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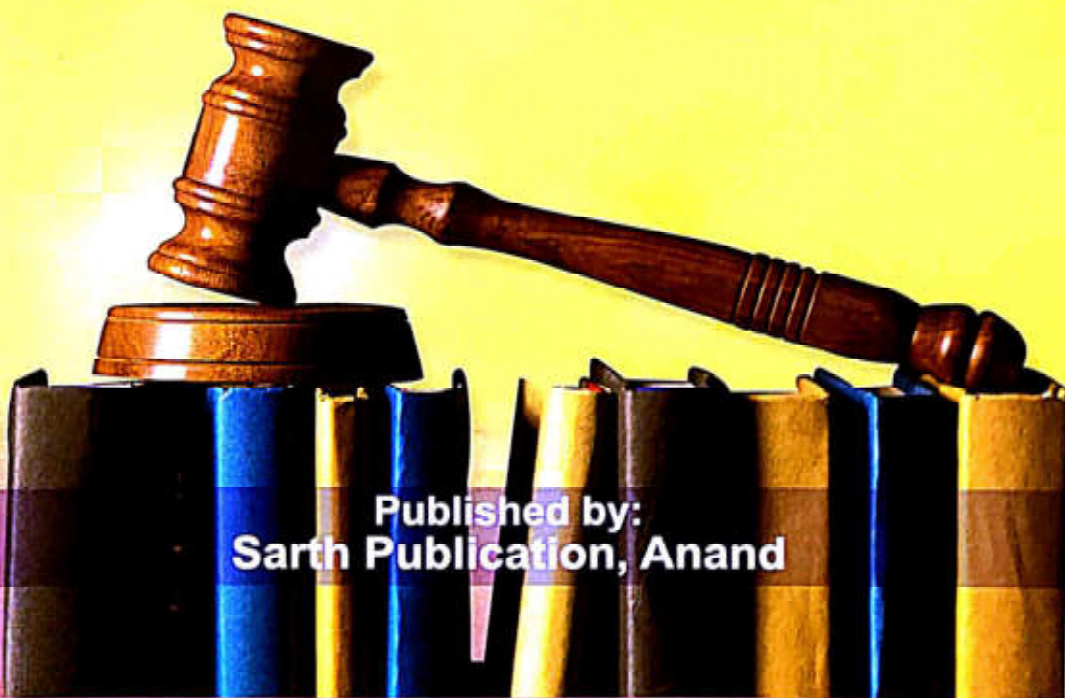
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An Analysis of Traumatic Effects of World Wars in Kazuo Ishiguro's A Pale View of Hills

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Kazuo Ishiguro is one of the prominent post-modern writers in English. A lyricist, short story writer and novelist, he is one of the leading literary artists in world literature. Born in Japan in Nagasaki in 1951, he migrated to Britain in 1960 with his parents and settled in Guildford in Surrey, England. Migration, Memory and effects of political events like World Wars on human beings are some of the key issues reflected in his work. As a post-modern writer, he expresses aspects of humanity, innocence, love and permanence through his fictional characters. This research paper deals with a key issue of migration in post-modern world. It analyses the effects of forceful migration on the psyche of characters as reflected in Ishiguro's first novel, *A Pale View of Hills* published in 1982.

After becoming a naturalized citizen of Britain, Ishiguro worked as community worker with 'Cyrenians' in London. It is an organization which works to help the homeless people. Here, he met Lorna MacDougal who also worked in this organization. He married her in 1986 after getting his post-graduate degree in creative writing from University of East Anglia. Though this was his temporary engagement as a social worker in this organization but it helped him to understand pain and suffering of human beings. It made him learn the nature of troublesome nomadic life with a sense of homelessness and insecurity. Issues emerging from migration and homelessness are explored in the plots and characters of his works. They are configured from his experiences of working with this organization.

For his first novel, *A Pale View of Hills*, Ishiguro received some advance money by Faber and Faber. The novel is based on his M.A. thesis. It was well received by readers and critics. It deals with a story of a middle-aged Japanese female migrant in Britain. She is the narrator in the novel. She is nostalgic about her youth in post-war Nagasaki. Set in Nagasaki, it is a tenebrous tale which depicts the condition of Nagasaki during and after the Second World War. It depicts the memory of Etsuko, a widowed Japanese woman living in England. It is a story of a mother and her daughter.

Etsuko, who currently lives in England. For second time, she has married with an Englishman named Sheringham. Their daughter is Niki. Sheringham is now diseased. When Niki visits Etsuko, the mother reminds terrible events in her life. She re-visits the terrific events in her life. She reminds about her living in Nagasaki, Japan and first marriage with a Japanese man named Jiro. She remembers the terrible bombing on Nagasaki during the time of her pregnancy: "It is there, in the interweaving episodes both past and present, in the free movement of the narrative voice between these two points in time, and in the shifting of locations between postwar Nagasaki and the more recent England of perhaps the late nineteen-seventies or early eighties, that Ishiguro deftly melds now and then, here and there, into one narrative tapestry."¹

There are two stories in the novel. In the first story, the writer describes a re-visit of past by Etsuko, a widow. She acquaints with a war widow called Sachiko who was once rich but now facing financial troubles. She cannot send her daughter Mariko to school. She recalls summer cays of Nagasaki in the late forties or early fifties. The author reflects the confusions of coping up with a different culture in the beginning of the novel. The following conversation between with Sachiko and Etsuko express the problems of displacement:

"So, you see, Etsuko," she said, "I'll be leaving Japan very shortly. You don't seem very impressed."

"Of course, I am. And I'm very pleased, if this is what you wished. But won't there be...various difficulties?"

"Difficulties?"

"I mean, moving to a different country, with a different language and foreign ways."