

## CHAPTER V

## CONCLUSION

Finally, the writer makes a conclusion of all that have been analysed in the previous chapters, especially in the Chapter IV.

Looking into the analysis, it seems that the author (Scott Fitzgerald) tried to grasp or look at the reality of the American society of the 1920's and then he depicted and shaped it into his novel, The Great Gatsby. By analysing the character, the plot, and the setting, the writer notices that the novel indeed a portrait or reflection of the 1920's American society considering that there are some similarities which give the characteristics of the characters in the novel such as Jay Gatsby, Daisy, Tom, Meyer Wolfsheim, and the American society of the 1920's. Some proofs can be seen as follows :

Firstly, Gatsby, Daisy, Tom as well as the American society during the 1920's are materialistic. For them, money is everything. They believe in monetary terms to get his whole desires and to pursue the happiness. Jay Gatsby 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. Daisy Buchanan is also materialistic. She marries Tom Buchanan, a very rich man and she can not break away from him although they are not happily married. Daisy can never leave her husband because she needs her husband's richness.

By the 1920's, the American society gave way materialism as its idealism. 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. Their only problem was to earn lots of fast.

Secondly, Jay Gatsby and the American society are ostentatious. Jay Gatsby likes to show off his glamorous things, the modern society way of life which is being idealized for pride. 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 Gatsby.

In the United States, the decade of the 1920's was unusually prosperous. 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. 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.

Thirdly, 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. Besides, Jay Gatsby has an affair with a married woman, Daisy. He does not care of Daisy's status as the wife of Tom. Tom, Daisy's husband likes to make affairs with some women. He somewhat feels more comfortable with his mistress, Myrtle Wilson than with his own wife, Daisy. He has Daisy only for the symbol of his established rich. Meanwhile, Daisy who knows her husband's affairs become unrestful. She often attends Gatsby's invitation to his parties. At the parties, Daisy is Gatsby's lover.

Meanwhile, during the 1920's the Americans broke down moral standard. They liked having cocktail parties, where men and women met to drink, to flirt, to dance, to jazz, and to gossip. "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.

Fourthly, Jay Gatsby's profession as a bootlegger proves that he is a portrait of the American society of the 1920's. In order to win the dream of love, Gatsby 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. Meyer Wolfsheim, a gambler and a crook took Gatsby to the illegal business ever since Gatsby got out of the Army.

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. At that time crime was big business. Bootlegging, after all was more or less acceptable business enterprise since the hard time of that decade.

Fifthly, 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 is very sure that he must succeed in getting back the girl he ever had five years ago. He wants to repeat the past. He does not realize that it was already behind him. Now, his love has got a husband so 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. Rural Americans attempted to preserve their old ideal and values when there was a threat from urban patterns of thoughts and actions. 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. They could not face the reality. However, the thing had changed, coinciding with the development of industry.

Eventually, the writer assumes that all, 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 before. 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. Ironically, Daisy that he defends and loves so much cheats him and creates his tragic death. Daisy her self

is not happy with her husband, the very rich man. Her life is always accompanied by luxurious things. However, 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 Daisy spends her night by dancing, flirting with Gatsby. Daisy and Tom can not live in harmony because they don't enjoy what their wealth can give them.

The hedonism which gave birth to a new social form broke down moral standard of the Americans in the decade of 1920's. They failed to get the happiness by materialism. People made a lot of money fast to find the happiness. Unfortunately, they did not know how to do with their money they got it, except used it to make more or throw away. It is true that many people danced, made bathtub gin but the picture of the whole nation going mad in pursuit of pleasure was highly distorted. The modern way of life led the destruction of human beings. The increasing popularity of divorce, the affairs with married people, the fragmentation of the family, the addiction of alcoholic drink were common; bootlegging, murder, suicide, and any other casual brutalities came up.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY