

## CHAPTER IV

### THE INTRINSIC ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the analysis of intrinsic elements in *Daisy Miller* that is considered important to support the study of Daisy Miller's social deviation as the result of the American and European socio-cultural conflicts. There are four important elements that are to be discussed in this chapter. They are Theme, Character, Plot, and Setting. By analyzing those intrinsic aspects comprehensively, hopefully the expected result of the study can be obtained.

#### IV.1. THEME

As many critics said, Henry James was an author whose works was mainly concerned with the international or more specifically inter cultural subject.

Henry James is an international, cosmopolitan author, who achieves fame equally in England and America. He is included in both English and American<sup>1</sup> literary history. With his cosmopolitan novels James has presented Americans in Europe long before we became aware of our close relationship in the Atlantic community of nations. He saw the continuity of European culture in America and the drama in contrasting the new civilization with its origins. (Introduction to *Daisy Miller* by Hudson Long, p.1)

In *Daisy Miller*, again Henry James portrays the American-European inter cultural conflicts that result in the deviation of Daisy Miller. Daisy's typical American characteristic collides with the aristocratic way of life of the European. Here, in *Daisy Miller*, we can see and feel that the whole story contains the facts of cultural differences between European and American. European formal, aristocratic way of life and American freedom of action has undergone through the story right from the beginning until the end.

Referring to Kennedy's statement, stated in Chapter II, we can see that Daisy Miller's story obviously talks about a conflict between two different cultural agents. Both cultures with prominently different backgrounds and essences are being contrasted. Predictably, it results in the arising of social, inter individual conflicts between both agents of different cultures. This may possibly happen since there are many clashes of value interpretation found in the process of socialization. Thus, it is understandable for each agent to represent distinctive cultural background which each agent believes as belonging to its own.

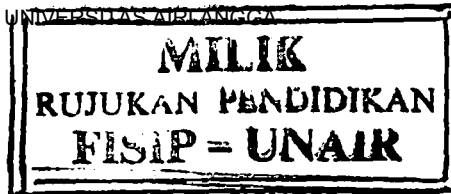
According to Graham Little, the discussion of theme as stated in Chapter II would be divided into two sections in which each tries to discuss and find the answers to the questions stated.

1. The problem(s) or conflict(s) that *Daisy Miller* deals with

We can pick out one aspect that is prominently seen in *Daisy Miller*, that is about the meeting of American and European different cultures. And the impacts of both cultures when the substantial parts of each culture are encountered. Beginning from this cultural clash between two distinctive cultural background will then result in a social conflict between each agent.

It is described in the Novella that the character of Daisy Miller is a portrayal of a typical American girl who is in the middle of a journey in Europe with her family; Mrs. Miller, her mother and Randolph, her younger brother. Daisy Miller's typical American characteristic is being thoroughly contrasted with the native European different characteristics. In the point of view of European society, none of Daisy's actions seem to be right. The European society, represented by Winterbourne, Mrs. Costello and Mrs Walker, has obviously different ways in appreciating one's behaviours and manners. Their aristocratic and formal way of life requires others to do things the way they expect. It is imperative that foreigners should respect the native culture, especially in socialization.

Having a typical American characteristics, Daisy finds those requirements too hard to fulfill. It is too far from Daisy's nature. Daisy Miller, as most American girls



are, would rather be straight forward. She believes in the freedom of action, by doing what she likes or what she thinks right without considering the consequences. At first, she doesn't know that the European culture is very much different from what she believes. She is not even aware that what she thinks right is not acceptable in the eyes of the European. Unfortunately she is condemned for what she thinks right for her.

Some quotations and discussions below would show how her American behaviour are being contrasted to the local European customs.

It is from the impression of Winterbourne's, an American-born young man who spends most of his life in Europe, to Daisy Miller at their first encounter at Vevey.

"In Geneva, as he had been perfectly aware, a young man was not at liberty to speak to a young unmarried lady except under certain rarely occurring condition; but here at Vevey, what condition could be better than these? - a pretty American girl coming and standing in front of you in a garden".(p.7)

Winterbourne's impression above is very much influenced by European values of socialization that he has been very familiar to. He actually knows that Daisy's manners is not the one supposed in the European point of view. He knows he should not have talked to Daisy alone without any companion, for it is improper according to the local customs. But even though Winterbourne realizes that

forward and frankness remarks. Winterbourne also seems to be surprised with her habits back there in America for what she usually does in America is something very much condemned in the European society.

This proves how Daisy's personality contrasts with the native European young ladies who tend to be exclusive in the society and lead an aristocratic way of socialization.

Once, Daisy Miller's attitudes of being easily socialized collides with the local native society. It is the first time described in the story, Daisy's manner provokes a conflict of how European's point of view sees her freedom of action. Daisy has asked Winterbourne to accompany her to visit Vevey's tourism object Chateau de Chillon alone without any other companions and this obviously confronts the local customs. A Quotation below taken from a conversation between Winterbourne and his aunt, Mrs. Costello, will emphasize the scene. It would show how the European society, represented by Mrs. Costello, considers Daisy's attitude.

"You two are going off there together ? I should say it proved just the contrary. How long have you known her, may I ask, when this interesting project was formed ? You haven't been twenty four hours in the house. "  
 "I had known her half an hour !" said Winterbourne, smiling.  
 "Dear me !" Cried Mrs. Costello. "What a dreadful girl". (p.16)

Responding to his aunt's condemnation toward Daisy Miller, Winterbourne seems to conclude a sort of hypothesis



that generalize the American girls' by comparing her with his cousins in America. "But don't they all do these things - the young girls in America?" Winterbourne inquired. (p.17)

Winterbourne's responds could mean to assure us, the readers, that Daisy Miller's characteristic fits the typical characteristics of American girls, or at least most of them, Winterbourne's cousins and Daisy, are alike. This similarity convinces the idea of Daisy Miller as the representation of typical American girls.

