

**THE STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF "DAISY MILLER"**  
**A SHORT STORY BY HENRY JAMES**

THESIS



BY  
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Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to get Under Graduate Degree of  
Education in English

**TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY**  
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2003

This Thesis has been Approved to be Examined by  
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## ABSTRACT

Eva Rahmadyani. THE STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF "DAISY MILLER" A SHORT STORY BY HENRY JAMES. Surakarta. Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, July 2003.

This study is conducted in order to answer the research question, i.e. to reveal the structural elements of *Daisy Miller*. The study covers the finding of plot, characters, setting, point of view, style, tone and theme structuring the short story, and the interrelation of the elements in forming coherent unity.

Since this research aims to reveal the structure of the short story, the writer applies structural approach involving verbal analysis only. Thus it is a qualitative research. The writer applies content analysis as a tool to find the existence of certain concepts of literature in the story that is analyzed.

From the research findings, the writer concludes that all elements structuring the short story *Daisy Miller* are unified supporting the theme of the story. Characters inevitably have strong relationship with plot, since the plot is built around the clash between *Daisy Miller* and American colonists' society, which is represented by the conflict between Winterbourne, one of focal character who is the member of that society, and *Daisy Miller* the American innocence. However, plot development needs appropriate setting to achieve the quality of the lifelikeness, besides creating logical sequence of events.

Europe is a perfect setting that enforces the moral value from the theme of this story. Castle of Chillon as a symbol of struggle against tyranny is appropriate for Winterbourne recognition toward *Daisy Miller* longing for freedom. The dusty dark Colosseum is perfect for problems faced by major characters. Season's cycle, summer, winter and spring enforce ironic tone of this story, for it presents dramatic end of *Daisy Miller's* fate surely different from reader's former expectation.

French words used by Europeanized American who think that they have learned about society also enforce the irony of this story, for they fail to recognize the true personality of an American girl. Her spontaneity and purity ironically are characteristic heritage of their own country. The theme of this story emerges from the changes of Winterbourne view toward *Daisy Miller*. Winterbourne, who is eager to learn *Daisy Miller's* true characteristic, initially tries to see *Daisy's* spontaneity as innocent. However, eventually he is influenced by his society that makes him judge her wrongly. His hesitation on how to behave properly makes him tend to pretend and thus he does not know himself. His failure to understand himself draws his failure to understand the true characteristic of another, and that is the story all about.

The preceding description shows that no element can stand by itself. The interwoven elements, their contribution in enforcing the theme of the story, the logical sequence of plot, the lifelikeness and plausibility of the story can be evidence that all elements of this story sustain each other in forming the story's coherent unity.

This Thesis has been Examined by the Board of Thesis Examiners of  
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and has been Accepted as a Partial Fulfillment Requirements for  
the Under Graduate Degree of Education in English

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*Motto*



*In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful  
All Praise is due to Allah Alone, The Creator and Ruler of the Universe  
The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful  
Lord of The Day of Judgment  
Thee Alone do we worship and Into Thee Only we turn for aid.  
Guide us Straight Way  
The Way of Those upon Whom Thou Hast Bestowed Thy Blessing,  
not Those Who Have Been Condemned (by Thee),  
nor Those Who Go Astray.  
(QS. Al-Fatihah 1-7)*

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Surakarta, August 2003

Eve



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