



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Section: *Literature, Linguistics & Criticism***A journey of self-discovery through the unconscious: A Study of Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of The Day* (1989)**

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*Correspondence: einas.ksa@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

Ishiguro is a postmodernist writer who was concerned with considering the past from a late twentieth century postmodernist perspective. His novels are narrative that deal with human relationships and center on the working of the consciousness and the unconsciousness of the mind. The present study investigates the impact of the two World Wars on the mind and soul of the modern man as represented in Ishiguro's *The Remains of The Day*. It traces the role of memories in creating a meaningful present. Stevens -the protagonist- seeks to come to terms with his present through unconsciously recalling past memories. The novel depicts the role of memories in constructing meaningful present and discovering oneself in some way from a psychoanalytic postmodernist perspective. As a postwar British character, Stevens suppresses his emotions at the personal as well as the professional levels to construct a new identity. He is suffering from an identity crisis and striving to create a meaningful present for himself through reminiscence. As a postmodernist individual, Stevens is leading a life riddled with inconsistencies and contradictions. He does not feel at home with the surrounding present world as he is busy trying to achieve some perfection through recollecting his past memories. The study aims to answer the following questions: How does Stevens struggle to discover his self through recalling past memories? What strategies does he adopt to adapt to the new world to harmonize both the past and the present? What kind of life is the protagonist living and how is he compelled to tell lies to maintain a new self from a postmodern perspective?

KEYWORDS: identity, memories, professionalism, repression, self-discovery, unconscious

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Introduction

The study seeks to pinpoint how the protagonist is torn between his present life and his past memories on the one hand, and his professional commitments along with his sensational needs as a human being on the other. Stevens emerges as a great butler who is dedicating his entire life to serving his master while leaving no space for his emotional and his personal needs. As such, the study probes deep into the life of Stevens and his relationships with his father, master as well as his colleague Miss Kenton in an attempt to enlighten the reader of the best way to find a compromise between his commitments and needs.

The impact of the two World Wars on the mind and soul of the modern man has been great. It has impacted the way he has thought, the way he has behaved and the way he has looked upon the surrounding world. It is a world that has become ever-changing due to its ever-changing events. As a result, the modern man has developed a sense of estrangement and alienation and, consequently, he starts to suffer from a sense a distracted identity (Kumar, 2020; Jabeen et al., 2022). The modern man has also developed a sense of uneasiness that results in a sense of uncertainty as well as one of anxiety at different levels. Self-fragmentation had become a direct outcome of living in such a world riddled with complications and contradictions and the result is a distracted kind of life. As such, the modern man has to experience a problem with identity while trying to coexist with such an ever-changing world. He experiences a dilemma either to identify himself with the present or to find a way to create a world of his own through reconsidering the past in a way that enables him to find meaning in the present. That is to say, sometimes people find in their past memories what might give them energy to coexist with the present.

Generally, in his attempt to coexist with the present, one adopts new means to consciously or unconsciously create his/her own world. Displacement, suppression, repression and denial are techniques that unconsciously work in the mind to avoid mental pain and unpleasantness. They are unconscious reactions that take place in the mind and depend on the nature of the experience to which the individual is exposed (Kumar, 2022). One main objective of this study is to examine how the protagonist unconsciously reverts the tension emanating from certain experiences through suppression, repression or denial of certain feelings to come to terms with the present situation in which he is involved through recalling certain memories of the past while skipping others. Here, the narrator pictures himself through long monologues that reveal the fact unconsciously to highlight the positive side and conceal the other side unintentionally.

Literature Review

Kazuo Ishiguro is a Japanese born British writer who was born in 1954 in Nagasaki, Japan. At the age of five, he moved with his family to England because of his father's job. In England, he studied English and philosophy at Kent University. As a graduate student, he got a Master's degree in creative writing at the University of Anglia. Ishiguro worked as a social worker. He started his creative writing with writing his first novel *A Pale View of Hills* in 1982. He won the prize of the social society of literature. Ishiguro wrote a considerable number of great novels dealing with a variety of contemporary themes. In 1986, he wrote *An Artist of The Floating World*, in 1995 he wrote the *Un-consoled*. In 2000, he wrote *When We Were Orphans* and in 2005, he wrote *Never Let Me Go*. *The Buried Giant* he wrote in 2015 and his *The Remains of The Day* was nominated to the Booker Prize in 1989.

Ishiguro's novels deal with the impact of memory in constructing past event in a way that make the present meaningful. They demonstrate that memories of the past enable one to come to terms with his/her identity. They were stories dealing with the working of the consciousness and the unconsciousness of the human mind. Ishiguro sees that memories play a pivotal role in adapting to the present with its needs and circumstances. He is of the belief that separating history from the present can result in some crises mainly associated with existence and identity. What is really important is that Ishiguro is concerned with considering the past from a late twentieth century perspective. As Diane Thomas put it, "For Ishiguro, the past memories are part of the present and the future. The ruptures of history are the crises and traumas of change and the losses and fragmentation caused by past wars. Memories provide the context in which Ishiguro's central characters try to negotiate meaning and identity in their ordinary lives." (Thomas. 2012. 12)

Ishiguro deals with memory as a dynamic phenomenon that is characterized by its adaptability to the present needs and circumstances. He portrays characters as having connection with their past. Such characters

make choices in the past and they have to face the consequences of such choices in the present. As Sutcliffe remarks, "Ishiguro's narrators have suffered a deep rupture in their lives, are often fighting battles to relate their past to the present with which it does not seem to fit." (Stucliffe, 2000, 13) As a writer, Ishiguro has a particular interest in memory in constructing his narrative. In an interview, he stated, "I am interested in memory because it is a filter through which we see our lives, and because it is foggy and obscure, the opportunities for self-deception are there. In the end, as a writer, I'm more interested in what people tell themselves happened rather than actually happened". (Mason, 2008, 11)

Ishiguro's characters, living in a post-war world, find themselves in a dilemma. Such a dilemma is manifested in the inconsistency between the past and the present. Such inconsistency results in a state of uncertainty about the kind of lives they are leading, and the outcome is a problem with identity. Because their memories of the past are distorted, they are rendered in a way that contradicts their present identity. They usually experience a conflict between what they narrate and the reality of the interpretation of their actions or narrations. In this due light, Cynthia Wong comments:

Ishiguro's characters are revealed to be carrying complicated states of being... Their narratives are riddled with inconsistencies or awkward insistence; this may be the result of a memory that is also struggling to bring to the surface painful events and to find a language that can adequately express the trauma of their affection. (Wong, 2005, 24)

The Remains of The Day is a story told in retrospect. It was written in 1998 and won The Man Booker Prize for fiction in the same year. It is a confessional narrative that explores a journey in the subconscious. It was also a story of self-denial that portrayed the supposed emotions of the protagonist. In this novel, Ishiguro depicts memory as a window through which his protagonist understands and is understood by others. The whole narrative depends on the memory of the narrator. It is the story of a butler, Stevens, who recalls his past life while the action progresses through the present. The story mainly revolved around Stevens' profession and relationships with other main characters: Miss. Kenton, his father and his master Lord Darlington. *The Remains of The Day* was set in 1956 in a postwar society. It was a period in which the British Empire was experiencing drastic changes at the international level.

The Remains of The Day portrayed the suppressed emotions of Stevens as a postwar individual who struggled to come to terms with his present through telling anecdotes of his past life. However, there is disharmony between past and present as he appears torn between his memories of the past and their representation in the present. Consequently, he suffers from an identity crisis and strives to create a meaningful present through memories. Commenting on this, Daniela Carpi states:

The crisis concerning the idea of the subject is one of the main elements that typify our contemporary postmodern era. If some of the key words to understand the postmodern situations are in fact the terms uncertainty, homeless and fragmentation.... The subject finds itself wavering between a plunge towards the past in search of a lost sense of roots, and drive to some kind of future freedom from all frets and limitations. (Carpi, 2012, 2)

Stevens attempts to adapt to the new world to harmonize both the past and the present to maintain a new self; that is a new identity.

The Remains of The Day was the story of Stevens, a butler working at the house of Lord Darlington; an English aristocrat during the first half of the 20th century. The plot is constituted on the unconscious flow of Stevens' memories and thoughts. Stevens devotes his entire life to his profession that pertains a slavish sense of duty and loyalty. Stevens' memories are accompanied by certain senses that trigger other memories in a way that leaps between the present and the past and the result is fragmentary information. Stevens dedicates his life to the service of his master at Darlington Hall, a great manor house owned by Lord Darlington. Now this manor house is owned by the American, Mr. Faraday. Stevens never takes a leave and is observed by Mr. Faraday as leading a life devoid of any sort of enjoyment or recreation. Faraday encourages him to go on a picnic in the countryside. Professionally minded, Stevens has a mind to take advantages of the trip by paying a visit to Miss

Kenton, his former colleagues at Darlington Hall. Mr. Faraday says to Stevens, "It is wrong that a man can't get to see around his own country. Take my advice; get out of the house for a few days". (5)

Stevens is a postwar man who struggles at different levels. He critically assesses the function of his memory with the idea that he starts to search his past for memories to adapt to the present. As a modern man, Stevens does not feel at home with the surrounding world. He tends to forget or rather ignore his own feelings. He is torn between the past and the present. He also tends to forget some past memories as a means to coexist with the present. Cynthia Wong remarks, "Stevens is unable to account equivocation without revealing the nature of his wasted existence." (Wong, 2005, 7) In other words, Stevens employs repression to control or conceal memories of certain events from his conscious to the unconscious mind revealing only selected events. That is to say, he skips certain memories associated with feelings in order to protect himself from painful experiences.

In the course of the novel, Stevens finds himself in a situation to tell lies as a means to avoid pain to maintain his pride of his achievements as a butler. His life is riddled with incoherence, misunderstanding and characterized by distraction. As Teruko puts it, "Stevens is caught between the necessity of confession and the anxiety of inhabitation as he remembers his past experiences". (Teruko.2010.366) As the story progresses, Stevens encounters many people and recalls past memories at Darlington Hall. While doing so, he ignores the memories associated with the experiences that he regrets and his regret is overwhelming. Commenting on this, Zuzana Foniokova said, "Stevens tries to justify his action by presenting it as the only possible way of dealing with the situation and uses his devotion to the ideal of great butler. His philosophy of dignity serves as a means to rationalize his suppression of emotions". (Foniokova 2006.9)

The whole of Stevens' life amounts to his profession as a butler. He leads a life characterized by a set of personal values that he considers as essential principles of his profession and life. He hides his real feelings behind the mask of professionalism that entailed greatness and dignity. As such, he lost interaction with the other world. He conceals his emotions behind a language not expressible of emotions. He wants to achieve perfection on his own terms. He philosophizes, "Great butlers will not be shaken by external events, however, surprising, alarming or vexed. They wear their professionalism as a decent gentleman will wear his suit; he will not let ruffians or circumstances tear it off him in the public gaze. It is, as I say, a matter of dignity". (12) Being the chief butler at Darlington Hall, Stevens cares so much about the orderly running of the house that he often prioritizes the welfare of the house to his own private life. He devotes his entire life to the services of Lord Darlington and he does this services with a lot of submission and obedience. He is greatly obsessed with the affairs of the house. He said, "I spend many hours working on the staff plan and I list as many hours again thinking about it as I went about other duties". (8)

Generally, the word "Dignity" simply refers to having the quality or developing a state of being that is appreciated as worthy, esteemed and honored in any social context. However, Stevens considers "Dignity" from a different perspective giving it a different meaning. He considers it from a professional standpoint. Stevens saw "Dignity" as the ability to repress feelings and emotions in a way to achieve his ideal goals in life. In this regard, Penner remarked, "Stevens's life is a monument to dignity for his dignity is a defining characteristic of the great butler that he struggles to explain". (Penner. 1999.28) He sees his self-contained dignity as crucial and inevitable to his sense of professionalism. He develops emotional restraint and takes it as the center of his concept of dignity as well as his life. As Saranne Weller points out, "Stevens' self-contained 'dignity' was the prime principle of professionalism and enacting this dignity came at the expense of his personal relations and his own undisclosed values. His confidence in this rightness of his professional beliefs demanded that he comprised both his profession and his ability to act on his professional knowledge". (Weller.2002.75)

Again, Stevens's view of dignity does not entail free expression of anything that did not conform to his principles of professionalism. He adheres to the view that a butler should remain a butler regardless of the circumstances. Though his concept of "Dignity" was not consistent with the common one, he never disregarded it. As Dalrymple remarked, "Stevens misguided concept of dignity which he constituted on professional ground does not allow him to have this possibility of intimacy with others. He insists on repressing his emotions and does not give any space for them in the name of professional duty". (Dalrympe.2011.10)

Stevens has worked for thirty-four years at Darlington Hall: thirty for Lord Darlington and four for Mr. Faraday. Throughout this period, Stevens has appeared as a dedicated butler devoting his life to the sincere

service of his masters while showing commitment and obedience. On the one hand, he develops a great sense of perfection and professionalism accompanied by a great sense of self-complacency. On the other hand, Lord Darlington and Mr. Faraday sees Stevens as perfect, honest and trustworthy.

Discussion

As Stevens embarked on his trip across the English countryside, he recollected his memories at Darlington Hall with the former master, Lord Darlington. In his reminiscence, Stevens appeared as serious-minded and dutiful in accomplishing what he saw as right in the name of professionalism. He felt proud of serving a gentleman of international reputation. In the course of his trip, Stevens recalls situations in which he displays pride in many ways. His relationship with his master is characterized by mutual understanding and respect which can be rendered to his high sense of professionalism. He considers him as the best employer. He contends, "If a butler is to be of any worth to anything or anybody in life, there must surely come a time when he ceases his search, a time when he had to say to himself. This employer embodies all that was noble and admirable. I would hereafter devote myself to serving him". (133)

Again, as a novel set in the postwar period, *The Remains of The Day* depicted the overwhelming impact of the war on some of the European nations. Lord Darlington was a high-profile man who had international fame that he who often held international conferences to settle disputes among certain conflicting parties. He was generally known for his sympathy toward the Nazi and he had friends at the British Fascist Union who were generally known for being anti-semitic. At Darlington Hall, two Jewish maids were working under Stevens. Because of his anti-semitic attitude, Lord Darlington asked Stevens to dismiss them.

Lord Darlington: I'm doing a great deal of thinking Stevens. We cannot have Jews on the staff at Darlington Hall.

Stevens: I believe two of the present staff fall into that category.

Lord Darlington: Of course, you'll have to let them go. (97)

Though Stevens did not like the dismissal of maids, he appeared as committed and obedient to his master's command. He mused, "Every instinct opposed the idea of their dismissal"/ (98) He was unable to express his opinion freely. He obeyed without questioning. To Miss. Kenton said, "His Lordship has made his decision, and there is nothing for you and me to debate over. He does not accept Kenton's depreciation of the act justifying his stance by referring to the happening as "Foibles and sentiment that should be suppressed in compliance with the employer's wish". (99) Commenting on Stevens' stance, Zuzana Foniokova remarked, 'Stevens suppresses his personality and never reveals his true feelings. This entails repression of all wishes, emotion and even opinion that don't conform to the profession. This repression is what he calls "dignity" ... Stevens' pursuit of dignity serves as an aid for repressing himself.' (Foniokova.200.90) Despite his inner depreciation of certain aspects of Lord Darlington's conduct, Stevens still saw the action of the man as justifiable and revealed his complacency upon his attachment to him. He said, "Lord Darlington wasn't a bad man. He was not a bad man at all and at least he had the privileges of being able to say at the end of his life... He chose a certain path in life; it proved to be a misguided one... I trusted in his lordship's wisdom. All these years I served him. I trusted that I was doing something worthwhile." (163)

