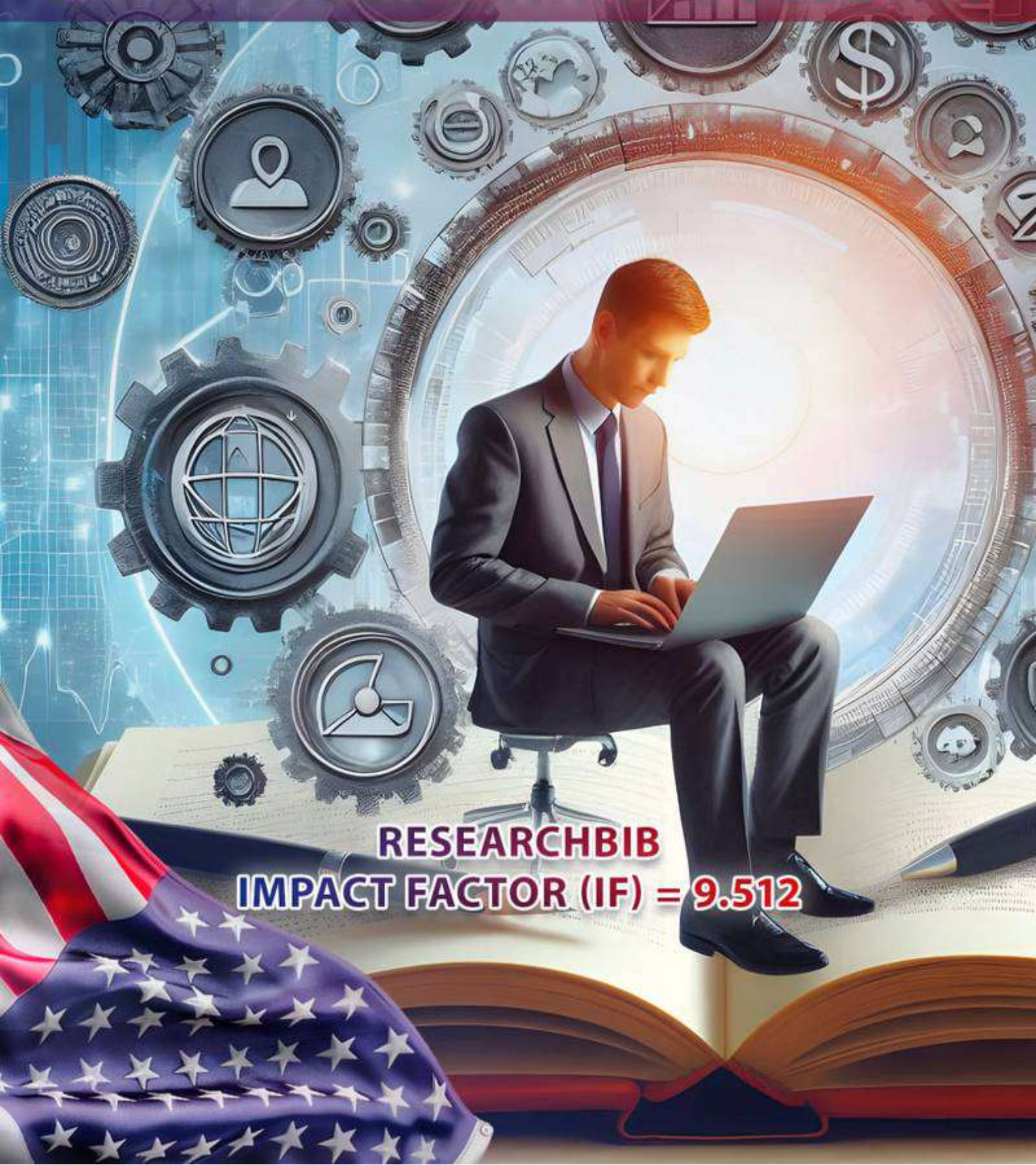


[www.advancedscientia.com](http://www.advancedscientia.com) | ISSN 2996-511X

# AMERICAN JOURNAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY BULLETIN



**RESEARCHBIB**  
**IMPACT FACTOR (IF) = 9.512**



## “DAUGHTER OF THE LEGEND” - THE ARTISTIC DISPLAY OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE NOVEL

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14539376>

**O.X. Ganieva**

*PhD, Associate Professor*  
*Bukhara State University*  
*o.x.ganieva@buxdu.uz*

### **Abstract**

The 20th century American realist novel underwent unprecedented transformations, with J. Stewart's contribution to the development of this genre being particularly noteworthy. In this article we will discuss her novel and the issue of social changes in her works.

