



## James Fenimore Cooper – “American Walter Scott”

Yoriyeva Maftuna Umedovna<sup>1</sup>, Kurbonova Nodira Rozikovna<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Master`s student, Bukhara State University

<sup>2</sup> PhD, associate professor, Bukhara State University

**Abstract:** This article examines the life and works of James Fenimore Cooper, one of the famous American novelists who lived and created literary works in the first half of the 19th century, and briefly analyzes it. The writer James Fenimore Cooper has 32 novels, 10 volumes of sea stories and many non-fiction works. These works have received attention, praise and criticism not only from readers, but also from other writers of the world. Cooper was described by his contemporaries as "American Walter Scott" because of his brilliant work.

**Keywords:** Romanticism, US capitalism, Indian stereotypes, democracy, colonialism, patriotism, Europe, the image of Natty Bumppo.

### INTRODUCTION

James Fenimore Cooper was an American writer of the first half of the 19th century, whose historical romances depicting colonist and Indigenous characters from the 17th to the 19th centuries brought him fame and fortune.[2] He lived much of his childhood and the last fifteen years of life in Cooperstown, New York, which was founded by his father William Cooper on property that he owned. Cooper became a member of the Episcopal Church shortly before his death and contributed generously to it. He attended Yale University for three years, where he was a member of the Linonian Society.

After a stint on a commercial voyage, Cooper served in the U.S. Navy as a midshipman, where he learned the technology of managing sailing vessels which greatly influenced many of his novels and other writings. The novel that launched his career was *The Spy*, a tale about espionage set during the American Revolutionary War and published in 1821. He also created American sea stories. His best-known works are five historical novels of the frontier period, written between 1823 and 1841, known as the *Leatherstocking Tales*, which introduced the iconic American frontier scout, Natty Bumppo. Cooper's works on the U.S. Navy have been well received among naval historians, but they were sometimes criticized by his contemporaries. Among his more famous works is the romantic novel *The Last of the Mohicans*, often regarded as his masterpiece.[4,657] Throughout his career, he published numerous social, political, and historical works of fiction and non-fiction with the objective of countering European prejudices and nurturing an original American art and culture. Fenimore Cooper's work is notable for its unique features, in particular, democracy, humanitarianism, reflecting the life of ordinary people. Cooper loved to read books, one day he finished reading an English novel and said to his wife, "I could have written better than that." His wife Suzan encourages him to write his own work and thus he begins his creativity. Fenimore Cooper's work can be divided into three stages according to his character: The first stage - 1821-1826. During this period, the writer contrasts the ideals of the American revolution with the new order.

Cooper published his first work in 1820. He writes this work similar to Jane Austen's novels, but unfortunately it is not successful. In 1820, when reading a contemporary novel to his wife Susan, he

decided to try his hand at fiction, resulting in a neophyte novel set in England he called *Precaution* (1820). Its focus on morals and manners was influenced by Jane Austen's approach to fiction. He anonymously published *Precaution* which received modestly favorable notice in the United States and England. By contrast, his second novel *The Spy* (1821) was inspired by an American tale related to him by neighbor and family friend John Jay. It became the first novel written by an American to become a bestseller at home and abroad, requiring several re-printings to satisfy demand. Set in the "Neutral Ground" between British and American forces and their guerrilla allies in Westchester County, New York, the action centers on spying and skirmishing taking place in and around what is widely believed to be John Jay's family home "The Locusts" in Rye, New York of which a portion still exists today as the historic Jay Estate. Following on a swell of popularity, Cooper published *The Pioneers*, the first of the *Leatherstocking* series in 1823. The series features the inter-racial friendship of Natty Bumppo, a resourceful American woodsman who is at home with the Delaware Indians and their chief Chingachgook. Bumppo was also the main character of Cooper's most famous novel *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826), written in New York City where Cooper and his family lived from 1822 to 1826. The book became one of the more widely read American novels of the 19th century.[10,75-76] At this time, Cooper had been living in New York on Beach Street in what is now downtown's Tribeca.

In *The Last of the Mohicans*, the reader is presented with three main natives to examine — Magua (along with the other Hurons) is depicted as the savage Indian, while Chingachgook and Uncas are sentimentalized. While some elements of both may be true, these depictions only perpetuate native stereotypes.

Cooper's initial descriptions of the native characters reveal a lot about their personalities and their allegiances. From the instant he is introduced, Magua is painted as shifty, deceitful, and untrustworthy. Cooper seems to hint at Magua's intentions and foreshadow his betrayal before the character even speaks. Magua's eyes are described as "wary" and "[glistening] like a fiery star amid lowering clouds"[5,23], furtively ensuring that his cover is not exposed before he can enact his scheme.

'His eye, alone, which glistened like a fiery star amid lowering clouds, was to be seen in its state of native wildness. For a single instant his searching and yet wary glance met the wondering look of the other, and then changing its direction, partly in cunning, and partly in disdain, it remained fixed, as if penetrating the distant air.'

In addition to his being shrewd, Magua is also described as "savage and repulsive" [5,23] and later referred to as the "red devil" [5,58] by Hawk-eye. This image is only supported by previous descriptions of native people through the eyes of colonists. They see the natives as "barbarous," "merciless enemies" [5,15] who have terrorized and massacred countless colonists. Heyward later exhibits these beliefs as well, positing that "the savages" carried out "barbarous and remorseless acts of vengeance or hostility" [5,53] at dusk. Heyward correctly predicts a "savage" native acting out of vengeance; Magua plans his revenge against Munro and his men, observing the British "partly in cunning, and partly in disdain" [5,23]. He chooses to avenge himself by causing Munro humiliation and shame rather than physical pain. Magua eventually seeks Cora to be his wife, despite her protests. His pursuit creates the fear that, like "savage" Indians have been stereotyped to do, Magua will abduct, marry, and rape Cora — a white woman.[7]

In 1823, Cooper became a member of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. In August of that same year, his first son died. He organized the influential Bread and Cheese Club that brought together American writers, editors, artists, scholars, educators, art patrons, merchants, lawyers, politicians, and others. In 1824, General Lafayette arrived from France aboard the *Cadmus* at Castle Garden in New York City as the nation's guest. Cooper witnessed his arrival and was one of the active committee of welcome and entertainment.

All through his career, Cooper worked inside a common understanding of human history as a disarranged stage of presence between two orders, and a specific vision of modern America as a disarranged stage between the ancient highborn arrange and the unused arrange to be ruled by the

American man of his word. In the first three of the Leatherstocking Tales, Cooper reveals a desire to naturalize the aristocratic tradition through exposure to the wilderness and its prophet, the man who reads God's word in the landscape. The result of this process would be a mature natural order that, though far from divine perfection, would promise as much happiness as is possible for fallen humankind. In his later novels, Cooper gave increasing attention to the ways in which American society failed to understand and to actualize this purified tradition. He looked back regularly, particularly within *The Deerslayer*, to the immaculateness and goodness of those fundamental values. In spite of the fact that they are seldom examined nowadays, books such as *Satanstoe* and *The Oak Openings* among his afterward works are well worth perusing, as is *The Bravo* from among his issue books. In all these works, Cooper proceeds to specific his confidence within the plausibility of a tall American civilization.

### THE LIST OF USED LITERATURE

1. Абдуллаева Л. Лексическая стилистика узбекской художественная литературе. Т.,1979
2. “Фенимор Купер асарлари таржималарида услубий воситаларнинг берилиши муаммоси” магистрлик диссертацияси(II боб). Илмий раҳбар: доцент М.Сулаймонов. Бухоро. 2011.
3. Basow, Susan A. *Gender: Stereotypes and roles* . Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1992.
4. Clary, Suzanne, "James Fenimore Cooper and Spies in Rye", My Rye, 2010
5. Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans*. The John Harvard Library, 2011.
6. Hale,1896. P-657
7. Hamilton, David L.; Trolier, Tina K. *Stereotypes and stereotyping: An overview of the cognitive approach*.
8. *Harpers New Monthly Magazine – The Haunted Lake*(1-nashr).1872.pp.20-30.
9. Katz, Daniel; Braly, Kenneth. *Racial stereotypes of one hundred college students*. *Journal of abnormal and social psychology* , 1933, vol. 28, no. 3, p. 280-290.
10. *Last of the Mohicans*. In: Martin J. Manning (ed.), Clarence R. Wyatt (ed.): *Encyclopedia of Media and Propaganda in Wartime America*. Volume I. ABC-CLIO, 2011, ISBN 978-1598842289, pp. 75–76
11. Letter from Schubert to Franz fon Shober, November 12, 1828.
12. <https://uz.drunkentengu.com/kuper-djeyms-fenimor-kratkaya-biografiya-knigi-3141>
13. <https://ziyouz.uz/jahon-nasri/jeyms-fenimor>  
[kuperhttps://uz.wikiaro.ru/wiki/James\\_Fenimore\\_Cooper#First\\_endeavors](https://uz.wikiaro.ru/wiki/James_Fenimore_Cooper#First_endeavors)