

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer will analyse plot, character, and setting that can explain the situation of the 1920's American society as reflected in The Great Gatsby.

Firstly, the writer will make the table of plot and setting of the novel and then make detail explanation about those three elements.

The writer will also explain the real situation of the American society in the decade of 1920's before relating with the characters in the novel.

IV.1 Table of plot and setting.

To make the readers easier in understanding the course of the novel, the writer puts the plot and the setting into the table chronologically.

Table of Plot & Setting

	Plot	Setting	
		Physical	Emotional
I 1	Nick rents a small house in West Egg which is inhabited by the newly rich	Spring, 1922.	

2	Next to him there is a house that stands like an enormous factual imitation some Hotel de Ville. The owner is Mr. Jay Gatsby by who is rich.	in West Egg.	
3	Nick has dinner with his distant cousin Daisy. Jordan tells Nick that Tom, Daisy's husband has some women.	Daisy's-house, East Egg .	luxury, excellence, un happiness
II			
4	Nick with Tom go to New York and Tom offers Nick his mistress, Myrtle Wilson.		
5	Myrtle's sister informs Nick that neither Tom nor Myrtle can stand the person they are married to.	Tom's apartment, New - York.	adultery.
III			
6	Jay Gatsby is having luxurious parties during the summer. His parties attended by the rich.	In the summer, Gatsby's house. People like to make affairs.	glamorous, unfaithful.
7	Nick and other guests don't know who really Gatsby is .	Gatsby's-house.	
8	Gatsby tells his life to Nick that he is the son of wealthy people. He lived like rajah in all the capital of Europe.	on the way to New York.	ostentatious.
9	Gatsby introduces his friend, Meyer Wolfsheim to Nick. He is Gatsby's partner in bootlegging.	at the restaurant, New York.	
10	Nick meets Jordan for tea. She tells Gatsby's early acquaintance with Daisy in 1917. Gatsby loved Daisy. He was not able to return	In New York.	

	from the war in time to marry her.		
11	Nick realizes that Gatsby bought his mansion in order to meet Daisy. He - wants to impress Daisy with his richness.	on the way home to West Egg.	
V			
12	Nick has an idea of arranging the meeting between Gatsby and Daisy at Gatsby's request.	Nick's house in West Egg.	adultery.
13	Gatsby asks Daisy to go to his mansion. He wants to show off his mansion and its furnishings that are glamorous. He intends to impress Daisy with his richness.	Gatsby's mansion .	luxurious but the taste is cheap.
VI			
14	The origin of Gatsby was born James Gatz. He - changed his name at the age of seventeen.		
15	Gatsby, again invites the people for supper and tells Tom that he has already known Daisy.	Gatsby's house .	
16	Gatsby tells Nick that he wants Daisy to get divorce from Tom and he will marry her as if it was five years ago. Nick reminds Gatsby that he can't repeat the past.	Gatsby's house .	
VII			
17	Daisy invites Nick, Gatsby and Jordan for lunch. Tom is jealous of Gatsby.	Daisy's house.	
18	The fivesome decides to go to New York. Soon after they arrive, they make a party. Gatsby forces Daisy to tell Tom	at the Hotel in New York.	

	that she loves him not Tom.		
19	Tom reveals the mysterious of Gatsby's sudden rich comes from bootlegging, an illegal business. Daisy gets angry with Tom because she knows that Tom has some women.	at the Hotel in New York.	
20	Daisy hits Myrtle Wilson by Gatsby's car which Daisy drives until she is dead.	in front of Wilson's gas station.	
21	Nick is stopped by Gatsby voice. He hears that it was Daisy that hit Myrtle. However, Gatsby is willing to sacrifice himself to tell anybody that he was responsible for the accident.	in East Egg.	
22	Daisy cheats Gatsby and follows her husband that Gatsby is responsible for Myrtle's death. She leaves Gatsby and chooses Tom.	Daisy's house.	
VIII			
23	Nick asks Gatsby to leave his house to avoid the danger which will come to him. Gatsby will not leave Daisy.	Gatsby's house.	
24	While Gatsby is lying in the swimming pool waiting for a call from Daisy, Myrtle's husband shoots him until he is dead.	Gatsby's swimming pool.	violence .
IX			
25	Only few people come to Gatsby's funeral. Nick takes care of the details of Gatsby's funeral.	Gatsby cemetery.	sadness .

26	Nick vows that his friendship with Daisy and Tom ended. He decides to return to Middle West	in the autumn.	
----	---	----------------	--

IV.1.1 Plot

The course of the novel shows that Gatsby's tragic life is caused by his meeting with a beautiful girl, Daisy. It was in 1917. Jay Gatsby joined the Army and he lived near Daisy's home. He was very attracted to a young, glamorous and lovely girl, Daisy. Unfortunately, Gatsby had to go to the war and he was not able to return from the war in time to marry her. Instead, Daisy married Tom Buchanan from Chicago, the man came from wealthy family

Gatsby's failure is his illusory vision that he can get Daisy with money. He has spent years to build up his personality and to find much money so that he can win Daisy back. His whole life is devoted to the fulfillment of a dream that he can repeat the past: he is sure to get Daisy back. The means to create his goal is materialism. Gatsby decides to live at West Egg, a place on Long Island. It is the place for the wealthy society. He intends to get used to socialize with upper class

people, like Daisy's class. Gatsby bought a mansion at West Egg so that Daisy's house just across the bay and he can meet Daisy. It is a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy

All the quotations here, are referring to the novel.

Nick says, "The one my right is a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville on Normandy.....". "It is Gatsby's mansion. Across the courtesy bay the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glittered along the water is Daisy house " (p.5)

Gatsby lives among the corrupt people. His background is cosmopolitant, that is the American rich. Among this society has an idealism that money is the means to get everyting. By getting much money, they can do all they want. The people around him are all rich but bored. They often have luxurious parties until get drunk. During the summer Gatsby often holds parties which are attended by the rich people around him. Jazz orchestra accompanies the glittering party. The picture of Gatsby's mansion is full of beautiful people and champagne. The guests spend their weekend by attending party, dancing, eating much, drinking much until getting drunk. The most prominent colors at the parties are silver and gold, representing the wealth of modern society. Their the way of life is futility. Jay Gatsby is obsessed with the wonder of his society's way of life. He wants to be appreciated as the rich by others, he needs

to be considered as the best, and he desires to belong to the one whose way of life is being idealized. All of he intends is in order to get a recognition from the society around him, included Daisy so that he can attract

Daisy

There is a music from my neighbour's house through the summer night. In his blue garden man and girls come and go like moths among the whisperings and the champagne..... (p.39)

Gatsby starts to tell Nick that he comes from an honourable family. He lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe - Paris, Rome, Venice. He now lives in a mansion and keeps a luxurious car

One day Nick arranges a meeting between Gatsby and Daisy at Gatsby's request. Gatsby appears for the meeting luxuriously. He is wearing a white suit, silver shirt, and a gold tie. Here, silver and gold for Gatsby are the colors of wealth. He shows his mansion and its furnishings that are full of money. He displays his wealth intentionally to attract Daisy. Later he shows Daisy around his mansion and its furnishings that are full of luxury

"I want you and Daisy to come over to my house," Gatsby says. "I'd like to show her around". "See how the whole front of it catches the light. I agree that it is splendid". "That huge palace there?" Daisy cries pointing. "Do you like it?". "I love it....." (p.91).

Unfortunately, Daisy can not break away from her husband because Tom has both, strenght and money that

Daisy needs. Daisy can never live with a man who exists on Gatsby's social level. They don't have the same taste. The kind of wealthy world Gatsby creates is not the kind of wealthy world Daisy wants. Moreover, Daisy knows that Gatsby is rich because he becomes a racketeer

However, Gatsby still continues his dream to win back Daisy. His whole life is devoted to the fulfilment of a dream that he can repeat the past; he is sure to get Daisy back. Nick reminds Gatsby that he can not repeat the past. Although five years ago Daisy loved him too, everything has changed now

Nick says, "You can't repeat the past".
"Can't repeat the past?" Gatsby cries incredulously. "Why of course you can?". (p.111).

Gatsby's dream to win Daisy leads him to the death. It is Daisy who says that Gatsby is the murder of Myrtle Wilson. Nick has already asked Gatsby to leave the town to avoid the harm which will come to him. Gatsby will not leave the town, he will not leave Daisy

When he is lying in his swimming pool, waiting for Daisy's message, he is killed by George Wilson, the husband of Myrtle Wilson. George Wilson shoots him until he is dead.

Daisy, the real murder of Myrtle Wilson never tells the real accident to anybody. She leaves the town with her husband Tom, without leaving a message.

IV.1.2. Setting

The story is started in the Spring of 1922 and ends in the Autumn. It is set on Long Island, the summer home of wealthy society, mostly in East Egg and West Egg which inhabited by Jay Gatsby, Tom and Daisy Buchanan, Nick, etc. The Long Island is located on the edges of the New York city. Twenty miles from New York there is a pair of enormous eggs, identical in contour and separated only by courtesy bay, just out into the most domistecated body of salt water in the western hemisphere. The enormous eggs are "East Egg and West Egg".

East Egg is the place for those who are long-established rich. Those who have had their money inherit from their family for a long, long time live in East Egg for the summer. East Egg are inhabited by wealthy society where wealth is a must to have good possession. Tom and Daisy Buchanan live in East Egg.

West Egg is the place for newly - rich. The West Egg people whose wealth mostly come from an illegal business, that is bootlegging. They will never reach East Egg for all the money they spend. They can only sit at the water's edge and look across the bay to see the glamour of the East Egg. The West Eggers live in a world of ostentatious vulgarity. They consider the wealth as their only purpose although their taste is still

vulgar. People are attracted by the wealth and sophistication that destroy their moral. Jay Gatsby is a representative of West Egger.

However, both, West Eggers and East Eggers are corrupt people. The society has been corrupted by adopting materialism as its means. Everything must be judged by money. In the novel we can see that the people are visibly represented by the cars they drive. In the American rich, the automobiles becomes the status symbol. Tom Buchanan has got an easy - going blue coupe that sounds excelent while Jay Gatsby's car is a rich cream color, bright with nicle and in its montrous lenght with triumphant hat - boxes and super boxes and tool boxes looks rather conservative.

Jay Gatsby lives in an enermous imitation palace, representative of the ostentatious vulgarity of the newly - rich. Across the courtesy bay the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glitters along the water. Tom Buchanan, Daisy's husband has got a Georgian Colonial mansion that shows his status as one of established rich. Tom's family are enermously wealthy. His house is very excellent, a cheerful red and white Georgian Colonial mansion overlooking the bay. The lawn startes at the beach until the front door for a quarter of a mile. The front is broken by a line of French window, glowing now with reflected gold and wide open to the

warm windy afternoon. Tom also keeps some ponies.

The novel is concerned with Jay Gatsby's reason to appear in West Egg. He has been falling in love with Daisy, a beautiful girl he ever had in the past. The whole elaborate decor of his mansion has been constructed for the purpose of a reunion with Daisy, a reunion which will impress her with Gatsby's richness. Gatsby tries to involve in wealthy society, the same class as Daisy's. Gatsby lives among the corrupt people. His background is the American rich. The ideal of this kind society is that money is everyting. They are all rich but empty. They often have excellent parties until get drunk.

Jay Gatsby's mansion is like an imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy, with a tower on one side, spanking new under a thin beard of raw ivy, and a marble swimming - pool more than forty acres of lawn and garden. Every Friday five crates of oranges and lemons arrive from a fruiterer in New York. At least once a fortnight a corps of caterers comes to trim a Christmas tree of Gatsby's enermouse garden. On upstairs there are bed rooms, pool rooms, and bath rooms with sunken baths. The dresser is decorated with a toilet set of pure dull gold.

The atmosphere of the novel is luxurious but unhappy (bored, empty). Almost at weekends Gatsby holds

large parties. His parties are attended by the rich people around him. All the people come to Gatsby's mansion in the summer. Jazz orchestra accompanies the glittering party. The guests spend their weekends by attending party, dancing, eating, drinking much until getting drunk. The picture of Gatsby's mansion is full of beautiful people and champagne. In the main hall a bar with a real brass rail is set up and stocked with gins and liquors. By seven o'clock the orchestra has arrived, a whole pitful of trombones, saxophones, viols, cornets, piccolos, low and high drums. The free party, the motor boats, the private beaches are the symbol of modern society. The most prominent colors at the parties are silver and gold, representing the wealth. People compete for showing off their wealth. Daisy wears white dress and this use of color makes her look as "the enchanted princess" who incarnates Gatsby's dream. All the guests are rich, splendid in appearance. They are having large parties, enjoying the weekends by dancing but they are not happy. They don't know how to spend their money. They make use of money recklessly. Going to luxurious parties in where they meet men and women and at those moments they are dancing, listening jazz music, gossiping, flirting, getting drunk. Besides, people like to make affairs with married people because they are not

happy with their own wives or husbands. They become unfaithful, bored, drunk, etc. There are so many men and women who are unfaithful. All because they don't have anything else to do. For example, Daisy has an affair with Gatsby and Tom has an affair with Myrtle Wilson. In the Tom Buchanan's excellent house, Gatsby's affair with Daisy is destroyed by Tom's revelation about the illegal business of Gatsby as a bootlegger. Jealous of Jay Gatsby. Meanwhile, Daisy is restless when she knows her husband's affair with someone else. From the above pictures, it seems that an ideal based on materialism alone is ultimately destructive.

IV.2. Character

IV.2.1. Jay Gatsby, the illusive boy

Jay Gatsby is a fine appearing gentlemanly young man. He is about thirty two years old. He is an attractive young man and has simplicity in attitude. But he also looks vulgar and cheap which have come from achieving too early the success he finds to his purpose. He was born James Gatz but at the age of seventeen he changed his name to be Jay Gatsby. He never accepts his parents at all, the unsuccessful farm people. Gatsby wants to be recognized as "Jay Gatsby" not "James Gatz", the son of poor people.

Its beginnings concern a James Gatz, who at the age of seventeen, rowed out to Dan Cody's yacht on Lake Superior. At this time, James Gatz changed his name to be Jay Gatsby. Gatsby was impressed by Dan Cody, a rich yacht man. Gatsby had spent two weeks in a small Lutheran College in Southern Minnesota but he had left and drifted back to Lake Superior, waiting the day that Dan Cody's yacht dropped anchor in the shallows along shore. Gatsby joined with Cody on his yacht until the man was dead. For over a year he became a clam digger and a salmon fisher on Lake Superior that brought him food and bed. From Cody, Gatsby learned much; for example that the main chance could be had if he was persistent in looking for it. This education is put to practical use after the war when Gatsby needs to make a great amount of money. It is associated with the beautiful and lovely girl, Daisy Fay in Louisville.

In Louisville, in 1917. Gatsby met Daisy Fay, the first nice girl he had ever known. It was five years ago when Jay Gatsby joined the Army during the war and he lived near Daisy's house. He was very attracted to her. Daisy vanished into her rich house. Meanwhile Gatsby had to go abroad for the war and he was not able to return from the war in time to marry her. When Gatsby went abroad, Daisy had already married to someone else.

Gatsby learns that Daisy got married to a wealthy man because she wanted the man's richness, not because of she really loved him. To win Daisy back, Gatsby has to buy her. Gatsby wants to exceed the wealth of Daisy's husband.

Jay Gatsby is materialistic. He has spent years to build up his personality and to find much money so that he can win Daisy back. His whole life is devoted to the fulfillment of having Daisy and the means to create his goal is materialism. Jay Gatsby has vision that he can get back Daisy, a beautiful and lovely girl with money.

Jay Gatsby is the man who through richness wants to get the top girl. He appears at the rich host of New York. Jay Gatsby has a luxurious house, a mansion at West Egg. His mansion is located just across Daisy's house. His mansion is like a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville on Normandy. For Gatsby, this kind of mansion sounds very expensive and great. He intends to have a reunion with Daisy, a reunion which will impress Daisy with "Gatsby's richness" at his mansion. It is evident that Gatsby bought a luxurious house to impress

Daisy. it can be proved from the quotation below.

"I want you and Daisy to come over to my house," Gatsby demands. "See how the whole front of it catching the light. I agree that it is splendid". "That huge palace there?" Daisy cries pointing. Do you like it?". "I love it, but....." (p.91).

Gatsby shows Daisy around his mansion which he purchased only for her. Gatsby wants to show his luxurious things of his mansion and its furnishings that are full of glamour. On upstairs he shows off period bed rooms swathed in rose and lavender silk and vivid with new flowers. There are also pool rooms and bath rooms with sunken baths. Also, in his bed-room Gatsby shows off his lush wardrobe and any other beautiful things such as a pile shirts of sheers linen, thick silk, and fine flannel things. Daisy is impressed by the huge house of Gatsby. Gatsby goes on to boast that he is always accompanied by celebrated people all the day. The people who come to his mansion always do the interesting things such as having a large party.

Jay Gatsby is an ostentatious person. His life is accompanied by glamorous things, the modern society way of life which is being idealized. Such luxurious items as mansion, Rolls Royce, motor boats, private beaches, swimming - pools, aqua - planes are certainly the symbols of wealth. Jay Gatsby's car exhibites his glamorous way of life. The glitter of the car is

exactly the same as the white palaces of East Egg, the class that Jay Gatsby wants to belong (Daisy's house is at East Egg). In his mansion is often held large parties which are attended by the rich people around him. The picture of Jay Gatsby's mansion is full of beautiful people and champagne. He also calls the jazz orchestra to accompany his marvellous party. At the party, Jay Gatsby serves his guests to do diving or taking the sun on the sand of his private beach. Also, Gatsby asks his guests to do boating by using his motor boats, and the most interesting thing to do at his house is drawing aquaplanes. His Rolls - Royce is prepared for his guests' vehicle. Jay Gatsby tries to become a good host. But behind his hospitality, he actually wants to show off his richness to his guests. For Gatsby, the party is as the means to exhibit his richness. The guests will see Gatsby's mansion, with its enormous garden. The garden is decorated by the Christmas tree that makes his mansion look more beautiful. The guests will also see his private beaches, motor-boats, drawing aquaplanes, Rolls Royce if only they come to Gatsby's house.

"Nick says, "There is a music from my neighbour's house through the summer night parties. In his blue gardens men and girls come and go like moths among the whisperings and the champagne. "By seven o'clock the orchestra has arrived. In the main hall a bar with a real brass stocked with gins and liquors " (pp. 39 - 40).

Gatsby displays his wealth to Daisy intentionally so as to make her attracted to him. Gatsby is wearing a white flannel suit, silver shirt, and a gold color tie when he meets Daisy for the first time after he last saw her five years ago. His dress invariably touches the luxury. Here, silver and gold for Gatsby are the colors of wealth.

Another thing that proves Jay Gatsby is ostentatious is when he boasts by giving Nick his cheap magazine version of his life so as to get a recognition from others that he is a well-to-do man and an honourable family descendant. He says that he was brought up in America and educated at a famous and reputable university, Oxford. His family all went to Oxford too. However, his family were all already dead. Jay Gatsby continues his boast that before he lives at West Egg, he lived like a young maharajah in all the capitals of Europe such as Paris, Venice, Rome, etc. He liked also collecting jewels, chiefly rubies, hunting big game, and painting.

As he says to Nick:

"I am the son of some wealthy family in the Middle West, all dead now. I was educated at Oxford. After that I lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe..... (pp. 65-66).

Jay Gatsby's peculiar character is his potency to dream. Jay Gatsby is persistent to have Daisy back.

Gatsby's illusory vision is that he can get Daisy back, his love that ever had in the past. Daisy's beauty can never separated from Gatsby's dream. Gatsby's whole life is obsessed to the fulfillment of a romantic dream he creates at a very early age. His personal vision is based on the illusory belief that time can be repeated. He can not run away, he has got to have Daisy back. He wants to live the past over again. Actually, it is difficult to Gatsby to win the rich girl he had fallen in love with five years ago. Although five years ago Daisy fell in love with him too, everything has changed now. It is only a dream and his dream seems so close that he fails to grasp it. He does not know that it was already behind him. He imagines that he must realize his dream before his moment of death.

"I wouldn't ask too much of her", Nick ventures. "You can't repeat the past!"
 "Can't repeat the past?", Gatsby cries incredulously. "Why of course you can!".
 Gatsby looks around him wildly as if the past lurking here....." I am going to fix everything just the way it was before....." (p.111)

Gatsby is a man who has an affair with a married woman. What Gatsby demands of Daisy is that she should go to her husband, Tom and say in all sincerity that she never loves him but she really loves Gatsby. He does not care of Daisy's position as a married woman. Gatsby imagines that soon or late Daisy must get divorce from

her husband and after Daisy is free from her husband, Gatsby decides that he will take her back to Louisville as if it were five years ago although now she has already got a child.

"He wants nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say 'I never loved you'". After she is free, they are to go back to Louisville" (p. 111)

Gatsby's taste is vulgar. In contrast to the grace of Daisy's world, Gatsby's fantastic mansion, his incredible car, his absurd clothes, his speech all appear ludicrous. Gatsby's taste in language is vulgar like his taste in cars or clothes. When he talks about his feeling to Nick, the words he uses are cheap and vulgar style. In building his personality to fit her, in acquiring the Oxford accent, in earning his amount of wealth, he is conscious that all done for Daisy's sake. But the kind of wealthy world Gatsby creates for Daisy's sake is not the kind of wealthy world Daisy wants. Tom sneers when Gatsby wears a pink suit. In Tom and Daisy's world, that is just about the most vulgar thing. When Gatsby appears at Nick's house for the reunion with Daisy, he is wearing a white flannel suit, silver shirts and gold-colored tie that looks ostentatious. Although he aspires to Daisy's world, he can't reach it. Nick Carraway comments explicitly on the way Gatsby talks and on the

difficulties he himself experiences in finding words for what Gatsby is trying to say :

"I am looking at an elegant young roughneck a year or two over thirty, whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd . Some time before he introduces himself I'd got a strong impression that he is picking his words with care" (p. 48).

Gatsby is a bootlegger. Gatsby is the kind of character who if he wants something badly enough, will do anything in order to get it. Gatsby, in order to win the dream of love, tries to catch Daisy, his love with materialistic terms although he has to do something illegal. He forces himself to be enormously rich. He does not care whether the money he gets is legal or not. The important thing is he has to be rich. The mystery of Gatsby's sudden rise to great wealth revealed that he and Wolfsheim appear to be business partners in bootlegging. Bootlegging operations is an illegal business that can lead to the way of wealth in such a hurry. From bootlegging he gets a lots of money that he needs to buy his mansion. So, it is obvious that Gatsby involves in a corrupt business transaction as a result of his effort to win Daisy.

Jay Gatsby is a liar. He is refering to his house - a huge imitation Normandy Hotel de Ville. Gatsby says that it took him three years to earn the money to buy the mansion. It seems that Gatsby tells a lie to Nick to

cover his illegal business. Gatsby ever said that he spent his time at Oxford in 1919. During his time at Oxford he didn't earn money. So, it is clear that he could not possibly have had the money to buy his mansion before June 1922. In fact, he bought the mansion before Nick comes at West Egg (Nick comes at West Egg in the spring of 1922). Before he studied at Oxford, he joined the World Series of 1919 and during his involvement in the World Series he could not make a lot of money. His friend of gamblers and crooks, is able to help Gatsby to the fortune he needs in such a hurry. In fact, almost all the people at West Egg earn a living as bootleggers. Gatsby himself lives at West Egg, a place for the newly rich.

"..... some big bootlegger ?"
"I don't hear it. I imagine it. A lot of these newly rich people are just big bootleggers, you know"
(p. 109)

Again, Jay Gatsby lies by saying to anybody that he runs a drug business. It is impossible for Gatsby becomes so rich suddenly only running a drug business. Drug business only gives small change. In fact, Gatsby is simply a vulgar bootlegger, the associate of crooks gambling operator like Meyer Wolfsheim. Gatsby and Meyer Wolfsheim buy up a lot of side street drug stores in New York and in Chicago then sell grain alcohol over the counter. Gatsby has got so many stunts for their illegal business.

"Who arw you anyhow ? breaks Tom. "I have made a little investigation into your affair.....". I pick him (Gatsby) for a bootlegger (p. 134).

