

THE FAMILY CHRONICLE GENRE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE: A CASE STUDY OF JAMES FENIMORE COOPER'S *LITTLEPAGE MANUSCRIPTS* TRILOGY

Nadejda Lokteva

Uzbekistan State World Languages University
Tashkent, UZBEKISTAN

ABSTRACT

This article explores the emergence and development of the family chronicle genre in American literature through an in-depth examination of James Fenimore Cooper's *Littlepage Manuscripts* trilogy — *Satanstoe* (1845), *The Chainbearer* (1845), and *The Redskins* (1846). The study situates Cooper's trilogy within the broader tradition of Anglo-American multi-generational narratives, arguing that his depiction of land, lineage, and legacy constitutes an early example of the American family saga. Emphasis is placed on thematic continuity across generations, the inheritance of moral and social values, and the ideological shifts reflected in intergenerational conflict. Cooper's narrative structure and use of retrospective first-person narration are analyzed as formal strategies to construct family memory and national identity. The article also highlights how the trilogy reflects the tension between private histories and the public transformation of early American society, marking Cooper's contribution as foundational to the evolution of American historical fiction through the family chronicle lens.

Keywords: Family chronicle, James Fenimore Cooper, Littlepage Manuscripts, generational narrative, American historical novel, inheritance, land, identity, intergenerational conflict, retrospective narration.