### **Key words**

existential ideas, narrator's world, national identity, struggles of nation, regionalism, heritage.

**INTRODUCTION** In modern literature Jesse Stuart gained precious notification through her valuable works. His works, including *Trees of Heaven*, *Taps for Private Tussie*, *Daughter of the Legend*, *Foretaste of Glory*, *Mr. Gallion's School*, and *Mongrel Mettle*, earned critical acclaim in the first half of the 20th century and established Jesse Stuart as one of the leading writers of his time.<sup>99</sup> In his literary works, the author depicts real-life leading to epiphanies about their defeat, despite being in a socially disadvantaged position. Every character in Jesse Stuart's work is driven by the desire to preserve human dignity, avoid mistakes in their life philosophy, remain steadfast in their principles, and fight against the vices of society with courage and determination.

S.L. Bevart's research on character, conflict, and artistic expression in Jesse Stuart's novels emphasizes that the author creates protagonists who live with hope and possess admirable qualities of youth, energy, and a love for life. J.H. Sparlock's dissertation *A Sociocultural and Rhetorical Analysis of Jesse Stuart's Fiction* analyzes Jesse Stuart's works from narrative and novelistic perspectives, revealing how simple and innocent storytelling is enhanced through irony and symbolic

<sup>99</sup> Stuart J. *Foretaste of Glory*. With an Introduction by Robert J. Higgs. – USA: The University Press of Kentucky, 1946. – P. VIII.

[https://books.google.co.uz/books?id=6wVSbw3FbXUC&q=Jesse+Stuart+foretaste&redir\\_esc=y#v=snippet&q=Jesse%20Stuart%20foretaste&f=false](https://books.google.co.uz/books?id=6wVSbw3FbXUC&q=Jesse+Stuart+foretaste&redir_esc=y#v=snippet&q=Jesse%20Stuart%20foretaste&f=false)

transformations that give linguistic-aesthetic beauty to the narrative.<sup>100</sup> Sparlock highlights the importance of Stuart's stories, as well as his novels such as *Daughter of the Legend*, *Taps for Private Tussie*, *Beyond Dark Hills*, and *Mongrel Mettle*, in portraying social problems with literary expertise. These novels are phenomenologically and ethnomethodologically analyzed to uncover the individualities of characters, existential ideas, and the essence of the narrator's world, based on novelistic theories.<sup>101</sup>

## MAIN PART

Jesse Stuart's novels remain significant in the context of current globalization processes. As a regional novelist, he approaches the individuality of his characters innovatively, creating a sense of identity within the depiction of the environment. In the 21st century, literary analysis often involves examining characters from psycholinguistic, socio-cultural, and spiritual perspectives, and in this chapter, we attempt to analyze the characters of *Daughter of the Legend* through sociological theories.

For centuries, people have strived to understand how important their "home" or "place" is in their lives, and this desire to belong is undeniable. Regardless of their geographic location, culture, ethnic origin, or value system, individuals seek a sense of belonging to a family, community, or group. Through their creative activities, people experience culture and spirituality, exchange emotions, and spend time in ways that deepen their connection to their surroundings. This sense of belonging often manifests in small segments of society, where specific groups or communities share values, traditions, and cultural heritage.

The concept of "identity" has become a crucial subject in sociological studies, particularly as it relates to the individual's connection to their environment, national-cultural values, customs, and the impact of these factors on their fate. This is an area increasingly studied in literary criticism, with a growing trend of analyzing characters and their characteristics from these perspectives.

Published in 1965, *Daughter of the Legend* is dedicated to the theme of interracial tolerance, a crucial issue in 20th-century America. Through this novel, Jesse Stuart vividly portrays the pain and suffering caused by racial discrimination, which was prevalent in the region before the civil rights laws and the liberalization of the last few decades.<sup>102</sup> Despite being set in the Appalachian Mountains, the novel departs from Stuart's previous works by relocating the setting from Kentucky

<sup>100</sup> Bevard. Samuel Lee. Character, Conflict, and Statement in Three Jesse Stuart novels: The Movement toward Hope and Salvation. // A Thesis presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School Morehead State University, 1976. // P. 120.

