

## THE GREAT DIVISION' IN ROMANCE

**Edra Sulo**

University of Shkodra, "Luigj Gurakuqi", Faculty of Foreign Languages,  
E-mail: eder.s84@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

American literature has overcome changes especially with its genre "romance". The first writer who gave a definition of "romance" was Nathaniel Hawthorne in the introduction to his book "The House of the Seven Gables". Unexpectedly, this definition was thrown away by embodying a new one. If Hawthorne called himself a romancier and his work a romance, why did critics suggest readers read it as a "novel" after the "Great Division"? One reason may be "foreign policy". During the Cold War, which goes in the same period with the "Great Divide", America needed to be seen in a new ideal way, where the "utopia" vision could become real. American Romance had established deep-roots as a representative of a pure American Literature. But if romance would have been defined as Hawthorne defined it, then the surface for an appropriate territory where to act would have been impossible. So, the definition of romance changed, trying to create a unified genre based not on myths and marvels but on real life situations. This has brought ambiguity in how the reader is going to read a book, as a romance or just a novel. Another reason goes in creating a multi-cultural canon, a hegemonic nation, where there is a real melting-pot. In "Moby Dick", the whale is white, still keeping its connotation as something precious and rare to find. The same goes for the term "white elephant". Actually, Melville considered his own work, the same as Hawthorne did, as a romance. And of course, if a fictitious plot is based on ambiguity and supernatural power and not related to the ordinary events of human beings, why then call it a novel?

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