

ABSTRACT

Every human being who has ambition will try to pursue it. Man's action in pursuing the ambition is controlled by norms and social values that exist within society. This makes man tend to cope and manipulate the norm and social values in order to avoid disharmony between man and society. Edith Wharton's *The Custom of the Country* is one of literary works that tell how man, as individual, pursues the ambition without opposing the norms and social values.

In *The Custom of the Country* Edith Wharton presents Undine Spragg as ambitious and manipulative woman who will do whatever it takes to get what she wants. In this research, the analysis focuses on the way Undine pursues her ambition and the way she manipulates the social values in order to remarry.

Here, the writer analyzes the subject through intrinsic—character and setting—and extrinsic elements of the story. To make the analysis more adequate and objective, the writer employs sociological approach to support the analysis. This thesis concludes that Undine uses marriage and manipulates the social values to reach her ambition.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION