

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

American and European distinctive socio-cultural backgrounds are prominently revealed in this novella. Henry James delightfully explores the conflicts between each typical characteristics by encountering both cultural agents. The possibilities of the conflict emerge since each agents insist to stick to what they believe without enough consideration to respect other differ culture.

In *Daisy Miller*, Henry James portrays the American and European socio-cultural contrasts that result with the deviation of Daisy Miller as the representation of American culture. Daisy's typical American characteristic collides with the aristocratic way of life of the Europeans. There are many clashes of value interpretation found in the process of Daisy's socialization in the European society. And when the substantial part of both cultures are encountered, then, the impacts result in a social conflicts between each agents.

Daisy Miller's characteristics are being thoroughly contrasted with the native European. In the point of view of the European society; none of Daisy's actions seem to be acceptable. The European, that is represented by the "Europeanized" American-born community, has obviously different way in leading their conducts and also different

perception in appreciating one's conformed manners. Their aristocratic and formal way of life requires other to do things the way they expect. And when it is applied to Daisy Miller, unfortunately those requirements of socialization seem to be too much to fulfill for it is very far from her nature. Daisy Miller, as other American girls, would rather be free and straight forward. She believes in the individual freedom of action in doing what she desires. She doesn't like being restricted and can not tolerate any interventions upon her life. Moreover, she does all her habits, all her wishes, without any consideration to other expense, that is the local European society.

At first, she doesn't know that the Europeans have a much different views with what she believes. She is not even aware that what she thinks right to be done is not acceptable in the European point of view. She doesn't give a heed when people start to talk "bad things" about her. She doesn't care when she is considered as "a very reckless girl". Latter in the story, she decides to keep on leading her life in the way she wants and neglecting all the advices given to her. Daisy Miller is too innocent to realize the importance of adaptation. She is "too uncultivated" to give enough respects to the local customs. And unfortunately she is condemned for her being innocent, her "Laxity of deportment".

In *Daisy Miller*, Henry James' "International

Subject" comes down to the behaviour of Americans in Europe, the contrast between American and European cultures. He exploits the behaviour of the American people who find themselves in societies foreign to them, societies in which the conventions and assumptions about behaviour are other than they are at home. He is particularly concerned with the loss of innocence as the victims of an old aristocratic decorum.

Henry James' experience of living in America and in Europe has widen his knowledge of the existence of the differences between the two cultures. He becomes perfectly aware of the distinctiveness of both cultures and of the impacts when both distinct cultural agents are encountered. And it seems to interest him about the facts that those impacts would possibly result in conflicts between each agents. The phenomena of the potential emerging inter-cultural conflicts has inspired James to reveal it in one of his work, *Daisy Miller*.

Finally, after analyzing the extrinsic part that concerns about the reality being portrayed, it could be concluded that *Daisy Miller* represents the American and European socio-cultural distinctiveness. The descriptions of both cultures in the story are portraits of the reality of the American and European conditions. American individual freedom are well known as the American national characteristics, and so as their straight forwardness. While

the European typical characteristics are those that found in the story. Their aristocratic, formal way of life, are derived from their old aged civilization that requires strict obedience to norms and values of conformity. And as can be seen, even the "Europeanized" community tend to obey the social decorum, that in contrast is considered to be a denial of the pleasure of life by Daisy Miller. All these distinctiveness are the pictures that is portrayed by Henry James, that is derived from the existing phenomena of his international experience.

The inter socio-cultural conflicts experienced by Daisy Miller describes the possibilities that might happen if each agent isn't wise enough to see the problems objectively. While the distinctiveness of the American and the European socio-cultures would make a potential reason for the conflict to happen. On the other hand this phenomena teach us a valuable lesson to be aware of other cultures existence and also to pay enough respect is important to be accepted in a certain community.