



**A STUDY ON AMOROUS ENTANGLEMENTS
OF EUGENIA AND GERTRUDE IN HENRY
JAMES' *THE EUROPEANS***

A Thesis Presented to The English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University
as one of the requirements to get
The Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies

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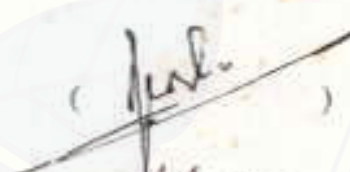
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Motto :

An action does not always cause happiness,
but there is no happiness without an action

(William James)



This thesis is dedicated to:

❖ my beloved mother, Kasmianti, and beloved father, Misdianto;
I am really grateful for their guidance in this game of life, and for being
compassionate and understanding as I grow as a person;

❖ my beloved sister, Dian, and beloved brother, Dadang;
I thank you for your never ending loves and supports. I love you all;

❖ my beloved niece, Windy;

I love you.

❖ my beloved Almamater.

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Finally, I hope this thesis will be useful for those who are interested in the study about literature.

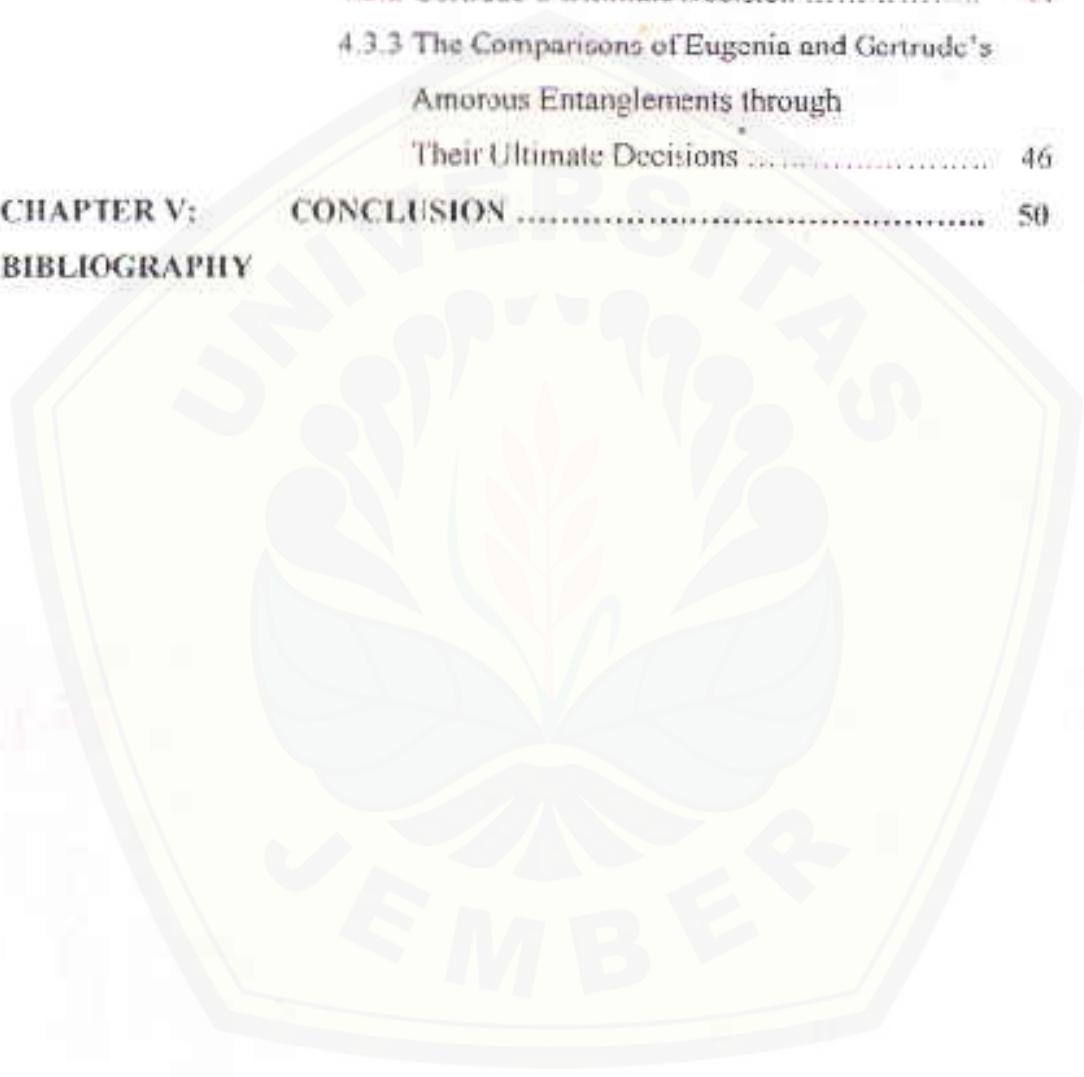
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Dwi Liyandari

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FRONTISPIECE.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET.....	ii
MOTTO.....	iii
DEDICATION PAGE.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vi
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The Rationale.....	1
1.2 The Problems to Discuss.....	2
1.3 The Goals of the Study.....	3
1.4 The Scope of the Study.....	3
1.5 The Approaches to Use.....	3
1.6 The Methods of the Study.....	4
1.7 The Organization of the Thesis.....	5
CHAPTER II: THE BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY JAMES AND THE SYNOPSIS OF <i>THE EUROPEANS</i>	
2.1 The Biography of Henry James and His Works.....	6
2.2 The Synopsis of <i>The Europeans</i>	9
CHAPTER III: THE MEANINGS OF THE TERMS	
3.1 The Meaning of Amorous.....	12
3.2 The Meaning of Entanglement.....	13
CHAPTER IV: A STUDY ON AMOROUS ENTANGLEMENTS OF EUGENIA AND GERTRUDE IN HENRY JAMES' <i>THE EUROPEANS</i>	
4.1 Eugenia's Loves.....	15
4.1.1 Love toward Her Husband.....	16
4.1.2 Love toward Robert Acton.....	19
4.1.3 Love toward Clifford.....	26
4.2 Gertrude's Loves.....	29

4.2.1 Love toward Felix Young	30
4.2.2 Love toward Mr. Brand	35
4.3 Eugenia and Gertrude's Ultimate Decisions as the Comparison of Their Amorous Entanglements.....	37
4.3.1 Eugenia's Ultimate Decision	38
4.3.2 Gertrude's Ultimate Decision	44
4.3.3 The Comparisons of Eugenia and Gertrude's Amorous Entanglements through Their Ultimate Decisions	46
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION	50
BIBLIOGRAPHY	





CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale

Literature is the expression of thoughts and feelings from experiences, observations, imaginations of the writer of a literary work. The readers are brought into the story which has relations with their life whether personal or social life. It can be said that literary works have very close relationships with real human experiences and problems. Hudson (1965: 10) says:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, that they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it that have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life thought the medium of language.

Literature as the reflection of life has a lot of advantages to learn besides it can entertain the readers. It may make the readers become better and wise persons; even it can give bad influences. Roberts and Jacob's statements (1986: 2) emphasize it:

Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually; it provides an objective base for our knowledge and understanding; it enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different societies that we would never otherwise get to know; it helps us to develop mature sensibility and compassion for the condition of all living things...

A novel is one of the largest literary forms and the source of it is unlimited because it is about people and their problems of life. In the novel, the story is focused on one or a few main characters that undergo their problems or difficulties in their life toward the other characters. The problems that are faced by those characters are not far from the problems that are faced by the author and the readers in their true life. Because of very closed relations among the problems that are faced by the characters, the author, and the readers, it may influence the character's way of thinking and attitudes. Of course, those influences can be good or bad influences. Because of that, the readers have to learn the experiences of the

characters and make them as the lesson to solve their complicated problems of life.

Some very complicated problems also can be found in Henry James' novel entitled *The Europeans*. It is about a delightful social comedy that brings a pair of fortune-hunting Europeans into New England. There is a meeting of the two cultures of Europe and New England, with their very different morals and social codes. Two visitors of American extraction arrive from Europe to seek out their relatives, the Wentworths. They are Eugenia, the Baroness Munster and a wife of German Nobleman, and her younger brother, Felix Young. Mr. Wentworth permitted them to stay with him. Felix falls in love with Gertrude, Mr. Wentworth's daughter, and hopes to marry her, and Eugenia finds an admirer in Robert Acton, a neighbour and cousin of Mr. Wentworth. Charlotte, Gertrude's sister, falls in love with the Unitarian Minister, Mr. Brand. But Mr. Brand does not know about Gertrude's feeling. Eugenia also tries to flirt with Clifford after realizing that she is unsuccessful to snare Robert Acton as promptly as she wishes. But Clifford becomes engaged with Lizzie Acton and finally Eugenia peevishly departs to Europe. Felix is successful in marrying Gertrude.

From those love relationships, the most complicated loves of the characters are Eugenia's loves and Gertrude's loves. Eugenia's loves toward her husband, Robert Acton and Clifford, and Gertrude's loves toward Mr. Brand and Felix would be discussed in this thesis, which is entitled "A Study on Amorous Entanglements of Eugenia and Gertrude in Henry James' *The Europeans*".

1.2 The Problems to Discuss

Each character in a novel has certain problems and they build the story in the novel. The conflicts perceived by the characters become fascinating for the readers. These conflicts are taken as the material to be discussed further.

Having read *The Europeans*, it is stated that love is the basic reason of the characters to get their happiness in their life. The characters in this novel do several ways to get the person they love. Eugenia who tries to snare Robert Acton and Clifford does several ways in order to get them. Because her ambitions are

not successful, she decides not to flatter them anymore, even she decides to go to Europe. Gertrude who is believed will marry Mr. Brand, changes her choice of life to leave Mr. Brand and gets married with Felix. Therefore, the discussion will include the study on amorous entanglements of Eugenia and Gertrude toward the persons they love, Eugenia and Gertrude's ultimate decisions about their amorous entanglements, and the comparisons of their amorous entanglements through their ultimate decisions.

1.3 The Goals of Study

There are some purposes in writing this thesis. The first is to understand Eugenia's changeable loves toward her husband, Robert Acton and Clifford, and Gertrude's loves toward Felix and Mr. Brand. The second purpose is to understand Eugenia and Gertrude's ultimate decisions and the comparisons of their amorous entanglements through those ultimate decisions. It hopefully can give information to the readers to increase the knowledge about American novelist, Henry James, and his work, *The Europeans*, which takes the American experience of Europe as the theme of his work.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

It is reasonable to limit the scope of the study in order to avoid a complicated discussion of the problems. This thesis is focused on the discussion of the amorous entanglements or complicated relationship of Eugenia and Gertrude toward the persons they love. Eugenia and Gertrude's loves are the most complicated loves among the other characters and by discussing their loves, it can represent the whole love story of the other characters in the novel.

1.5 The Approaches to Use

In the discussion of this thesis, psychological information is needed to analyse the loves of the characters. Analysing Eugenia and Gertrude's loves have relation with their emotions and feelings. It will include their emotional experience why they love somebody else. The above statement is supported by

Scott's opinion (1962: 72): "Third, psychology can be used to explain fictitious characters". In this case, love concerns with the characters' attitudes and behaviours toward their companions.

This discussion also needs sociological approaches. The characters have relationships with somebody else, and those relationships will be studied by using sociological approaches. The point is the interactions between Eugenia, her husband, Robert Acton and Clifford, and among Gertrude, Felix and Mr. Brand, also among the other characters. As Scott (1962: 125-126) says "This study places the work of art in the social atmosphere, and defines that relationships".

1.6 The Methods of Analysis

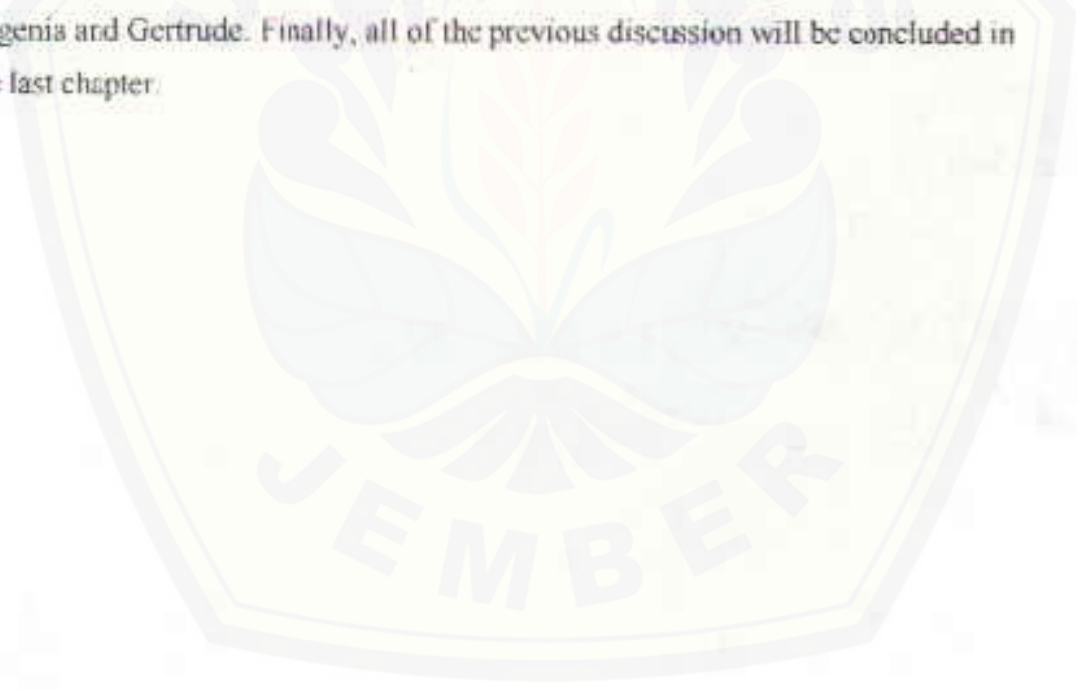
There are some events happen supporting the conflict in the novel and it becomes an assumption to apply the method in writing this thesis. Each of events can be analysed as follows; Eugenia's love toward her husband, which is not permitted by her brother in law. Robert Acton can not marry Eugenia because she decides to go to Europe again, and she loves Clifford after she feels that she fails in snaring Robert Acton. She flirts with Clifford because Clifford engaged with Lizzie Acton. Eugenia finally tries to patch up her husband in London.

Another case is about Gertrude's love toward Felix and Mr. Brand. Firstly, before Felix comes to Boston, Mr. Brand has a plan to marry Gertrude, but Gertrude realizes that her sister, Charlotte, falls in love with him. Finally, Gertrude is helped by Felix in convincing Charlotte to marry with Mr. Brand, they also give advices that Mr. Brand's temperament is more compatible with Charlotte, although Gertrude and he have been courting soberly for years. Gertrude gets married with Felix, and Charlotte gets married with Mr. Brand. Those evidences in the novel support the general idea to study the loves of two characters that are Eugenia and Gertrude, which those can represent the whole love story in the novel. So, the inductive method is used in writing this thesis. Hadi strengthens that thinking inductively started from certain facts and concrete events, then from both of them can be made into a general idea (1994: 42).

Besides the inductive method, this discussion also uses library research to collect some data and theories to support the topic of analysis. The data is taken from articles, criticisms, theories, books and dictionaries.

1.7 The Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of the thesis, which consists of the rationale, the goals of the study, the problems to discuss, the scope of the study, the approaches to use, the methods of analysing and the organizations of the thesis. The biography of Henry James and the synopsis of *The Europeans* will be explained in the second chapter. The third chapter concerns with the meanings of the terms, whereas the fourth chapter will discuss the analysing of the amorous entanglements of Eugenia and Gertrude. Finally, all of the previous discussion will be concluded in the last chapter.





CHAPTER II

THE BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY JAMES AND
THE SYNOPSIS OF THE NOVEL

2.1 The Biography of Henry James

Henry James is an American novelist and critic who remains one of the greatest and most influential figures in American literature. He explored the conflicts between the culture of the New World and the Old in his most characteristic works. A master of prose fiction, from the first, he practiced it as a fertile innovator, enlarged the forms, and placed upon it the stamp of a highly individual method and style. He wrote 20 novels, 112 tales, 12 plays, several volumes of travels and criticisms, and a great deal of literary journalism for about 51 years.

Henry James was born in New York, on April 15, 1843. He was the son of Henry James, Sr and married Robertson Walsh. They have a large family. They are William James, the famous psychologist and philosopher was born in January 1842, Henry James, Jr. Garth Wilkinson (1845), Robertson (1846) and Alice (1848).

Henry James was a shy and book-addicted boy. He never gets married. He was friendly and even gregarious, but he was an active observer and participant in society. In his literary world, he tended to be distant in his relations with people, and was careful to avoid involvement. In 1862 when he was nineteen years old, Henry James returned to the United States and entered Harvard Law School but devoted his study time to Sainte-Beuve, Balzac, and Hawthorne. He preferred reading literature to study law. He was more attractive to F.R. Lowell's literary lectures. He spent much of his time there by reading fictions and even prepared himself to become a writer. In the same time with the removal of Jameses from New York to Boston and then to Cambridge in 1864, he began his career by publishing his first unsigned story, *A Tragedy of Error* in *Continental Monthly*. It was published two years later. His first signed story, *The Story of a Year* was published in the *Atlantic* in March 1865.