At the time she continues her journey to Rome, Italy, her habits don't change. She keeps on doing things as she did in Switzerland and even neglecting what people say about her and doesn't give a heed when someone forbids her to do what she is not supposed to.

We could see Daisy Miller's confronting habits from a conversation between, again, Mrs. Costello and Winterbourne. This occurs upon his first arrival at Rome, Italy to keep his promise to visit Daisy.

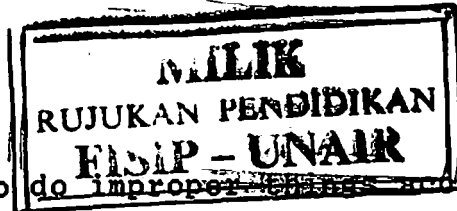
"... The girl goes about alone with her foreigners. As to what happens further, you must apply elsewhere for information. She has picked up half a dozen of the regular Roman fortune-hunters, and she takes them about to people's houses. When she comes to a party she brings with her a gentlemen with a good deal of manner and wonderful mustache."

"I haven't the least idea. They are very dreadful people" ... They are hopelessly vulgar," said Mrs. Coestell ... They are bad enough to dislike, at any rate; and for this short life that is quite enough." (p.30)

When in Rome, Daisy's habits that violates the norms of socialization are seen more obvious. She has been doing everything that is not done there. Going alone with a gentleman whose identity is not really known, "flirting with anyman she could pick up; sitting in corners with mysterious Italians; dancing all the evening with the same partners; receiving visits at eleven o'clock," and the mother, dreadfully, goes away when visitors come. All of these are something that the native European young lady would refuse, but in contrary it becomes Daisy's habit. Although it is understandable that Daisy does it merely for it is her habits, and she doesn't even intend to insult the Eropean culture. This is done due to her unawareness to the local customs. She just doesn't want to be restricted in doing what she likes. Daisy only does what she thinks right for her, which can be seen when she insists on going to Pincio by herself to see Giovanelli.

There Daisy becomes very stubborn to be told. No one can stop her to do what she wants despite everyone's warnings. She doesn't care what people say. "I don't want to do anything improper"(p.35), she replies, for she doesn't intend to do any harm to anyone since she assumes that she has done the right thing. She also doesn't like to be interfered. "I have never allowed a gentlemen to dictate to me, or to interfere with anything I do."(p.37).

The following quotations show how stubborn Daisy



is when she is forbidden to do ~~improper things~~ according to the European.

It occurs when Mrs Walker sees Daisy walking with Mr. Giovanelli and Winterbourne late at night. "It is really too dreadful, ... That girl must not do this sort of thing. She must not walk here with you two men. Fifty people have noticed her." (p.38). When Mrs. Walker advises Daisy to go home with her by her carriage, Daisy rejects Mrs. Walker's offer who begin to loose her temper and accordingly it provokes a quarrel between them.

"It may be enchanting, dear child, but it is not the custom here," urged Mrs. Walker. "You should walk with your mother, dear," cried the lady from Geneva, losing patience. Daisy responds, "I'm more than five years old." "You are old enough to be more reasonable. You are old enough, dear miss Miller, to be talked about." Daisy gave a violent laugh. "I never heard anything so stiff! If this is improper, Mrs. Walker," She pursued, "then I am all improper, and you must give me up. Good bye; I hope you'll have a lovely ride!" (p.39,40)

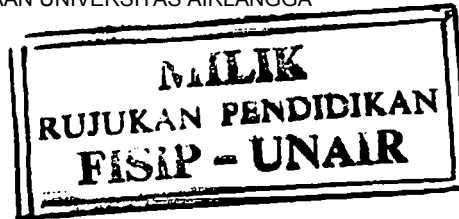
From the above quotations and discussions we can conclude that the main problem that this work deals with is about the cultural encounter between American and European. To be more specific the clashes occur in the way of socialization in which each cultural agent has their own way in appreciating the values and norms that they think is right for their own without giving enough respect and understanding to other culture. However, this conclusion is



not enough to be assumed as the theme of the story since there is still another question to be discussed in order to gain the qualified and representative theme of the story. According to Graham Little above, the second question to be discussed is :

## 2. The attitude that is taken to such issues

According to the second question, we should find out how Henry James describes the characters and the conflicts development on the account of the problem in the story. As known from the discussion above, Daisy Miller's straight forwardness and socializing easily with gentlemen have been condemned by the European society since her habits are something they can not approve. European culture with its aristocratic and formal characteristics restricts Daisy's freedom of action and drive her into a deviation in the local society. It is possible since Daisy doesn't give enough respect to the local customs as they have expected from the beginning. She does not have any purpose to violate the traditional European values of socialization. Unfortunately she has to pay the consequences. She is being thought of as a very reckless girl and being talked about as a bad girl. Those all are the results of Daisy's ignorance and unawareness to local culture. She is not aware, and doesn't want to, that European culture is very different from the American, but she keeps on doing things as she does



in America.

Her character develops as a deviant in the European society despite all condemnations. Until one day she catches Roman fever as a result of her going out late at night. She becomes alarmingly ill and finally dies. The tragic end of her life could be surely assumed as the result of her deviation and inability for adaptation to the local culture.

The way the story ends could be concluded as the writer's, Henry James, attitude toward the problems. Henry James simply describes Daisy Miller as a portrayal of American typical character complemented with the conflicts and clashes when they meet the European culture. At the same time, James shows us that one should pay much respect to the local culture and try to adapt with the existing traditions. Otherwise it would be difficult to get along and to survive in the local society, and face the consequences as what has happened to Daisy Miller.

