

The Continuation of World Short Story Traditions in the Works of H. James

Djumaeva Gulnora Zakirovna

Doctoral Student of Bukhara State University

Abstract. *Henry James was a pioneering figure in 20th-century literature, particularly in the genre of the short story, where his contributions shaped the evolution of narrative techniques. This article explores James' distinctive style, which emphasized psychological realism and the exploration of the human psyche, a departure from the traditional focus on external events. By delving into themes such as self-identity, experience, human relationships, and social change, James' works offer profound insights into the internal conflicts and complexities of human existence. His use of techniques like internal monologue and psychological realism influenced subsequent literary movements and inspired writers like Marcel Proust and Franz Kafka. This article highlights James' lasting impact on modern literature, showing how his innovative approach paved the way for a deeper exploration of human experience in the 20th and 21st centuries.*

Key words: *Henry James, short story, psychological realism, self-identity, human experience, internal monologue, narrative techniques, literary influence, social change, literary legacy.*

Introduction

Henry James was one of the key figures in 20th-century literature, and his works had a significant impact not only on his own time but also on subsequent generations. James' contribution to literature, particularly in the genre of the short story, is notable for its distinctive style, psychological depth, and thematic diversity. In his works, he masterfully depicted the inner world of human beings, personal experiences, and social relationships. This brought a new perspective to world literature and paved the way for the development of the genre.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the short story genre underwent rapid development. During this period, many new trends emerged in literature. The short story, in particular, was transformed by writers who sought to create brief yet powerful narratives. Studying Henry James' works helps us understand how the traditions of short story writing evolved during this time.

Main Part

Before Henry James, short story writers typically focused on depicting external events and the actions of characters. However, James changed this tradition by emphasizing the exploration of human psychology and inner struggles in his works. He sought to reveal the subtle aspects of the human soul, introducing psychological realism into his stories. This shift, of course, signified a move away from simply illustrating the main genre forms and instead focused more on studying the internal conflicts of the characters.

Henry James' contribution to literature stands out not only for his role in advancing the traditions of the short story but also for his deep interest in exploring the human psyche and inner world. His works, rich in psychological realism and social issues, had a profound impact on the future of world literature. Even today, his writings continue to offer new ideas and perspectives to contemporary

readers. James' legacy in world short story history has firmly established his place, providing a foundation for the further development of literature.

As a writer who holds a distinctive place in 20th-century literature, Henry James' works reflect the complexities of human experience in deep and unique ways through various themes and styles. Some of the key themes in his works include self-identity, experience, human relationships, and social change. These themes allow for an in-depth exploration of the internal struggles of each character, their personal evolution, and their interactions with the surrounding society.

Self-Identity

The issue of self-identity has always been one of the central themes in James' works. Through his characters, he portrays the process of searching for personal and cultural identity. Often, these characters feel lost or uncertain when comparing themselves to others. James, particularly, explores the conflict of self-identity between two cultures—America and Europe—in his works. A notable example of this is in *The Portrait of a Lady*, where the protagonist Isabel Archer struggles with internal and external obstacles in her quest for self-identity.

Experience

Experience plays a crucial role in James' narratives. He uses his characters to reveal the complexity and ambiguity of human experiences. The author links experience with both social and personal change, reflecting how his characters evolve over time. James' depictions of experience are often focused on self-awareness and the changes in interpersonal relationships that shape individuals' lives. In summary, James' works provide a deep psychological insight into his characters, allowing readers to reflect on the nature of self-identity, the intricacies of personal experience, and the complexities of human relationships in a changing world.

Conflict in relationship

In Henry James' works, relationships between people are often marked by social and personal conflicts. His characters frequently encounter misunderstandings and difficulties in their interactions. For instance, in *The Ambassadors*, the relationships between characters are examined through their personal transformations and social circumstances, with James delving into the complexity of human psychology through these interactions.

Social Change

James also explores the social changes of his time in depth. He pays attention to issues such as social classes, gender roles, and cultural norms. His works portray the problems that arise from modern life's transformations. For example, in *The Wings of the Dove*, the internal struggles of the characters are explored through themes of social status and materialism.

Style and narrative technique

James' narrative style allows for a deep exploration of psychological change and internal conflict. His approach is closely tied to concepts such as "stream of consciousness" and "psychological realism."

Stream of consciousness

James frequently employs internal monologue in his works, showcasing the inner thoughts and emotions of his characters. This technique helps reveal their internal struggles and emotional states. For example, in *The Portrait of a Lady*, Isabel Archer's internal monologues express her quest for self-identity and freedom. These inner dialogues give readers a fuller understanding of the character's psychological state.

Psychological Realism

James' use of psychological realism captures the subtle aspects of the human psyche. He deeply explores his characters' mental states, emotions, and relationships, demonstrating the complexity of human experience. In *The Turn of the Screw*, for instance, James displays his psychological realism

through the characters' psychological states and emotional trauma, emphasizing the intricacies of human experience and internal worlds.

Henry James' approach to literature was primarily focused on reflecting the inner thoughts and emotions of his characters. His works utilized psychological realism and the technique of internal monologue, which allowed for a profound exploration of the characters' inner worlds. This approach proved highly effective in uncovering the complexity of human experience and later inspired writers to create works centered around personal lives and internal struggles.

French writer Marcel Proust, inspired by Henry James' psychological realism, began to explore the inner dimensions of human experience in his novel *À la recherche du temps perdu* (*In Search of Lost Time*). Proust extensively employed internal monologue, using it to reflect his protagonist's emotions and memories in a unique way. By studying the concepts of time and memory, Proust developed and deepened James' approach, adding layers of psychological complexity to his work.

German writer Franz Kafka also drew on James' style in a distinctive way. In works such as *The Metamorphosis* and *The Trial*, Kafka created a sense of ambiguity and absurdity that reflected his characters' internal experiences. Kafka continued James' psychological approach but placed human experience within specific, often surreal, artistic and social contexts.

Following James' time, there were significant changes in the traditions of short story writing. James' use of psychological realism and internal monologue helped the next generation of writers to more fully depict their characters' inner worlds and personal experiences. As a result, literary trends emerged that focused on self-reflection and the depiction of personal emotions, which continue to influence writers today.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Henry James played a crucial role in the history of literature, particularly in shaping the traditions of modern short story writing through his use of psychological realism and internal monologue. His influence is still evident in contemporary literature and continues to inspire the development of new literary forms and directions. Through his innovative approach, James contributed significantly to the evolution of narrative techniques, opening up new avenues for exploring and depicting human experience. Writers following James, such as Marcel Proust and Franz Kafka, built upon his psychological realism and internal monologue techniques, deepening their exploration of human complexity and internal struggles. These changes in the tradition of short story writing brought about new literary movements such as existentialism and postmodernism, which focused on individual experience, social issues, and the internal conflicts of characters.

James' work laid the groundwork for future generations of writers who sought to understand the intricacies of both the internal and external dimensions of human life. In modern literature, James' influence continues, as writers explore the complexity and uncertainty of human experience in innovative ways, using techniques like internal monologue and psychological realism. His legacy lives on in the works of contemporary authors, such as Raymond Carver, who, inspired by James, continue to delve into the psychological depths of their characters. Henry James' contributions to literature, particularly through his unique focus on self-identity, experience, relationships, and social change, have had a lasting impact. His use of psychological realism and internal monologue not only deepened the complexity of his works but also provided a model for future writers to follow. Through his works, James paved the way for a richer and more nuanced exploration of the human condition, which continues to resonate in modern literary practice. In short, Henry James' literary style and approach have contributed to the ongoing development of literature, offering new possibilities for the depiction and understanding of human experience. His influence will undoubtedly continue to shape the evolution of literature, offering fresh insights into the complexities of the human soul and the world around it.

References:

1. Bloom, Harold. Henry James. - Broomall, PA : Chelsea House Publishers, 2002. – P.120.
2. 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.
3. Caws M.A. Henry James. – N.Y.: Overlook Duckworth, 2006. – P.120.
4. Critical Insights. Henry James. Edited by Hubbard T. – N.Y.: Grey House Publishing, 2016. – P.302.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The Cambridge companion to Henry James. Edited by Freedman J. – N.Y.: Cambridge University Press, 1998. – P.292.
8. The question of Henry James; a collection of critical essays. Edited by Dupee F.W. - N.Y.: Octagon Books, 1973. – P.336.
9. McElderry, Bruce R., Jr. Henry James. – N.Y.: Twayne Publishers, 1965. – P.1965. – P.200.
10. Vann J.D. Critics on Henry James. – USA.: University of Miami Press, 1972. – P.107
11. 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.
12. <https://www.theclassroom.com/elements-modernism-american-literature-872.html>.
13. <https://qwiklit.com/2014/03/22/10-writers-who-use-stream-of-consciousness-better-than-anybody-else/>