



## PECULIAR FEATURES OF HENRY JAMES'S EARLY NOVELS

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<b>Received:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 <b>Accepted:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 <b>Published:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	The purpose of this work is to identify characteristic features, language, and material of Henry James's early novels. These novels are analyzed to investigate his contribution in consistency of the depiction of the human psyche.
<b>Keywords:</b> XX century American fiction, psychological <i>realism</i> , <i>psychological novels</i> .	

### I. INTRODUCTION

Literature as an art of word continues to shake the human hearts for several centuries. Its masterpieces leave a deep mark in the history of human development and play an important role in the emergence of new cultural and aesthetic values for the next generation. Henry James is one of the most prominent authors who made a significant contribution to the development of realistic movement in American literature that began in the XIX century and did not lose its importance in fiction even in the XX century, and laid the foundation stone of psychological realism.

In the last two decades of the XIX century and the first decade of the XX century, James wrote stories and novels such as "Daisy Miller", "The Portrait of a Lady", "The Bostonians" and "The Ambassadors". As one of the most skilled novelists, he is a writer who has been able to show his individual style in realist literature of the USA. His name was given in honor of his father, who was a mature social activist and theoretician of his time. As a result, both children of the family were successful, and his brother was the founder of "stream of consciousness" in the field of psychology. James and literary figure H. James left an indelible mark in the history of the United States. Henry, a book lover since childhood, received education and training from the leading schools and teachers of his time due to his family environment.

### II. MAIN PART

During the trips to famous European capitals such as Geneva, Paris, and London, the young writer grew up being able to communicate in several languages, such as French, German, English, and Spanish. Although Henry was a student at Harvard Law School at the age of nineteen, his love for books made him familiar with the artistic world of Balzac, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ivan Turgenev. In particular, his friendship with the leader of the time, W.D. Howells, was the basis for his success as a writer.

During his lifetime, literary critics did not warmly receive Henry James's works, but thanks to the development of modernism in American literature, his works were able to penetrate deeply into the human psyche and attracted the attention of literary critics with his unique approach to psychological prose works. D.M.Skura closely studied the scientific sources dedicated to the author's work, and developed a reference guide of his research [10; VII]. In the preface of his book, while expressing his thoughts about the writer's work, he noted that between 1960 and 1974, about two thousand books, articles and dissertations were written. L.Edel, D.Jefferson, F.Dupy, B.McElderly, D.Abbel, G.Putt, L.Powers, O.Cargills are among the literary experts who explained their conclusions and provided a deep scientific analysis of the interpretation of the artistry and genre features of Henry James' works. Naturally, our attention was drawn to the fact that the author's work was the subject of many studies. As a result of the studies, we witnessed that the author's novels and short stories have been studied in different aspects and angles, but there is no systematic research. Therefore, in this article, we tried to comprehensively analyze the individual style of Henry James, the artistic features of his novels written in different creative periods, commonalities and differences in the methodology in the image of the human psyche. Mostly we have focused on the early period of the writer's literary activity.

Henry James was prolific writer of American literature. More than ten novels such as "The American", "Washington Square", about ten short stories such as "Watch and Ward", "Daisy Miller", "Confidence", "The Europeans", "The Story of a Year", "The Turn of the Screw", "Covering End", more than a hundred stories, "Portraits of Places", "English Hours", "Italian Hours", "The American Scene", "Notes" on Novelists", "The Question of our Speech", "The Art of Fiction", "A Small Boy and Others", "Notes of a Son and Brother", autobiography, "Theatricals" were his main contribution

### III. DISCUSSIONS AND ANALYSIS.

In the early stages of his career, Henry James wrote many stories and short stories, which served as the basis for creating a large epic work. During this period, only two of his novels were published: "The American" and "Washington Square". "The American" is considered the writer's first novel, and although it seems weaker in terms of artistry than other works, it has much wider thematic scope. In the novel, the main character Christopher Newman came to Paris in search of his dream life and what he saw there. By the name of the main character and the title, the reader can understand what the author of the work is referring to. While writing a novel about Americans, the writer emphasizes that the man who discovered the continent is actually a newcomer to this area (new - man - man), and in reality, the hero of the novel also faces serious situations in his new environment. It has been mentioned that the novel is not free of flaws in its representation of reality, due to its genre characteristics [9; 46]. But the remarkable thing is that the writer puts forward the philosophy of life as an anthropologist in the work. The main character becomes a prisoner of his fate, because he is a smart and honest person, but he cannot take revenge for his own benefit, because Newman is not such a person by nature. The fact that such people do not go against their human principles and preserve their human qualities in real life and in the artistic world is skillfully highlighted in the work. This is the first novel experience of the author, and it shows that in his first work he came to sufficient life conclusions about the purity of the soul and its priceless value.

"Washington Square" is one of Henry James's notable novels that consistently illuminate the problems of the time, in which the author describes how wealth, interest, and fame can destroy a person's life. Literary experts such as R. E. Long, D. J. Schneider, E. D. Liborn, R. Poirer expressed important opinions about the artistic features of the novel, and were impressed by the sense of humor in it, the writer's artistic skill, the balance of tragedy and comedy in the work, the symbolism used in the novel details and their role in the psychological state of the characters, treatment of a person as a fabric in the work, expression of the issues of freedom and captivity, father-child relationship, complex mental experiences in fulfilling the filial duty are analyzed on the example of the fate of the heroes.

The image of parallel characters, which is especially common in psychological novels, is analyzed in detail in R. E. Long's article. The characters of the novel - the main character, Catherine's father, Dr. Sloper, and Morris Townsend, the young man who wants to marry her, have parallels. A few years ago, Dr. Sloper, who married an heiress and achieved success and wealth in his family and profession, opposes his daughter's marriage to Morris Townsend and deprives his daughter of the happiness of womanhood and causes her to spend a lifetime alone. The literary critic points out that both men treat Catherine as their property, and that the hatred and conflict between the characters represent their commonality [1; 28]. Both characters are aware of their mutual relationship, but do not want to give in to each other, both of them trample on the feelings of a simple and innocent girl for their personal gain.

R.E.Long connects the fate of parallel characters with the house in Washington Square. *"He had his chair—a very easy one at the fireside in the back parlour (when the great mahogany sliding-doors, with silver knobs and hinges, which divided this apartment from its more formal neighbour, were closed), and he used to smoke cigars in the Doctor's study, where he often spent an hour in turning over the curious collections of its absent proprietor. He thought Mrs. Penniman a goose, as we know; but he was no goose himself, and, as a young man of luxurious tastes and scanty resources, he found the house a perfect castle of indolence. It became for him a club with a single member"* [11]. This luxurious, charming and castle-like house is depicted as Dr. Sloper's position in society, the hero's social evaluation of himself, and his spiritual identity. Morris Townsend's name Sharif is also symbolic. The dreams of a young man living a difficult marriage with his widowed sister in the outskirts of the city (town-end-end-end) are numerous, and the poor house he lives in has become a symbol of his place in society and social status, but his attitude and aspirations to the round house in Washington Square are his desires, is a symbol representing the future. This image of the house dominates the development of events in the novel. Between the master of the house and the suitor, in the series of events of the novel, there is an unbridled external and internal spiritual conflict.

In the novel, the main character Catherine Sloper has real human qualities, and according to the expression of her emotions and spiritual experiences, she can be compared to the main character of "The American" Christopher Newman. In both works, qualities such as pure human love and mutual respect are glorified, and these qualities are embodied in the protagonists of the novels. The writer tries to typify the main characters in both examples of creation, appreciates the truly human features that he would like to have in his compatriots.

**IN CONCLUSION,** Henry James enriched American literature with his unique works. Especially with more than a dozen novels, he contributed in consistency in the depiction of the human psyche. Despite the different characteristics of his characters, the writer was able to convey to the reader that there are aspects that unite them in the interpretation of the scenes of the inner world.

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