The ending of the story seems to be his message to the readers as he mentions in the story through his character, Winterbourne, as seen below :

"Well," said Winterbourne, "when you deal with natives you must go by the customs of the place Flirting is a purely American customs; it's doesn't exist here. So when you show yourself in public with Mr. Giovanelli and without your mother - " (p.45)

Here Henry James gives a sort of advice to the

readers as Winterbourne tells Daisy not to flirt. Flirting is not the custom in Europe, Daisy should therefore not do it and give more respects to the local customs.

Both questions that Graham Little suggests to find out in order to identify the theme of a story is already discussed above. The main problem and the attitude toward the problem have been found. Before we come to the conclusion about what the theme of Daisy Miller is, Graham identifies another aspect that implies the theme. "One source of ideas about theme is the title of a work." (p.13)

Tracing the title of the work, Henry James entitled his work as "Daisy Miller" and according to Graham it surely leads to the topic and problem that undergo the whole story. As known Daisy Miller is the central main character in the story. Her character builds the story by developing the conflicts with other characters. She emerges in most of the part of the story, even in other characters' conversations. Her name is always talked about, conflicts and quarrels are always about her. We even feel that the story is all about her. These findings show us that Daisy Miller is the central idea that Henry James wants to convey in this work. Then we must put Daisy Miller in consideration in judging the theme of Daisy Miller.

Based on the above discussions, It is finally concluded that the theme of the story is :



*An American cultural agent whose habits and customs collides with the European aristocratic and formal society for her innocence and unawareness to the local European socio-culture.*

#### IV.2. CHARACTER

There are seven characters taken from *Daisy Miller* that are going to be discussed here. It is for their supports and roles in developing the story and for each represents an important part or aspect that the story conveys, as said by Edgar Allan Poe in one of his principle in short story is : "Only such characters as are essential to the effect should appear."

##### 1. DAISY MILLER

Physically, Daisy Miller is an American young pretty girl who takes good care of her beauty and appearance. She cares about how the way she looks, she is good in choosing beautiful dresses that fits her beauty, as she appears for the first time in the beginning of the story :

She was dressed in white muslin, with a hundred frills and flounces, and knots of pale colored ribbon. She was bareheaded; but she balanced in her hand a large parasol, with a deep border of embroidery; and she was strikingly, admirably pretty. (p.6)

Daisy Miller's attractive performance and beauty

has drawn attention of people around her. Just like Winterbourne's at their first encounter as in which we can see Daisy Miller's physical appearance from Winterbourne's point of view, "... There had not been the slightest alteration in her charming complexion; she was evidently neither offended nor fluttered. If she looked another way when he spoke to her, and seemed not particularly to hear him, this was simply her habit, her manner ... It was not, however, what would have been called an immodest glance, for the young girl's eyes were singularly honest and fresh. They were wonderfully pretty eyes ..." and, indeed, Winterbourne had not seen for a long time anything prettier than his fair countrywomen's various features - her complexion, her nose, her ears, her teeth. (p.8)

From this description we can see that Daisy Miller is a young beautiful girl whose charms would surely attract any gentlemen around her. She is not the type of girl that is too shy to talk with gentlemen and who'd rather stay at home. In contrast Daisy seems to be easily socialized with others, especially gentlemen and feel at ease to talk with them without any embarrassment and hesitation.

Daisy Miller originally comes from Schenectady, New York. Together with her family, a mother and a brother, she spends her vacation at Switzerland and Italy. In Europe, as discussed in the preceding sub chapter, she finds many conflicts with the local society for they have



different way in appreciating Daisy's habit. This American-European cultural conflict is not only on the account of different perceptions in life, but moreover, her personalities have a great contribution to this socio-cultural clash. And of course, Henry James has built Daisy Miller's characteristics as close as the typical American girls in purpose to create a character that will support the cultural conflict and make it possible to happen.

Considering "What the characters themselves say," there are examples of Daisy Miller's utterance that will show her American typical character and disclose her own character.

"I am very fond of society, I have always had a great deal of it ... She was looking at Winterbourne with all her prettiness in her lively eyes, and in her light, slightly monotonous smile. "I have always had," she said, "a great deal of gentlemen society." (p.11)

The way she talks and what she talks show how very different she is from any European lady. It is proved when Winterbourne get confused, perplexed and amused listening to Daisy. The way she talks shows how "so pronounced she is" and expressing what she thinks without any hesitations. Straight forwardly, having nothing to hide, she pronounced herself of how fond she is to the society and her hobbies of having many gentlemen's society. She



innocently responds to things with sincerity and is perfectly frank in talking about her desire for the company of gentlemen. She does not understand that she cannot do the same things in Europe as she does in her home country.

Another thing that is revealed from her talking is her stubbornness and sort of selfishness. It happens when she responds to Winterbourne about not to do anything she isn't supposed for it isn't the local customs. "I have never allow a gentleman to dictate to me, or to interfere with anything I do," (p.37). And another is when she rejects Mrs. Walker's advice of what she is doing is improper for the local society would condemn her.

This shows that Daisy Miller is a kind of girl who is full of confidence and independence. And whenever she thinks right for her, she would do it without any hesitation. She shows no embarrassment or shame of having improper conduct; on the other hand she responds gaily to any event. Mrs. Walker's intervention indicates that Daisy is certainly more concerned with life than she is in the proper forms. She knows that what she is doing is innocent and she sees no reasons why she should deny herself pleasure simply to satisfy the whims of an established convention. She is quiet direct and honest in saying that if she is improper for walking in public with a man, then she is completely improper and should be given up. In another words, Daisy would like people to quit judging her. She is not immoral,

but prefers to live life rather than abide by rules which seem designed to deny life.

There isn't much we can reveal from what Daisy Miller talks for herself because she doesn't give much impression by her own talking. It is because Henry James prefers to use something he calls a "central intelligence" to narrate the story and automatically to describe the characters. So we mostly see Daisy Miller character through other characters' point of view.

From "What the characters do," Daisy Miller's characters are seen more obviously for what she has done in Europe has provoked many conflicts with other characters. It seems that Henry James, doesn't give much narration about his characters in the story. Henry James has used the techniques that allow him to describe his characters through other characters' point of view in order to make the story more vivid. In accordance to this, there would be no discussion about characters in the point of view of "What the author say about them." Therefore, the following discussions would include "What other characters say about her" in order to reveal more about Daisy's characteristics.

What Daisy has been doing in Europe is something that the European society cannot tolerate. Mrs. Walker and Mrs Costello don't approve of Daisy's habit, and as characters that represent the European society, they condemn her as a very reckless girl who doesn't give enough





respects to the local customs. But instead of listening to them, Daisy would rather enjoy life as she please. For Daisy Miller, it is not the matter of giving respect to the local culture but it is about her freedom in doing what she wants without having any interference from others. She doesn't want her life being restricted by any rules and customs, and if her habits, her way of life, is considered improper, she doesn't give any notice to any condemnation. She doesn't care what other people say about her. All she wants is a space where she is free to do what she wants.

Mrs. Walker's and Mrs. Costello's perceptions are quite different from Winterbourne's in observing Daisy's habits. Winterbourne doesn't judge Daisy as a bad girl, he is wise enough to understand Daisy's position. He sees her as a girl who is in the middle of the European society that expects her, an American, to do things that is out of her capacities. Winterbourne thinks that Daisy is too innocent to be condemned as a bad girl. What she does, her habits, are not done in purpose to harm the local customs. The only reason of her confrontations with the European society is her unawareness to the local customs. She is not aware that she cannot do the same thing in Europe as she does in America. And she is too uncultivated to consider the local culture and also too stubborn to yield with it.

Said Winterbourne, "The poor girl's only fault," he presently added, "is that she is very uncultivated." (p.41)

This is the reason why Daisy isn't wise enough to accept the local customs in consideration to her behaviour.

Daisy Miller's character is classified as flat character since she doesn't undergo any changes. Her point of view remains the same and tends to be static. However, her role as the American representative is very prominent in building the story. Even the story itself is about her. And in consequence, the other characters' existence function as complementation to support the idea of American-European cultural clash. Winterbourne, Mrs Walker and Mrs. Costello represent the European society who, in different degree, condemn Daisy Miller's confronting behaviour. Eventhough they are actually native-born American, their long stay in Europe has "Europeanized" them; that make them more European than they are Americans. Mrs. Miller and Randolph, Daisy's mother and little brother, represents the American in another different aspects and point of view. While Mr. Giovanelli plays the role as a tool in which Daisy's freedom in socializing is condemned by the European. There is not much description about these characters that can be revealed since all the roles they play are in the contribution to the American-European cultural conflict led by Daisy Miller. They only think and talk about Daisy Miller. And accordingly all those characters are flat characters. However, in order to gain a



perfect understanding about the story, I would like to reveal and disclose each character for however small their role is, their existence is essentially needed to make the story more alive.

## 2. WINTERBOURNE

Winterbourne's characteristics appear at the very beginning of the story. Being different with Daisy Miller, the characteristics of Winterbourne is described personally by the author in the exposition part of the story.

He was some seven and twenty years old of age ... after all he had no enemies, he was an extremely amiable fellow, and universally liked. He had been put to school there (Geneva) as a boy and he had afterwards gone to colleges there - circumstances which have led his forming a great many youthful friendships. (p.4)

The above quotation acknowledges us that Winterbourne is a young charming gentleman who has already spent most of his life in Geneva. And accordingly he is very familiar with the European old culture. Although Winterbourne is a native-born American, but European values of life has formed his personality into a European young fellow. And this cultural transformation has made Winterbourne alienate himself in front of the American cultural agent, Daisy Miller. He thinks that he already forgets what American are like or how true American behaves. He feels since he has lived in Geneva so long he has lost a

good deal of American touch. He has become dishabituated to the American tone as well. This is shown when Winterbourne meets Daisy. He is very confused for it has been a long time he doesn't talk to any lady as frank as Daisy. In Europe no ladies would be as easily sociable as Daisy. His perplexity, his confusion and his failure to understand certain qualities in Daisy Miller intimate the normal conduct of behaviour expected from young European ladies. Winterbourne is therefore more European than he is American. As an American he will understand more about Daisy Miller's behaviour. But at the same time, being reared in Europe, he will be fully aware of the unconventionality of her behaviour. That is why when the European society condemn Daisy as a bad and a very reckless girl, Winterbourne considers her as being too innocent and uncultivated.

In contrary, Winterbourne is considered as the one that is being too innocent by his own aunt for his defense to Daisy's condemnation. He doesn't agree with his aunt that consider Daisy as an impolite girl. But most of all, his attentions upon Daisy are on the account of his interest to get to know her further.

### 3. MRS. COSTELLO

Mrs. Costello is Winterbourne's aunt whom he visited when in Geneva. Her character is described as below :

Mrs. Costello was a widow with a fortune; a person of much distinction who frequently intimated that, if she were not so dreadfully liable to sick headaches, she would probably have left a deeper impress upon her time. She had a long, pale face, a high nose and a great deal of very striking white hair which she wore in large puffs and rouleaux over the top of her head." (14)

From Daisy's point of view, we could see that Mrs. Costello is a lady who tends to be exclusive in the society. Daisy Miller had heard about Mrs Costello from the chambermaid. "She was very quiet, and very *comme il faut*; she wore white puffs; she spoke to no one, and she never dined at the table de hotel! Every two days she had a headache ... I'm dying to be exclusive myself." (p.18)

Daisy finds out later that Mrs. Costello doesn't want to meet her as Winterbourne promised. It shows the contrasts between Mrs. Costello and The Millers.

