



Analysis of Environmental impact Development in *Daisy*

Miller via Eco-Critical Lens

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المستخلص:

تقدم هذه الدراسة تحليلاً بيئياً نقدياً من منظور أدبي، كما تأخذ في الاعتبار التأثير البيئي على المجتمع من خلال عدسة الأدب. وتشمل الدراسة بُعداً آخر يتمثل في الفروقات الثقافية الناتجة عن اختلاف البيئات، بالإضافة إلى الصراعات الاجتماعية وعدم المساواة. وتسعى كذلك إلى إبراز أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين الرومانسية والنقد البيئي من خلال العمل الأدبي ديزي ميلر للكاتب هنري جيمس. وتركز الدراسة على التقاليد الفيكتورية القديمة والمعايير الأمريكية الحديثة، كما تسلط الضوء على الفروقات المجتمعية والتشابهات في الأصول، مما يمنحها القدرة على تحليل أهمية التأثير البيئي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النقد البيئي، الرومانسية، ديزي ميلر، الصراع الاجتماعي، عدم المساواة، التقاليد الفيكتورية.

Abstract

The study provides ecocritical analysis from a literary perspective also it takes into concern the environmental impact on society through literary lens. The other dimension the study covers are cultural difference due to the environment different and social conflict also inequality. Moreover, it highlights similarities and differences between romanticism and ecocriticism vial the literary work of henry James *Daisy Miller*. It focuses on old Victorian traditions and the newly-made American Standards. the study shed lights on societal differences and origins similarities that provide the study ability to analyses the cruciality of environmental effect.

Keywords: *Ecocriticism, Romanticism, Daisy Miller, Social conflict, inequality, Victorian Traditions*

Introduction

Ecocriticism is a movement arose in the twentieth century, the meant movement focuses on the relationship of literature and environment. Hence, in the case of the literary works it focuses on environmental effect and elements within the text or the content of that literary work. The movement even shed the lights on the environmental effect on several matters like morals and ethics. Therefore, literature was and still one of these matters that ecocriticism focuses on and highlights. With that being said, the philosophical part is one of the crucial parts, as it reflects the value of environmental role in a certain literary work.



The meant movement associated to many and different studies most of these studies were made in America, like the role of Association for The Study of Literature and Environment. Hence, literature according to such studies and literary works are affected by the environmental factors. Ecocriticism took different shapes and forms through literature and humanities in common. The movement through its stages developed as it was unlike the other sorts of movements, it was different through its philosophies and purposes. Additionally, in literature it was effective and present in a wide range of literary works.

The movement activities are notable in the literary works such as novels, stories, and poet, also in cinematic adaptations. The movement development was related to several studies like the study of Rachel Carson *Silent Spring*, this sort of studies is related to the first wave of ecocriticism. The first wave is a wave shows the relationship of both nature and human beings. While in the 1980s the movement witnessed its second wave, the latter is more extend and contains larger elements such as the nature and non-nature elements which are newly represented in the second wave.

Ecocriticism is a break with many philosophical matters and perspectives. Industrialism was a crucial obstacle in the path of ecocriticism flourishing and its independent values. Additionally, the mentioned movement rejects the over domination of urban life over rural one. The point of challenge and change was the literature, the literary works were different, there are literary works that clearly shows the difference of many matters due to the environmental effect. Ecocriticism shows the effect of environment on social standards and values as well Simon Estok argues this matter in his studies.

Therefore, according to that movement and the perspective of it, many literary elements could be affected by environmental impact like romantic matters. Additionally, the social relationships and conditions, environmental elements in literary works take many forms. These forms are different and reflects different purposes, symbols and climate are one of these elements. Also, the historical circumstances that play a role in creating an environmental element. The environmental elements could be non-nature one, like a place or temple or a battlefield or even temples, it creates different themes and images.

The studies were effective in the development of ecocriticism, the pioneers are many like Estok, Cohen, Carson. The movement development importance lays in the role of creating different philosophical perspective and moral questions. Hence, in literature new purposes of writing and certainly new ideologies. In poet the ecopoetic was one of the forms that shows the natural elements role in poem whether describing its beauty or role. In stories it was different in novellas and short stories it took different forms, especially after the second wave of the movement and its development.

Daisy Miller, a novella written by Henry James published in 1879; the literary text represents through its event an American lady visiting different parts of Europe. The purpose of this tour is to explore the beauty of Europe and its civilization. Therefore, the first element to be noticed is the role urban life reflected in this literary work. On the other hand, there is an American man who lived most of his life in Switzerland, Geneva to be specific. This man met Daisy and he is charmed by her character and unfamiliar behaviors, which are quite different from the European ladies.



Therefore, Daisy's relationship with Winterbourne was rejected by his aunt, the latter believes that Daisy's attitudes are improper and questionable "The girl was exalted as the symbol of the nation while the American matron sat on the shelf and the American male built his bridges and his empires". (Welter, B. p.21. 1977). Hence, through such rejection and behaviors of the protagonist, the author represents the role of morality and traditions differs due to the different environment. The American lady is different she did not care about the European social standards. Additionally, she seeks joy and reflects a uncivilized way of living. Daisy's attempts even if unconsciously meant to break the chain of social ethics and morals.

Hence, the society of Rome where the second part of actions lays consider her behaviors as improper attitude that escalates to be a scandal. The literary text represents one of the important form of arts and historical places in the history of Italy. This place is the coliseum, a symbol of historical period and it has its own symbolic and environmental effect. "It's this old Europe. It's the climate that makes [my teeth] come out" (James, H. 2007, p. 11). The environmental effect of it, is to image the romantic moment of two characters in such ancient place. On the other hand, it shows the climate effect, the cold environment in determining the fate of the protagonist and her death due to Malta fever.

The environment and its impact appears crucially even through the moral values, certain standards differ by the difference of regions. The female protagonist who belongs to rural American society which portrays itself through the attitude of the character. The behaviors of American rural society show a break with Victorian old traditions at Vevey, what conditions could be better than those? (James, H. 2007, p.12). Mostly Victorian societies appear to be more complicated and picture high living standards. Thus, the difference of the two environments occurs via the meant literary work. Urban environments show the classification of society as such civilized living conditions represent divers' social classes, it leads to strict values for the purpose of order and its base.

On the other hand, the American social situation through Daisy Miller, is basic and gives a certain impression where it lacks the complexity and solid standards. hence, social class is mostly one who are rather similar in attitude. Small social circle is the dominant impression of rural living situation, and it is different from the urban cities similar to Rome. The poles of effect takes an action through the core of the literary work generally as it portrays the European and American environmental features each one makes it society differs "The naturalist author often describes his characters as though they are conditioned and controlled by environment" (Pizer, D. 1993, p.4). Moreover, it determines the fate of characters as inequality is a matter of two different living circumstances rather than societies. Thus, the characteristics gives one part of civilization and social life more depth than the other and makes inferiority and superiority as case of cultural difference.

The main characters belong to similar origins yet due to the conditions of the regions both live in the standards differs and difficulties to blend enlarge. The author pictures different regions and highlights climate change and difference between the natural elements. Certain regions climate appears to be warm and the other is cold, it is more into specialties comparison. The



climate of Switzerland is warm and portrays the rich nature of the region by all its means. On the other hand, American environment and nature takes blurry position.

Europe due to such depiction witness how it is important to separate the industrial impact from nature. Rural base and culture follows environment unlike European society the American follow the purpose to enlarge industrial pole of development. The reason is to gain better economic situation, the ones who do implant such ideology are like the American main character who is rich and lives in Victorian bourgeoisie society “the girl goes about alone with her foreigners” (James, H.1878, P. 46) As to what happens further, you must apply elsewhere for information. The protagonist Daisy is representative of her rural society as she is ambitious and non-similar to European girls.

The origins of the two characters represent the efficiency of nature as one believes in social standards despite of his American roots. On the other hand, The protagonist desires less as she believes in simpler values and standards which allows her to express her differently. The comparison shows the internal and external influence of environment as due to such inequality the two societies face inability to accept cultural diversion. However, Rome is another city where Daisy seems to be one who aims to make a break with traditions. When she comes to a party she brings with her a gentleman with a good deal of manner and a wonderful moustache” (James, H.1878, p. 46).

. The standards of society is environmental more than economic high class people reject someone who is “rural” to take a position ‘You may go back to the hotel, mother, but I’m going to take a walk,’ said Daisy” (James, H. 1878, p. 53). Therefore, the term of being rural means different culture, rather inferior one in lens of one dominant part which is rather the high class who live in the urban nature of Europe. Despite of the origins and its similarities the condition of life determines culture and identifies one part supremacy over the other. The industrial approach starts by the bourgeoisie and occurs in rural regions, which means bourgeois live in green nature and it represents the high-class abilities to have superior calm nature. On the other hand, the similarity of Geneva and Rome social standards proves the one superior ideology both cities have certain natural fundamentals take an action through both climates cold and warm and how contrast gives crucial role to the climate. Societies of Europe are larger yet similar in living conditions as Italian society happens to be more into high class activities even during winter which determines fate of the characters and social shape. Specific spots reveal civilization of both regions unlike the uncultured American poor rural situation that lacks means of civilization and history unlike Europe. The parts of *Daisy Miller* represent natural impact and importance in many details. Themes as one of the crucial elements happen to shape the outcome of culture and nature diversity. Hence, Americans and such identification specialize themselves from European mostly by traditions and actions from the European.

Thus, theme of environment specialization is one of the important factors the characters differentiate themselves by origins “In a society where values changed frequently, where fortunes rose and fell with frightening rapidity” (Welter, B. 1977, p. 21). On the other hand, theme of origins reformation, the meant theme occurs through the attempts of certain characters to adapt different traditions due to the environment they live in and accordingly it leads to new standards and base of community. The American society that exists in Europe differs from the



rural American society it also rejects the attitude of the other Americans. Moreover, identity reshape is another theme since values and poles of origins change by the attempts of Americans to gain the identity of European Victorian communities.

The term of society differs from community since society is more general as it covers parts of classification and living circumstances. on the other hand, community highlight as term members traditions and moral also ethical standards it has direct link to identity of group of members in one region “But I really think that you had better not meddle with little American girls that are uncultivated, as you call them” (James, H. 1878, p. 15). Thus, the change of psychological elements impacts the identity and belongs mainly to the environment change since the origins and standards clash for the purpose to have better social role. from ecocritical perspective the novel highlights and focuses on the impact of nature as it focuses and brings to the action the climate change and seasons difference like winter and summer. Moreover, the difference between two environments of one season like winter of Rome difference from Geneva as the latter is warm while Rome is cold. The difference between cities leads to difference between communities’ psychology and it comes to shape the form of civilization.

The novella provides a full and direct link between both nature and human beings since it via certain literary devices like themes and symbols coliseum is one of the important themes that pictures the civilization of Rome as it is known to be one of old cities and the environment of this place is what make it special since it is a symbol of death due to its coldness. On the other hand, lake in Switzerland which pictures warm and romantic depiction. The two cities lead via this study to a comparison between both and how both are known by natural impact.

Geneva and Rome shape the importance of one theme that portray link between the nature and humanity also civilization “And then she told me to ask if you remembered the time you went to that castle in Switzerland.” (James, H. 1878, p.58). On the other hand, it indicates to the link between movements of literature like romanticism and ecocriticism as both refer to importance and cruciality of nature and how it impacts humanity that pictures the purpose of choice of author in *Daisy Miller*. The two old cities are the subject of nature for many literary pioneers in poetry and literature generally like Robert Kneat and the religious spots like the church in Switzerland.

The cemetery of Geneve is known to be one of spots that known to be sacred and gives impressions for nature also religious element in many literary works. However, it is the final place for daisy as she rests there innocent and natural association of young people is strictly controlled and even discouraged" (Barnett, k. 1979, p. 282). The embodiment of such spot gives the reader and literary work a historical dimension and framework that makes literary texts as chain despite of the difference. The similarity happens to be via, movement as romanticism and ecocriticism since both refer to importance of nature and how one place embodies certain aspects via its climate especially for Switzerland which is known to be romantic and known via warmth. On the other hand, Rome is known by coldness and gives the contrast in terms of



climate with Geneva. The aspects Geneva is known as a sacred also a place where opposition starts to take a place. The other cities even for Rome contrast via terms and manners of value and ethical means many societal manners differ. Hence, romanticism focuses on such sort of cites and type of contrast is through comparison occur. Many authors attempt to picture the scene of lake and the surroundings since it is a spot of life and death the position where many aspects contrast cemetery and lake since lake provides warmth unlike coldness of cemeteries.

Daisy Miller represents several literary devices that show link between huminitic features and environment as name Daisy is a type of flower that belongs to America. Hence, the character is a symbol via its name since it shows how both depict the rural background of one region also the beauty of its nature. Moreover, through the attitude of Daisy it is notable that one part of her shows the impact of rural life and standards on society since she seeks joy and happiness.

The other symbol is the lake in Switzerland it is known to show and depicts the luxurious life of the region and society of it, also how different and calm it is in comparison with America. The lake takes a position as place that represent the culture of society. The nature of them overlooks roots and national origins instead it focuses on the ability to blend since Winterbourne is American as well as Daisy sacrificed, as it were, to a social rumpus that went on quite over her head & to which she stood in no measurable relation" (Jobes, s. 1997, p.84). The difference between both is the region they live in and also the social class since both belong to different societies. The difference between names also remarkable as one first part name is "winter" and the other is Daisy that represent sort of contrast.

Moreover, it shows the opposition each character represents its name one is cold and calm also aim to maintain his social standards. despite of the meant social rules he adapts it belongs to the European society rather than his origins, which are mostly American. On the other hand, Daisy is the opposite she seeks a life without restrictions and the possibility to blend in different societies is what she aims for that also result different events women's self-expression, agency, and freedom by defining their sexual identities as fitting one of two rigid social scripts" (Bareket, O, 2018, p.520). Daisy's role in Rome shows the reaction of the American society and the concerns of that specific society that the protagonist attitude might impact the new social standards of them which are luxurious and Victorian. The society of Rome is European, and it is known to be high civilized and well cultured. Americans aim to blend and find a position also acceptance in such society due to the environmental difference it is notable that the main concern is national and origins matter for Americans who represent society of new America. The coliseum is one of symbols of civilization where the element of nature meets anciently lions and human beings' conflict there and fight each other it is a fight of man and nature where nature proves superiority even by the end event. Malta fever is also an element that shows nature and its role. the last element is crucial since the winter is one of the seasons that belong and represent nature and by the way it occurs it determines the whole events of the literary work.



conclusion

The literary texts show the difference between rural and urban life and societies. Moreover, the conflict of both, and how it shapes the human attitudes. The difference of places and that cold dull climate shows the urban life standards and effect of industrialization on Europe also it shows the lack of simplicity. On contemporary, the environment of Geneva, it is warm reflects a different image that is more romantic. The coliseum is non-natural element however, it has its own effect on the novella's event and actions. The author shows the difference of rural life in America which is simple and the urban life of Europe the complicated life and its standards. Moreover, he shows the social classes difference due to the environmental one. The study reveals the possibility to shape and impact societies via environment. On the other hand, the study investigates the features that effect human beings. The poles differ by the conditions and nature also it shape societies also regions. Ecocritical analysis according to this paper shows how the influence of environment take an action in social framework. The study takes within its concerns the unity of one society that differs by the difference off the regions. One American society differs by regional means, also the importance of two theories link romanticism and ecocriticism.

Besides, the reference of relationship between nature and civilization via the framework of environment. Moreover, the difference between two environments and more which also appears by the difference of region and each society standards despite of the origin's similarity and the link between the European cites. One other element is the contrast in ethics and values also moral standards as main pole in social manner.

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