

Mirror Society and Social Function of Literature in Novel the Great Gatsby (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald: Ian Watt's Literary Sociology Studies

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Abstract: The topic of this paper is to discuss cultural studies by focusing on social mirrors and the social function of literature in The Great Gatsby novel through a literary sociology approach, introducing and examining the relationship with cultural studies and social aspects in the reality of life in the literary work of The Great Gatsby novel. This paper raises the complexity of literary social relations which is very strong in this novel which was appointed in the 1920s. The problems discussed in this research are first, how is literature as a Mirror Society in the novel The Great Gatsby? Second, what is social function values exist in the literary novel The Great Gatsby? The purpose of this paper is first to explain the Mirror Society in The Great Gatsby novel. Second, to explain the Social Function of Literature in The Great Gatsby novel. And third, analyzing The Great Gatsby by Francis Scott Fitzgerald from a perspective according to the Sociology of Literature. The theory of this approach is uses Ian Watt method which rooted in the continue application successor of Wallek & Warren's theory as the main reference in analyzing this novel's literary work. In particular, this study describes the implementation of the author Francis Scott Fitzgerald's social context, the mirror factor of society in the novel, and the function of the Sociology of Literature in The Great Gatsby. By studying this novel, we get an understanding that The Great Gatsby is very thick with social studies in literature, so that it becomes a learning material for social culture, especially the modern era in the 19th century.

Keywords: Mirror Society, Social Functions of Literature, Sociology of Literature, Ian Watt, The Great Gatsby

I. INTRODUCTION

Sociology of literature is a combination of two things, namely social and literature. Analysis related to the study of sociology in literature is to analyze society scientifically and objectively in the literary work. The social structure of sociology is said to obtain an overview of the ways in which humans can adapt to certain societies and are determined by certain societies. Understanding of literary works also considers social aspects, the meaning contained, and the relationship between the background of the community and the literary work. In simple terms, the sociology of literature connects the dialectics between literature and society.

In America, many dynamics have changed with the emergence of many developments, especially in terms of the economy and culture which were previously governed by various norms. And besides that, in the end it gave rise to writings that are very thick with various literary works which

also concern social development in them, especially those influenced by the English language and the tradition of literary modernization. One of them is the work of the famous writer F. Scott Fitzgerald in the 1920s. F. Scott Fitzgerald is a novelist father and short story writer who was born in St. Paul Minnesota in the United States on September 24, 1896. And died on December 21, 1940 at the age of 44 in California, United States. F. Scott Fitzgerald also has a family, namely having a wife named Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald and a child named Scotti Fitzgerald. During his life, he spent time composing various literary works especially for Zelda, his beloved wife. This happened when in 1920 he made his first literary work entitled The Side Of Paradise. His birth also coincided with the presence of a new era in western countries when World War I ended, namely the Roaring Twenties or a period of great prosperity. The Roaring Twenties was the decade in the 1920s in Western society and Western culture which was accompanied by a dramatic fusion between modernity, tradition, glittering socialites, and the hubbub of dreams, especially in the big city which is associated as a liberal period in western culture. And within this theme one can find Fitzgerald's works, namely This Side of Paradise, The Beautiful and Damned, The Great Gatsby, and Tender Is the Night.

The Great Gatsby is a famous American legendary novel created by F. Scott Fitzgerald which was published on April 10, 1925, which is set in the cities of New York and Long Island during the summer of 1922. This novel describes a time that Fitzgerald himself called it the "Jazz Age". " which was the rebellious era of famous Jazz musicians George Gershwin and Benny Goodman. As well as an uproar with Art Deco and Surrealism. Namely following the tensions and chaos of World War I, during the 1920s, with American society enjoying unprecedented levels of prosperity as the economy soared. At the same time, the prohibition to sell and consume alcohol mandated by the "Eighteen Amendments of the United States", made millionaires shun alcoholic drinkers and encouraged an increase in organized crime. Although Fitzgerald, like Nick Carraway in his novels, worshiped the wealth and glamor of the era, he was deeply uncomfortable with the unrestrained materialism and low morality that followed. The short story of this novel begins with the main character actor Jay Gatsby, a new rich man who lives on Long Island who often holds parties in his big and luxurious house. Jay Gatsby also invited rich people to come to his party, most of whom did not even know

Gatsby directly and had more bad assumptions about Gatsby. Because of his mysterious and introverted demeanor, other people prefer to assume all kinds of things about Gatsby. Gatsby's success also makes many people jealous, and he is rumored to have an illegal business and has killed people. As well as Gatsby often invites neighbors like Nick Carraway and others to attend the party. Jay Gatsby was actually born into a poor family, and fell in love with Daisy which they eventually fell in love with, but Daisy's parents arranged Daisy with Tom Buchanan, a rich man from Chicago. Had refused to marry Tom because of his love for Gatsby, but in the end the woman married Tom Buchanan. Heartbroken Gatsby began to try hard to become a person who has a lot of money to win back Daisy's heart. And all the work he did until finally Gatsby could be in position. In previous research, there have been many types of problems that have examined The Great Gatsby novel, starting from feminism, postcolonialism, hedonism, hegemony, and so on. So from these references, the researcher wants to study the Sociology of Literature contained in the culture of The Great Gatsby's literary work. This study has the expected objective of describing sociological aspects and problems of social facts in the study of the sociology of literature in the novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Then find the phenomenon of socio-cultural values in the novel. As well as the benefits that can be taken in this research is to help develop knowledge and knowledge, especially in the study of literary studies in terms of studying novel literary works.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the literature review, the researcher took several reviews related to the study of the sociology of literature and based the theoretical approach to be reviewed as a discussion, with literature studies and the realm of cultural studies as another reference. First, is "The Socio-Historical Criticism Towards The 1920s American Society Seen Through Gatsby's Life In Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby" thesis by Hagur Yovita Oliviana (2002). Her research is raises the relationship between literature, society and authors which is relevant to the distortions of the past American era since the 1920s and biography of the Fitzgerald Author. Then, is a "Social Class Conflict Reflected In "Far From The Madding Crowd" Novel By Thomas Hardy." Journal research by Manuela Indriati Siahaan & Tomi Arianto (2020) which explains about the conflict that is bounded with social class in the American literary work, Far From The Madding Crowd by using approach of Karl Marx and Max Weber as a reference. Later, is "Social-conflict in the novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald". Thesis by Muhammad Akbar Fiyadi (2021) which explain about various conflicts and social problems described in the novel, such as internal, external, personality conflicts, ethnic conflicts leading to social class. And the problem of cause to social impact is also the subject of study in the analysis.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method which is used as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from various sources or

writers obtained through a sociological literary approach. Qualitative research is research with the aim of understanding the phenomenon of what is experienced by research subjects as a whole by means of descriptions in the form of words and language, in the specific context experienced and by utilizing various scientific methods. (Moleong 2007: 6). This research also uses the Wellek & Warren method which was continued by Ian Watt which includes three pillars including Social Context of the Author, Sociology as a mirror of society, and the Social Function of Literature. Social Context of the author means is part of the way how the author earns his living. Then it can be seen from the professionalism of writing, namely the extent to which the author is in his work as a profession. Sociology as a mirror of society is about genre in literature often the social attitude of a particular group and not the social attitude of the whole society. And what counts in assessing literary works as a mirror of society is the social views of the author itself. The Social Function of Literature that literature must function as a reformer and reformer of the condition of society which is considered no longer in accordance with the times or contrary to social norms One of the functions of literary works is that literature must teach something in an entertaining way. From these three things it can be concluded that Ian Watt's view in the sociology of literature Wallek & Warren in using his approach is that the author is concerned with social status, social ideology, and other matters related to the author. Then there is the issue of the literary work itself, of course one thing that is raised is what is implied in the literary work and what is its purpose. As well as, questioning readers and influences in the social sphere of literature. Literary sociology within its scope is also expected to provide great benefits, namely understanding and a source of new insights on society and life.

