

Gothic Features in Henry James's Ghost Stories

Lucie Piskořová

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PhDr. Katarína Nemčoková, Ph.D.
ředitelka ústavu

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ABSTRAKT

Tato práce zkoumá gotické rysy, jako jsou nadpřirozeno a přítomnost prvků zla, ve *Strážidelných příbězích* Henryho Jamese: *Štáfení roubu*, *ŠNájemné od ducha*, *ŠSir Edmund Orme*, *ŠSoukromý život* a *ŠPřátelé přátel*. V teoretické části je popsán gotický román osmnáctého a devatenáctého století. Dále práce pojednává o životě Henryho Jamese jako jeho možnou inspiraci k sepsání *strážidelných příběhů*. Teoretická část také zasazuje autora Henryho Jamese do kontextu gotické literatury. V praktické části jsou analyzovány konkrétní gotické rysy, nadpřirozeno a přítomnost prvků zla, v jednotlivých příbězích.

Klíčová slova: Henry James, gotický román, strážidelné příběhy, nadpřirozeno, přítomnost prvků zla.

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores gothic features, such as supernatural and presence of evil elements, in *Henry James's Ghost Stories*: *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Ghostly Rental*, *Sir Edmund Orme*, *The Private Life* and *The Friends of the Friends*. The theoretical part discusses gothic novel from the mid-eighteenth and to the nineteenth century. Henry James's life is taken into consideration as a possible inspiration for writing his ghost stories. Henry James is set in the context of gothic literature. The analytical part deals with particular gothic features as are the presence of evil elements and supernatural in individual stories.

Keywords: Henry James, gothic novel, ghost stories, the supernatural, the presence of evil elements.

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INTRODUCTION

Darkness, imprecation, terror, the presence of evil elements, supernatural – all those features and lot more together create gothic literature. Thinking about the connotation of those words, their purpose is to call into being the feelings of fear, panic, and terror. This is the aim of gothic literature. The literature of fear has been developing. Nowadays, a lot of people esteem the gothic literature as the predecessor of horror films which many audiences search for. The question is why the horror stories are so popular. The possible explanation is that people enjoy not only laughing but also being scared. To be absorbed in through, it is kind of adventure for the observers. On one hand, the fans of those stories are panic-stricken and frightened. On the other hand, they know they are secure, out of harm's way and nothing evil would happen to them, in the contrast of the characters of the stories. Each of the stories applies some of the features to achieve the gothic and horror atmosphere. For my thesis, I decided to discuss the two of the features of gothic literature – the presence of evil elements and the supernatural. The features are analyzed in five of the Henry James's ghost stories. Henry James was not only the author of the ghost stories. He was an excellent novelist, literary critic, and writer of stories of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century.

The result of my research revealed that Henry James interconnected the gothic features. The ghosts, as the characters of the analyzed stories, are the supernatural elements. Beyond that, ghosts are frequently the ones associated with the presence of evil elements. The connection between those gothic features increases the atmosphere of fear. The thesis also detected that Henry James enriched the ghost stories with the characters' emotions and the psychological conditions. The characters' emotions are often associated with the supernatural and the presence of evil element. To be given to understand the features of gothic literature, the first chapter deals with a gothic novel from the mid-eighteenth to the late nineteenth century. The second part of the theoretical part focuses on Henry James. In the analytical part of the thesis are chosen five of the Henry James's ghost stories – novella *The Turn of The Screw* (1898), "The Ghostly Rental" (1876), "Sir Edmund Orme" (1891), "The Private Life" (1892) and "The Friend of the Friends" (1896) - and is accomplished the analysis. The analysis concerns about the gothic features such as the supernatural and the presence of evil elements included in the ghost stories.

I. THEORY

1 GOTHIC NOVEL FROM THE MID-EIGHTEENTH TO THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY

To understand the analytical part of the thesis, learning about gothic literature and its features is principal. This chapter deals with the main information about the gothic novel from the mid-eighteenth century to the nineteenth century. The main features of gothic literature are depicted in the chapter.

The term "gothic" has a reference to Goths. The Goths were an East Germanic tribe divided into two parts – Ostrogoths and Visigoths. They invaded Roman territory between the third and fifth century after Christ.¹ During the time, Goths disrupted the culture of the Roman Empire. They are titled as barbarians and vulgar people.²

The word "gothic" can be shown in a lot of fields, for example, literature, architecture, history. In a literary context, "Gothic" is most usually applied to a group of novels written between the 1760s and the 1820s. Their authors are now, with few exceptions, not the object of much critical attention, although some names still stand out: Horace Walpole, Matthew Lewis, Ann Radcliffe, C. R. Maturin, Marry Shelley.³

The Gothic novel has its beginning in the eighteenth century. The first gothic novel, *Castle of Otranto* by Horace Walpole, was written in 1764. This gothic novel firstly shows the Middle Time as highbred, the sublimity as a terrifying element, the melancholy and the characters who behave wildly.⁴ During the time, gothic literature has been developing. From the first gothic novel, gothic fiction to horror stories. Today, the gothic novel can be considered as the predecessor of the horror stories or horror films, which people can meet nowadays.

¹ See Andrew Smith, *Gothic Literature* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013), 2.

² See David Punter, ed. *A New Companion to the Gothic* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 26-27.

³ David Punter, *The Literature of Terror: A History of Gothic Fiction from 1765 to the present day* (New York: Routledge, 2013), 1.

⁴ See Robert F. Geary, *The Supernatural in Gothic Fiction: Horror, Belief, and Literary Change* (New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1992), 23.

Writers of the gothic novel were inspired by the Middle Ages. The gothic novels have the same or similar features. The settings are usually dark places such as monasteries, isolated castles, corridors, secret rooms, old ruins. The main characters were usually people who were the inhabitants of the setting, such as nuns, monks or for example aristocrats.⁵

The end of the eighteenth century was the time of French revolution. The revolution was a symbol of innovations of everything old, which raised not only passion but also fear. The theme of fear was another feature which appears in gothic novels. The impersonator of the fear was a presence of evil elements. Practically any kind of evil, but usually was shown in the behavior of the main characters.⁶

Gothic novels show exoticism or fantasy, which are associated with romanticism. The romanticism in Britain was officially established in 1798 when was published the work *Lyrical Ballads*.⁷ There is always depicted death, fantastic, supernatural or macabre themes. Romantic

Gothic novels were usually not set in England, where had been written the first gothic novels. The locality of gothic novels were exotic countries, usually southern Europe because those countries were the Catholic ones.⁸ Catholic countries were associated with superstition, arbitrary power and passionate extremes. Such countries, therefore, lacked Protestant self-restraint and were prone to generating fantastical Gothic terrors.⁹ Catholic countries were a popular setting for the gothic novels.

The writers of the gothic literature frequently included the supernatural elements in their works. The devils and supernatural elements are often taken from folklore. A pervasive aspect of folklore and traditional narrative, the supernatural may vary from kindly spirits, talismans, and an eerie atmosphere to ghoul and ghosts, apparitions, poltergeists, witches, spooks, preternatural powers, and demonstration of sorcery.¹⁰ The writers of gothic novels

⁵ See Andrew Smith, *Gothic Literature*, 3.

⁶ See Andrew Smith, *Gothic Literature*, 3.