Gatsby's dream to have Daisy by material terms leads him to the destructive life, even it leads Gatsby to his death. The plan that he builds to have a great amount of money in such a hurry by involving in an illegal business seems to be nonsensial. At the end, Gatsby fails to have Daisy although he is already rich. His belief that money is everthing and the means to get happiness can never be realized. Ironically, Daisy, the girl that Gatsby defends and loves so much cheats him and creates his tragic death.

IV.2.2. Daisy, the dreamed girl

Daisy is Nick's distant cousin and Tom's wife. Daisy is a portrait of the American woman of her class the American rich. She is young, beautiful, enchanting, and wealthy. She is like an actress. Her face is lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes but she is very weak. She is aimless.

Daisy is the golden girl who has become the incarnation of Gatsby's dream. For Gatsby, she is like the white flower with the golden center. She deserves to live in a white palace, the King's daughter. Her voice is like money. It means that Gatsby sees Daisy as an embodiment of the glamour of wealth. In Gatsby's eyes,

Daisy is intensely desirable both, as a woman and as a symbol of modern society. That is why Gatsby believes that through money he can attract Daisy whom he loves so much. For Gatsby, becoming rich will encourage and heighten Daisy's charm. Jay Gatsby has spent years to build up his personality to find much money so that he can win Daisy back. His whole life is devoted in the fulfillment of having Daisy and the means to create his goal is money because he knows that Daisy's voice is full of money.

"She's got an indiscreet voice," Nick remarks. "It's full of....." Nick hesitates.
"Her voice is full of money," Gatsby says suddenly.
(p. 120)

Daisy is indeed a symbol of the glamour of wealth. Her taste is excellent. She and her husband are really partners of established rich people and that is why she can never leave her husband and marry Gatsby. Daisy can never live with a man on Gatsby's social position (Gatsby's taste is cheap). For her husband, Tom Buchanan, Daisy is the spirit of wealth and offers a continual promise that she has done gay, exiting things but it is a false view. Her husband is not really happy with Daisy. He still has some affairs with some other women, like Myrtle Wilson. Daisy is too weak for him. From the fact it can be seen that Daisy's husband wants to have her only for pride, for the symbol of wealth. He

will be proud if he is considered by others as a rich man and having a beautiful wife. In the depth of his heart, he is not happy.

Daisy is rich and beautiful but she is not happy. She can not enjoy what her wealth can give her. Although she has a wealthy husband and her life is always accompanied by luxurious things she feels empty. Moreover, after knowing that her husband has got mistress.

Nick says, "They are not happy (Daisy and Tom), and neither of them....." (p.146)

Daisy is a self-centered and careless woman. She has smashed up thing and let other people clean up the mess she has made. Daisy runs down Myrtle Wilson until she is dead. Daisy is very confused and she plans something that makes Gatsby suffer. She conspires with her husband to tell any body that it is Gatsby who is responsible for Myrtle Wilson death. George Wilson who is told by Daisy's husband that his wife is killed by Gatsby gets angry and then shoots Gatsby until he is dead. Daisy who Gatsby defends and loves so much indirectly leads to the destruction of Gatsby's life. She never cares of Gatsby's fate. After the death of Gatsby she leaves the town with her husband and does not come up at Gatsby's funeral.

IV.2.3. Tom Buchanan , the brutal man

Tom is Daisy's husband. He is a football player. Tom represents an established rich person. He is rich and aristocratic. He comes from well - to - do family of Chicago. Tom's wealth and his aristocratic background are indicated by his white palace, his excellent car, and his transportation of his polo ponies. Another indication can be seen when the day before the wedding he gives Daisy a string of pearls valued at three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Tom is also Gatsby's rival. Gatsby wants to exceed the wealth of Tom's inheritance. Indirectly, Tom gives Gatsby motivation to get a great amount of money because Gatsby believes that Daisy marries Tom in consideration of Tom's richness, not because of she really loves him.

Tom lacks of human feeling and selfish. He feels that he is rich and aristocratic, he has everything. Besides, Tom has got a very beautiful girl, Daisy who can be shown off. For Tom, Daisy is the spirit of wealth and offers a promise that she has done gay, exciting thigs. Tom is not really happy with Daisy. Daisy is not lively and too weak for him. He still has some affairs with other women, like Myrtle Wilson. He somewhat feels more comfortable with Myrtle Wilson than with Daisy. He never cares that he hurts Daisy's heart. Tom has Daisy

only for pride, for the symbol of his established rich status. In the depth of his heart, he is not happy. However, when Gatsby tells him that he wants to marry Daisy, Tom gets angry. He does not want to lose Daisy, he can not see his wife has an affair with someone else. Meanwhile, he him self has got affairs with some women. Because he is worried to lose Daisy. Tom reveals the mystery of Gatsby's sudden wealth. Tom tells to any body that Gatsby's wealth comes from an illegal business.

Tom is strong and brutal. His brutality can be seen when he has an argument with his mystress, Myrtle Wilson. He loses his control and breaks down Myrtle's nose. However, his strenght is needed by Daisy and it is the reason why Daisy can not leave Tom and marry Gatsby.

Tom is a careless man. Like Daisy, he smashes up thing and lets other people clean up the mess he has made. He and Daisy conspire to tell George Wilson that it is Gatsby who should be responsible with the death of Myrtle Wilson. The fact he does not know what really happens, he does not know the truth. He makes Gatsby suffer and die.

IV.2.4. Meyer Wolfsheim , the gambler and the crook

Meyer Wolsheim is a friend of gamblers and crooks who is able to help Gatsby to the fortune he needs in such a hurry.

Wolfsheim appears to be Gatsby's business partner. He is a racketeer. Besides, Wolfsheim is also the man who fixed the World Series of 1919. Gatsby is associated with Wolfsheim in a business way ever since he got out of the Army.

He is also a selfish man. When he sees right away, Gatsby is a fine appearing, gentlemanly young man and when Gatsby tells him he is an Oxford, Wolfsheim knows he can use Gatsby good. But when Gatsby is dead he does not come to Gatsby's funeral because he does not need him anymore.