IV. RESULT DISCUSSION

The Great Gatsby and Mirror Society

Literary works also have a touching impact on changes in the mirror of social life. In The Great Gatsby novel, there are various points of life that are implemented and conveyed as an illustration regardless of the good and bad parts of the work's story, such as inspirational reflection on Francis Scott Fitzgerald's author life, Romanticism in modern America, American Dream, Feminism Culture, Views of Postcolonial life, reflection of the social class, and materialistic reflection:

4.1 An inspirational reflection on the life of author Francis Scott Fitzgerald

Francis Scott Fitzgerald is someone who is also able to instill professionalism in his life. This has certainly been proven by being able to maintain the condition of his family, including during any difficulties, namely from financial problems to disputes with his own close friends. Fitzgerald was also active in writing his short stories to make up for the shortfall in his income, because only his first novel was a bestseller and was a huge financial success in his life. Even though in his career he joined his addiction to alcohol, the author still wanted to fight for life in this habit until the end of

his life. It has become a secret of implementation when the author includes pieces of himself in the creation of two characters in the novel, namely Jay Gatsby and Nick Carraway. Jay Gatsby is known as a mysterious millionaire who is the namesake of the novel. And Nick Carraway as the first-person narrator whose personality is relatively innocent and mild-mannered, especially when compared to the hedonistic elite in which he lives. But over time, he became wiser, more observant, and even disillusioned, but never cruel or selfish. The author uses Jay in his character creation to represent the subjectivity of the domination and ambition he builds. While the role of Nick is trying to help the protagonist of Jay and Daisy. He is attracted to Gatsby's parties and facilitates the reunion of the two's affair so that it can develop.

Apart from that in *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald also tells about his life experiences especially during the first world war. During this time, the author was actually based at Camp Taylor while he was in the army during World War I, and makes various references to Louisville in the novel. And in real life, Fitzgerald met his future wife Zelda when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry and assigned to Camp Sheridan outside of Montgomery, Alabama, where she was a beautiful debutante. Later, Fitzgerald actually used a line Zelda uttered during the birth of their daughter, Patricia, to make a line aimed at Daisy's character: "That the best thing for a woman is a 'pretty little fool,'" according to Linda Wagner - Martin in her biographer, *Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald*, who further notes that the writer "knew a good line when she heard it."

The act of resistance against the "Jazz Era" is also a separate space in the view of the author with the aim of describing and knowing the life situations that occurred during the tensions of World War I during the 1920s. And Fitzgerald once said, "This is the age of wonder, the age of art, the age of the excess, and the age of satire." to criticize how the view of the presence of a new era in western countries after World War I ended, which was none other than the Roaring Twenties which means the era of prosperity.

4.2 Romanticism in modern America

Romance in America is the description and approach taken in the story of the literary work *The Great Gatsby*. This also departs from the good life of the author, his family, to the characters who are told to experience the tragedy of situations that represent the same. Romance in this novel cannot be separated from a love of relationships, affairs and social class gaps. In the character that is told is that Jay Gatsby as a young military officer managed to quickly fall in love with Daisy. However, Daisy prefers to choose to marry Tom Buchanan because he has very rich property on the East Coast, which in the end their marriage is considered uncomfortable because of Tom's uninterested affair with Daisy. This is what makes it possible that they are trying to marry because they are obsessed with life above which also led to the death of a Myrtle, Tom's mistress. On the other hand, the main romance between Daisy and Jay Gatsby is not a true love story. Rather it is more a

depiction of Gatsby's obsessive desire to relive or repeat his own past. Here we can see that the romance in the story of Daisy's relationship has a different circle of life and relationships, namely Tom and Gatsby. Likewise Nick who has a special friendship with Gatsby. That's how it is in the author's life. And in the life story of F. Scott Fitzgerald, he also experiences periods of romance with his family, to the bad habits he always faces. Starting from professional life, the ups and downs of the life relationship between Fitzgerald and Zelda, to the habit of writing that cannot be separated from the factor of alcoholism which eventually occurred until the end of his life.

4.3 The Term called American Dream

Dream is the Dream of the American People which is represented as a cultural belief for the American people. Given this, they believe that through hard work, sacrifice, and determination, regardless of social status, one can achieve a better life. The American Dream is also an ethos that is a reflection of the characteristics of the American nation in which in freedom there is the hope of prosperity and success.

In the literary work of *The Great Gatsby*, it can be seen that the American dream is also seen in this novel with two different sides, namely there is an aspect of purpose in it to the factor of failure which is something opposite to the realization of the American dream. From the point of view of the sociological aspect, there are 5 things that influence the representation of the American dream factor in *The Great Gatsby* as analyzed by Suleman Bouti in his journal in 2013, which are the pursuit of happiness, way to wealth, persistence, individualism, and independence. The pursuit of happiness in *The Great Gatsby* can be seen through the characters Daisy and Tom Buchanan. Tom and Daisy are married and even have children, but they both commit adultery anyway. Way to wealth is a trick for Jay Gatsby to get more rich, create a new self because it is like to change his status, thereby making his life more like God.

"He was a son of God - a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that - and he must be about His Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty. So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen-year-old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end."
ch. 6 (p.76)

The Persistence in this novel can be seen through Gatsby working hard for Daisy's love, as Gatsby was still a poor delivery boy years before. Individualistic concept is to emphasize the superiority of each personality in this character novel. Independence in this story has several points, the first is the beginning of the story when Nick comes to the East and learns the bond business. And second is Tom Buchanan convincing Gatsby that his wife loves him and he didn't know about Daisy five years ago but that didn't matter to him.

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4.5 Cultural Feminism

The literary work of *The Great Gatsby* also shows the existence of a part about the culture of feminism which is represented by the personality of the female character in this novel by the author Francis Scott Fitzgerald. In the variety of her involvement, this appears to be in the female characters, including Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson. Each of them has a big and different role with social class as a dressing status.

Daisy Buchanan is the main female character in the novel *The Great Gatsby* which comes from the Buchanan family and is the woman who becomes the main source of conflict in the novel, by choosing between her appetite for money and her true love. She was married to Tom Buchanan and mother of a baby girl named Pammy, but her life was not as happy as one might expect. She also had a long lost love for Jay Gatsby, which made her the novel's most prominent female character. Both Daisy and her husband Tom were unfaithful to each other. Tom had an affair with an underclasswoman Myrtle Wilson, and Daisy was familiar with that and Tom's previous affairs. Her awareness of Tom's infidelity may be why she didn't hesitate when she had an affair with her own, Jay Gatsby. There are many ways to interpret the character of Daisy Buchanan, but the undeniable fact is that she is a prime example of what the lifestyle of high-class women in the 1920s was like. Daisy is also a character that is considered as The Golden Girl in the story. In *The Great Gatsby*, she is depicted as a beautiful young woman whom many people have always wanted and admired. Ever since she was a child, she was surrounded by luxury and grandeur afforded by her growing up in a rich family. In her quote, she can't wait to marry Tom, even though

she has feelings for Gatsby too. But after her marriage, Daisy also led a life that didn't seem difficult at all, considering the fact that she was a high-class woman living in the 1920s, and her young life was filled with luxury. Even after she became a mother, she has been part of the flapper lifestyle in the iconic 1920s, the centerpiece of the Roaring Twenties a woman who is not afraid of social norms and does what she wants to do, much like Daisy she loves to be present in fabulous parties, listening to jazz, and living his life the way she wants.

"She wanted her life shaped now, immediately and the decision must be made by some force—of love, of money, of unquestionable practicality that was close at hand." Fitzgerald, ch. 8 (p.116)

Myrtle Wilson is another major female character in *The Great Gatsby*. She is depicted as a middle-aged woman with the appearance to match, making her a feminine figure. Myrtle Wilson is defined by Fitzgerald as a female character who is deeply affected by the false beliefs created by the system, and falls victim to unfortunate circumstances. Throughout the story, he values wealth as the most important aspect of life. This can be seen from his action in developing his relationship with Tom. This was done on purpose to get more property than she got from her own husband.

