

## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

## I.1. Background of The Problem

It is most reasonable when many critics say that Henry James has achieved fame equally in England and America and is included in both English and American literary history. With his famous cosmopolitan fictions, Henry James presents American-European different backgrounds long before both cultural members become aware of their close relationship in the Atlantic community of nations.

According to Leon Edel in his article *Henry James: The Americano European Legend* found in Wegelin's (1984), Henry James is a remarkable international writer who is able to portray the reality of two different cultures with a deep understanding of both typical characteristics.

"Within his works we find not merely a superficial chronicle of comedies of tourism, but great cosmopolitan feeling. That act of life that resides in observation and notation, in sympathetic comprehension and acceptance of international differences - manners, customs, traditions, the fabric of social history which is the fabric of the art of fiction." (p.406)

Henry James is the first and great exponent of what he himself called "The International Subject", which

comes down to the behaviour of Americans in Europe, the contrast between American and European cultures. He is concerned with the behaviour of people who find themselves in societies foreign to them, societies in which the conventions and assumptions about behaviour are different from what they have at home. He is particularly concerned with the loss of innocence, with the moral and psychological changes affected in an ingenuous character.

Henry James is one of the famous authors who has the gift in writing his ideas perfectly and portraying real life into his work with his magnificent touch to make it almost real. The most prominent characteristic of his works is the exploration of the conflict between the culture of the new world and the old.

Concerning the American-European portrayal, James wrote to his friend Mrs. F.H. Hill (1879) as found in *Tales of Henry James* edited by Christoff Wegelin. He stated that,

"I find myself responsible for a representation of English manners! ... and with the blessing of heaven, I shall live to make all sorts of representation of all sort of things. It will take a much clearer person than myself to discover my last impression of anything." (p.387)

His most famous treatment of this subject is the novella *Daisy Miller* and since its influence as a book was so strong that for at least thirty years American girls

abroad were called Daisy Miller. (Hudson Long, 1961, p.5)

Through this story the readers are invited to see the socio-cultural differences between the European aristocratic old culture and the American independency in thinking and in taking action. The American is represented by the Millers, particularly a young energetic and attractive woman, Daisy Miller, whose straight forward and independent attitude collide with the traditional society of Europe. This also includes her mother, Mrs. Miller, the ineffectual mother and her uninhibited young brother Randolph.

The American and European cultural differences are portrayed and brought up thoroughly in the story. Their distinctive norms and values undergo the whole story and provoke the conflicts between each agents. And the result is Daisy Miller's social deviation who fails in terms of socializing in the European surroundings since they have different point of view in appreciating values of socialization. European aristocratic old culture employs social restrictions that seem to be too much for the American foreigner such as the Millers. While on the other hand, the Millers tend to behave as they always do in their home country America and neglect the native European social customs.

James delightfully exploits the contrast between Daisy's characters and her European acquaintances. And while

he often seems to deplore her behaviour, he endows her with the innocence and naturalness. Daisy repeatedly challenges the convention of the old and traditional European society which she feels contrary to what she believes.

In *Daisy Miller*, Henry James has made us be aware of the existence of American and European different socio cultural phenomena. As a consequence of each distinctiveness, their being encounters would provoke the conflicts resulting in a deviation as experienced by Daisy Miller. This international topic has also been very familiar for Henry James since more or less it reflects his own observation and experience when living in the two different continents which have totally different background of socio-cultural phenomena.

Accordingly, the American and European distinctive cultural encounters and its results portrayed in *Daisy Miller* would make an interesting issues to be analyzed in this thesis. Thus, the socio-cultural conflicts in the story becomes the main object of the analysis in this study.

## 1.2. Statement of The Problem

The main point that is prominently seen in the story of *Daisy Miller* is the socio-cultural conflict between Daisy Miller and the European society around her. For this reason, there are problems to be analyzed further :

1. How does Daisy Miller become a deviant in the European society ?
2. How does the story of Daisy Miller represent the American and European socio-cultural distinctiveness ?

### I.3. Objective of The Study

The aim of this study is primarily to analyze the socio-cultural conflict in the story between Daisy Miller, an American girl, and the European society. And specifically to analyze the causes and the results of the conflicts and the background of the reasons why the conflict arise. Since the conflicts happen between two different social groups that are derived from different cultural background then the conflict is considered as social-cultural conflict, in which the values of socialization is being violated. Daisy Miller as the main character who provokes the conflict and as the center or the subject of the violation of social values in the traditional society has a great support to build the social conflict.

Since the cultural conflict between American and European is the main aspect portrayed in the story, the writer also tries to see how far the story represents the reality of the socio-cultural conflict. It is done by comparing the socio-cultural distinctiveness that really exists with the one in the story that is represented by the

Millers, as the American, and the society of European.

#### **I.4. Significance of The Study**

By analyzing the story of Daisy Miller, hopefully we can get something valuable to enlarge our understanding of literary works. Besides, we may be able to deepen our understanding of life and its aspects for literary works is the imitation of real life. And moreover this analysis shows us about the importance of respecting the existence of other cultural phenomena as revealed in the American - European cultural encounters described in this story. We could also know further about the American and European cultures and each typical characteristics accordingly. It is also expected that this study would be meaningful for the study of literature and all its aspects.

#### **I.5. Scope And Limitation**

In order to keep the study stay in the expected field, a limitation of the analysis is required. Thus, the study would be concentrated on the aspects related to the main study as stated in the objective of the study and the aspects that support the analysis.

On the account of the object of the study, both intrinsic and extrinsic elements are needed to be analyzed in this thesis. The intrinsic elements to be analyzed here are Theme, Character, Plot and Setting. These intrinsic

elements are the main aspects that build up the story. Thus, they are concluded to have a great contribution to the study of Daisy Miller's social deviation in the European society.

While extrinsically, the writer would analyze, first, the biography of the author to see how far it influences the story. The second is a brief mimetic study of American and European condition and its socio-cultural phenomena to see the reality in the real world and the one portrayed in the story. However, its occurrence is merely aimed to support the main analysis that put the novella as the object of the study. Especially the social conflict between Daisy Miller and the European representatives.

#### I.6. Theoretical Background

In most of Henry James' works, we can see the reflection of his own life and experience. It is reasonable for he himself believed that: "From the first the artist in fiction is a historian of that part of life never found in the history book; the private life that goes on behind the walls, but which is also a part of society in which it is lived. Literature for him was the greatest repository of life; and he believed that if the novel is a mirror in a roadway, it reflects not only the panorama of existence, but the countenance of the artist in the very act of experiencing the world around him." (Leon Edel, 1963, p.6) Further James stated in his criticism *The Art of Fiction*

found in *Tales of Henry James* :

"A novel is in its broadest definition a personal a direct impression of life: that, to begin with, constitutes its value, which is greater or less according to the intensity of the impression" (p.349).

According to this statement, it can be concluded that James works are inspired from the reality of the existing things and phenomena. And on the account of the story of *Daisy Miller*, it seems that James' experiences of travelling abroad has enabled him to understand more about the existence of American-European different socio-cultures.

American and European socio-cultural conflict is the picture being exploited through the story and *Daisy Miller's* social deviation could be the result of this phenomenon. When we look at the reality, we would realize that the cultural distinctiveness between American and European is something that cannot be denied. For all those above reasons, Mimetic theory is assumed to be appropriate to analyze the problems stated in the previous sub-chapter especially the one about the American and European socio-cultural differences portrayed in the novella.

Meanwhile in regard to the mimetic theory that is used to reveal the socio-cultural differences, naturally the intrinsic elements of the story is significantly needed to be analyzed. Here the intrinsic approach is used. The purpose is to support the mimetic theory in analyzing the

story intrinsically. Since it is known that mimetic theory requires both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects to be analyzed in order to gain the expected results.

In order to reveal the American-European conflicts, between the Millers and the European representatives, the writer tries to get a closer attachment to the problems. The conflict is assumed to be socio-cultural conflict for it happens between two different social groups with different cultural values and backgrounds. Thus, in order to support the mimetic theory in analyzing the story extrinsically, the writer applies the socio-cultural approach to see the external aspects of the story that influence it.

#### I.7. Method of The Study

This thesis is purely based on Library Research. The study is done by collecting data from various libraries. Besides *Daisy Miller*, the work itself, the author's biography is important to be included on the account in this thesis. In this case, Henry James' biography serves the purpose of explaining the influence of his life experience on his works. His thought and point of view are concluded to be influential as found in many of his works such as *Daisy Miller*. And regarding to the object of the study, Descriptive analysis is assumed to be appropriate in this thesis to focus the attention to the description of American

and European cultural distinctiveness and its impacts to both cultural agents.

There are other reference books that are proved to be very helpful in accomplishing this thesis. Literary theory books written by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, and the one by M.H. Abrams are a few of the sources from where the theories and approaches used in this thesis are derived. Criticisms about James and his works are also meaningful in giving a clearer understanding about James' works.

Another significant reference is about the existence of American and European different cultures. The primary source of this aspect is taken from both historical and cultural books to understand better about the reality that is portrayed in the story.

#### I.8. Definition of Key Terms

**Socialization** : A process in which an individual comes into a step of attitude formation to behave accordingly with the behaviour of his society where he lives.

**Values** : Any object, situation, ideal, principle or norm that a person or a group of people consider it desirable and worthy.

**Social Deviation** : A departure from or non conformity with the norms of a society, or a given group

within a society.

**Novella** : A work of prose fiction of intermediate length, longer than short story and shorter than novel. The distinction that in general that novellete displays the customarily compact structure of the short story with the greater development of character, theme, and action of the novel is perhaps useful.

**Distinctiveness** : The quality or state of being distinctive. Characterized by qualities individualizing or distinguishing as apart from unlike or not identical with another or others.

*Daisy Miller* : The novella.

*Daisy Miller* : The character.

### **I.9. Organization of The Paper**

The thesis is devided into six chapters. The First Chapter is the introduction to the whole paper. It contains sub chapters that are: Background of the study, in which the reasons of the analysis is written, Statement of problem, Objective of The Study and its significance, the Scope and Limitation of the study in order to fence the study inside the expected field, the theories used in the study and the method of the study and also some terms needed

to be explained to make the study clearer to understand.

The Second Chapter is the Theoretical Framework, in which described the theories and approaches that are used as the basic thought for the analysis. Here the elaboration of the theories and the approaches is explained, and it is related to the analysis concerning of how they are used to support the analysis

The Third Chapter discusses the author's biography and his works since the works of an author is something integral and related to each other. Hopefully the writer of this thesis can find something valuable to understand more about Henry James's works especially *Daisy Miller*. As well as James' life experience and way of thinking because it is believed that every piece of work is a reflection of the author himself. Understanding Henry James' biography would be very helpful to contribute the analysis of James' works.

The fourth chapter consists of the intrinsic analysis. The intrinsic elements of fiction assumed to be related to the main study is to be analyzed in Chapter Four. The elements are character, plot, theme and setting.

While the extrinsic part that would be analyzed is located at Chapter Five. The existence of the American and European different cultures and their characteristics are covered briefly in this part. How and why their encounters could possibly provoke conflicts are to be

analyzed in this chapter.

And finally the last chapter would consist of the conclusion as the answers to the problems stated previously.