

**HENRY JAMES'S WORLDVIEW  
IN *THE AMBASSADORS*:  
A GENETIC STRUCTURALISM APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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**by**

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Literature is a social institution, using language as medium of social creation. Furthermore, literature represents life and life is in large measure, a social reality (Wellek 1959: 94). Hence, a literary work which is the author's creation is an ideal reflection of social reality. The literary work and the author cannot be separated since; the literary work is a reproduction of the author's mind.

The author's mind is a result of the author's response towards the social reality where he or she lives. An author lives among the society which he or she associates and mingles with it. As human being an author is like the other people who are influenced by his or her religious conviction, social idea, settlement, culture and convention of his or her culture. However, an author does not always in harmony or agrees with the social circumstances in his or her society. He or she can also require a different view on it. The different view toward his or her social life force him or her to change and shape the behavior and the social view of his or her society. An author expresses his or her view by creating a work art. Through his or her work of art, an author wants to alter he social view of his society to provide a solution for a better view and behavior in social life.

As the creator of literary work especially novel, author cannot be separated from his work literary work is a media for authors to express their feeling, thoughts ideas, and minds. In creating literary work, an author is inspired by what he has experienced, observed, and watched through his daily life. He has been affected by life phenomena in such a way that he then tries to share what he feels, about certain problem of human life with the readers. As Pickering and Hoepfer (1997:73) assume that literary works attempts to communicate an author's emotional and intellectual responses to his or her own existence and to the surrounding world.

Author of the literary work such as novel creates the work by seeing the fact, by feeling the reality, including social reality. Author makes society realize the reality and make up their consciousness to make movement. To identify what is the purpose of the authors create his or her literary works, it can be seen from many kinds of perspective or theoretical approach. One of them is Genetic Structuralism.

Genetic structuralism is the study that focuses not only in the structure of work but also on the sociological aspect of work. The concept of the work is centered on the relation among characters and on the relation between the characters and their surrounding object. By using Genetic Structuralism the author tries to relate the characters and their surrounding situation. It is possible for the entire author in the world and Henry James was not an exception.

Henry James was born in New York City on April, 15, 1843 of Scottish and Irish descent. His father was a well-known theologian and philosopher. He had a sophisticated education with private tutors and at schools in New York, London, Paris and Geneva, entering the law school at Harvard in 1862. In 1864, he began to contribute reviews and short stories to American journals. In 1869-1870 and 1872-1874, he visited Europe. He died in 1916.

*The Ambassadors* was one of the well-known novels by Henry James, published in 1903. His other works are "*The Europeans*" (1878), "*Washington Square*" (1880), "*The Portrait of a Lady*" (1881), "*The Bostonians*" (1886), "*The Princess Casamassima*" (1886), "*The Tragic Muse*" (1890), "*The Spoils of Poynton*" (1897), "*What Maisie Knew*" (1897), "*The Awkward Age*" (1899), "*The Wings of the Dove*" (1902), "*The Ambassadors*" (1903), and "*The Golden Bowl*" (1904).

*The Ambassadors* tells about the journey of Lewis Lambert Strether to rescue his fiancée's son, Chad Newsome from the clutches of a presumably wicked woman, and bring him back to the family business, but he encounters with the unexpected complications. On his way to Paris, Strether stops in England and met with Maria Gostrey, an American woman who has lived in Paris for many years. Her cynical wit and worldly-wise opinions start to rattle Strether's preconceived view of the situation.

In Paris Strether meets Chad and is impressed by the much greater sophistication he seems to have gained during his years in Europe. Chad takes him to a garden party where Strether meets Marie de Vionnet, a beautiful and gracious woman separated from her husband, and her daughter Jeanne. Strether is confused as to whether Chad is more attracted to the mother or the daughter all these impressions of Parisian culture bring Strether to confide in Little Bilham, a friend of Chad's, that he might have missed the best life has to offer. Strether starts to delight in the loveliness of Paris and actually stops Chad from returning to America. Mrs. Newsome, Strether's fiancée and Chad's mother, soon sends out new "ambassadors" to bring back Chad. Strether takes a small tour in the French countryside to escape these troubles, and accidentally meets Chad and Marie at a local motel. After he returns to Paris he advised Chad not to leave Marie. But Strether finds that he is no longer comfortable in Europe. He decided to cancel marriage from Maria Gostrey and returns to America.

Shortly talking about *The Ambassadors* is very interesting. In order to know about Henry James's worldview using Genetic Structuralism Approach, in this study the researcher encourages himself to give a title HENRY JAMES'S WORLDVIEW IN *THE AMBASSADORS*: A GENETIC STRUCTURALISM APPROACH.

## **B. Literature Review**

Although Henry James's is a famous writer, as far as the researcher knows, there is no research have been conducted in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, in Sebelas Maret University and in Universitas Negeri Semarang that study Henry James's worldview in *The Ambassadors* using Genetic Structuralism Approach. The researcher tries to give attention to the worldview of Henry James's work *The Ambassadors*.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is "What is Henry James's worldview in *The Ambassadors*?"

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

The study focused on Henry James's worldview as reflected in *The Ambassadors* by using Genetic Structuralism Approach.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel in term of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on sociological perspective.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

This research is literary research. The benefits of the researcher doing this research are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit:**

To give additional information to literary research, especially that dealing with Henry James's *The Ambassadors* and enriches the field of literary subject and its development.

### **2. Practical Benefit:**

The practical benefit from this study is to give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing this novel into different perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Research**

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method that refers to the study that is based on qualitative data.

### **2. Object of the Research**

The object of the study is the main character and socio culture conflict in Henry James's *The Ambassadors*.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The data are taken from two main sources:

#### **a. Primary data source**

The primary data sources is Henry James's *The Ambassadors* novel, which was published on 1903. Type of data is text consisting of words, phrases, and sentences taken from the novel and other sources corresponding to the problem of the study.

#### **b. Secondary data source**

The secondary data sources are several references and criticism and studies on Henry James's *The Ambassadors*.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

This research uses library research as technique of data collecting. The writer takes some steps, they are:

- a. Reading and comprehending the novel
- b. Reading related references and understanding it to observe the data
- c. Recording the relevant information
- d. Classifying the information into several categories.

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The writer employs descriptive in analyzing the data that is to make an interpretation of the text and content analysis using deductive and inductive methods. Formerly the research is analyzing the character of Genetic

Structuralism by discovering the underlying ideas beyond the textual description with Genetic Structuralism.

## **H. Paper Organization**

In order to make the research easier to follow, the paper is organized into six chapters as follows: Chapter I is introduction, covering the background of the study review in literary study, the benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II presents the theory of Genetic Structuralism. Chapter III includes the social background with all aspect of social reality of the American society in the late of nineteenth century and the biography of the author. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the novel. Chapter V discusses the sociological analysis of Henry James's worldview in *The Ambassadors*. Chapter VI discusses conclusion and suggestion of the research.