IV.3 The 1920's American society

Society is always changing, but in the 1920's social change seemed to be swifter and more dramatic than in previous generation. People were primarily interested in having fun and ignoring more serious matters. The decade of the 1920's, particularly in the United States came closer to having a sharply defined uniqueness than most recognized periods. At this time there was a shift of power from Europe to America that took place after the First World War. American rich had emerged as a distinct social group. Their wealth, drawn from the exploitation of the West and industrialization of the country in the years made great changes.

Idealism gave way to materialism. Wealth, leisure were important only because they release the individual from material burdens. The only requirement for admission was money and the condition, for any member of the flock, that he or she would be respectable. They believed that money was the only thing to get happiness. They worshipped money. The publicists associated with the English business community turned out many pamphlets, sermons, and guidebooks which pointed out the way to wealth. The American wasted money more recklessly than anyone ever did before; they spent more to less purpose. They had no sense of relative values, and they knew not what to do with their money when they got it, except to use it, to make more, or throw away.

The young business men of the time were bitterly determined to be successful and much more than that, they had been taught to measure success, failure, and even virtue in monetary term. They had learned in school and Sunday school that virtue was rewarded with money and that the mistake was punished by the loss of money. It was apparent that their only problem was to earn lots of fast. The only principle of life propagated among the young people is to get money and men were only esteemed according to what they were worth - that was the money they were possessed of. Almost every Sunday the society columns of the New York news paper reported the myste-

rious appearance people had suddenly emerged from the west with millions dollars. They spent money like water, having parties for Broadway celebrities who had never been heard of them before.

The hedonistic impulses of the age gave birth to a new social form, the cocktail party, where men and women met to drink, to flirt, to dance, to jazz and to gossip. The Jazz age, as the 1920's have been called, was a period of prosperity, optimism, and good times that many expected to last forever. Going to speakeasy or night club became a fashionable thing to do. It is true that many people danced the Charleston, made bathtub gin, but the picture of a whole nation going mad in pursuit of pleasure was highly distorted. The constant search for excitement and amusement reflected the deep restlessness in American society. Mah Jong, crossword puzzles, maraton dancing, and jazz music were popular for varying periods in the 1920's as people rushed from one entertainment fad to another. The music and dances of the 1920's were popular, at least among the younger people, were the fast and acrobatic Charleston and the Black Bottom. The popularity of jazz, made famous by Paul Whiteman and his orchestra, was another reflection of the demand for a faster tempo in entertainment. "Jazz it up a bit" became a common expression among young people. Short, above-the-knee

dresses for girls, necking parties, and the frank discussion of sex were common pictures.

The sudden wealth result was not a new civilization, but ludicrous manners and vulgar taste which had been mimicked without being understood. Henry Adams, attempting to place the same problem in a wider perspective, believed that it was an aspect of the general American failure to understand the uses of wealth. They did not have sense of relative values, and they knew not what to do with their money when they got it, except use it to make more or throw away.

Except for the short - lived depression of 1921 and 1922, the decade after World War I was unusually prosperous. Increased industrial efficiency, expanded production, high profits, nearly full employment, and a rising standard of living characterized those postwar years. The United States enjoyed one of its most prosperous periods in history. More production and wider distribution of goods meant better living standards for millions of Americans. They had more automobiles, more household conveniences, better housing, and more leisure than ever before. During the 1920's there was a rapid acceleration of the major trends already established in American business and industry. These included larger units of production, technological advances, mass output of goods, increased labor efficiency, and improved

management practices. Scientific management, and industrial research which resulted in the discovery of improved techniques and new products. As a result of these changes, industrial productivity rose the realities of hard time.

The most important new industry was motor vehicles. Production of automobiles, trucks, and buses not only provided an abundance of jobs and a market for numerous raw materials, but also created a whole group of related economic activities from road building to service stations. By 1929 the value of motor vehicles produced reached \$ 5.3 billion, and the industry employed 447.000 workers, or about 5 percent of all the wage earners in manufacturing. Certain products, it was claimed, would make people happy or healthy, gave them popularity or prestige. Packard advertised that "a man is known by the car he keeps". By the 1920's the automobile had become a distinct part of the American way of life. Many Americans were proud of their new prosperity and wanted to show it off. Eager to satisfy, automobile manufacturers built luxurious new models, and auto advertisements urged prospective customers to fulfill "their desire to own the best". No single thing had a more profound effect on American society than the automobile. "Why on earth do you need to study what's changing this country?" asked one observer. "I can tell

you what's happening in just four letters A-U-T-O!". The automobile age had started before World War I, and by 1920 the number of passenger cars registered in the United States had reached more than eight million.

However, the breakdown of moral standards happened to this decade. The increasing popularity of divorce, the affairs with married people, the fragmentation of the family, and the decline of parental authority were common. It is true that they made money, drank too much and showed in their own behavior much of the violence and nervous instability that had become a kind of national neurosis by the decade. Gins, liquors, and any other alcoholic drink flew like water. The "experiment noble in purpose," as Henry Hoover called it, achieved a number of socially desirable results. It sharply reduced the national consumption of alcohol. But the "Prohibition Bureau" had only between 1,500 and 3,000 agents to control the illicit liquor trade, and many of them were inefficient and corrupt. Private individuals busied them were inefficient and corrupt. Private individuals busied themselves learning how to manufacture "bathtub gin", fraudulent druggist prescriptions for alcohol were issued freely, and illegal stills and breweries sprang up everywhere.

The American society had begun into the dark of "violence", that were doing illegal business, murder,

suicide, and any other casual brutalities. Smuggling became a major business, bootlegger was a household word. It was caused by the condition that there were only few certain group of people who became rich. People were encouraged to be rich although they never cared whether the money came from legal business or not. At that time crime was big business. Bootlegging, after all was more or less acceptable business enterprise since the hard time at the time. Chicago was known less for its law enforcement than for its crime. Throughout the nation racketeers made Prohibition a big business, and nowhere more successfully than in Chicago. At the height of his power there, mobster Al Capone commanded 700 henchmen and an empire that federal agents estimated to earn \$ 105.000.000 during 1927 in proceeds from liquor, gambling, brothels, and other rackets. Rival gangs struggled for the Chicago spoils, and gangland killings became common. Also, the new robber barons found that the law often obstructed their projects, so they bought politicians whose power gave them a high degree of immunity. Indirectly, they controlled the police, the public prosecutors, many magistrates and judges in the higher courts, a large number of administrative officials. They were the real lords of the largest wealthiest city in the United States. It was apparent that money was everything. Justice could not be found

anymore. Judges, prosecutors, politicians, and any other position in public whose power were bribed by those who had much money.

Another significant development in the 1920's was the growth of urbanization and its effect upon American life. The period deeper meaning can be found in the urban rural conflict. Rural Americans attempted to preserve their old ideals and values when they were being threatened by urban patterns of thought and action. Although cities had been growing rapidly, the nation had remained predominantly rural. The American society's dream had been encouraged in the agrarian past that was no more. American society believed that they could get the success of life in the bosom of the agrarian they ever experienced in the past. However, it was impossible; the thing had changed since the impact of Industrial Revolution. America had been transformed by the onset of an overwhelming process of industrialization. In other words, there was a change from the rural agricultural past to the urban industrial future.

American society could not face the reality. There was a myth among them that they had to stress on agrarian field if they wanted to get success. Their dream, which gave the priority in agrarian field had to be closed. They did not know that it was already behind him and never got it back. In each instance Modernity

ultimately triumphed over tradition. By the end of the decade 56.2 percent of the population was urban. Urbanization developed so swiftly that at the end of the 1920's no more than 25 percent of Americans still resided on farms.

All for all, it became evident that modern way of life could lead to the destruction of the race of human beings. Hedonism which gave birth to a new social form broke down moral standard. People made a lot of money to pursue the happiness. They liked to have large parties, to dance, to enjoy jazz music, and to show off their richness for pride. Unfortunately, they did not know what to do with their money they got it, except used it to make more or throw away. Their belief that money was the means to get happiness was a false view. On the contrary, materialism caused the lost of moral standard and unhappiness. The increasing popularity of divorce, the affairs with married people, the fragmentation of the family, and the addiction of alcoholic drink. were common. Besides, emerged various violence such as bootlegging, murder, suicide, and any other casual brutalities.

IV.4. The relation of the characters in the novel with the 1920's American society

After examining the novel, The Great Gatsby and the 1920's American society, the writer finds that there are some similarities which give the characteristics of the characters in the novel and the 1920's American society.

First of all, the writer focuses on "materialism". Jay Gatsby is materialistic. For him, money is everything. He believes in monetary terms to get his whole desires and to pursue the happiness. In this case, he wants to get Daisy, a beautiful girl whom he loves so much through his richness. His whole life is devoted to the fulfillment of having Daisy and the means to create his goal is money. Gatsby is so sure that money can heighten his social status; he will be known and respected by people around him, included Daisy if only he is rich since his society worships money too. Daisy Buchanan is also materialistic. She marries Tom Buchanan, a very rich man. She and her husband are really partners of established rich. However, they are not happily married. She knows that her husband has some affairs with other women. Although she is not happy with

her husband, she can not break away from him. Daisy can never leave her husband because she needs her husband's richness.

By the 1920's, American society gave way materialism as its idealism. They believed that money was the only thing to get happiness. The only requirement for admission was money and the condition for any member of the flock, that he or she would be respectable. People had been taught to measure success, failure, and even virtue in monetary terms. Virtue was rewarded with money and that the mistake was punished by the loss of money. It was apparent that their only problem was to earn lots of fast. Again, the only principle of life taught among the young people was to get money and men were only esteemed according to what they had, that was the money. They spent more to less purpose. The publicists associated with the English business community turned out many pamphlets, sermons, and guide books which pointed out the way to the wealth.

Secondly, Jay Gatsby as well as the American society of the 1920's are characterized by "ostentation".

Jay Gatsby likes to show off his glamorous things, the modern society way of life which is being idealized. He exhibits his luxurious items such as mansion, motor boats, private beaches, swimming - pools, aquaplanes and his Rolls - Royce to others. Car is the popular item for the symbol of wealth and it can give a certain status for him. Gatsby also likes to make parties. According to him, the party is as the means to show off his richness. The guests will see Gatsby's enormous mansion, his private beaches, motor-boats, drawing aquaplanes, and Rolls - Royce if only they come to Gatsby's house to attend his parties.

Gatsby shows off his house to Daisy. He asks Daisy to go to his house. Gatsby displays his mansion and its furnishings. In the novel we can also see that Gatsby gives his cheap magazine version of his life to Nick. He says that he is a well-to-do man and a honourable family descendant. Before he lives in West Egg, he lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe.

In the United States, the decade of the 1920's was unusually prosperous. Increased industrial efficiency, high profit and rising standard of living characterized that postwar years. Americans were proud of their new prosperity and they wanted to show it off.

People tended to exhibit the wealth so as to heighten their social status. Certain products would make people happy and gave them popularity or prestige. The most important new industry was motor vehicles. By the 1920's the automobile had become a distinct part of the American society's way of life. "Man was known and respected by the car he kept". Eager to satisfy, automobile manufactures built luxurious new models, and auto advertisements urged prospective customers to fulfill " their desire to own the best. No single thing had a more profound effect on American society than the automobile. So, people competed for having expensive cars and they showed off their cars for pride.

Thirdly, other similarity can be seen as follows:

Jay Gatsby likes to spend his time by enjoying parties, meeting celebrities, dancing, listening to jazz music, and getting drunk. He uses his money recklessly. He himself often makes large parties. His guests come to his mansion to enjoy their week-ends. Gin, liquor, champagne are always provided to serve his guests. Jazz orchestra that appears to be fashionable music accompanies the glittering parties. Besides, it is possible that the party can be a moment to make affairs.

Jay Gatsby himself has an affair with a married woman, Daisy. He does not care of Daisy's status as the wife of Tom. Gatsby urges Daisy to get divorce from her husband. It seems that Gatsby has lost good moral standard.

Also, Tom Buchanan, Daisy's husband likes to make affairs with some women. He is unfaithful. In the novel we can see when he insists Gatsby to see his mistress, Myrtle Wilson. He somewhat feels more comfortable with Myrtle Wilson than with Daisy. Tom has Daisy only for pride, for the symbol of his established wealth. Meanwhile, Daisy who knows her husband affairs becomes unrestful. She often attends Gatsby's invitation to his parties. At the party, Daisy is Gatsby's lover.

During the 1920's hedonistic impulses gave birth to a new social form. The Americans broke down moral standard. People were primarily interested in having fun and ignoring more serious matters. They liked having cocktail parties, where men and women met to drink, to flirt, to dance, to jazz and to gossip. The jazz age, as the 1920's have been called, was a period of prosperity, optimism, and good times that many expected to last forever. Going to speakeasy or night club became a fashionable thing to do. The constant search for excitement and amusement reflected the deep restlessness

in American society. Maraton dancing, and jazz music were popular for varying periods in the 1920's as people rushed from one entertainment fad to another. Many people danced the Charleston, made bathtub gin, but the picture of a whole nation going mad in pursuit of pleasure was highly distorted. The jazz music and dances of the 1920's were popular, at least among the younger people. "Jazz it up a bit" became a common expression among young people. Besides, the increasing popularity of divorce, having affairs with married people, the fragmentation of the family were common pictures. It is true that they showed their own behaviour much of the nervous instability.

Fourthly, Jay Gatsby's profession as a bootlegger proves that he is a portrait of the American society of the 1920's.

Jay Gatsby, in order to win the dream of love, tries to catch Daisy with money although he has to do something illegal. He involves in a corrupt business transaction, that is bootlegging because bootlegging can lead to the way of wealth in such a hurry. The mystery of Gatsby's sudden rise to great wealth revealed that he and Wolfsheim appear to be business partners. Wolfsheim

took Gatsby to do illegal business ever since Gatsby got out of the Army. Gatsby does not care whether the money comes from legal operation or not. The important thing is he has to be rich. He buys up a lot of side street drug stores in New York and in Chicago then sells grain alcohol over the counter. Meyer Wolfsheim himself is a gambler and a crook. When he sees right away Gatsby is a fine appearing, gentlemanly young man and when Gatsby tells him he is an Oxford, Wolfsheim knows he can use Gatsby good.

Meanwhile, the history proves that the American society in the 1920's had begun into the dark of "violence" that were doing illegal business, murder, suicide, and any other casual brutalities. It was caused by the condition that there were only few certain group of people who became rich. People were encouraged to be rich although they had to do something illegal. At that time crime was big business. Bootlegging, after all was more or less acceptable business enterprise since the hard time at that decade. Chicago was known less for its law enforcement than for its crime. For bootlegging, nowhere more successfully than in Chicago. Throughout the nation racketeers made Prohibition a big business. Rival gangs struggled for the Chicago spoils, and gangland

killings became common. They found that the law often obstructed their projects, so they bought politicians whose power gave them a high degree of immunity. Indirectly, they controlled the police, the public prosecutors, many magistrates and judges in the higher courts, a large number of administrative officials.

Fifthly, the writer notices that Gatsby's strong will to have his love he ever had in the past is parallel with the American society's desire to encourage the welfare in the agrarian past that was no more.

Gatsby's personal vision is based on the belief that time can be repeated. He is very sure that he must succeed in getting back the girl he ever had five years ago. He wants to live the past over again. Gatsby does not realize that it was already behind him. Daisy can never separated from Gatsby's dream. He imagines that he must realize his dream before his moment of death. In fact, everything has changed. Now his love has got a husband so that it is impossible for him to review what he ever had in the past.

Another significant development in the 1920's was the growth of urbanization and its effect upon American life. The period deeper meaning can be found in the

rural urban conflict. The American dream had been encouraged in the agrarian past that was no more. Rural Americans attempted to preserve their old ideals and values when there was a threat from urban patterns of thoughts and actions. Although cities had been growing rapidly, the nation had remained predominantly rural. The American society of the 1920's could not face the reality. There was a myth among them that they had to stress on agrarian field if they wanted to get success. They believed that they could get the success of life in the bosom of the agrarian they ever experienced in the past. However, the thing had changed since the impact of Industrial Revolution. America had been transformed by the onset of an overwhelming process of industrialization. In other words, there was a change from the rural agricultural past to the urban industrial future.

Ultimately, the writer assumes that equally, Jay Gatsby, Daisy, Tom and the 1920's American society fail to create the happiness by materialism.

The only thing that Gatsby thinks of is how to find a great amount of money to fulfil his dream to have Daisy. He believes that he can do anything, included to

have a beautiful girl, Daisy if only he is rich. Unfortunately, his dream to have Daisy by materialism leads him to the destructive life, not the happiness as he expects. At the end, Gatsby fails to have Daisy although he is already rich. His belief that money is everything and the means to get happiness can never be realized. The plan that he builds to make him rich in such a hurry by involving in an illegal business seems to be nonsensical. Ironically, Daisy that he defends and loves so much cheats him and creates his tragic death.

Daisy marries Tom Buchanan, the rich man. Her life is always accompanied by luxurious things. She thinks that she can do anything as she aspires because of her husband richness. That is why she can never leave or break away from her husband. In fact, they are not happily married. She can not enjoy what her wealth can give her. She feels empty after knowing that her husband has got mistress. To escape from her emptiness, Daisy makes an affair with Gatsby. She becomes a regular guest for Gatsby's parties. At the parties she makes love with him. She spends her night by dancing, flirting with Gatsby.

It became evident that the 1920's American society failed to get the happiness by materialism. The hedonism

which gave birth to a new social form broke down moral standard. People made a lot of money fast to find the happiness. Unfortunately, they did not know what to do with their money they got it, except used it to make more or throw away. They had no sense of relative values. They liked to make parties in where men and women met to gossip, to dance, to enjoy jazz music and to show off their richness for pride.

Gin, liquor, champagne flew like water. The American's view to find pleasure by money was dreamy. It is true that many people danced, made bathtub gin, but the picture of a whole nation going mad in pursuit of pleasure was highly distorted. The result, hedonism and the modern way of life led the destruction of human beings. Money destroyed their personal lives; the increasing popularity of divorce, the affairs with married people, the fragmentation of the family, the addiction of alcoholic drink were common. Besides, emerged various violence such as bootlegging, murder, suicide, and any other casual brutalities. Smuggling became a major business, bootlegger was a household world.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS