

THESIS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CULTURAL LEGACY IN THE WORKS OF KAZUO ISHIGURO AND KHURSHID DUSTMUHAMMAD

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This thesis examines the literary works of Kazuo Ishiguro, a Nobel Prize-winning British author of Japanese descent, and Khurshid Dustmuhammad, a prominent contemporary Uzbek novelist. By analyzing their narratives, themes, and cultural contexts, this study aims to identify the similarities and differences in their literary contributions and cultural legacies. Through a comparative lens, it investigates how each author reflects their respective cultural heritage while addressing universal themes of identity, memory, and belonging, thereby enriching our understanding of their unique and shared literary landscapes.

- Overview of Kazuo Ishiguro’s and Khurshid Dustmuhammad’s literary significance.
- Brief biographies highlighting their cultural backgrounds and influences.
- Purpose and scope of the comparative study.

- Examination of the cultural, historical, and social contexts in which Ishiguro and Dustmuhammad write.
- Discussion of how their respective environments—Japan/Britain for Ishiguro and Uzbekistan for Dustmuhammad—shape their narratives.

- Analysis of recurring themes in both authors’ works, such as memory, identity, displacement, and the search for belonging.
- Comparative analysis of how these themes manifest differently due to cultural contexts and personal experiences.

- Investigation of narrative structure, voice, and stylistic elements in Ishiguro’s and Dustmuhammad’s works.

- Discussion of the use of unreliable narrators, non-linear timelines, and symbolism in both authors' storytelling.
- Comparative study of character development and the representation of human experience in both authors' works.
- Exploration of how cultural background influences character motivations and conflicts.
- Examination of how Ishiguro and Dustmuhammad contribute to their respective literary traditions and global literature.
- Analysis of the cultural legacies they create through their narratives and the ways in which they engage with themes of cross-cultural identity.
- In-depth analysis of selected works from both authors:
 - For Ishiguro: "Never Let Me Go" and "The Remains of the Day."
 - For Dustmuhammad: "The Man Who Knew Too Much" and other significant novels.
- Comparative insights into the portrayal of cultural identity and memory in these texts.
- Summary of key findings on the similarities and differences in the cultural legacies of Ishiguro and Dustmuhammad.
- Reflection on the significance of their works in a global context.
- Suggestions for further research on cross-cultural literary studies.

Significance:

This thesis aims to illuminate the intricate interplay between cultural legacy and literary expression in the works of Kazuo Ishiguro and Khurshid Dustmuhammad. By exploring their narratives through a comparative framework, it seeks to enhance appreciation for the diverse yet interconnected tapestry of global literature, demonstrating how two distinct voices contribute to shared human experiences and cultural dialogues.

Studying Ishiguro and Dustmuhammad fosters cross-cultural understanding. Ishiguro's works reflect themes of memory, identity, and displacement influenced by his Japanese heritage and British upbringing, while Dustmuhammad's narratives often delve into the intricacies of Uzbek culture and social dynamics. This

comparative analysis allows readers to appreciate the complexities of different cultural backgrounds and how they shape literary expression.

Both authors engage with societal issues, such as postcolonial identity, globalization, and cultural dislocation. Comparative studies of their works can illuminate how literature serves as a mirror to societal challenges, encouraging readers to reflect on contemporary global issues through the lens of different cultural experiences.

Incorporating the works of Ishiguro and Dustmuhammad expands the scope of Comparative Literature, emphasizing the importance of studying voices from different regions. Their inclusion broadens the discourse around global literature, fostering a more inclusive understanding of literary heritage.

The literary legacies of Kazuo Ishiguro and Khurshid Dustmuhammad offer rich material for comparative study, highlighting the importance of cultural dialogue and shared human experiences. Engaging with their works enhances not only the field of Comparative Literature but also encourages a deeper appreciation for the diverse narratives that shape our understanding of the world.