Anxiety, Transformation and Identity: A triple vision of identity in Kazuo Ishiguro's **The Ukiyo Painter**

Abstract: Kazuo Ishiguro's Ukiyo Painter takes the Japanese society after the defeat of the War as the text background, and constructs the whole text with the identity of the protagonist in the novel. This paper argues that,

The identity anxiety of ono, the protagonist of the novel, arises from the fierce collision between "self-choice" and "authority of the other". As they switch identities, they are constantly in

Choosing between "self-sense" and "moral sense"; In the process of individual identity identification, the subject Ono has both "limitation of self-consciousness" and "passive reflection of identity".

Sex "two kinds of characteristics. This paper attempts to explore the identity of the characters hidden under the narrative representation of the works from the three perspectives of identity anxiety, identity transformation and identity.

This paper makes a detailed analysis of the crisis and explores the profound philosophical meaning and spiritual value contained in the novel.

Key words: Ukiyo Painter; Identity anxiety; Identity transfer; identity

## 1. The introduction

In October 2017, Japanese-British author Kazuo Ishiguro won the Nobel Prize for Literature, and his related works have once again sparked heated debate in the literary world. "The Ukiyo Painter" is Ishiguro's second novel, for which he was nominated for the Booker Prize and the Whitbread Award for best novel of the Year.

This novel takes the marriage of the daughter of the protagonist Masaji Ono (hereinafter referred to as Ono) as the narrative clue, during which a large number of reminiscence descriptions are mixed. By describing ono's identity changes and life experiences before and after world War II, the author further reflects on the erosion and alienation of the individual caused by the war from the subject's identity. As participants in social life, individuals always seek a kind of identity confirmation. .

1. Identity anxiety: "self choice" V S "Other authority

However, Japan's defeat had an irreversible effect on Ono's life. After the end of World War II, Japanese society's reflection on the war is rising day by day, and Ono's existing social identity is shaken, and he also has serious identity anxiety due to the identity crisis. This anxiety is derived from Ono's concern that he cannot stabilize himself in the successful model set by the society. In the face of an identity crisis, fear and anxiety are "the basic responses that humans have when a value that they regard as equally important to their survival is in danger.

[[1]](#endnote-0)Experience on (Gong Chao 2017:108). As Su Pingfu (2006:67) said, the generation of subject is a tragic process of continuous self-fragmentation and alienation. People always have to accept the 'domestication' of the symbolic world and eventually become subject. The game between "self" and "other" in Ono's identity construction is an organic process of the subject's self-identity confirmation. For the subject of identity, "self" and "other" are not distinct

The self is a representation of the uniqueness of the subject, and the uniqueness of the subject is often Influenced and interfered by the "other". Therefore, the establishment of "self" requires and the "other" is related, and the identity of the "self" often requires the "other" locate. "Human beings become themselves in relation to others. [[2]](#endnote-1)And when a person is not accompanied by others, he will be afraid of losing the experience of becoming self "(May 2012:113). After the defeat of Japan, little wild is in a state of "isolation". His son-in-law Ikeda made no secret of his criticism Ono: "Brave young men lost their lives for a stupid cause, real criminals, yet still lives among us. Afraid to show his true face, afraid to admit it.

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## 3. Identity transformation: "sense of self" V S "Sense of morality"

The experience of the self begins to form as the world searches for meaning. Therefore, a conscious self must also be a symbolic self... I don't feel like it's uniform, but it's a series of images about the self, about the evaluation of the self,

Knowledge about self "(Zhao Yiheng 2010:6). "Self" is individual relative. A unique aspect of heterogeneity that other individuals exhibit, different individuals has different responses and expressions to specific events. Therefore, the comparison is stiff.

[[3]](#endnote-2)On the responsibility and obligation that this identity entrusts to the individual. "Identity is necessary, because it is the basis of moral responsibility "(Laraine 2005:196).

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## 5 Conclusion

Kazuo Ishiguro reflected the profoundness in the text writing of "The Painter of the Ukiyo World" Insightful and reflective, it is filled with the excavation of personal traumatic memories and

Humanistic thinking on the survival plight of Japanese national groups.

## Reference

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2. Rollo May. People's Self-Seeking [M]. Guo Benyu, Fang Hong, translated. Beijing: People's Congress of China Science Press, 2013. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
3. Laraine. Ideology and Cultural Identity [M]. Dai Congrong, translated. Shanghai: Shanghai Education Publishing

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