Mrs. Costello is introduced as a contrast to Daisy Miller. The aunt represents the aristocratic and noble lady who emphasizes adherence to proper conduct, decorum, and all the correct forms of behaviour. Her reactions to any situation would be reserved and formal, whereas Daisy's would be simple and spontaneous. For Mrs. Costello, Daisy's conduct is that of a vulgar and common person. Through the aunt's views, we are able to realize that some of Daisy's actions are improper or in bad taste.

Mrs. Costello also serves as the confidante to Winterbourne. Henry James uses the confidante to help



present certain aspects of the story. As in the case of Mrs Costello, the confidante is usually separated from the main action of the story. Mrs. Costello never meets Daisy Miller, but she hears enough about her in order to express her views rather forcefully.

#### 4. MRS. WALKER

The character of Mrs. Walker appears at the second part of the story, when everything takes place in Rome, Italy. It seems that the existence of Mrs. Walker is aimed to give more contrasts between Daisy Miller and the European society and make the American-European cultural conflict more prominently seen. Her character is described as below:

An American lady who has spent several winters at Geneva, where she had placed her children at school. She is a very accomplished woman, and she lived in the Via Gregoriana. (p.30)

Mrs. Walker is an American friend of Winterbourne. She is familiar with the European culture that makes her aware of what is and what is not supposed to be done in the European environment. This seems to be the reason why she can not let Daisy, her American fellow, ruins herself just because she is not aware of the local customs. She tells Daisy that she is not supposed to do things that the European wouldn't tolerate; such as going out late at night, talking to gentlemen without companion and many other things. It seems that, as a native-born American, Mrs.

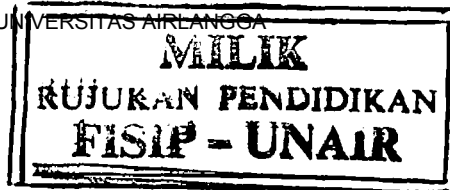
Walker feels that she has the responsibilities to protect her American fellow from the European condemnation. But since Daisy is too stubborn and never listens to any advice, Mrs. Walker begins to lose her patience and turns her back upon her. This shows a symbol that she doesn't care about her any more.

#### 5. MR. GIOVANELLI

Giovanelli represents the portrayal of European gentlemen. His role in the story is not quite prominent, but his existence as Daisy Miller's intimate friend in Rome makes the story more alive and flowered by confrontations of different perceptions about their dating. In the story Mr. Giovanelli is physically described as below :

He had a handsome face, an artfully poised hat, a glass in one eye, an a nosegay in his button-hole ... He had a brilliant smile, an intelligent eye; that Winterbourne thought him as a not bad looking fellow. (p.36,37)

Giovanelli is an Italian gentleman with whom Daisy Miller goes out a lot. They know each other in Rome and go out a lot to take a walk to see beautiful places there. Eventhough they get acquainted in a quiet brief time, they already look like a pair of lovers to the society. Eventhough he knows that what he has been doing with Daisy is something improper in the European point of view, seemingly Giovanelli doesn't want to lose his chance to get



close to Daisy Miller. Actually, he is aware of all the proper forms of behaviour and decorum. In another words, he is very much attracted to Daisy Miller and she has made impressions on him. But somehow he realizes that he is not the kind of gentleman Daisy would wish to marry to. Giovanelli knows that he is only another gentleman in Daisy Miller's life. He expresses it to Winterbourne after Daisy's death.

"She was the most beautiful young lady I ever saw and most amiable, and she was the most innocence. If she had lived, I should have get nothing. She would never have married me, I am sure." (p.57)

## 6. MRS. MILLER

Mrs. Miller is Daisy Miller's mother with whom Daisy travels around Europe. It seems that Henry James creates Mrs. Miller's character in order to give more contrasts between the European old culture and American younger culture. Representing the American ladies, Mrs. Miller gives her approval to Daisy Miller's habits. Her approval is meant to assure the readers that what Daisy has been doing is something common in America. Physically Mrs. Miller is described as below :

Her mother was a small, spare light person, with a wandering eye, a very exiguous noze, and a large forehead, decorated with a certain amount of thin, much-frizzled hair. Like her daughter, Mrs. Miller was dressed with extreme elegance; she had enormous diamonds in her ears. (p.20)

Her existence that is aimed to contrast the



European lady is seen when Daisy tries to introduce Winterbourne to her. She doesn't like any of her daughter's gentlemen friends. She is right down timid. She always make a fuss if Daisy introduces a gentleman.

When Daisy attempts to introduce Winterbourne to her mother, she explains that her mother doesn't like to be introduced to people and is especially shy about meeting Daisy's gentlemen friends. In contrast, a European mother would insist upon being introduced to a daughter's friend. Thus, we have another insight into Daisy's free behaviour; she is acting with her mother's accord. Moreover, a European mother would never allow her daughter to go to the castle alone, whereas Mrs. Miller tells Daisy that it would be better if she goes alone.

In the point of view of Mrs. Miller, Daisy's social problem is caused by the society itself. She is just as innocent as her daughter. She doesn't seem to realize that their social conducts is quiet different with the native society. What they actually need is an adaptation to the local customs. But instead of instropecting herself, she blames the society of being "splendid". She doesn't show any hesitation that Daisy's habit is something common in America. She believes that it's on account of the society. "The society is splendid", they have been very sociable; they have taken her right in. She approves what Daisy has been doing. "it's a great deal pleasanter for a young

lady if she knows plenty of gentlemen." (p.32,33)

Here then, we are dealing with Americans who function under a more liberal set of rules and under less formal conditions than do the Europeans.