Thus, Stevens appeared as intimately attached to and proud of working for Lord Darlington in his recollection of his memories at Darlington Hall. He said, "I can declare that he was a truly good man, a gentleman, and one I am today proud to have given my best". (86) However, as a man living in the postwar period, Stevens' character underwent a kind of anxiety that manifests itself in the contradictions and inconsistencies in his attitude toward the people with whom he connected to mask certain feelings associated with the past. Sometimes he practiced suppression to hide his real feelings and emotions. However, as the story progresses and after the death of Lord Darlington, he adopted an adverse attitude in his speaking about his former connection with his master especially his [Darlington's] association with the Nazi. While working for Mr. Faraday, one day he was asked about his association with the man by an American guest. She asked, "But tell me Stevens what was this Lord Darlington like? Presumably you must have worked for him. To this query Stevens replies, "I didn't, madam, no". (84) Here, the change in his attitude was very clear. It was an attitude which was characterized

by oscillation between denial and recognition as well as pride and humiliation. Hence, such inconsistency was characteristic of the type of identity crisis that Stevens was experiencing in his endeavor to construct a new being.

In recollecting his memories at Darlington Hall, Stevens recalled the memories associated with his father. The father had previously worked as a chief butler of a manor house owned by Mr. John Silver. He had already grown old and was working under the supervision of his son Stevens at Darlington Hall. In the father-son relationship, Stevens did not appear a grateful son. Their relationship lacked that natural bond. Stevens dealt with his father not as a son but as a chief butler. He addressed him in the third person as if he were an abstract entity. The father's health deteriorates and he fell ill, but Stevens could not observe due to his engagements with serving his master and his guests. Stevens commented on his father's new situation saying, "Father has become increasingly infirm... His Lordship is of the view as indeed I am myself; he represents an ever-present threat to the smooth running of this household. It has felt that Father should no longer be asked to wait at table whether or not guests are present". (44)

The relationship between Stevens and his father lacked proper communication and this results in a lack of understanding. The relationship was more formal than an intimate one. Stevens went to suppress his emotions as a son in the name of professionalism. They communicated only to discuss professional affairs. Foniokova remarks, "They have supposed their emotion with the aim of becoming great butlers. They had lost their ability to pursue human conversation". (Foniokova.200.93) Despite living in the same house, Stevens rarely communicated with his father. He justified this saying, "I rarely had reasons to enter my father's room... and I was nearly stuck by the smallness and starkness of it". (43) Thus, Stevens' conducted with his father was considered from a professional perspective and within his concept of professional dignity. Susie G. Brien pointed out "His [Stevens'] memories of his fathers' fortitude is crucial to his sense of dignity". (O'Brien.1996.23) Stevens failed to react naturally to the news of his father's illness when informed by Miss. Kenton because he was busy serving his master and his guests in the banqueting hall. His response to Miss. Kenton did not go beyond saying, "Everything in hand downstairs? Yes, I dare say you can rest assured on that ... I am so glad you're feeling better now". (7) Stevens had to practice a high level of self-restraint over his reaction to his father's illness in order not to be noticed by his employer nor by his guest and when asked by one of them says, "I am sorry sir. The strain of a hard day". (73) The father eventually died and, even after his death, Stevens was still able to control his nerves saying, "I see" and goes to carry on doing his duties.

On the whole, in his relationship with his father Stevens adhered to the principles of his professional "dignity" on the ground of his concept of being a perfect butler. Foniokova sums up remarking, "Stevens avoids dealing with emotionally difficult situations of his father's illness under the pretext of urgent professional duties and his escape from unpleasant feelings into the safety of his job". (Foniokova.200.94)

Miss. Kenton was a housekeeper who had worked under the supervision of Stevens. She was a dedicated housekeeper who was professionally perfect in the same way Stevens was. While working at Darlington Hall, she had developed some inward affection toward Stevens before leaving Darlington Hall for marriage. Just before embarking on the picnic suggested by Mr. Faraday, Stevens received a letter from Miss. Kenton informing him about her present conditions with some hints at her nostalgia to Darlington Hall. As a butler, Stevens, who never believed in any romantic relationship with any housekeeper, reacted to Kenton's letter in a way that reflected his hidden feelings toward the sender. While working together, Stevens had developed some admiration toward her but this remained unrevealed thanks to his ability at repressing such feelings in accordance with his concept of professional dignity. The letter gave him some hope for reunion and he developed a desire to see her by taking advantage of the trip. Teruko pointed out, "What Stevens sees in Miss. Kenton's letter is the reflection of his inner world". (Teruko.2010.36) Stevens declared his intention to seize the opportunity to see her. As the narrator told, "The trip couldn't be put to good professional use ... Why should I hide it...? I can see no genuine reason why I should not undertake this trip". (15) Apparently, he wanted to see her for some professional purpose associated with shortage of staff. As Foniokova pointed out, "In his relationship with Miss. Kenton, Stevens prevented his professional relationship from deviating from the proper basis and therefore, ruled out the possibility of romance between them". (Foniokova.2006.95)

On his trip, Stevens reread Miss. Kenton's letter three times. Before his encounter with her, he became emotionally disengaged and retreated into denial of his desire to see her. As the narrator tells, "Side from a few

informal exchange it will be essentially a professional one". (118) Here, Stevens rereading of the letter for the third time implied his own future interest in a relationship with her. However, he found out that the letter did not include a direct reference to her desire to come back to Darlington Hall. He said, "But the fact is that the letters I have had from you over the years, and in particular the last letter, have tended to suggest that you're ... rather unhappy, I simply wondered if you were being ill-treated in some way (159) Moreover, an introspection of Stevens' inner feelings toward Kenton can be seen in his insistence on using her maiden name as Miss. Kenton while ignoring her married name as Mrs. Benn. It is really an attitude that includes ambivalent feelings. Commenting on this, Johansson points out by calling her Miss. Kenton, he wants to avoid the otherwise constant reminder of marriage. He prefers to use her maiden name". (Johansson.2011.7) while he tried to repress his feelings toward her, his undying love, which he suppressed, betrayed his emotions. Upon seeing her after long absence, Stevens spontaneously asked her if she was happy with her husband and her reply influenced him that her tears started to run from her eyes telling him how her life would have been better, had she got married to him. Meanwhile, he was shaken by her reply saying, "At the moment, my heart was breaking". (161)

In Stevens' story, a great emphasis was laid upon what Stevens might have become if he had acted differently. The tone of the novel was one of wishfulness as Stevens kept reevaluating his past. He went to recall certain situations associated with his conduct with Kenton. Miss. Kenton brought some flowers to Stevens' gloomy room to brighten it. She said, "I thought these would brighten your parlor a little... It is a shame more sun doesn't get in here". (34) However, Stevens reacted otherwise. He did not appreciate the act and responds in depreciation rather than acceptance and thanks. He responded saying, "It is not a place for entertainment". (35) Stevens appeared as emotionally blind to her romantic feelings. In another situation, Stevens happened to read a book in his pantry when Miss. Kenton entered without permission. He was stunned upon seeing her inside his room, and he, spontaneously, hid the books so that she could not know the type of book he is reading. He threw the book into a drawer to avoid embarrassment. He told her that he was reading the book to improve his language. He said, "There was a simple reason for my having taken to pursuing such works; it was an extremely efficient way to maintain and develop one's command of the English language. I consider my duty to develop as best as I could". (112)

As a matter of fact, Miss. Kenton was aware of his ambivalent feelings. In the first situation, the flowers were a symbol of love and romantic feeling. The book he was reading was found to be a romance. Yet, he could contradict the situation by suppressing his feelings toward her. In reminiscence, he went to reveal his anguish over the incident by displaying an emotional engagement that he was not willing to acknowledge. As the narrator tells, "[He] finds an incident engagement from the book and asks why one should not enjoy in a light-hearted sort of way stories of gentleman who express their feelings for each other, often the most elegant phases". (112) In both situations, Stevens adopted denial and repression as two defense ways to adapt to his situations. Thus, his inability to act on his feelings blinded him and made him unable to respond properly to Miss. Kenton's romantic emotions.

As Stevens recalled his memories with Miss. Kenton, he went on his journey of self-discovery. As the incidents of the novel unfold, Miss. Kenton wanted to move a step forward to come to a conclusion about her relationship with him. She asked him questions about his future plan to know if there was a hope for a future union between them. To him she said, "It occurs to me that you must be a well-contended man. Here, you after all, at the top of your profession, every aspect of your domain is under control. I really cannot imagine what more you might wish for in life". (110) Stevens's response was rather more shocking than the previous ones. He responded with coldness. Furthermore, she received a marriage proposal and she went to inform him of this proposal and about her departure from Darlington Hall. As Iverson pointed out, "Miss. Kenton wants him to speak his mind but he is unable to do so. He does not speak his mind partly because he is bound by his professional duty. Stevens does not feel something even if he does not act on it. (Iverson, 2014.25) Though inwardly, he did not want her to go, he went to justify his disapproval of her departure from a professional point of view. He said, "It would constitute a professional loss of some magnitude, a loss Darlington Hall would have some difficulty recovering from". (99) As usual, Stevens went to suppress his feelings to maintain his sense of professional dignity. He denied himself the freedom to reveal his real feelings. He maintained a high level of self-control over his real feelings.

By and large, the relationship between Stevens and Miss. Kenton missed mutual affection. Though he

inwardly bore some affectionate feelings toward her, Stevens' attitude was characterized by its inconsistency and contradiction. He tried to reveal his sense of loss of identity through suppressing his feeling and adopting contradictory attitudes.

Eventually, Stevens' journey in the subconscious came to an end, and he reached good understanding of the reality of life. It had been a journey of self-discovery through introspection it eventually brings him to profound understanding of the social arena that he had escaped. His encounter with Miss. Kenton marked a turning point in Stevens' character and attitude and exposed him as a model of the postmodern man who was suffering from anxiety and, consequently, identity crisis. In this due light, Penner comments, "Stevens has undergone a series of experiences and introspection which bring him at the end to understanding of this social realm that has escaped him. It has become a socializing experience, mixed with moments of creative self-reflection which leaves him damaged and more fully realized with the suffocating routine which has been his life". (Penner.1999.29) Now, Stevens came to a point where he started to see his past life as one of denial and self-abnegation. He developed a more positive attitude toward his present to make the best of what remains of his life. Reflecting upon his new outlook, Stevens said, "What is the point of worrying too much about what one could or could not have done to control the course one's life took? Surely, it is enough that the likes of you and I at least try to make our small contribution count for something true and worthy." (164) It was really a moment of insight in which he regretted his past conduct with Lord Darlington, Miss. Kenton and his father.

On the whole, Stevens realized that his past life has been a failure. He had been leading a life of distraction as a result of his inability to identify himself neither with the past nor with the present while struggles to form a self for himself. Yet, he was disappointed as he realized that he had been striving to reach the unattainable. Daniela Carpi summed up Stevens status saying, "Stevens is the soul subject divided between traditions of the past codes, on the one hand, and the rejection of assessed trends and the advocacy of a new autonomy on the other. Living on the margin of class hierarchy, operating as an intermediary between aristocracy and bourgeois". (Capri.2012.168)

Conclusion

In *The Remains of The Day*, memory was the fundamental force for self-realization and self-understanding. Stevens had depended on the function of the memory in the concept of identity he had formed. It was in reminiscence that he had found energy to keep him moving. It was in the memory of the past that he had found a driving force for constructing a better life in the past. He found out that his past life had been a life of deprivation of all kinds of private life. He found out that his entire life had been wasted on the pursuit of the wrong values namely: Dignity and Greatness. He had lived at the margin of the society without a family or class dedicating his life to his master. Reading *the Remains of The Day* offered an invitation to everyone to liberate himself/herself from any sort of domination that might have adverse consequences at the personal level. It was also an invitation to liberate one's self from any ideological, cultural or social barriers that might be any obstacle in leading a private life.

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