

Deceived American Young Ladies in Europe, a Basic Pattern of Henry James's International Theme

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ABSTRACT

Henry James is one of the most prominent novelists of America. He lived in 19th century America when the industrialization which was the result of Civil war (1816-1865) causes many Americans to travels to Europe, so the American writers of those days tried to show the adventure of Americans abroad especially in Europe through their works as a realist matter, as realism was the dominant literary movement of America in those days. Henry James was the most merited novelist who could write about the adventure of Americans abroad especially in Europe because he had the experience of living in both American and European society for a long time so it can be said that Henry James himself was an American abroad and was completely familiar to the life of an American in Europe and completely knew that how an American is treated by Europeans in Europe. so because of his skill in showing the Americans abroad through his novels which deals with America and Europe he was known as the master of showing the American abroad or in other words the master of international novels. In his international novels he used the adventure of Americans abroad to practice his famous international theme of America versus Europe, but most of these Americans abroad in James's works are the American young ladies. The recurrence of these American young girls in James's works made them as the common basic pattern of James's international theme, and it is because of this recurrence that Howells (1837-1920) called James as the master of portraying American girls. This research with reference to *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881) and *The Wings of the Dove* (1902), tries to discuss about this common basic pattern of James's international theme and the motivations and reasons behind this basic pattern.

KEY WORDS: Henry James, Americans abroad, American girl, International novels, International theme.

INTRODUCTION

Henry James is called by Howells (1837-1920) "the inventor" of "international American girl." It is a merited label sticks to Henry James because all or most of his international novels which deals with his famous international theme have a common basic pattern and that basic pattern is the deceived American lady in Europe. In most of his international novel, Henry James shows the adventure of an American young lady in a European society. Actually James used this process to practice his international theme and to show the contrast between America and Europe through the adventure of these American young ladies in Europe. His heroines like Isabel Archer, Milly Theale, Daisy Miller, Maggie Verver and Rosanna Gawall are the examples of this common basic pattern, they all are the American young ladies who were portrait by James in a European society and were deceived there. After Daisy Miller we can say among them Isabel Archer of *The Portrait of a Lady*(1881) and Milly Theale of *The Wings of the Dove*(1902) are the two most famous examples of this common basic pattern.

Henry James is one of the most famous American novelists of 19th century. In 19th century because of the effects of Civil war (1816-1865) and industrialization in America, this country was wholly changed, it had changed from a rural country to an industrial and urbanized country, industrialization had bloomed in America and it had a huge effect on the country and nation, all the ideals were changed; the farm and the land turned to factories and the farmer became poor worker. The Civil war and industrialization not only had influence over the society of America but also it had influence over the literary works of America, it had changed the dominant movement and the subjects of literary works. **According to The Norton Anthology of American Literature (1998):**

Before the Civil War and industrialization, workers, the poor, vagrants, and unheroic soldiers were rarely the subjects of fiction. But changes in the marketplace, most notably in the publishing industry, altered this scenery. Newspapers became important spaces to disseminate political, social, and cultural ideas. Many writers, including Ambrose Bierce, Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, Mark Twain, Theodore Dreiser, and William Dean Howells began their careers as journalists..... As American writers began to fight with the

particularities of their nation, from the 1830s to the end of the century, realism became an important issue on the American literary aesthetics..... Twain, James and Howells together brought to fulfillment native trends in the realistic portrayal of the landscape and social surfaces, they brought to the perfection the possibilities of interior life.... They established the literary identity of distinctively American protagonists, specifically the vernacular hero and the 'American girl'.... and complicated citizens of a new international culture. (Baym 1998: 1-5)

So because of the situation made in 19th century by this industrial revolution in the society of America, two groups of people decided to leave America and live in Europe. The first group was many noble families who lost their economic power and were trying to protect their properties and wanted to remain noble so they despised the American new born riches and the way of their behavior, and traveled to Europe. The second group was several writers who believed that the atmosphere of the new society of urbanized and industrial kind, new nation and the corruption that were taking place in America, had made the situation intolerable for their imaginative mind. They feel that the new industrial society has no place for them and is rejecting them. So they decided to leave America and travel to Europe to reach to a high culture and a better life but in their confrontation to Europe they understood the point that Europe is not a proper place for them as Americans, they had the doubt that whether they are accepted by Europeans or not, whether Europe can be as a country of them or not, they feel that they are as a foreigner and stranger in Europe, so they could not reach to what they thought of Europe so most of them decided to return to America and write the reality of the adventure of Americans abroad or better to say Americans in Europe as they themselves experienced this situation. In their works they portrayed the Americans characters in Europe and through this realistic representation they bring to the words the conflicts between America and Europe. Brooks and Bettmann in their book *Our Literary Heritage: a Pictorial History of the Writer in America* (1956), discuss the reason that led several American writers of 19th century to leave America and live in Europe more generally. They state:

For most writers, the question of facing the new America, with its worship of "bigness" and numbers, seemed overwhelming. Incapable of creating new aesthetic patterns out of this native chaos, many American writers closed their minds to America and its patterns.....They agreed with Matthew Arnold that for the artist there was no room in a country where 'the sky was of brass and iron'. Henry James' yearning for Europe had the same motive; to forget America, - as for many other sentient artists and writers, the drama of Europe in American breasts remained a central problem. (Brooks 1956: 164)

Henry James was one of those writers who left America and went to Europe but unlike his contemporary writers he did not return to America and lived in Europe for a long time but like his compatriots he tried to write about the Americans abroad and especially Americans in Europe. James in his works practices his international theme of America versus Europe through putting the American characters in a European society, he practiced the international theme in his works so well that the critics called him the master of portraying the Americans abroad, these Americans are mostly the American young ladies, so as Howells believed it's better to say that James was the master of portraying the American women in Europe. These American girls in Europe are so repeatedly used by James in his international works that they are known as the basic pattern of his works. About this international theme and its basic pattern in the works of James, Marcus Munch in his paper *The International Theme: The Conflict of National Types in the Tales of Henry James* (2007) stated that:

Among the central motifs that can be traced throughout Henry James's career as a writer is his concern with the social and moral differences between the New World and Europe (mainly represented by England, Italy and France), which he called the "Americano-European legend" and is otherwise frequently referred to as the "international theme". It reflects the mutual misunderstandings of Americans and Europeans, often by following the same basic pattern, i.e. the innocent and naive American girl who journeys to the Old Country and encounters a corrupt, mostly rigid set of values which its advocates attempt to subjugate her to. Usually the heroine struggles to protect her integrity, her individualism and personal freedom against a society that strikes her as oppressive, antidemocratic. (Munch 2007: 2)

So James's international theme which is practiced frequently in his international novels, mostly has a same basic pattern and that basic pattern is an American innocent young lady who travels to Europe in the search of a better life and culture but when she encounters to Europe she does not find it as she expected it to be, she not only does not reach to a better life and culture but also is deceived in Europe and through her suffering the dreamy vision

of Europe in her mind changes completely. An important quality in these American ladies in Europe is their innocence, and actually it is their innocence which causes them to be deceived in Europe. This innocence in James's American ladies means lack of knowledge while the European characters are portrayed by James as the sophisticated that have enough knowledge.

Although in his exploration of the international conflict "between the distinctively American and the distinctively European outlook" 'innocence' is invariably associated with the American side, whereas 'knowledge' is mostly to be found on the European, the satire and irony in the study of national characters is aimed at both sides. (Munch 2)

Indeed it is the lack of knowledge in American ladies which is the reason of why they are deceived in Europe. Actually through James's basic pattern of deceived American ladies in Europe, American young Ladies who are innocent leaves America and travels to Europe with the hope of reaching to a better life, knowledge and a high culture, they enters to Europe and encounters to its high culture but they are not aware that this high culture is deviated, they are innocent and for James this innocence means the lack of knowledge so because of their lacking of knowledge they are not able to read the wicked plane which is set for them by Europeans or Europeanized Americans who are full of knowledge as the advantage of living in a European society which has a high culture. So these American young innocent ladies are deceived in Europe and suffer there and finally understand that their decision for leaving America and traveling to Europe was a big mistake.