⁷ See Ronald Carter and John McRae, *The Routledge History of Literature in English* (London: Routledge, 2001), 197.

⁸ See Fred Botting, *Gothic* (New York: Routledge, 2014), 46.

⁹ Andrew Smith, *Gothic Literature*, 24.

¹⁰ Mary E. Snodgrass, *Encyclopedia of Gothic literature* (New York: Fact On File, 2005), 329.

were using different types of folklores from various countries. During the time were developed new supernatural characters such as demons, vampires, ogres, or wights.¹¹

In the nineteenth century, the gothic novel developed and changed. While one manifestation of the Gothic came to an end with Maturin's magnum opus, the form and tradition did not simply die in that moment, but were reborn and revived in new way.¹² In the nineteenth century, the setting of the gothic novel is not only in monasteries, ruins and places like that, the gothic is practically everywhere. In the eighteenth century, Gothic novels were still influenced by classicism and the emphasis on the rational behavior. The Gothic novels in the nineteenth century are more unrealistic and more accessible.¹³

England in the nineteenth century was the time of Victorian Age. During the Victorian Age, England was becoming an industrial and modern country. People were moving from the countryside to cities. The community was changing. Gothic novel was changing in a conformable way. The settings were dislocating from the castles to ordinary places. The main characters were not only people connected with Catholic Church. The gothic novel was moving from the dark to daily life. Especially to that parts of London which were urban as the result of people believed that those places were not fully modernized. Those places reminded the medieval times.¹⁴

The Gothic literature is associated with Victorian Age. As the proof can be the film production known as *Hammer Pictures*, which in the second half of the twentieth century created horror films. Those films were settled in history, especially in the Victorian era. Victorian era is the symbol of gothic time.¹⁵

The audience of the Victorian Age was changing in the nineteenth century. The industrial revolution beginning at the end of the eighteenth century revealed two impacts on society. People were moving from the rural areas to cities, which caused the expansion of cities. In cities, people insist on education such as reading more than people living in the rural areas.

¹¹ See Mary E. Snodgrass, *Encyclopedia of Gothic literature*, 330.

¹² Jatlath Killeen, *History of the Gothic: Gothic Literature 1825-1914* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2009), 3.

¹³ See Jatlath Killeen, *History of the Gothic: Gothic Literature 1825-1914*, 3-4.

¹⁴ See Jatlath Killeen, *History of the Gothic: Gothic Literature 1825-1914*, 12-13.

¹⁵ See Jatlath Killeen, *History of the Gothic: Gothic Literature 1825-1914*, 5.

The second change referred to the middle classes, which obtained higher power than they had not had before. The cumulative power inspired them to read not only the writings connected with policy. The women appurtenant the middle classes did not work, however, they read a lot.¹⁶

The Gothic literature is contained in several forms. On one hand, the gothic novel is the genre of prose. On the other hand, during the nineteenth century, gothic features had spread among another form. As the example can be drama, novella, short stories, and poetry. Today, gothic literature can be found in radios, and also films.¹⁷

Another feature which can be seen in gothic novels in the nineteenth century is the calamitous childhood. The children usually do not have an orderly family and moral incentives. They do not have parents or they do, but they maltreat them. The characters then become demonic and start to committing crime or other event associated with the presence of evil element. The example of demonic children's characters is Miles and Flora in the novella *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James.¹⁸

The writers of a gothic novel often included nature as the theme in their works. "For sensational effect, early Gothic writers like Radcliffe manipulated weather and terrain as vehicles for the pathetic fallacy and heightened descriptions of the unemotional outdoors for its contract to emotional disorder and suppressed character faults and evils."¹⁹ The author of the analyzed stories of this thesis, Henry James, can be introduced as an example too. He frequently pointed to the supernatural elements of nature. Nature frequently predicts the presence of evil element. For example, before the evil element appears, a storm is brewing.

¹⁶ See Zuzana Zrstová, "Britské imperium ve viktoriánské době," BBC, January 14, 2001, accessed April 28, 2016, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/czech/omnibus/victorian.shtml>.

¹⁷ See Andrew Smith, *Gothic Literature*, 4.

¹⁸ See Jathath Killeen, *History of the Gothic: Gothic Literature 1825-1914*, 71.

¹⁹ Mary E. Snodgrass, *Encyclopedia of Gothic literature*, 249.

2 HENRY JAMES

Henry James is considered as a British writer despite the fact that he was born in America in the first half of the nineteenth century, 1843. During his life, he had been visiting European countries where he met other well-known writers, who had an influence on him. Henry James was not only a writer, he was rapturous readers of authors such as Hawthorne or Balzac. As a writer, he wrote novels, stories, plays and also works founded on literary criticism.²⁰

2.1 Henry James's life as an inspiration for ghost stories

This chapter deals with the life of the author of the analyzed stories in this thesis, Henry James. In substance, he was led to be an author. His life was very influencing for his works. This chapter also connects Henry James's life with the analyzed ghost stories.

Henry James was born in 1843 in New York, America. That time was America practically independent state, but still young and the nation was continually creating. Britain, where Henry James settled, was at that time one of the most powerful countries.²¹

The wealthy family of Henry James was abundant. Henry James's parents - Henry James Senior and Mary Walsh James - owned enough financial means to facilitate their children's needful education. The eponymous father, Henry James Senior, was an intellectual person, who was well-known in America. Henry James had four siblings. His older brother William James is known as a psychologist and considerable representative of pragmatism. His younger sister, Alice James, is famous for her diaries published posthumously.²²

During his childhood and young years, James family was traveling a lot. They were visiting European countries such as Britain, France, and Geneva. Henry James's parents were socially and intellectually based. America had almost no cultural scene such as museums, or plays. Some plays performed in America had its origin from Britain. That is the reasons why James family was traveling to Britain.²³ In spite of the fact that James family

²⁰ See, Harold Bloom, ed. *Henry James* (Broomall: Chelsea House Publishers, 2002), 12-13.

²¹ See, Golgotha Press, *The Life and Time of Henry James* (Hustonville: Golgotha Press, 2011), 1.

²² See, David McWhirter, ed. *Henry James in Context* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 4.

²³ See, Golgotha Press, *The Life and Time of Henry James* (Hustonville: Golgotha Press, 2013), 1-2.

was traveling a lot, the children had always ensured of the education. In 1859, Henry James's family stayed in Geneva, where Henry James and his brother, William, studied at the University of Geneva.²⁴

Henry James was intellectually based as well as his father. During his young years, he was educating himself and he was also reading a lot. He was interested in works by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson who were the friends of James's father, or for example Charles Dickens or later works written by Honoré de Balzac.²⁵

Henry James traveled a lot. Before he settled in Britain, Henry James lived in Paris for one year, 1875 - 1876. In Paris, he was seeking authors who he admired. Henry James made the acquaintance of Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev who introduced him to the French well-known naturalist such as Emile Zola, Guy de Maupassant, Edmond de Goncourt or Alphonse Daudet.²⁶ Then, Henry James returned to Britain.

Henry James visited the United States for few times. The reasons why he left England were the death of his parents. In 1881 died his mother Mary Walsh James and the next year 1882 passed away his father Henry James Senior. In 1883, he returned to England and for consecutive twenty-one years, he did not appear in America again.²⁷

Since 1887 made Henry James a decision to travel again. His first attendances were in 1887 in Florence and Venice. In 1888, he visited Paris, Geneva, and Italy. In July of 1891, he spent time in Ireland. He visited a lot of countries all around the Europe, but he did not come back to the United States, even if his younger sister Alice James died in 1892. Along the line, he wrote many works whether successful or not.²⁸

In 1897, Henry James decided to rent a house in Sussex, where he spent summers for the following years. After few years, Henry James purchased the house in Sussex. In winters,

²⁴ See, Eric L. Harolson, and Kendall Johnson, *Critical Companion to Henry James: a Literary Reference to his Life and Work* (New York: Fact On File, 2009), 5.

²⁵ See, Harold Bloom, *Henry James*, 12.

²⁶ See, Harold Bloom, *Henry James* (Broomall: Chelsea House Publishers, 2002), 12.

²⁷ See, Graham Clarke, ed. *Henry James: Critical Assessments* (Mountfield: Helm Information, 1991), 6-7.

²⁸ See, Graham Clarke, ed. *Henry James: Critical Assessments*, 7.

he subsisted in London again. In Sussex, he created new friendships with Joseph Conrad, great British novelist born in Poland, and Herbert George Wells, British writer.²⁹

Other important following facts. In 1909, he met a well-known poet writer Rupert Brooke. Henry James's health had critically deteriorated during the winter in 1909 and 1910. The year 1910 was inauspicious for Henry James considering not only his own illness but also the death of his older brother William James, who had a great relationship with. In 1911, the bad health state was outlasting. At the same year, Henry James obtained two honorary degrees, the first one from Harvard University and the second one from Oxford.³⁰

The end of his life was not really restful. The First World War launched in 1915. For the reason to support England, Henry James became a British citizen. "Helps with war relief. In July H.G. Wells published *Boon*, part of which parodies James. After an exchange of letters, their friendship is ended."³¹ At the end of 1915, Henry James's health worsen a lot. His brother's wife came to England to take care of ill Henry, but on February 1916 died at the age of 72 years. He was buried in the United States.³²

Henry James used his life experiences in his works. As it was described in this chapter, he was traveling a lot for the reason to meet a new adventure. That features he applied in his works. To prove the fact, characters in his ghost stories are usually moved to a new town where the extraordinary events begin. To be concrete, a young woman from the short story *The Turn of the Screw* had moved to another city for getting a job as a governess. Another example can be "The Ghostly Rental", where a young student of theology had moved and the supernatural adventure came to his life. Traveling itself is presented in Henry James's ghost stories. As an example can be considered the characters of "The Edmund Orme" who were traveling many times in the short story.

Even that Henry James was traveling a lot, he always returned to England. This feature also appears in his works. To prove that, the characters of the ghost story "The Private Life"

²⁹ See, Graham Clarke, ed. *Henry James: Critical Assessments*, 7.

³⁰ See, Eric L. Harolson, and Kendall Johnson, *Critical Companion to Henry James: a Literary Reference to his Life and Work*, 12-13.

³¹ Graham Clarke, ed. *Henry James: Critical Assessments*, 8.

³² See, Eric L. Harolson, and Kendall Johnson, *Critical Companion to Henry James: a Literary Reference to his Life and Work*, 13.

are spending their holiday in Switzerland, but their hometown is London. At the end of the story, all the characters come back to London as well as Henry James came back to England after his visitation abroad. This is the picture of Henry James's life.

During his life, Henry James had met a lot of famous writers or artists, which probably influenced him to write about the community like this. The story "The Private Life" is a story where the main characters are artists. Henry James maybe wanted to point the absence of private life of famous people.

In Henry James's ghost stories, the presence of dead people visualized as a ghost is common. In his life, Henry James had to face a lot of deaths in his family. I believe he used this feature in many of his stories. The story including the most ghosts of analyzed ghost stories is "The Friends of the Friends". This story was published when both his parents and sister had been dead. The number of bereavements in his family can be the reason for rising the number of ghosts in his stories.

2.2 Works by Henry James

Henry James started thinking about writing while he was a student of law at Harvard University. This study was not successful because he was not really interested in law. What he was interested in was literature. Instead of studying law, Henry James spent a lot of time in libraries reading books. That time he decided to start writing his first creation. His first published writing was in 1863 when he was twenty-one years old. The writing was a short story called "A Tragedy of Errors" and it was published in *Continental Monthly* in New York.³³

During his life, Henry James wrote more than hundred and fifty works. Especially about twenty novels, hundred and twelve stories, twelve plays but also a lot of works dealing with literary criticism. All those works he wrote during fifty-one years.³⁴ This subchapter focuses on the works relating to the gothic features.

³³ See, Harold Bloom, *Henry James*, 12.

³⁴ See, Harold Bloom, *Henry James*, 13.

In 1867, Henry James published his first novel *Roderick Hudson*. This work had been published as a serial a year before in *Atlantic Monthly*.³⁵ American sculptor Roderick Hudson is in love with a beautiful woman. However, his love destroyed him. In this novel, readers can find gothic features. The beautiful woman is not as beautiful in her mind. This story also shows the love is not always as lovely as people think. Love can be the product of evil too.

The story "The Romance of Certain Old Clothes", published 1868 in *Atlantic Monthly*, deals with gothic features too.³⁶ The story is about two sisters – Viola and Perdita. Both are in love with one man – Arthur Lloyd. He marries Perdita. During the plot, Perdita dies. Viola becomes closer to Arthur. At the end of the story, Viola dies by the ghostly hands.

Henry James wrote short stories. One of the short stories is "The Ghostly Rental". It was originally published in *Scribner's Monthly* in 1876.³⁷ The story implies many features of gothic literature, such as the presence of evil elements or supernatural. The narrator of the story is a young student of theology, whose curious behavior leads him to an old soldier who caused the death of his daughter. Thanks to the soldier, the young student can experience meeting with a ghost.

The short story "Sir Edmund Orme" is a part of Henry James's ghost stories dealing with gothic features. It was firstly published in *Black and White* magazine in 1891.³⁸ The story is named after the ghost, Sir Edmund Orme. Mrs. Marden was about to marry Sir Edmund Orme in the past. Finally, she decided not to marry him. Sir Edmund Orme committed suicide and after a few years, he becomes a ghost.

The short story "The Private Life" including gothic features was firstly published in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1892.³⁹ The story is about well-known people enjoying their holiday. The characters of the story are artists escaping from the hectic London to Switzerland for the

³⁵ See, Graham Clarke, ed. *Henry James: Critical Assessments*, 6.

³⁶ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James* (Ware: Wordsworth Editions, 2008), 336.

³⁷ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 337.

³⁸ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 338.

³⁹ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 339.

reason to relax. The narrator of the story and Mrs. Adney establish supernatural secrets about other two characters.

Another ghost story "Owen Wingrave" includes gothic features too. It was firstly published in *The Graphic* in 1892.⁴⁰ The story is about a boy whose family is military based. He decides not to go to the army as his family expected. Owen dies at the same place where had died another member of his family. "Owen Wingrave" was an inspiration for Benjamin Brittan who remade the story into opera.⁴¹

The ghost story "The Friends of the Friends" was firstly published in 1896 in *Chap Book* and *Chapman's Magazine of Fiction* under the different name - *The Way It Came*.⁴² The narrator is a woman who is in love with a man called as a dear man. The third character is a woman who is a friend of the narrator. The dear man and the woman have the common feature that both of them used to saw the ghosts of their parents when they were young. Also in this story can reader notice gothic features.

The novella *The Turn of the Screw* was firstly published in *Collier's* magazine in 1898.⁴³ This work is about a young woman, who moved to be a governess by profession. The governess is a narrator as well. The governess sees figures. The figures can be explained in two ways. On one hand, the figures are ghosts. The supernatural ghosts are the themes belonging to the Gothic tradition. On the other hand, the figures are only her illusions caused due to her mental disorder.⁴⁴

The ghost in the short story "The Real Right Thing" is about a dead man - a ghost now - who avoid his friend and his wife to write a biography. His wife and the friend can feel the supernatural presence of the ghost. The story was originally published in *Collier's Weekly* in 1899.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 340.

⁴¹ See, Denis Tredy, Annick Duperray, and Adrian Harding, ed., *Henry James's Europe: Heritage and Transfer* (Cambridge: OpenBook Publishers, 2011), 215.

⁴² See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 341.

⁴³ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 341.

⁴⁴ See, John C. Rowe, and Eric Harolson, ed. *A Historical Guide to Henry James* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 3.

⁴⁵ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 343.

2.3 Henry James in the Context of Gothic literature

Henry James was a British author. Even though he was born in America, the most time of his life he spent in Europe, most frequently in Britain. In Britain, this period of time is known as Victorian Era. During the Victorian Era, the gothic features appeared in many works by the most known writers.

As a young boy, Henry James read works by Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was also a friend of his father.⁴⁶ Nathaniel Hawthorne was an American novelist, in whose works can readers find a lot of features of gothic literature. It follows the idea that Henry James had been in contact with gothic literature even before he started writing his own novels or stories.⁴⁷ The works by Nathaniel Hawthorne influenced Henry James's writing. As an example can be introduced the female character - Hester Prynne as described in *The Scarlet Letter* (1850) by Nathaniel Hawthorne as a beautiful, pale, woman wearing black clothes and white hat, who was a transgressor. The female character, such as phantom in *The Ghostly Rental* or in *The Turn of the Screw* the Miss Jessel were influenced by the iconic Hester Prynne.⁴⁸

During his life, Henry James met a lot of authors using gothic features in their works. As an example can be introduced the writers he got to know while he was living in France, Emile Zola, Guy de Maupassant, Edmond de Goncourt or Alphonse Daudet are personages of naturalism. It developed the existing tradition of realism in the direction of the fully documented accuracy of representation of social and economic circumstances, with additional deterministic emphases on the supposed scientific laws of human behavior, understood to be governed by heredity and economic necessity.⁴⁹ In naturalists' works can be often found gothic features, such as the theme of fear, setting in abandoned places, and focus on characters' poor mind.

⁴⁶ See, Paul Lauter, *A Companion to American Literature and Culture* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 36.

⁴⁷ See, Anna Despotopoulou, and Kimberly C. Reed, ed. *Henry James and the Supernatural* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 1.

⁴⁸ See, T.J. Lustig, *Henry James and the Ghostly*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 163.

⁴⁹ Dinah Birch, and Katy Hooper, *Concise Companion to English Literature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 494.

In gothic works by Henry James, people's minds are important. Henry James pointed at the minds of the characters can be the sources of evil presented in the gothic literature. It is something ambiguous. The mind is the one which has to deal with distress and fright. Frequently the minds have gone astray, which leads to the character's possession.⁵⁰

Henry James enriched the ghost stories with features of the psychological realism. Psychological realism focuses on the psychological side of the characters. The features such as feelings, beliefs, and introspectiveness are the principal focuses.⁵¹ Henry James played mostly with the emotions such as fear, sadness, compunction, and fright. The emotions are often connected with gothic features as are the presence of an evil element or the supernatural.

The gothic settings are also presented in gothic works. Henry James used in his writing the places like ruinous houses or lonely locations. For instance, the setting of "The Private Life" is located in nature, where are the characters isolated from the world. The past frequently haunts the characters. As in the case of "Sir Edmund Orme" - the ghost is a result of the sin perpetrated in the past, however, follows the Mrs. Marden through the present.

Supernatural elements, which were attractive to the writers of gothic novel in the nineteenth century are introduced in Henry James's gothic fictions too. The authors writing gothic fiction favored mystical creatures like vampires such as Bram Stoker's in *Dracula* (1897)⁵². The most prevailing supernatural element in Henry James's works is a ghost. The ghosts can be found almost in all gothic works by Henry James.

In ghost stories by Henry James, the plot ends with more explanations. The author gave the readers their own option how the story ends. The definition of the ends can be presented in works as an illusion or as a supernatural event. The supernatural event frequently includes ghost's reaction. The illusions are mostly the production of the character's mind. To be specific, in *The Turn of the Screw*, the regular end would be that the ghost killed

⁵⁰ See, T.J Lustig, *Henry James and the Ghostly*, 2.

⁵¹ See, Matthew Beaumont, ed. *A Concise Companion to Realism* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 163.

⁵² See, Justin D. Edwards, and Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet, ed. *The Gothic in Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture* (New York: Routledge, 2012), 64.

the child. On the other hand, if the ghosts are only illusions created by the governess's mind, she would be the reason, why the child died. "Ghostly or uncanny events had been presented as illusions" in the novels of Ann Radcliffe and Walter Scott, as well as in tales such as Hawthorne's "Young Gogman Brown", George Eliot's "The Lifted Veil", Guy de Maupassant's "Le Horla" and Vernon Lee's "A Wicked Voice"⁵³ Henry James was a devotee of this kind of works, especially publications by Hawthorne.

The gothic literature also uses the settings and characters connected with religion. Religion and Churches were one of the first characteristics of gothic literature at its own beginning. Henry James borrows this features for example in his short story "The Ghostly Rental", where the main character is a student of theology.

Gothic features such as tales of mystery and the supernatural are included in the collection known as *Ghost Stories* of Henry James. The collection includes about nine short stories and one novella *The Turn of the Screw*. The stories use a different type of the gothic features. The most common feature is the supernatural ghost.

⁵³ T.J Lustig, *Henry James and the Ghostly*, 6.

II. ANALYSIS

3 'PRESENCE OF EVIL ELEMENTS' AND 'SUPERNATURAL' AS GOTHIC FEATURES IN HENRY JAMES'S GHOST STORIES

This chapter discusses the presence of evil elements and the supernatural as the features of gothic literature in Henry James's ghost stories. Those elements are analyzed in five of ghost stories. The following stories are *The Turn of the Screw*, 'The Ghostly Rental', 'Sir Edmund Orme', 'The Private Life', and 'The Friends of the Friends'.

In Henry James's ghost stories, the presence of evil elements and the supernatural are frequently included. This thesis deals with the ones, which influence the plot the most and raise the gothic atmosphere - in my point of view. Each of the stories presents the evil elements in a different way and deals with a specific type the supernatural. However, most of the analyzed stories comprehend at least one ghost. The presence of evil elements is usually the predecessors of the ghosts. The supernatural ghosts behave diversely and have specific meanings. Some of the stories have more than one explanation. The different conclusions focus on different type of presence of evil elements or supernatural impact. The text illustrates some of the possible conclusions and their sequential impact.

The analyzed ghost stories have common two features. The first one is the unknown name of the narrators. The texts give only the basic information about the narrators, such as their occupations or the age. The second common feature is the silence of ghosts. The rest of the characters disclose the ghost's origin and personality. However, the ghosts, as a rule, do not speak. I suppose, it evokes the mysteriousness in readers and raises the fear of the ghosts. The unknown characters have a similar function. If the reader does not know the information about the characters such as their name, they seem to be mysterious. The reason is to create the atmosphere including the supernatural features or the presence of evil elements. Henry James included in the ghost stories character's emotions. Mostly the ones such as fear, sadness, compunction, and fright. The emotions symbolize the character's psyche not only while the gothic features appear.

3.1 The Turn of the Screw

The novella *The Turn of the Screw* contains many analyzed gothic features of this thesis, the supernatural and the presence of evil elements. The most frequent supernatural elements are ghosts. The reader can find the connection between the ghosts and the evil presence. However, evil is not presented only in relation to ghosts. Henry James had pointed the presence

of evil elements in many different ways. The novella also takes use of the character's psyche – the character expresses their feelings while the supernatural features or evil elements appear.

The story is divided into prologue and the story itself. Prologue is from the present time on Christmas Eve. The story itself comes back to the past when a young – twenty years old – woman became a governess for two children – Miles and Flora. The children's parents died. Since the time, the father was their uncle. The uncle employed a young woman as a governess. The governess is also the narrator of this story. Mrs. Grose, a homemaker, was the narrator's source of the information about the family. Miles and Flora are described as nice and kind children at the beginning of the story. Miles was dismissed from the school, however, he hid the reason why. The governess began to see unknown figures. She wondered about the essence of those features – if they were people or ghosts. The governess asked what happened to the last governess. At the moment, she did not get the answer. During the time, the governess found out the fact about the last governess and housekeeper – they died. The governess considered the figures as the ghosts. At the end of the story, the governess wanted to protect Miles against the ghost. Unfortunately, Miles died.

In the novella *The Turn of the Screw*, the reader can find a lot of words which activate the atmosphere connected with the presence of evil element. One of the purposes of gothic fictions is to create feelings of fear. Henry James made the decision to use the kind of words raising those feelings of fright by using the vocabulary such as death⁵⁴, grim⁵⁵, strangest,⁵⁶ and dreary⁵⁷ in *The Turn of the Screw*.

Uncle can be interpreted as an evil character. He took charge of the children, however, this is the only thing he did. He thought of himself and to the children behaved in a reckless way. He did not care they are family and was uninterested that they have lost their parents. He delegated all his responsibilities to the governess. Lack of moral principles, the absence of understanding and disinterest make the uncle the evil character.

⁵⁴ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 178.

⁵⁵ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 180.

⁵⁶ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 180.

⁵⁷ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 181.

A question is what had happened to the last governess. At the beginning of the story, limited information about what had come about the last governess, even if the narrator inquired after this information, makes the readers suspicious that an evil incident happened to her. During the story, the reader finds the additional information about the last governess.

The Miles's dismissal from a school raises doubts as well. On one hand, he and his sister are described as faultless children. However, on the other hand, Miles is dismissed from school without giving a reason why. The reader can start calling in question if he is really an as great person as is described or an evil character who tries to hide uncanny secrets.

The narrator of the story depicts the nature a lot. I believe the reason is that the narrator perceives the nature as more than only nature, but supernatural - "I had known the space and air and freedom, all the music of summer and all the mystery of nature."⁵⁸ The sentence illustrates that nature has a huge function for the narrator - air does not mean only air, it is a symbol of freedom, as well as summer, represents the sounds and nature is an image of secrets.

Henry James played with colors such as the light and dark ones. Mostly, light colors represent purity, while dark color attaches obscurity and the presence of evil events. In the story, the situations and scenes associated with bright color - daylight - mean no evil or supernatural events happened. In contrast, if the dark colors as are black, and gray are mentioned, the governess usually experiences events full of the supernatural or the evil. Henry James probably wanted to emphasize the atmosphere of evil elements by using both colors. The reader can suppose what is going to happen.

The first meeting with the supernatural is in the third chapter. The governess saw a figure in a darkness. She was not sure if the creature was a genuine person or some kind of an apparition. Exist many ways how to explain the figure. During the plot, the governess considered the figure as a ghost. Since that time, the supernatural in a form of ghosts was presenting to the end of the story. Both children were in the close contact with the ghosts. In this way, the supernatural feature can also represent as the action that the children can even talk to the ghosts.

⁵⁸ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 189.

The part of the story when the governess discovers the truth about the ghosts combines the supernatural and presence of evil elements. The narrator found out the last governess and housekeeper had died in the past. Since the time, they become the ghosts. The narrator considered the ghost as the elements of the evil apparition. The presence of an evil element is shown also as a relationship between the children and the ghosts. Miles and Flora were in the connection with ghosts more and more. They were going to be possessed by the ghosts. The evil element was going to be part of their minds.

The evil is visible to the end. The evil performed itself as the death of Miles at the end of the story. There are two interpretations of the death. The first one can be interpreted by the way the little boy was finally possessed by the ghost and for the reason, he died or became a ghost too. This is an example of supernatural action, how one supernatural element can create another supernatural element from a character. The second explanation is that the governess killed him. She wanted to protect Miles against the ghosts by holding him, however, she choked him. The second interpretation is a sample of the presence of evil element.

However, it is possible to interpret the governess as the one being possessed. In this case, the last governess and housekeeper are not ghosts. The evil is presented by Mrs. Grose. She manipulated with the narrator by telling her all the inauspicious information. Mrs. Grose had a huge influence on her - the narrator thought she was protecting the Miles against the ghost, because Mrs. Grose manipulated with the governess by telling her, the ghost are the product of evil, but in contrast, she killed him. In this sense, manipulation is a constituent of evil presence.

The presence of evil elements is frequently a part of the supernatural features. This story shows us that events connected with the supernatural are often presented with evil elements ó mostly the connection with ghosts. On the other hand, it is not necessary to contain the supernatural if the event is evil. To be specific, the Uncle is interpreted as the product of evil elements, however, the supernatural element is not presented in this case.

Henry James often used words expressing feeling in this story to connect the gothic features with the character's emotions. Usually, in cases the atmosphere was connected with the supernatural or the presence of evil elements, the characters explained their feeling. The governess: "I remember, two distinct gasps of emotion, which were, sharply, the shock of

my first and that of my second surprise.⁵⁹ She expresses how she was feeling while she saw the supernatural figure, ghost.

3.2 The Ghostly Rental

Gothic features appear also in "The Ghostly Rental". Mostly, people and their behavior are the sources of the presence of evil element. The supernatural is associated with a ghost, as well as in the previous ghost story. This story takes an advantage of the emotions of the characters too. The analyzed gothic features are strengthened by the characters' emotions.

The narrator of this story is a young student of theology. He got lost on the way home due to he found an abandoned house. He was interested in the mystery of the house. For that reason, he was coming back to reveal the secret. However, he did not go in. Once, he saw an old man entering the house. During the time, the student of theology met the old man. The narrator asked for the information about him and the abandoned house. The old man, Captain Diamond, answered that he used to live in the house. However, at the present time, the only occupant of the house was a ghost of his daughter. The old man cursed her while she was a human being. The reason for the execration was that she was in contact with a man despite the fact her father wanted her to marry someone else. The day after, the daughter disappeared as a human being and became a ghost. As a ghost, she banished her father from the house. Though, she gave him a monthly rental. The rental included one condition of only he can go for the money and enter the house. At the end of the story, the old man died not only due to his healthy conditions but also due to his sorrow.

Henry James associated gothic features with dark colors. Before the supernatural events happened in this story, the atmosphere had been described as darkness. For example, when the narrator firstly recognized there is something wrong with the house, he expressed his feelings in a sentence: "The house is simply haunted"⁶⁰, the atmosphere had been depicted by colors telling the readers that the day had gone and a night is coming. Mostly, the dark colors link to evil. In this story, dark colors lead to the supernatural. I suppose, it is the

⁵⁹ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 191.

⁶⁰ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 40.

way how Henry James wanted to associate the supernatural with the presence of evil elements.

The evil is presented due to people's behavior. The narrator of the story described the changes in nature. In his point of view, nature used to be much more animated before the expanding population started to construct buildings at the expense of nature. I would say, the narrator believes that people behave as an evil in a way of destroying nature. An inquisitiveness is an agent of evil presence too. If the narrator was not curious, he would not come back to the house and he would not meet ghosts. Evil exploits the people's curiosity to allure them to the evil presence. Another presence of evil focusing on the behavior of people follows the idea that if people hold prejudice, the presence of evil elements will occur. In accordance with the narrator saw an old man near the house for the first time, he immediately commenced on thinking of him as a ghost. If the old man was not a ghost, the narrator would behave in an injurious way. Behaving like this can hurt the characters, which is the intention of the evil element. Evil elements are not always easy to recognize. After the meeting the narrator and the old man face to face, the narrator thought about the old man as a warm-hearted person. Although the old man used to behave as an evil persona - he uttered a cuss his daughter for the reason he saw her with a different man than he wanted her to marry. This behaving can be considered as the presence evil element - his reaction was unfair, disproportional and had bad consequences. The ghost came into being by the evil reasons. After she died due to her father had cursed her, the daughter became a ghost. She though the father's behaving was immoderate that is why she wanted a revenge and punish him. The ravage is the evil reason due to the daughter became a ghost.

An abandoned house is associated with the supernatural. The main character did not use to believe in ghosts. However, when he firstly had seen the house, he changed his mind immediately. The supernatural had been radiating from the house as much as it convinced the narrator to believe in ghosts. The truth that the occupant of this house is the ghost support the idea that the house is connected with the supernatural.

Supernatural elements are presented also in beliefs of the characters. People in the story believed that the reason why certain people died is execration. Characters did not see any other and rational reasons why the daughter of the Captain Diamond died, they saw only the execration as the only explanation. The character also blamed the curse for the death of a woman only because she revealed a secret she should keep.

The evil element affected the narrator. At the beginning of the story, the main character had been a young and auspicious student of theology. During the plot, the character of the narrator was changing. After meeting the ghost, he actually decided to suspend his studies. He also lost optimistic worldview and it had an inauspicious impact on his psyche. Real gathering with the supernatural had a bad influence on his life.

The end of the story combines the presence of an evil element with the supernatural theme. The Captain Diamond died because of his sorrow caused by the ghost's revenge and also because he had remorse because he caused his daughter's death. Nobody told the ghost that her father is dead. Although, she knew this information because she saw him as a ghost. Another supernatural element, ghost of the father, was presented at the end. For the reason the Captain Diamond died due to the ghost's revenge, I see the presence of evil element. The father's remorse are the features of emotions.

3.3 Sir Edmund Orme

The ghost story "Sir Edmund Orme" includes the presence of evil elements and the supernatural as well as the analyzed stories above. The evil element is mostly associated with the main character, Mrs. Marden. The most frequent representative of supernatural is the ghost of Sir Edmund Orme. The story deals with the Mrs. Marden's emotions, which are interconnected with the presence of evil element.

The story has two narrators. The first one is the narrator of the introduction and the second one is a young man, who is at the same time the character of the story. The story tells about a woman, Mrs. Marden, who was in the past engaged with Sir Edmund Orme. Finally, Mrs. Marden did not marry Sir Edmund Orme because she was not in love with him. She married Mr. Marden and had a daughter - Charlotte - with him. This information broke Sir Edmund Orme's heart and by this reason he committed a suicide. During the time, Mrs. Marden revealed that Sir Edmund Orme became a ghost. Over the years, Charlotte came of age. The narrator of the story was in love with Charlotte. During the plot, the narrator and Mrs. Marden developed their friendship. At the beginning of the story, Mrs. Marden was the only one who saw the ghost of Sir Edmund Orme. After some time, the narrator began to see the ghost too. Mrs. Marden was convinced that he had the opportunity to see the ghost for the reason he was deeply in love with her daughter. Mrs. Marden wanted the narrator to marry Charlotte. However, Charlotte was not in love with the narrator. At the end of the story, Charlotte saw the ghost and the Mrs. Marden died.

The narrator of the story considers nature as supernatural. Sentences as: "while nature preached a sermon"⁶¹ or "The Brighton air used of old to make plain girls pretty and pretty girls prettier still"⁶² activate the sense that nature is more than only nature. In itself, the air does not have the ability to change the appearance of the characters. It is not the capability of nature to behave like a preacher. The nature of this story has the supernatural ability.

The most visible supernatural element is a ghost. Concretely the ghost of Sir Edmund Orme by whom is named this story. Henry James associated darkness with the supernatural. Instead of the fact the first narrator's meeting with a ghost was during the day, the author of the story described the weather in a connection with darkness "to become overcast, the sun was not shining. That proves the association of supernatural ghost with darkness.

Mrs. Marden focused on the possible daughter's punishment, which refers to the presence of evil element. In her point of view, all pretty girls with boys will be punished for the flirting with boys as well as she was punished in the past. She was afraid her daughter would have to face the punishment too. She concentrated on that as much as she stopped living her own life - taking care of her daughter was the only thing she concerned. Her evil imprecation is connected with the supernatural ghost. She was the only one who was able to see the ghost at the beginning of the story. She could not even talk to anybody about her fear of the ghost. Due to the fact, she isolated herself from the other people.

The narrator did not realize the evil character of the supernatural ghost. Despite the fact he could see the ghost, he was not terrified at all. The narrator said to Mrs. Marden: "I don't want to get out of it "it's too interesting"⁶³ The sentence proves the narrator was not aware of the possible evil impacts created by the ghost. Actually, he felt enthusiastically that he is able to see Sir Edmund Orme, even when Mrs. Marden expressed: "He wants to make me suffer."⁶⁴ She pointed at the ghost's negative character.

⁶¹ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 67.

⁶² Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 68.

⁶³ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 79.

⁶⁴ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 84.

In this story, love is the subject for the theme of an the evil presence and the supernatural. The reasons as the presence of an evil element, why Sir Edmund Orme committed suicide were his feelings of the broken heart. He was in love with Mrs. Marden. They were about to marry each other, however, Mrs. Marden canceled the engagement on the account of she was not in love him. She broke Edmund Orme's heart on that account he committed suicide. The broken heart made a ghost from him. Love is also the theme of supernatural. Mrs. Marden expected that the reason why the narrator can see the ghost is that he is in love with her daughter. He is the only one who could see the ghost as well as he is the only one who truly loved the Charlotte. His love seems to be supernatural in the sense it gained the narrator to be in a contact with the ghost.

This story also ends with an evil presence. The Mrs. Marden's biggest fears that her daughter would reveal the secrets relating to what she had done to Sir Edmund Orme and that Charlotte would meet the ghost, fulfilled. There can be two reasons for the Mrs. Marden's death. Both are associated with the presence of evil element. The first reason is that Charlotte's mother died because her daughter revealed the evil secrets and the fear of consequences killed her. The second reason may be that the ghost interfered in the situation and killed Mrs. Marden to punish her for the sins.

In this story, the psychological conditions carry great weight. In my opinion, the Mrs. Marden's feelings influenced the story a lot. If she was not as stressed and pathetic, she would behave in a more reasonable way. She was so afraid that Charlotte will have the same destiny as her mother that she tried to convince Charlotte to marry the man Charlotte was not in love - narrator of the story. She did not react in a reasonable way because, if Charlotte married the narrator, Charlotte would break his heart as well as her mother did to Sir Edmund Orme in the past. If Charlotte broke the narrator's heart, he would have the same destiny as the Sir Edmund Orme. The Mrs. Marden's feelings of fear did not facilitate her to think rationally. That potentially could cause another event associated with the evil elements and the supernatural.

3.4 The Private Life

This story differentiates from the rest analyzed ghost stories in two ways. Firstly, "The Private Life" deals with the supernatural elements more than the presence of evil elements. The previous stories focus on both gothic features. In the second place, Henry James did not

involve the supernatural ghosts as he did in the previous ghost stories. Although, the supernatural features can be found in relation to two characters of the story. However, in a different way than the presence of ghosts.

The plot of this story discusses a group of people belonging to high society ó Lord and Lady Mellifont, Mr. Vawdrey, Mr. and Mrs. Adney, and the narrator. London is their hometown. However, the plot takes place in Switzerland, where the characters spent the holiday. In the evening, the narrator entered Mr. Vawdrey's hotel room for the reason to bring a play written by the Mr. Vawdrey to Mrs. Adney. The narrator expected the room is empty. The lights were turned off - the room was dark. Suddenly, the narrator noticed Mr. Vawdrey was present in the room. The next day, the narrator found the information that at the same time, when he saw Mr. Vawdrey was in the room, Mr. Vawdrey was chatting downstairs with Mr. Adney. The narrator is doubtful about the Mr. Vawdrey. He did not understand, how can be Mr. Vawdrey present in the room and also downstairs at the same time. Mr. Adney had a similar reason for speculation. She mentioned the uncanny behavior of Mr. Mellifont. He cannot exist if he is alone. Another character had to be present for the reason to see Mr. Mellifont. The narrator and Mrs. Adney said each other what they revealed. The next day, when the storm began, the narrator and Mrs. Adney verified the theories dealing with the fantastic features of the characters ó Mr. Vawdrey and Mr. Mellifont. At the end of the story, the characters left the hotel and returned London.

Nature is considered as the theme of the supernatural. As well as in the previous ghost stories by Henry James, the characters of "The Private Life" perceives nature more than only natural, so supernatural. The characters are considered as well-known people. They interpreted the nature as a symbol of relaxation and holiday. They have a small chance to have their own private life. The only way how to enjoy the privacy is to be in nature. In contrast, London is described as a city of evil presence. London is a place where the characters have no private life: "they were just the people whom in London, at that time, people tried to get" People endeavored to "book" them six weeks ahead" ⁶⁵ These sentences prove that the London is the city, where they live in a hurry and where known people have no time for themselves. For that reason, the characters appreciate nature more than common people and

⁶⁵ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 84.

sense the possibilities offered by nature. Nature brings them privacy and recreation ó supernatural for the characters.

The narrator considered Lady Mellifont as the one being the evil in her mind: ó with her stiff silences and the extreme blackness of almost everything that made up her person, somewhat hard, even a little saturnine.⁶⁶ This sentence points the fact that the narrator saw her like she is taken from the darkness. The narrator is not the only one, who were afraid of her. Mrs. Adney calls her as the Queen of Night⁶⁷. That is how the characters see the Lady Mellifont

At the beginning, love between husband and wife Adney has supernatural features. Mr. Adney used to be an ordinary person before he felt in love with his future wife. After he had married her, he became a well-known musician. Their love was spread to their friends too, as the characters mentioned in the story. Their love achieved the impossible things that the reason why it is the theme of the supernatural.

Two of the characters are the supernatural creatures. The narrator of the story paid attention to Mr. Vawdrey's supernatural features. The narrator noticed the Mr. Vawdrey is a complex and supernatural figure consisted of two physical characters. The narrator remarked this feature when he saw Mr. Vawdrey in his dark room while he was chatting with Mrs. Adney in another room. The one chatting with Mrs. Adney was called as bourgeois and the second one who the narrator met in the dark room was labeled as a genius. The bourgeois' task was to entertain the characters. In contrast, the genius was an excellent writer. Mrs. Andey mentioned the inverse phenomenon then noticed the narrator. She took note that Lord Mellifont is supposed to be supernatural in a way he is not a whole character. He is an only half-person creature who cannot exist if he is alone. Another character has to be present to complete his second half of the personality.

At the end of the plot, the supernatural events are interconnected with darkness again. The darkness mirrors in the weather, concretely in a storm. When the storm had begun, the narrator decided to confirm the Mrs. Andey's theory about the supernatural half-person character, Lord Mellifont. The same decision made Mrs. Andey about the narrator's cognizance

⁶⁶ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 94.

⁶⁷ See, Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 95.

of Mr. Vawrey. The narrator and Mrs. Adney verified the theories dealing with the supernatural features of Lord Mellifont and Mr. Vawrey during the storm.

The name of the story "The Private Life" has two possible explanations. The first definition is in accordance with the supernatural characters, Lord Mellifont and Mr. Vawrey. In this case, the private life applies to their secrets. The rest of the characters did not know about their kind of privacy before the narrator and Mrs. Adney revealed it. The question is if this story is a story of ghosts. On one hand, both characters, Lord Mellifont and Mr. Vawrey, were not labeled as ghosts. On the other hand, even if they would not be ghosts, they are obviously supernatural characters. The second explanation does not associate with the supernatural element. It is in the sense of the absence of private life the characters have to deal with.

3.5 The Friends of the Friends

This story also deals with the gothic features as are the supernatural and the presence of evil elements. It is hard to express, which element dominates due to more explanations of the plot. The story includes a supernatural ghost, however, other supernatural elements are implied as well. The major theme emphasizing the evil elements is emotion. Especially, the emotions of the narrator's jealousy.