In 1864 and 1865, James also wrote reviews for *Atlantic* and *North American Review*. His first paid-for work was on *Atlantic Review* of a book of essay on the writing of fiction. He continued writing signed stories and essays until he finally made a close friendship with William Dean Howells, the assistant editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*. He encouraged James to make a real American novel. After that time, James was more and more productive in writing stories and essays.

In travelling to Europe, France and Italy, he produced travel sketches and stories published in American magazines. On March 1870, when he was travelling to Italy, James received news on Minny Temple's death due to her tuberculosis she had suffering a few years before. She was his cousin as well as his girl friend. He adored her very much but could not marry her because of his parents' prohibition. Her death somehow had influences his life. He described her as the heroines in several of his works, such as *The Portrait of a Lady* of his middle period and *The Wings of the Dove* of his finish years.

Henry James returned to Cambridge in May 1879. He wrote many travel articles for the *Nation*. He became an art reviewer for the *Atlantic Monthly* in which he published his first short novel, *Watch and Ward*, late in 1871. William James predicted that Henry's taste of Europe would lead at last to his spending most of his time there, and this prediction proved true. In 1872 he went abroad again and stayed for two years with his sister, Alice, and his aunt in Europe. He wrote impressionistic travel sketches for the *Nation*. He had settled into a productive habit. He began the writing of *Roderick Hudson*, a novel about an American expatriate in Florence after spending autumn in Paris, and finished it in New York, during the winter of 1874-1875, while he was writing regularly for the *Nation*.

On November 1875, James decided to live in Europe. That time his first book published, *A Passionate Pilgrim*, a collection of six stories. However James found himself out of sympathy with French writers and felt lonely in Paris, so he went to London. He did not consider returning to the United States to live, by having thinking that his idealisms of America were more possible in England.

rather than in America. Henry James, in his first period of work written from 1875 to 1885, mostly wrote about the characters were chiefly Americans and the scenes were set sometimes in America, sometimes in Europe. But in his second period, from 1885 to 1901, he wrote mostly of English characters in English settings. And in his last period, from 1901 to 1904, he wrote again of American characters in English and European settings, one of his first period works is *The American*, written in 1875 and finished in 1877 (Dattel, 1963: 238).

In his next novel, *The Europeans* (1878), he reversed the theme and deals with a European thwarted in America. A novel *Daisy Miller*, a memorable presentation of an American girl abroad, is published in 1878. And in 1870 he published a brilliant critical study of Nathaniel Hawthorne. With *The Portrait of the Lady* (1881), his reputation was established. Between 1881 and 1883, Henry James returned to the United States twice. During the final illness of his parents who died in 1882, on May 1882, James came back to London and did not visit the United States for about two decades. He published numeral stories and essays in some literary magazines; they were *The Siege of London* (1883), *Tales of Three Cities* (1884) and *The Author of Beltramo* (1885).

Years between 1885 to 1901 were supposed to be James' second period. He abandoned the international themes, and eventually fictions itself are for drama, he wrote seven plays in five years. Failing in the theatre, he returned to fictions again.

The first two novels of the middle period are concerned with reformers and revolutionaries. In *The Bostonians* (1886), he presented one of his delightful heroines. In *The Princess Casanoviana*, he exploited the anarchist violence of the decade and depicted the struggle of a young man. *The Tragic Muse* followed these novels. This novel raised the curtain on his own dramatic years 1890-1895, during which he tried to be successful on the stages. His dramatization of *The American* in 1891 was successful. But in his *Guy Domville*, the original play and produced in 1895, was failure. So, he felt that he had lost his public. As the result were *The Embarrassments* (1896), *The Spoils of Poynton* (1897), *What Maisie Knew* (1897), *The Turn of the Screw* (1898), *The Awkward Age* (1899), and *The Soft*

Side consists of twelve stories were done through the year of 1900. He signed his second period by indicating his finished short novel *The Sacred Fount* (1901).

In his last period, Henry James created again great novels with American and European characters in American and European settings. His three extraordinary novels were *The Wings of the Dove* (1902), *The Ambassadors* (1903) and *The Golden Bowl* (1904), and *The Ambassadors* was considered to be his masterpiece. In 1904, all of his experiences in his travelling to all over the United States were described in *The American Scene* (1907). The death of his brother, William, prompted him to write autobiographies, they are *A Small Boy and Others*, *Notes on Novelists* (1878), *Partial Portrait* (1888), *Essays in London* (1893) and *Notes on Novelists* (1914). And his art essays are included in *Picture and Text* (1893). In 1915, James renounced his American citizenship becomes British citizen. Finally, Henry James died in London on February 28, 1916, in his 72 years old, and buried there.

Although James had produced many literary works, he never achieved any great popular success. Even his reputations came in 1934, of course 18 years after his death. His stories began to receive in anthologies for general readers and for college classes and his stories were also successfully dramatized for ten stages, movies, radios, and televisions.

2.2 The Synopsis of the Novel

Two visitors of American extraction arrive from Europe to take for their relatives in Boston. They are Eugenia, the Baroness Munster, wife of a German Prince who desires to repudiate her, and her brother, Felix Young, an artist, who has a contract to supply an illustrated magazine with American sketches. Then, they stay in their uncle house, Mr. Wentworth. He has two daughters, Gertrude and Charlotte, and a son, Clifford. After several times, Gertrude falls in love with Felix, although she has love affair with Mr. Brand, a Unitarian Minister. Eugenia finds an admirer in Robert Acton, a neighbour and Cousin of Mr. Wentworth, and Robert Acton feels interest in the Baroness Munster too. Finally, he asks about Eugenia's marriage, although actually he has known that her

husband wishes to put her away. Eugenia still keeps a document in her writing desk that if she signs it and sends back to the Prince she will not be his wife anymore. But until she arrives in America, she does not sign the document. She is supposed to gain the advantages of it, if she delays, the Prince may come back to her.

Felix suggests to Mr. Wentworth that Clifford will be better if he engaged with Eugenia. Felix thinks that Eugenia can encourage Clifford to be a better man, because Clifford has left his college. Eugenia tries to flirt with Clifford although he is supposed will marry Lizzie Acton. She is Robert Acton's sister. Gertrude says to Felix that she has fallen in love with him. Then to make their loves real, she tries to give her sister and Mr. Brand advices that it will be better if they get married.

Eugenia gives suggestions to Clifford that he will be better to go to Europe and lives in Germany, but Clifford ignores her suggestions to go to Germany and he lives there neither. In his journey at Newport, Robert Acton is in longing to Eugenia. After his arrival to Boston, he immediately visits Eugenia and tells about his longing. When they are talking seriously, Clifford comes in. Robert Acton surprises with Clifford's coming, but Clifford goes away soon with his facetious growls. Robert Acton asks Eugenia about Clifford's attitude. Finally, Eugenia tells him that Clifford falls in love with her because she has cured Clifford from his drinking. Knowing this state, Robert Acton remembers his younger sister, Lizzie, and thinks what Lizzie will do when she hears that Clifford actually falls in love with Eugenia. Even, he is more surprised when Eugenia tells him the reason why Clifford comes to Eugenia's house at midnight. The reason is Eugenia has invited Clifford and would amuse him all night long.

Clifford tells Robert Acton about his coming in Eugenia's house in the previous night. Actually, Eugenia and Clifford have been together before Robert Acton comes. Eugenia orders Clifford to go to Felix's studio. But after finding that he cannot go out from Felix's studio because Felix has locked another door and nailed some planks across it, he decides not to hide away and goes out. He

finally finds Robert Acton is talking with Eugenia. Clifford regrets with all of he has done. He realizes that Eugenia actually does not care for anything.

Felix told Mr. Brand that Charlotte actually has been in love with Mr. Brand. Felix also tells that Gertrude has a desire to see the world and it means that Mr. Brand cannot marry her anymore. After knowing that news, Mr. Brand says nothing; he just goes away from Felix's studio with all of his sadness.

Eugenia tells Robert Acton about her plan to leave America. Her reason is that she cannot live in America anymore, on the other hand she is admired in Europe. Robert Acton tries to restrain Eugenia's leaving, but he cannot do anything because Eugenia has to leave America as soon as possible. Robert Acton feels hopeless and has lost Eugenia.

Felix asks Charlotte to help him to convince her father that he and Gertrude love each other and they plan to get married. Felix also orders Charlotte to marry Mr. Brand by saying that her temperament is more compatible with Mr. Brand's temperament. In the next morning, Felix tries to convince Mr. Wentworth about his plan to marry Gertrude and go to Bohemia. Mr. Brand also comes in. He also convinces Mr. Wentworth to give a chance for Felix and Gertrude to marry. After having a long discussion, finally Mr. Wentworth gives his permission to the couple for getting married.