<sup>101</sup> Sparlock, J. H. A Sociocultural and Rhetorical Analysis of Jesse Stuart's Fiction. // A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Louisville, 1985. // P. 183.

<sup>102</sup> Miller. D.L. Jesse Stuart's "Damn of Remembered Spring. // Border States: Journal of the Kentucky -Tennessee American Studies Association, No. 8, 1991. // P. 1.

to the mountainous areas of Tennessee, where the beliefs, traditions, and values of the local people are more closely explored. The novel's protagonists, Dave Stoneking and Deutsia Huntoon, are portrayed as part of two distinct groups: the mountain people and the valley-dwelling urbanites. Their interactions reflect the South's general view of African Americans, which was based on superstition, discrimination, and injustice. The Melangeon people, living in the Appalachian Mountains, are depicted as different from other groups due to their primitive lifestyle, which includes hunting, trapping, fishing, and using folk medicine. The author masterfully portrays how the societal rejection of this group, combined with their strong connection to the mountains, affects their identity and sense of belonging. Stuart's depiction of Dave and Deutsia's relationship through emotional attachment and the physical description of the region highlights their connection to the land. The novel underscores how characters, as individuals, find a sense of identity in their environment, shaping their lives based on it. The book explores the significance of the land, memories, and personal relationships, where even simple places, like a spring flower or a snowy hill, take on emotional and symbolic meaning. Through his unique narrative style, Stuart expresses the belonging of his characters to their region and emphasizes their emotional ties to the place they live in, as well as the cultural and environmental significance of these locations. Then says: "Deutsia and her mountain flowers,' I said, squeezing her hand. 'My little Deutsia knows every flower that blooms and where they grow. She knows every little stream on this mountain, and she knows every kind of tree, vine, and briar. She knows the birds and where they build. And she knows how to find a bee tree!'" The excerpt portrays a character who lives in harmony with nature and knows all the subtle details of the place she loves. Deutsia stands out for her knowledge of nature and her deep understanding of the mountainous environment. She is connected with the local flora and fauna, possessing perfect knowledge of flowers, trees, birds, and even bee trees. This character illustrates nature's serene beauty and the close connection between humans and it, presenting an ideal image of nature. The concepts of loving and protecting nature are emphasized throughout the passage. Dave acknowledges this ability of Deutsia, reflecting the girl's deep attachment to the land, her profound respect for its plant life, and her kinship with it. Jesse Stuart notes that this respect for nature, shown by the marginalized Melungeons, indicates their organic connection with Mother Nature, preserving these virtues through the ages with loyalty.

A distinctive feature in Jesse Stuart's prose is the juxtaposition of two contrasting concepts: state and community, depicted side by side. Love is placed opposite hatred, friendship opposite enmity, goodness opposite evil. One of the

main themes of the novel is the love between two young hearts, a passionate love, which, by the end of the plot, reveals itself as love for all humanity and the protagonist's noble struggle against evil. In the opening pages of the novel, the meeting of two young people is depicted, and Deutsia suggests going somewhere with the young man. When they arrive, Dave realizes that the place is a prison, where a prisoner is in an extremely poor condition. The prisoner, Don Praytor, a member of Deutsia's tribe, was arrested with half a bottle of whiskey and has been held in unbearable conditions for eight months without trial. For the mountain people, such a punishment is inevitable, but for the valley people, such criminal responsibility doesn't even exist. Every prisoner here contributes to the warden's daily salary. The detailed depiction of the prison room reveals the brutal conditions and injustices: *"I watched a row of cockroaches sliding up and down the wall preening their long whiskers at the houseflies that swarmed in and out of the paneless windows between the iron bars. The smell of the place was enough to knock a man down."*<sup>103</sup> This artistic expression depicts the miserable, filthy living conditions, highlighting the uncomfortable environment through vivid narration. Cockroaches on the wall, flies buzzing around without windows, and the unsanitary state show the room's filth and the danger it poses to health. The conditions in the room – dusty, rotten iron beds, dirty mattresses, and the absence of sheets and pillows – illustrate the lack of basic necessities.