As was discussed the American writers of 19th century concern to show the Americans abroad to portray the adventure of Americans in Europe, among them Henry James was the most merited person to write about this subject because he himself was an American who lived in Europe, in other words he himself was an American abroad. So he had felt this condition with his bone he was completely familiar with the adventure of American in Europe he completely knew that how an American is treated in Europe by Europeans so he had enough experience to practice this subject in his works with a high skill.

So James's own experience of being an American in Europe was one of the reasons which led him to write about the Americans abroad through his international theme. As was mentioned James himself in most part of his life, like his characters was an expatriate in Europe. As he brings his characters from America to Europe in the search of a better life, he himself left America and traveled to Europe in the search of a better life and a high culture. James not only was count as an outsider in Europe, but also he was an outsider in America which was his own country, because for a long time he left America and went to Europe. In other words he was an outsider or better to say an "other" even in his own country America.

So he had the experience of being an outsider both in Europe and in America, but more seriously he had the experience of being an American in Europe and we can say that the first reason of writing about Americans abroad is that he tries to write about his own Experiences as an American abroad or better to say as a young American in Europe. Maybe by this subject James is writing his own feeling about this situation, he knows how an American is treated in Europe by Europeans, so he wants to give his experiences to his readers. By reading his works one can understand James's childhood and adulthood experiences. About the influences of James's own experiences on his works and his subject of American abroad, Madelina Stanescu in her essay *American innocence vs. European vice in Henry James's Daisy Miller (2010) discussed that:*

The international theme was one of James's biggest concerns and it was the theme that brought him fame. His works have autobiographical characteristics, because, like many of his heroes, James left his home land for Europe in order to find a better place and to enrich his experience of life and, therefore, he found himself on a different territory, with another mentality and another way of life. His experience is reflected in his works as all illustrate the European experience of young Americans, who come to the Old World to enrich their knowledge, but who find themselves against a space of difference. (Stanescu 2010: 1)

So James's experiences in Europe played a great role in his works because in contrast with some critics, James believed that the novel should be from its writer's experience, in his *The Art of Fiction* (1884), James discussed the impact of experience in novel; about the definition of a good novel he states; "A novel is in its broadest definition a personal, a direct impression of life; that, to begin with, constitutes its value, which is greater or less according to the intensity of the Impression" (James 1884: 4). Again in this work about using from experience in novel James straightly mentioned; "Write from experience and experience only" (5) and then he add his most famous quotation; "Try to be the one of the people on whom nothing is lost" (5), so he believed that the novelist should use all his/her experiences, as he himself used all his experiences and nothing is lost in his works, all his childhood and adulthood are mentioned implicitly in his works.

So the reason of writing about the Americans abroad may be as a reflex of himself and his own experiences as an American in Europe, and one can say James write about his own experiences. And as critics believed the reflex of James's own experience as an American in Europe led him to choose the international theme as the main theme of his works to show the adventure of Americans in Europe and the contrast of America and Europe. This influence and reflex is mostly seen in the beginning of his career.

So the reason which causes James to write about the Americans abroad was his own experience in Europe. But as was discussed most of these Americans abroad in James's works are the American young ladies who are the common basic pattern of James's international theme. In most of his works these are the American young ladies who leave America and comes to Europe in the search of a better life and culture, but all of these American ladies who are innocent so have lack of knowledge are deceived in Europe by experienced and sophisticated Europeans. This process of deceived American lady is repeated in most of his works which deals with international theme. And it is through this basic pattern by which James shows the contrast between America and Europe and it is because of this common basic pattern that James is called by Howells as the master of portraying the American girls. But what is the reason of this basic pattern? Why James mostly shows the Americans abroad as the American young lady? In other words why American young lady is the basic pattern of James's international theme? What is the motivation of this basic pattern? In the preface of *The Wings of the Dove*, James explains that this story of an American young lady in Europe is because of an old or young motive in himself:

The Wings of the Dove published in 1902 represents to my memory a very old-if I shouldn't perhaps say a very young - motive; I can scarce remember the time when the situation on which this long-drawn fiction mainly rests was not vividly present to me. (James 2001: 3)

But what was that old or young motive behind this basic pattern? Henry James's insist on showing the adventure of American ladies in Europe made Some critics to believe that this old or young motive is the impression made on James by his young cousin Minny Temple, and completely similar to what James showed about Milly Theale in *The Wings of the Dove*, his cousin Minny Temple was very young when she died in Europe (even one can notice the similarity between the name, Minny Temple and Milly Theale), the death of James's young beloved cousin influenced all James's works and his subject of writing. As Leon Edel stated in his book *Henry James: The Untried Years* (1953) James himself about his cousin had stated that:

The more I think of her the more perfectly satisfied I am to have her translated from this changing realm of fact to the steady realm of thought. There she may bloom into a beauty more radiant than all our eyes avail to contemplate. (Edel 1953: 324)

So the love of James for his young cousin and the influence of her death on him made James to write mostly about American young ladies in Europe through his works, Ernest Sandeen in his essay *The Wings of the Dove and the Portrait of a Lady: A Study of Henry James's Later Phase* (1954), discussed about the effect of the death of James's young cousin Minny Temple, on the basic pattern of the *The Portrait of a Lady* and *The Wings of the Dove*:

In both Portrait and Wings the Minny Temple image points toward the same effect, and the sequence of events by which the two protagonists are led to their destiny is basically the same. Isabel and Milly are American girls, they are intelligent and sensitive, and they are equipped with wealth and personal charm. They are introduced into the great world of European society and there they enjoy a brilliant hour of triumph which includes the luxury of declining the "ordinary" form of success, marriage to a member of the English nobility. However, after they form what they believe are attachments of their own free choice, they discover that they have been betrayed by persons interested chiefly in their wealth. (Sandeen 1954: 1)

So the strongest motivation behind this basic pattern was James's memory of his young cousin Minny Temple who died in Europe when she was yet very young. But there is another "less personal" reason of why James mostly shows America through American ladies, the other reason of this basic pattern is the fact that after Civil war the intermarriage between Americans and Europeans was a new form of relationship between America and Europe. As Christof Wegelin in his book *The Image of Europe in Henry James* (1958) discusses:

But there were other, less personal, reasons why James represented America so consistently by its young women..... In the years following the Civil war, intermarriage became an increasingly prominent, even notorious, feature of the social relations between America and Europe.... the international marriage was almost invariably a marriage of the American woman to the European man. (Wegelin 1958: 57)

So up to now it was discussed that the basic pattern of most of James's international novels which deal with the international theme is the deceived American young lady in Europe. And it was discussed that the reason behind this basic pattern is first and mainly James's memory of his young cousin Minny Temple who died in Europe while she was very young and the second and the "less personal" reason is the intermarriage of American girls to European men which was common in 19th century. Here to prove the discussion the research is going to study shortly two novels of Henry James to show this common basic pattern in them. The first novel is *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881) which belongs to James's first period of writing and the second one is *The Wings of the Dove* (1902) which belongs to James's third or the last period of writing. The novels are chosen from James's different period of writing to show that although there is a wide gap between the years of the publication of them but the basic pattern of both of them is the same. In both of these novels James practiced his international theme through the common basic pattern of an American young lady in a European society, James used the adventure of these American ladies in Europe to bring to the stage the contrast between America and Europe and between their cultures, societies, ideals, conventions and characters.

