Ishiguro 96). The accusation is done to cover her deficiency and protect her superior image.

Ruth Does Withdrawal

Withdrawal is individual's effort to escape from his or her difficulties, bad memories or past experiences by distancing themselves from their problems.

Ruth does withdrawal by distancing herself from her memories in Hailsham. A year after Ruth, Tommy, and Kathy moved to the Cottages, there are some additional students from other schools that come to the Cottages, but none of them are from Hailsham. When in the Cottages, Kathy feels Hailsham is slipping into the past and her Hailsham friends are drifting apart. Kathy tries to look back at her Hailsham memories, but Ruth keeps pretending to forget about it (Ishiguro 146-147). Ruth's pretending to forget her memories in Hailsham is her attempt to distance herself from a place that makes her feel inferior. She wants to keep her better image, especially in front of the seniors at the Cottages.

Again, Ruth tries to withdraw herself from the memories of her life in Hailsham when she does not give a response to Kathy's chat about rhubarb patch they used to play in Hailsham (Ishiguro 147). She pretends to forget the rhubarb patch to prevent her from remembering her inferiority feelings that occurred when she was in Hailsham.

Ruth Does Moving Backward

Moving backward is a tendency to revert to a secure period of life. Ruth does moving backward when she has become an organ donor and Kathy becomes her carer. Ruth's moving backward happens in her days she has donated her organs. She recalls her memories in Hailsham (Ishiguro 16). As she donates her organs, her body is getting weak and she is no longer strong and healthy. Therefore, she moves back to the period of life when she feels better to protect her superiority and cover her physical weakness.

Ruth does another moving backward when she tells Kathy and Tommy about her dream of Hailsham in detail as it makes her feel better (Ishiguro 172). She describes Room 14 in Hailsham, the room that she dreams, as a safe place that is covered by serenity as it reminds her to the time when she is physically more superior than the present time.

Ruth Does Hesitation

As previously discussed, some people who have superiority complex vacillate or hesitate when they deal with problems. Their procrastinations give them chances to make excuses.

Ruth does hesitation when she tells Kathy that Chrissie and Rodney claim to have met Ruth's possible in Norfolk. She hesitates whether she has to go to Norfolk with Rodney and Chrissie to check her possible or not (Ishiguro 108). She is not sure whether it is a good idea to see her possible. Therefore, she does hesitation to hide her inability to make decision and to protect her image.

The Effects of Superiority Complex toward Ruth's Behavior as Seen in Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go

In the novel, there are three effects of superiority complex that affect Ruth's behavior; having unrealistic goal, living in a dogmatic lifestyle, and having a narrow perspective.

Ruth Has an Unrealistic Goal

Individuals with a superiority complex tend to create an unrealistic extravagant goal. Ruth sets her goal that is unrealistic to be achieved by clones like her since she wants to work in a nice office. Her unrealistic goal begins when she finds an advertisement in a magazine with a picture of several people wearing suits and working in an office. Afterward, she dreams about herself working in a nice office wearing nice outfits just like what she saw in the magazine. She even tells Kathy, Tommy, Rodney, and Chrissie about her ideal office to work (Ishiguro 110). She has set a dream which is unrealistic for her as the result of enhancing her pride and prestige to be superior over others, especially over Kathy and Tommy.

Her having unrealistic goal can be seen in her conversation with Chrissie and Rodney about their plan in the future to visit Ruth after she has got a job in a nice office. Confidently, she responds that they certainly can visit her (Ishiguro 116). She ignores the fact that no clones are able to have a job outside their place of living. It can be seen that her superiority complex has affected Ruth's behavior that she has unrealistic goal.

Ruth Lives in a Dogmatic Life

As previously mentioned, individuals with superiority complex tend to live in a dogmatic life in which their strong idea is not adjusted toward reality to cover their inferiorities.

Ruth is a clone that lives in Hailsham, where she is isolated and socializes only with fellow clones like Kathy and Tommy. When she reaches her adolescence and moves to the Cottages with Kathy and Tommy, Ruth has some new experiences as she has just come out of the isolated place for the first time. One of them is imitating mannerisms that are made by veterans or senior clones. Ruth imitates the mannerisms from them and the seniors imitate their mannerisms from television show (Ishiguro 93). Ruth's act of imitating mannerism from the seniors, who imitate them from television, shows that Ruth lives in a dogmatic life as she never questions whether what she does is appropriate or not, whether it is realistic and applicable in real life or not. She thinks that doing so is good for her prestige, thus, keeping her to be superior.

Ruth's unrealistic goal of working in an office itself has shown that she lives in a dogmatic life as she is unable to adjust her strong idea of wanting to have an office job with the reality (Ishiguro 110). She simply takes a conclusion that what she sees in the magazine happens in real life. This happens because of her superiority complex.

Ruth Has a Narrow Perspective

To compensate deeply rooted feelings of inferiority and inadequacy, the individuals narrow their perspective for unrealistic goals. They have a tendency to narrow their perspective about the way they see the world and reality.

Ruth was created by humans; she has no parents. She even does not know who her original version is. Therefore, she does not have a family figure as her role model. As a consequence, she grows a narrow perspective by assuming her possible is a role model in her life (Ishiguro 127). Ruth narrows her perspective that she will have the same sort of life as her possible. This is actually an effect of her superior complex and compensation of her inferiority feelings.

Conclusion

In Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go, Ruth shows that she suffers superiority complex. It is seen from three characteristics, which are making excuses, doing aggression and doing withdrawal. The aggression is seen in Ruth's behavior of doing depreciation and doing accusation. The withdrawal is indicated through Ruth's behavior of moving backward and doing hesitation. All of her behavior shows that she wants to keep her superior image as the result of her inferior feelings.

Even though Ruth shows the characteristics of superiority complex; however, she does not show standing still since she donates her organ as it is her responsibility until she dies in the second donation. Besides, Ruth does not construct an obstacle.

Ruth's superiority complex has given effects to her behavior; she creates an unrealistic goal, she lives in a dogmatic life, and she has a narrow perspective.

In conclusion, Never Let Me Go has portrayed a humanity issue due to the advancement in technology. Technology advancement in medicine has been aimed for the better health condition of mankind. This advancement also has created human clones for the purpose. The clones were created with healthy and quality physical features so that they can cure men with diseases and disabilities through their organ donations. However, questions exist due to the practice of clone creation and the use of their organs for medicating sick or disabled men; whether clones are not humans as they are only created through science and not by God. These clones have showed that they have human characteristics. Further, in relation to organ harvest itself, there is another question whether it is ethical to sacrifice "humans" for the goodness of other humans. This novel has tried to see the issues from the perspectives of clones and it has questioned the loss of humanity values because of technological advancement through how the clone characters are portrayed exactly as human beings with their own intelligence, emotion, feelings, hopes, fear, anger, sadness, good and bad sides – the obvious characteristics of men.

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