In contrast to the disturbing description above, Deutsia's beauty, her tender demeanor against injustice, her generosity, and humanity are depicted.<sup>104</sup> *"Deutsia, you're an angel,"* Don Praytor says. *"Never did a girl live that has a better heart than you have!"*<sup>105</sup> The dialogue between Don Praytor and Deutsia reveals additional qualities of the main character. Her compassion, love, and care for others are vividly shown. Don Praytor praises Deutsia's generosity and care, calling her an "angel" and admiring her modesty and sincerity. Don appreciates her efforts to help those living in the harsh prison conditions. The novel's plot is chronicle-like, but it also occasionally reveals concentric narrative traits. From the beginning, as Dave describes his relationship with Deutsia, by the final chapter, he reflects on memories from thirty-six years ago, and it becomes clear that their child has already grown. This indicates that the novel's episodes are presented as recollections and reflect the narrator's feelings about past events. "Daughter of the Legend" is a work that celebrates human virtues and existence, emphasizing the psychological connection between the characters and their environment. Deutsia is

<sup>103</sup> Stuart J. Daughter of the Legend. – USA: McGraw-Hill Company, 1965. – P. 54.

<sup>104</sup> Bevard. Samuel Lee. Character, Conflict, and Statement in Three Jesse Stuart novels: The Movement toward Hope and Salvation. // A Thesis presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School Morehead State University, 1976. // P. 88.

<sup>105</sup> Stuart J. Daughter of the Legend. – USA: McGraw-Hill Company, 1965. – P. 13.



depicted as the embodiment of her land, representing a world uniquely suited to her. Some parts of the narrative depict her regional belonging through artistic expressions, while others show it through dialogue. Certain moments directly reflect her deserving place in the Sanctuary mountain. In S. L. Bevard's study, the character of Deutsia is described as the "vital force" of the novel and as being closely linked to the Melungeon legend.

In **conclusion**, Jesse Stuart, through the sense of belonging to place in *Daughter of the Legend*, analyzes the spirit of the times, addressing issues of racial discrimination, individual identity, and personality through various poetic approaches. By using the implied author, reliable narrator, and the shared experiences of characters, the author successfully achieves her conceptual goal.

### REFERENCES:

1. Stuart J. Foretaste of Glory. With an Introduction by Robert J. Higgs. - USA: The University Press of Kentucky, 1946. - P. VIII.
2. [https://books.google.co.uz/books?id=6wVSbw3FbXUC&q=Jesse+Stuart+foretaste&redir\\_esc=y#v=snippet&q=Jesse%20Stuart%20foretaste&f=false](https://books.google.co.uz/books?id=6wVSbw3FbXUC&q=Jesse+Stuart+foretaste&redir_esc=y#v=snippet&q=Jesse%20Stuart%20foretaste&f=false)
3. Bevard. Samuel Lee. Character, Conflict, and Statement in Three Jesse Stuart novels: The Movement toward Hope and Salvation. // A Thesis presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School Morehead State University, 1976. // P. 120.
4. Spurlock, J. H. A Sociocultural and Rhetorical Analysis of Jesse Stuart's Fiction. // A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Louisville, 1985. // P. 183.
5. Sadullayev F. B. Inner characterization of the main character in the novel "the wings of the dove" by henry james //Conferencea. - 2022. - C. 132-135.
6. Stuart J. Daughter of the Legend. - USA: McGraw-Hill Company, 1965. - P. 263.
7. Bakhtiyorovich S. F., Kabilovna S. D. The Literary Significance of "The Jolly Corner" in Henry James's Oeuvre //Miasto Przyszłości. - 2023. - T. 42. - C. 726-729.
8. Ganieva O. K., Sadullayev F. B. The Role Of Female Characters in the novel "The Grapes Of Wrath" by John Steinbeck //АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ СОВРЕМЕННОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ. - 2020. - C. 5-8.
9. Ganieva O. K. DEPICTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN A PERSON AND SOCIETY IN AMERICAN REALISTIC LITERATURE //Scientific Bulletin of Namangan State University. - 2020. - T. 2. - №. 8. - C. 215-220.



ISSN Online: 2996-5128 | <https://advancedscientia.com>

# CERTIFICATE

*Of Appreciation*

This Certificate is Awarded to

**O.X. Ganieva**

For Publication of Paper Entitled

**“DAUGHTER OF THE LEGEND” – THE ARTISTIC DISPLAY OF  
SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE NOVEL**

in Volume 2 of the  
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND LEARNING



RESEARCHBIB  
IMPACT FACTOR (IF) = 9.918



December, 2024