## 7. RANDOLPH

"Presently a small boy came walking along the path-urchin of nine or ten. The child, who was diminutive for his years, had an aged expression of countenance: a pale complexion, and sharp little features. He was dressed in knickerbockers, with red stockings, which displayed his poor little spindle-shanks; he also wore a brilliant red cravat. In front of Winterbourne he paused looking at him with a pair of bright, penetrating little eyes." (p.5)

Randolph is Daisy's little brother whose character suggests the early contrast in the beginning of the story. He is more forward than the European youths would be, and he has no qualms about approaching a stranger. When Daisy Miller does the same, we are prepared to accept this as a part of the American character. Young Randolph is also quite frank: he tells Winterbourne with all sincerity that American men are better than European men.

## VI.3. P L O T

Henry James begins his story with a situation and a character. Many writers would begin with an idea or theme in mind then would create a situation and characters to illuminate the basic idea, but James' technique is just the

opposite. He created a certain situation and then place his characters in it. James then, in effect, sits back and simply observes what would happen when a character was confronted with this new situation. Henry James lets the characters and the situation determine the outcome. This allows him more freedom and allows the opportunity of "getting to know" his characters by observing them in a series of scenes.

### 1. Exposition

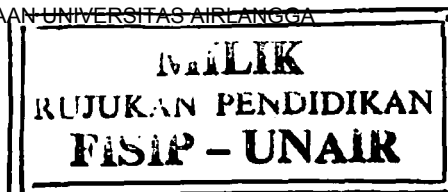
In the exposition part, it is described the situation of the setting and the character from which Henry James uses to continue developing the story. In another word, the development of the story is seen from one of his characters, Winterbourne.

In Vevey, Switzerland, a young gentleman named Winterbourne has stopped to visit his aunt. But because she is "now shut up in her room smelling champor", he has a large amount of free time. In the summer, Vevey is so filled with the Americans that one could almost consider it as an American resort. Throughout the story then we would observe the developments of the conflicts through Winterbourne's eyes. And the description of the situation of the setting that is portrayed as an American-like spot in Europe is meant to give the first impact Of American in Europe that would continuously support the following actions.

An early contrast is suggested by the actions of

young Randolph. From the way he behaves, the readers would gain an impression of contradiction of comparison to the first description of European formality performed by Winterbourne. While Winterbourne is sitting in a cafe drinking coffee, a child about nine or ten comes up to him and asks for a lump of sugar. Winterbourne grants the request but admonishes the boy that sugar is not good for the teeth. The boy responds that he has virtually no teeth anyway. The boy is an American and maintains the trouble with his teeth results from the dreadful European hotels and climate. What he really misses is some good American candy. Everything that is American seems better to the boy than anything European. The scenes show that he is more forward than the European youths would be and he has no qualms about approaching a stranger. When Daisy Miller does the same, then we are prepared to accept this as a part of the American characteristics.

While Winterbourne is talking with the young boy, they notice a pretty girl approaching. The boy announces that it is his sister and Winterbourne observes that the American girl is indeed pretty. The young lady approaches and begins to reprimand young Randolph for various things. As she talks with her brother, Winterbourne observes that she is a very charming girl who seems to have a lot of confidence in life. After a brief conversation, they already get closely acquainted. Here, Daisy Miller addresses her



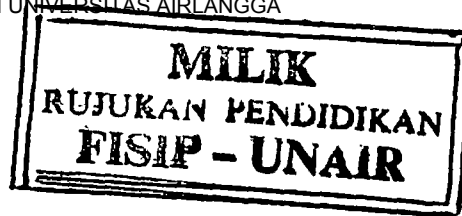
new acquaintance as if she had known him for a long time. She tells Winterbourne that the only thing she doesn't like about Europe is the lack of society, especially gentlemen society. Schenectady and New York city have plenty of society which she enjoyed, but in Europe, she is unable to discover any. Winterbourne hears all of these with certain amount of shocked amazement. He had never yet heard a young lady expresses herself in this fashion. He wonders if she is a great flirt or simply the essence of innocence. He finally decides that she is a pretty American flirt. It is with the appearance of Daisy Miller that the contrast between two cultures or two systems of values is expanded. Daisy approaches with the confidence of a person accustomed to a certain amount of independence. Thus, two of the American qualities, Randolph and Daisy Miller, are those of confidence and independence.

At this part, the two main characters, Winterbourne and Daisy Miller, begin to be exposed. Those two characters are the key of the development of conflicts in the story. Daisy Miller is the one that creates all the problems portrayed and becomes the main issues of the story, while through Winterbourne the readers follow the whole story. After passing the exposition part, The readers would be prepared and aware about the following steps of actions for in this part everything that is going to be important in the pattern of actions are already presented.

## 2. Complication

The following part is complication. In this part, the potential instability that has been built in the proceeding part is prolonged and begin to be revealed. Here, the exposition should have set up a situation in which there is conflict and from which suspense arises. As introduced in the exposition, the distinctive personality and behaviour of Daisy Miller and Randolph are being exposed from Winterbourne's point of view. When those American customs are compared to the European, as Winterbourne does, then it becomes a potential instability that may results to further conflicts. Daisy Miller provokes the first conflict under the situation that the readers are already familiar with, American-European cultural clash.

After some little talks between Daisy and Winterbourne, Daisy soon points to a nearby castle and wonders if Winterbourne has seen it. She wants to go but her mother doesn't feel up to it. Winterbourne offers his assistance. He will be glad to escort Miss Miller and her mother, but Daisy thinks that her mother wouldn't like to go. Suddenly Winterbourne realizes that Daisy is willing to go with him alone. Eugenio appears, Daisy family's courier, then addressing to him, Daisy explains that Winterbourne has promised to take her to the castle. Winterbourne feels that there has been a breach of discretion and he offers to introduce Daisy Miller to his aunt who will vouch for his



character. But she doesn't seem to be concern. She leaves telling him that they will soon arrange a trip to the castle.

Daisy's willingness to go alone with Winterbourne to the castle reveals her innocent bravery. This provokes the first conflict in Winterbourne's mind and also in the readers'. Here, two different values are being contrasted: American freedom of action and European formality. It indicates that Daisy's inviting Winterbourne to the castle has violated the norms believed in Europe. At this section, Eugenio seems to disapprove of the arrangements that Daisy has made with Winterbourne. He is actually quick to let the courier know that he is also aware of the impropriety of the entire situation. But he is also charmed and perplexed by this unusual girl that he will do anything to find out more about her.

Another conflict happens between Winterbourne and his aunt, Mrs. Costello. Winterbourne has promised too much by saying he would introduce Daisy Miller to his aunt. The aunt, Mrs. Costello is very aloof and aristocratic, and she does not approve of the Millers. She can not accept them because they are too common. She has heard particularly unfavourable things about the young miss Miller. Although Winterbourne tries to explain that Daisy is really quite innocent but has not yet learned all of the educated ways of the world. When he tells his aunt that he is going to take

her to the castle, Mrs. Costello is honestly shocked. For Mrs. Costello, Daisy's conduct is that of a vulgar and common person. Through the aunt's views, the readers are to realize that some of Daisy's actions are improper or in bad taste.

It seems that Daisy's actions always provoke conflicts. She has suggested Winterbourne to go for a row on the lake late one night. Even Mrs. Miller thinks that this would be too much despite Daisy's insistence. The courier appears and it is obvious that he is shocked when he learns that Miss Miller would actually go out at night with a gentleman. And suddenly, Daisy changes her mind, leaving Winterbourne extremely perplexed and puzzled by her actions.

Daisy's misconducts have been described by Mrs. Costello to Winterbourne when the two people are in Rome. Mrs. Costello tells Winterbourne everything she knows about Daisy's misbehaviour when in Rome. About her going alone at night with some gentlemen, and about how "she has picked up half a dozen of Roman fortune hunters." On the other hand, Daisy's mother apparently isn't concerned about what her daughter has been doing. In general, Mrs Costello thinks that the Millers are "very dreadful people." But Winterbourne argues that they are not only ignorant but also innocent. Actually they are not bad. Mrs. Costello still maintains they are "hopelessly vulgar" and "they are bad enough to dislike at any rate; and for this short life that



is quite enough." Daisy Miller keeps on doing what she wants, being indifferent and ignorant regarding the local society, until the story develops to the crisis part.

### 3. C r i s i s

The crisis part is signified by Daisy's responds to all the restrictions in which the European society has warned her. At this point, Daisy rejects every advice given by people who care about her reputation. It begins when Daisy Miller meets Winterbourne and Mrs. Walker in Rome. After a conversation, Daisy reveals that she is going to meet Mr. Giovanelli. Mrs. Walker is shocked and tells Daisy that it is not safe for her to go alone. Daisy thinks it is, and then Mrs. Walker has to explain that it is not proper for a young lady to walk alone at that hour to meet a gentleman. Daisy only responds "I don't want to do anything improper." Daisy sees nothing wrong about going for a walk alone. And when Mrs. Walker objects, Daisy says she doesn't want to do anything improper. She proceeds doing just that, because apparently she is more interested in living her life in the way she wants than in the proper forms of behaviour. Daisy's answer could be concluded as her responds to the restricted European culture. Daisy's challenge to the local customs then is continued when Mrs. Walker finds out Daisy is walking with Giovanelli and Winterbourne.

"It is really too dreadful" she said. "That girl must not do this sort of thing. She must not walk here with you two men. Fifty people have noticed her." (p. 38)

Then she tells Winterbourne that Daisy Miller is ruining herself by her own conducts. She plans to take Daisy into her carriage and then deposit to her mother. Mrs. Walker asks her to get in but Daisy refuses. She reminds Daisy that she should not ruin her own reputation because she has become the object of the city's gossip.

Here is the argumentation between Daisy and Mrs. Walker that points the crisis part of the story :

"It may be enchanting dear child, but it is not the custom here," urged Mrs. Walker.  
 "Well, it ought to be, then !" said Daisy. "If I didn't walk I should expire."  
 "You should walk with your mother, dear," cried the lady losing patience.  
 "With my mother, dear !" exclaimed the young girl.  
 "My mother never walked ten steps in her life. And then you know," she added with a laugh, "I am more than five years old."  
 "You are old enough to be more reasonable. You are old enough, to be talked about."  
 Daisy gave a violent laugh, "I never heard anything so stiff ! If this is improper, then I am all improper, and you must give me up. Good bye; I hope you'll have a lovely ride !"  
 (p.39,40)

Daisy Miller's rejection indicates that Daisy is certainly more concerned with enjoying life than she is in the proper forms. She thinks that what she is doing is something innocent and she sees no reasons why she should deny the pleasure of life simply to satisfy the whims of an established convention. She is quite direct and honest by



saying that if she is improper for walking in public with a man then she is completely improper and should be given up. In other words, Daisy would like Mrs. Walker to quit judging her.

At this point, Daisy shows her responds or decision to face the society that condemns her, talks about her, and restricts her habits. Her action is also her resolution to the conflict between her and the society. Daisy's action clarify the readers of the two opposing forces that set up the conflict and at this point the readers concern grow into curiosity to find out which force will win and driven to read on to the climax.

#### 4. C l i m a x

One night, at Mrs. Walker's party, which Winterbourne attends, Mrs. Miller arrives by herself and tells Mrs. Walker that she has left Daisy alone with Giovanelli. Daisy has pushed her mother out of the door because she wants to practice some singing with her new friend. Mrs. Walker is shocked and feels that Daisy is intentionally being improper. At eleven Daisy arrives bustling in with Mr. Giovanelli and gaily chats with everyone. With charming vivacity she tells Mrs. Walker that Giovanelli sings quite well. During the party, her companion conducts himself according to all the proper forms of behaviour, while Daisy gaily chats with everyone. When she

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...to take leave of Mrs. Walker, this lady conscientiously repaired the weakness of which she had been guilty at the moment of the young girl's arrival. She turned her back straight upon Miss Miller, and left her to depart with what grace she might. Winterbourne was standing near the door; he saw it all. Daisy turned very pale, and look at her mother; but Mrs. Miller was humbly unconscious of any violation



of the usual social forms. She appeared, indeed, to have left an incongruous impulse to draw attention to her own striking observance of them. ... Daisy turned away, looking with a pale, grave face at the circle near the door; Winterbourne saw that, for the first moment, she was too much shocked and puzzled for indignation. He on his side was greatly touched. "That was very cruel," he said to Mrs. Walker. "She never enters my drawing room again !" replied his hostess. (p.46)

At this point, Mrs. Walker, representing the European society, as one of the opposing forces shows her final action by rejecting Daisy's greeting. That scene above is concluded as the climax part of the story for it is the mayor crisis and the turning point from the whole action of the plot. Mrs. Walker has made an essential action to stop her attention and care toward Daisy because she feels she might be much embarrassed by this young improper lady. Since that evening there is no contact between them and no more conflicts are revealed in the following story eventhough Daisy still maintains her habits with Giovanelli until the story comes up to its resolution.

##### 5. Resolution

The resolution part begins right after the climax for there is no further description about the conflict between Daisy and the European society representatives until Daisy Miller has caught a Roman fever that makes her seriously ill. A week after that, Daisy dies. At the funeral Winterbourne meets Mr. Giovanelli who speaks of Daisy in the

best terms and concludes by saying she was the most innocent person and how tremendously he still admires her. At the tragic end of the story, the emphasis is again on Daisy's innocence.

#### IV.4. SETTING

Henry James opens the story by describing a situation of the first setting. Being familiar with the original condition of Europe, Henry James is perfectly able to portray the scene of the American spot in Europe. He gives the readers a beautiful clear picture about the condition where the first scene is placed and situated, as quoted below :

At the little town of Vevey, in Switzerland, there is a particularly comfortable hotel. There are, indeed, many hotels; for the entertainment of tourists is the business of the place, which, as many travellers will remember, is seated upon the edge of a remarkably blue lake - a lake that it behooves every tourist to visit. The shore of the lake presents an unbroken array of establishments of this order, of every category, from the grand hotel of the newest fashion, with a chalk-white front, a hundred balconies, and a dozen flags flying from its roof, to the little Swiss pension of an elder day, with its name inscribed in German-looking lettering upon a pink or yellow wall, and an awkward summer house in the angle of the garden. (p. 3)

Further at the beginning of the story Henry James also introduces the readers a contrast description in order to invite the readers' interests and to prepare their

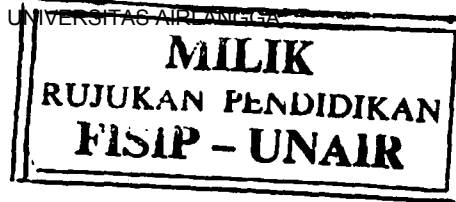


imagination for the main issue proceeds. It is about the American travellers who spend their vacation at Vevey which are contrasted with the condition there.

In this region, in the month of June, American travellers are extremely numerous; it may be said indeed that Vevey assumes at this period some of the characteristics of an American watering-place. There sights and sounds which evoke a vision, an echo, of Newport and Saratoga. ... it must be added, there are other features there are much at variance with these suggestions: neat German waiters, who look like secretaries of legation: Russian princesses sitting in the garden; little Polish boys walking about, held by the hand, with their governors ... (p.3,4)

By introducing the description of the setting in the story first before going on to step further on the main issue, Henry James may assure himself that the readers already have a picture in their mind about the situation in the story. Then it would be easier for him to lead the readers' interest to follow the next scene of action and to understand the idea James is presenting.

Undoubtedly, Henry James was one of the great masters in describing the setting in the story. In "Daisy Miller", as elsewhere, James has painted unforgettable scenes that proves his mastery on setting. For instance, Daisy standing in the hotel garden at Vevey, her beauty still visible in the darkness; Winterbourne escorting Daisy through the crowd to the pincian garden; and his discovery of Daisy and her escort in the Collosseum by the moonlight.



The two last scenes are taken in Rome, when the setting is moved there.

Eventhough Henry James doesn't mention precisely about the actual time when the story is taken, but through the symbols and description of the setting in the story the readers could possibly assume that the carriages, mansions and the way all the characters are dressed are those of about the 19th century.

The atmosphere and the condition of the setting contributes a great supports to build the sense of conflict between two different social groups. That is the condition of the society of European with their point of view toward social relationship which provide the supporting aspects to make the social conflict between Daisy Miller and the European society becomes possible.

The story also describes the way of life of the European society. It is shown that the European are very much aware of their relationship with others, especially between different sexes. The ladies tend to be very selective about their social relationship, they would rather be exclusive in the society. Their aristocratic way of life make them very careful with their manners, because a little disorder of the manner would put them into many dreadful consequences and be driven away from the social boundaries. The Europeans are well known with their strict way of life and aristocratic customs, they also pay much respect to the

values of their own culture. It is perfectly shown how the setting has supported the social conflict as the main issue of Daisy Miller's story.