Felix and Gertrude tell Eugenia about their marriage the next evening. Then Eugenia congratulates them, and draws from her own finger a curious old ring, and presents it to Gertrude with the prettiest speech and kiss. At the same time, Robert Acton tells Eugenia that Clifford will get married with his sister. Eugenia says to Felix that she cannot wait for his marriage because the next day she has to depart to Germany by the first ship. Eugenia also says that she has not signed the document and it means that she will patch up affairs with her husband.

After several days, Gertrude and Felix Young go far away with their new family. Clifford and his young wife seek their felicity in a narrower circle. Gertrude and Felix come back when Charlotte gets married with Mr. Brand, and Robert Acton, after his mother's death, gets married with a nice young girl.

CHAPTER III
THE MEANINGS OF THE TERMS

It is necessary to explain the meanings of the words that become the basic subjects in writing this thesis. It is hoped that the descriptions of the words will help the readers to understand this thesis. This chapter is divided into two sub-chapters. Both of them concern about the meanings of amorous and entanglement.

3.1 The Meaning of "Amorous"

The word "amorous" is derived from the word "amour". So, it is important to understand about the definitions of "amour". The word "amour" comes from France that means "love". Webster point out "amour" as:

1. a close attachment; intimate friendship
2. a. love-making, courtship, usually used in plural
b. a love affair especially when illicit
3. love; especially sexual love
4. a. one that is loved
b. mistress or lover

After getting the definitions of "amour", then turn to the word "amorous". Webster (1966: 72) writes this word as:

1. strongly moved by love especially sexual love: given in love-making
2. in love: enamoured, usually used with *of*, formerly with *on*
3. a. manifesting love: indicative of love
b. produced by or productive of love
c. relating to love
4. a. warmly affectionate: fond, loving
b. characterized by warmth and passion.

"Amorous" is an adjectival form from "amour", so it means having a propensity to love or to sexual enjoyment to the opposite sex. Actually, love itself can be categorized into several kinds of love. They are; love between parents to

their children, love among friends and the people surrounding, and love between a man and a woman. The last kind of love has relation with the word "amorous" because it implicates sexual enjoyment. Eugenia has changeable loves to some characters in the novel. Firstly, she loves her husband, then Robert Acton, finally Clifford. The same state also happens to Gertrude, she decides to marry Felix after having love affair with Mr. Brand.

3.2 The Meaning of "Entanglement"

The second term is "entanglement". This word is derived from the word "entangle". Webster (1966: 756) denotes "entangle" as;

1. a. to twist or interweave so as make separation different
make tangled and intricate: snarl
- b. to make complicated or difficult of comprehension: confuse
2. a. to involve so as to impede physical movement or make extrication
difficult: enmesh, ensnarl
- b. to involve in a perplexing or trouble some situation from which
escape is difficult: entrap
- c. to confuse mentally: perplex, bewilder

From those definition can be concluded that "entangle" means to involve in anything complicated or in difficulties

After getting the definition of the word "entangle", the definition of "entanglement" must be discussed. Webster (1966: 756) writes that "entanglement" means;

1. a. the action or an instance of physically entangling: the state of
being entangled or snarled
- b. something that entangled physically; especially an obstacle
consisting of specially constructed barbed-wire fences for
impeding the advance of foot troops
- c. something that is closely interwoven or tangled
2. a. The condition or an instance of being deeply involved or closely
linked, usually in an embarrassing or compromising way

- b. (1). something that involves or preoccupies: commitment, care
- (2). something that confuses, complicates, or ensnares: allure, complexity, confusion

From those statements a conclusion can be withdrawn. "Entanglement" means the complicated or difficult situation relationships. In the novel, some complicated relationships or situations can be found. Eugenia's loves toward her husband, Robert Acton and Clifford have snared her into a complicated situation. She has to decide a very difficult decision. Another character who is also snared in the complicated situations is Gertrude. She has to choose one between Mr. Brand and Felix to become her husband. Actually, there are some complicated relationships among the characters in the novel, but the result of the discussion of Eugenia and Gertrude's complicated relationships can represent all of the complicated relationships that happen in the novel.



CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

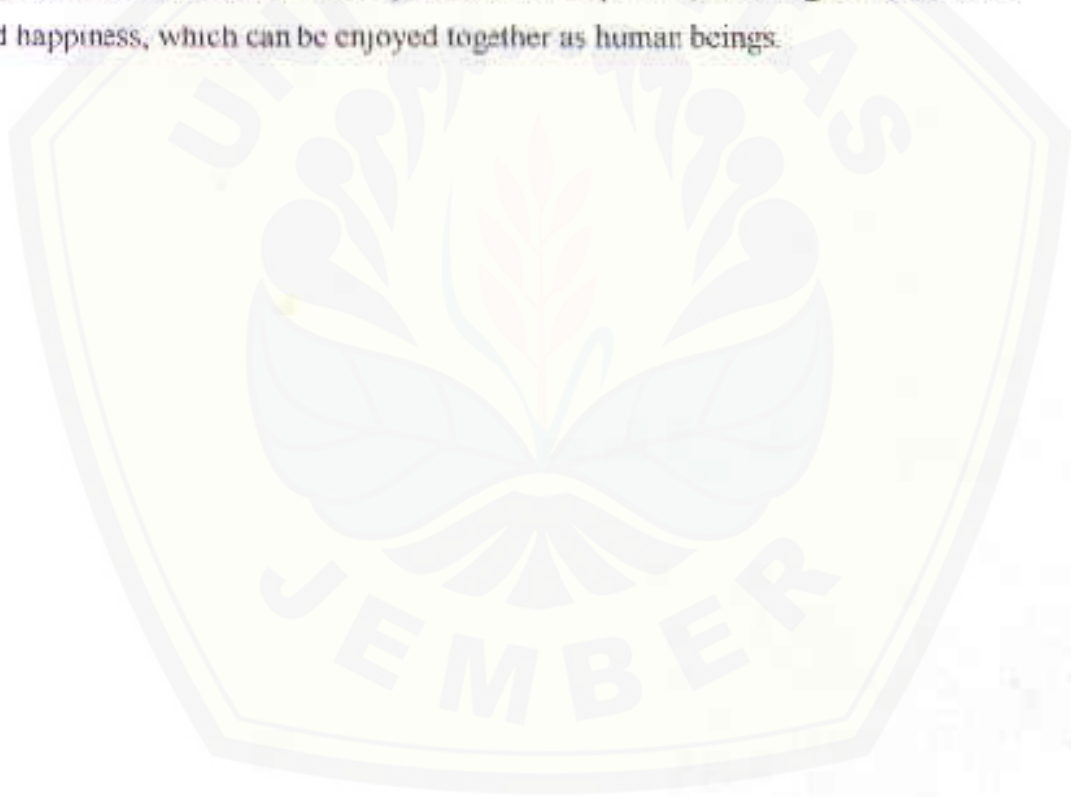
Love is the basic needs to man's existence; without it man cannot realize his full human potential. Love is a need to be together with someone, to make a physical contact and to have him, because people as a social being may need other persons to share their attachment. Romantic love is stated as the requirement for a marriage and to continue the descent. People are free to choose their husband or wife for their life. In choosing their husband or wife, they will undergo some love relationships. Those become their experiences in finding their lovers who are compatible with them. A man may experience some love affairs in his life because he tries to get the best one for his life. If he feels that he does not have compatibility anymore with his lover, he can try to have other love affairs again, or he is frustrated and feels that he has lost his hope to have love affair again, or even he will revenge to the person who has hurt his feeling.

Eugenia is the main character of the novel and has very complicated love relationships. It is rather difficult to determine her love toward her husband, because her marital status as the wife of the Prince is not clear. She has not sign the document yet when she goes to Boston. Her marriage, for the Prince, is just a political marriage, and for her, it is just focused on social and economical context. After she feels that she cannot get her happiness with her husband, she tries to go to New England. She cannot continue her love relationship with Robert Acton because she feels that her way of thinking is quite different with Robert Acton's way of thinking. Her love toward Clifford is just a playful love or just a sexual drive. Her ultimate decision to go from America it becomes her escape from her difficult situation.

Gertrude also has the same complicated love relationship. Her feeling toward Mr. Brand is just as a close friend relationship and she has refused him. Her love toward Felix is a romantic love. Gertrude and Felix love each other and have desire to get married. It means that Gertrude can solve her love problems. Gertrude has defended her love toward Felix with her brilliant way out: by asking

Charlotte and Mr. Brand to get married too. It is unlike Eugenia who does not solve her problems, but she just goes away.

It can be concluded that some persons have different ways of thinking in solving their problem. Several persons think that running away from their problem means to overcome it. But it may not be the solution for other persons to solve their problems, especially if they want to choose their partner for their marriage. In a marriage, love and attachment become the most significant factors and these are regarded as the spiritual and physical needs. The existence of love and attachment must be understood deeply and accepted with the wholeheartedness. If a person has understood and accepted love of his partner, he will get his true love and happiness, which can be enjoyed together as human beings.



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