This ghost story focuses on three characters – the female narrator, the woman, who is the narrator's friend, and the narrator's dear man. At the beginning of the story, the narrator explained that her friend had a vision in the past. The vision was about her father's death. The father came to her as a ghost. The dear man had a similar experience as the woman. He saw the ghost of his dying mother. Those two characters live their life in an alike way. During the time, the dear man and the narrator got engaged. Firstly, the narrator wanted to introduce her fiancé to her friend. Unfortunately, they were not able to meet each other. There was always something, which averts the meeting. Lately, the narrator realized that if the two characters meet each other, her fiancé would fall in love with the woman. This idea leads the narrator to behave jealously. She tried to inhibit their possible meeting. After some time, the woman died. The same night she visited the narrator's fiancé. The fiancé claimed that she was still alive during the visitation. The narrator argued that she was not alive, she was a ghost. This argumentation between the narrator and her fiancé cause their breakup. At the end of the story, the narrator found out that the man died too.

This story deals with two characters who had an experience with the supernatural when they were young. The first character is the female friend of the narrator. In her case, the supernatural and the presence of evil elements follow each other. When she was young, she had a supernatural vision of her parent's death. The ghost of her father appeared for the reasons to inform her about his death and to say her goodbye. The next events, which are connected with the presence of an evil element, were caused by the supernatural vision. After she had seen the ghost, people treated her in a cruel way and considered her as a weirdo and insane person. "It was usual to qualify her as 'the one, you know, who saw her father's ghost.'"⁶⁸ The sentence illustrates how people labeled her. Actually, the story explains that the evil behaving ended her marriage in an unsuccessful way. The evil happenings were caused by the supernatural vision of ghost. The reminiscent experience of seeing ghost had a dear man of the narrator. The dear man saw the ghost of his mother. This is the second time of meeting supernatural elements in this story.

The characters, who had the experience with supernatural ghosts - the woman and the dear man - live a parallel life. "They were so awfully alike: they had the same ideas and tricks and tastes, the same prejudices and superstitions and heresies; they said the same things and sometimes did them; they liked and disliked the same persons and places, the same books, authors, styles" ⁶⁹ By the previous sentences, the narrator wanted to point out that the two characters behaved like they are just one character. I suppose, the meeting with the supernatural affected them in the same way. The supernatural element is the reason why they were thinking and behaved alike - lived the parallel life.

The disability of meeting the woman and the dear man seems to be caused by supernatural forces and the evil presence. For them, it is impossible to meet each other. Even if they were about to go to the same places, they were associated with the same friends or they were invited to the same celebrations. Always, if one of them was present, the second one was not able to come due to illness, storm, earthquake or another catastrophe created by nature. In my point of view, nature behaved as the supernatural element. Mostly, nature was the reason why those two characters did not meet each other. Jealousness as the presence of

⁶⁸ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 153.

⁶⁹ Henry James, *Ghost Stories of Henry James*, 156.

evil element empowers the narrator. At the beginning of the story, the narrator wanted to introduce the dear man with her female friend. During the plot, she suddenly realized there is a possibility she would lose her fiancé if she introduces him to the woman. The jealousy forced the narrator to avert their meeting. She behaved selfishly like she was empowered by evil.

The night when the woman died, she visited the dear man. There are two possibilities of this visitation. The first one is she was so impatient to meet the dear man that she decided to see him as soon as possible. In that case, the meeting of those two could raise evil presence, which caused her death. The second option deals with supernatural elements. She was a ghost at the time of the visitation. I attached to the second explanation for the reason that the ghosts of Henry James's ghost stories do not speak, and the woman did not tell anything to the dear man during her visitation.

An evil presence entered into the relationship between the narrator and the dear man. The evil interpreted as jealousy, which had to face the narrator, was the cause of the end of their relationship. Even that the woman was not alive, the narrator blamed her fiancé for meeting the woman as a ghost. The story does not tell if her statement was right or not. However, for this reason, they separated. The possible presence of supernatural ghost brought into their relationship. The presence of evil element was shaped by doubts, the absence of confidence and jealousy.

As well as the woman, the man died too. It seems to me as the death is the destination of people who have visions and are this way connected with the supernatural ghosts. Maybe, the narrator of the story wanted to point that everybody who has experience with the supernatural has to face the evil element pictured by sudden death. On the other hand, the narrator can be the evil element and the reason why the woman and man died. Thinking about the events which had happened before the deaths of those two characters, the narrator had forsaken them. Before the woman passed away, the narrator had forsaken her by lying her selfishly. The man died after the narrator had blamed him for meeting the woman as a ghost and she had broken up with him. In this case, the vilest character of this story is the narrator, even that the story is full of ghosts who are usually the vilest characters in Henry James's ghost stories.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this thesis was to discuss the gothic features in Henry James's ghost stories. The thesis includes two parts. The theoretical part focuses on the gothic novel and the author of the ghost stories, Henry James. The analytical part deals with five of the ghost stories, where are analyzed gothic features. The particular gothic features are the supernatural and the presence of evil elements. Analyzed ghost stories are *The Turn of The Screw*, "The Ghostly Rental", "Sir Edmund Orme", "The Private Life" and "The Friend of the Friends".

For the reason to understand the particular gothic features, which are subject to the analytical part, the first chapter of the theory deals with a gothic novel from the mid-eighteenth to the nineteenth century. This chapter describes the development of the gothic novel and discusses its main features, such as the presence of evil elements, dark mind, calamitous childhood, crime, occurrence of devil persona. Two features were chosen for the analytical part – the supernatural and the presence of evil element.

The second chapter of the theory handles with the author of the analyzed ghost stories, Henry James. The study of Henry James revealed the connection between his life and the ghost stories. As far as I am concerned, Henry James made use of his life for writing the analyzed ghost stories. The most repeated feature of his life is traveling. He also took advantage of meeting artists during his life in the story "The Private Life". In this story is also shown London as Henry James's hometown as well as the characters. In this chapter, readers can learn about the Henry James's works associated with gothic features. The last subchapter contextualizes Henry James in gothic literature.

Each of the stories deals with their own explanation of the gothic features. The presence of evil elements is mostly associated with character's behavior. The most frequent theme of the supernatural is a ghost. The supernatural is also frequently described in the term of nature. Nature acts more than it is its casualness in Henry James's ghost stories. In the character's point of view, nature is not only nature. It includes the attributes such as symbol of freedom or also an image of dark times. In the reader's perspective, nature is the one suggesting the reader that evil elements are going to happen. It looks like nature has a supernatural ability – knows what is going to happen. The analysis also revealed the connection between the presence of evil elements and supernatural. The most representative of this attachment is a ghost. On one hand, the ghost is considered as supernatural features. On the other hand, in Henry James's ghost stories, ghosts are often labeled as the evil characters.

The ghosts usually have bad influences on the characters and are the reason of terrifying events of the stories. The thesis also revealed that Henry James took advantage of the characters' psyche. He enriched the ghost stories with the emotions and the psychological conditions. Henry James included in his story emotions such as fear, jealousy, sadness, and compunction. The emotions are often related to the supernatural and the presence of evil element.

As far as I am concerned, Henry James was a great writer. Even that Henry James was not mainly an author of the ghost stories, he included the gothic features equally in his works. Each story deals with the different type of the supernatural and the presence of evil element. As well as each of the features symbolizes something else. The ambiguity of the stories let the readers think about the stories more and deeper. Maybe, that is the mysteriousness of the ghost stories.

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