So Henry James in *The Portrait of a Lady* and *The Wings of the Dove* completely like most of his international novels shows the young American girls who are deceived in Europe. They came to Europe with the hope of better life and knowledge but James shows that they not only does not gain a better life but also at the end of the novel are regret about their decision for leaving America and coming to Europe. For example in *The Portrait of a Lady* the heroine Isabel Archer was attracted to Europe and its culture, so she was eager for travelling to Europe and living and touring there, because she thought that in Europe she could reach to a better life and would gain knowledge through the high culture of Europe. The main way which James choose to start and progress his story in this novel, is his common way of bringing an innocent American girl to Europe, this young and innocent girl in this novel is Isabel Archer, all the story is shown through the process of Isabel's decision for coming and living in Europe with the hope of gaining a better life and a high culture and civilization.

So Isabel at the beginning of the novel left America and travel to Gardencourt in Europe by the help of her aunt Mrs. Touchett. At the beginning of her arrival to Europe everything was as she expected it to be, there in Europe Isabel was going to live in her aunt's house, Gardencourt and its beauty was a prove of the culture of Europe for which Isabel was looking for, the house is explained by James in the novel as:

Her uncle's house seemed a picture made real; no refinement of the agreement was lost upon Isabel; the rich perfection of Gardencourt at once revealed a world of gratified a need. The large, low rooms, with brown ceilings and dusky corners, the deep embrasures and ... the deep greenness outside that seemed always peeping in, the sense of well-ordered privacy in the center of a "property"... these things were to the taste of our young lady, whose taste played considerable parts in her emotions. (1917: 41)

The entrance of Isabel to the Gardencourt is the sample of her entrance into the European culture and European society, because this house stands for Europe, so by coming to Gardencourt and feeling its greatness and its beauty, Isabel think that she is approaching to her goal of pursuit the knowledge and reaching to a high culture and civilization.

So Europe seems to be an excellent place for her desired life, there was the place of high culture, there she had a wealthy aunt to support her and there she had a kind cousin Ralph who persuade his father Mr. Touchett to leave for her sixty thousand pounds, because Ralph had a great sense of sympathy toward Isabel and wanted to help her to reach to her dreams in life. So everything was excellent for Isabel in Europe. But gradually everything changed and Isabel was confronting with the hidden reality of Europe. She was an innocent American lady so was not able to recognize the real character of Europeans or Europeanized Americans around her in Europe. Lee Yu-ch'eng in his **The Portrait of a Lady as a Bildungsroman (1982) called Isabel's innocence as a "limitation" he believed:**

Isabel, an Emma-like character, belongs to "a gallery of limited heroines" Her limitation lies in her immaturity and inability to penetrate the true face of reality. To break through this limitation, the price she pays is high indeed. (Yu-ch'eng 1982: 92)

The Europeans and Europeanized Americans had knowledge so they were able to set a plan for Isabel and to deceive her, and because of her innocence Isabel could not read their plan and their real character. Osmond and Madame Merle were the monsters who pretended to be concerns for her life but actually they were playing a role for achieving to Isabel's wealth, About Osmond's motivation, Lee Yu-ch'eng mentioned:

But Osmond, as noted by Oscar Cargill, "is Henry James's most completely evil character." As it has been plotted, his intention of marrying Isabel is chiefly for her wealth the fact is a tragic recognition which Isabel eventually reveals to her cousin on the their last meeting: "He married me for the money" (96)

So at the end of the novel Isabel understood that she not only did not reach to a better life and knowledge in Europe but also is deceived there; Europe had deceived her roughly and now was like a hell for her. So she was completely regretful about her decision for coming to Europe.

This basic pattern of deceived American young ladies is continued in other works of James. In other words "The general pattern of Isabel's story is the pattern underlying many of James's stories of the American girl in Europe." (Wegelin 68) For example Milly Theale the heroine of *The Wings of the Dove* is another prominent example of James's deceived American young ladies in Europe. She left America and traveled to Europe again with the hope of gaining a better life; she was attracted to Europe like Isabel because of its culture. At first she had felt everything joyful and nice in Europe, she thought that she would reach to her dream through her marriage with Densher whom she severely loved and thought to be the man of her dreams. Milly had chosen Kate as her best friend in Europe and Densher as her beloved. But actually Densher and Kate in *The Wings of the Dove* were another Osmond and Madame Merle of *The Portrait of a Lady* so again Densher and Kate had set a wicked and immoral plan to deceive Milly only for her wealth. So Milly Theale is again another American young lady who like Isabel is deceived in Europe, again Milly was an innocent American lady who because of her innocence was not able to correctly judge the real character of the person around her so as an innocent American confronting with sophisticated Europeans, she was deceived by Europeans who had enough knowledge to easily deceive her. As **ChristofWegelin in his *The Image of Europe in Henry James believed:***

Thematically, *The Wings of the Dove* is a companion piece to *The Ambassadors*. In both novels the international contrast is an integral part of the theme of the lived life. Both show the exposure of American innocence to a knowing Europe.....As far as *The Wings of the Dove* is Milly's story it is a peculiarity American tragedy, the ravishment of innocence, of moral beauty, by a worldliness so knowing that it has forgotten the knowledge of innocence. (106-109)

Even Milly's suffering was more intense than what Isabel experienced in Europe because Milly confront to her death while she was young in Europe. So through these stories James wanted to show his belief about Europe, he wanted to warn the young Americans specially the ladies that Europe is not a proper place for them and due to their innocence they may encounter to great disaster in Europe, James is warning that it is a big mistake for young Americans to travel to Europe without a correct knowledge about it.

It was discussed that the strongest motivation behind these novels and their heroines is James's memory of his young cousin Minny Temple who died in Europe while she was very young, and actually the heroines of these novels especially Milly Theale in *The Wings of the Dove* are somehow the image of his young cousin in Europe. As was discussed the adventure of Minny Temple in Europe effected a lot James's basic pattern of American young and innocent girls in Europe. As it is revealed through the story of *The Wings of the Dove*, Milly Theale is the most obvious symbol of James's young cousin. UlkerErkan in his paper *The Art of Fiction in Henry James's Novel the Wings of the Dove* (2001), about the influence of Minny Temple on Milly Theale explained:

In fact, Milly is model led after James's cousin Minny..... Minny Temple had died on Henry James' twenty-seventh year in 1870 where he stood on the threshold of his literary life.....This novel (*The Wings of the Dove*), somehow, can be regarded as Henry's attempt to recapture the drama of Minny's ultimate end who died of tuberculosis. James called his heroine Milly Theale echoing Minny's name. Her death in Venice became the death in Venice of *The Wings of the Dove*. (Erkan 2001: 10-11)

So as it is obvious the basic pattern is completely the same in *The Portrait of a Lady* and *The Wings of the Dove*. Isabel Archer and Milly Theale, the heroines of both of these novels are the American young ladies who left America and traveled to Europe in the search of culture and a better life. As their common American characteristic they both were innocent and because of their innocence they were deceived in Europe, excitingly they both were deceived because of their wealth. This basic pattern of deceived American girl in Europe is the basic pattern of most of James's international novel, and it is because of its recurrence that it is known as the common basic pattern of James's international theme of America versus Europe. Actually through the adventure of these deceived American ladies in Europe, James is representing the contrast between America and Europe, the contrast which he comprehend through his experience of living in both American and European society, the deep contrast between Americans innocence and Europeans sophistication, American morality and European culture.

So as James believed that America is the place of morality while Europe is the place of culture which is deviated, these American young ladies are used by James to show the morality of America. According to ChristofWegelin these American ladies are as a symbol of their country, Wegelin believed:

As James's focus shifts from outward to inward, from manners to morals, the American girl becomes the symbol of American strength, and finally the "heiress of all the ages," whose virtue is tried and tested and tempered by exposure to the world, and who like Maggie Verver of *The Golden Bowl*, inherits the earth. Maggie, Milly Theale of *The Wings of the Dove* and finally Rosanna Gaw of *The Ivory Tower*, thoroughly fulfill the high expectations which Isabel arouses. (70)

So James represents the American moral and positive qualities through these American ladies, actually "the young American girl became his primary symbol of the positive aspects of the American characters." (Wegelin 59) if studying their adventures there are a lot of examples that the American girl tried to remain moral in their confrontation with the corrupted culture of Europe. one of the most well-known example of the morality of James's American girls is Isabel's decision to return back to Osmond and not to flee with Goodwood, although her life with Osmond was a real disaster for her but she rejected Goodwood's love and his suggestion to escape with him because she knew it immoral to escape with another man while she had a husband, she returned to Osmond for the reason that Sigi Jottkandt mentioned: "She returns simply because she must, she must obey the moral law that obliges her unconditionally" (Jottkandt 2005: 29). So Isabel as an American girl was a symbol of American morality which is in contrast with European corruption. Lee Yu-ch'eng reveals more that Isabel as an American girl is a symbol of her country:

Isabel, who comes from a country deeply influenced by Puritanism, is a girl who firmly believes in "all the traditional decencies and sanctities of marriage". No evidence indicates that, even in her desperate sufferings, it has ever occurred to her that she might someday violate these decencies and sanctities. Therefore, to respect the sacredness of marriage, she has no other alternative but to return to Rome although she fully realizes that what lies before her is a future of horrible blankness. (98)

Completely similar to Isabel, Milly Theale is again an American girl who stands for her country. She is moral, innocence and as James explained like a "dove", these qualities made her as a symbol of her country which James wanted to show through his American girls. Howells in his essay *Mr. Henry James Later Work* (1916) discussed:

At this point I hear from far within a voice bringing me to book about Milly Theale in *The Wings of The Dove*, asking me, if there is not a heroine of the ideal make, and demanding what fault there is in her that renders her loveable. Loveable I allow she is, dearly, tenderly, being too good, too pure, too generous, too magnificently unselfish... Milly Theale is entirely American in the qualities. (Howells 1916: 126-131)

Milly in *The Wings of the Dove* is an American lady who stands for her country. Actually like his other American ladies, James is going to represent what he thought of his country America through Milly Theale in this novel. Milly's innocence and goodness in this novel is completely in contrast with Kate's corruption and deceitfulness who is a European lady and so a symbol of Europe. As Wegelin discussed in his book:

Milly and Kate are representative of the civilizations which have formed them..... If Milly is in a sense typical, so is Kate. Both personify the moral bases of their native civilizations..... The difference between Kate and Milly is the difference between the civilizations which have molded them. (117-120)

Ulker Erkan also about Milly and Kate, in his paper believed:

James is very successful in describing people: Kate resembles to a lioness who acts according to her interests and get the best as she can whereas, Milly is soft and helpless resembling especially to a dove. These characters also reveal the characteristics of the society that reflect its members. (5)

As was mentioned Isabel Archer and Milly Theale are two famous examples of James's American ladies in his international novels. As was discussed Henry James in his international novels brings an American young lady into a European society, these ladies come to Europe in the search of culture and better life but they are not aware that the culture of Europe is deviated and is out of morality. As an American characteristic these ladies are innocence which means for James a lack of knowledge so in confronting to sophisticated Europeans or Europeanized Americans these ladies are easily deceived in Europe because of their innocence and lack of knowledge to judge the real character of the people around them. The recurrence of this process in the works of James made the deceived American young ladies as a common basic pattern of James's international theme of America versus Europe. Actually through the adventure of these American ladies James shows the contrast which he believed to exist between America and Europe mostly between American morality and European culture. And as was mentioned

James used these American girls to show the positive qualities which he thought that America has in contrast with Europe, he portrayed American ladies in his works to represent mostly the morality of his country and the corruption of European culture. So these deceived American ladies who are James's memory and love of his young cousin Minny Temple, became the common basic pattern of his international theme.

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