"I married him because I thought he was a gentleman," she said finally. "I thought he knew something about breeding. But he wasn't fit to lick my shoe." ch.2, (p.29)

There is a sense of frustration that Myrtle married George, but this is not necessarily true. Myrtle and George remained a family, and what made them feel truly unhappy was because he became Tom's object which made him feel oppressed too. Evidenced by the incident where Tom physically abused him. He willingly accepted this treatment without any effort to fight for the purpose of making his fortune.

Jordan Baker is the third figure of feminism who represents an important role as a character who is able to liberate himself. Fitzgerald deliberately set her apart from the others, in that she is the only female character who is not related by marriage. This makes her a symbol of an independent woman who does not rely on human strength, unlike other female characters in the novel, who are oppressed by the system. As well as making it a symbol of an independent woman who does not depend on male strength. Jordan's character differs from the other female characters in the novel in many ways. Despite being in the upper class, she is one of the few who has a job and provides for herself, which places her in the working class as well, neither married nor in any relationship except the casual one she has with Nick. Jordan Baker's first appearance early in the story signifies his true qualities in the following quote:

"The younger of the two was a stranger to me. She was extended full length at her end of the divan. Completely motionless and with her chin raised a little as if she were balancing something on it which was quite likely to fall. If

she saw me out of the corner of her eyes she gave me no hint of it indeed, I was almost surprised into murmuring an apology for having disturbed her by coming in." ch. 1 (p.9)

Cynical and selfish nature of Jordan also marked her as one of the reflections of a new woman called 'Flappers' in the 1920s. Flappers are characters who distinguish themselves physically by rocking their hair, wearing short skirts, and wearing lots of makeup. They also have other behaviors such as listening to jazz music, smoking, drinking alcohol openly, and driving a car. Apart from that, Jordan has a hobby of golf as well as his profession which allows him to achieve the greatest achievements and allows him to free himself from oppression.

4.6 Views in Postcolonial Life

The Great Gatsby in the story is about mirrors in post-colonial life which can also be related to the post-colonial period where a cultural reflection is created related to ideological oppression. Various reflections on ideology have given rise to the perspective of the colonized in the form of ideology, which are hybrid, mimicry, racism, ethnicism, classism, and sexism.

Hybrid Ideology is also the things that as Gatsby defended himself against his problems, which he then lied to by telling the descendants of the wealthy Middle West that his family was everything dead, that he was raised in America, educated at Oxford, and all of his ancestors had also been educated there for years. Education is a family tradition. Gatsby was afraid to say that he came from a poor family. Then, he tried to imitate the lifestyle of colonial society with the lifestyle of the rich, living in a large bourgeois style house with all the magnificent equipment. Then, hold a weekly routine for other people. The fake hybrid that Gatsby made was also a creation that illustrated that Gatsby came from a poor family. A family of fishermen who live solely for clams and salmon. But now, he had erased the evidence and replaced him with a new style as an upper-class, elite, wealthy man, leaving behind no evidence that he was from the lower classes, a family farmer, a poor fisherman. This phenomenon is Gatsby's psychological influence to erase his past, replacing the hybrid status that is his new status. His only inner dream is to meet the girl "Daisy" he once promised to wait for Gatsby. However, because Daisy comes from a rich, materialistic family, Gatsby is determined and ambitious to change her lifestyle from poor class to rich class, bourgeois class, to adapt, and balance Daisy's bourgeoisie. As a result, he has unknowingly practiced this hybrid ideology.

Mimicry also Mimicry also means ridiculing. In the reviewers of this novel, elements of mimicry are also present in Jay Gatsby's self-behavior. Namely imitating the style of dress, exclusive behavior and cultural lifestyle. For example, Gatsby places himself in the upper class, and cites his past studying at Oxford. He described his life as a young king's son in the big cities of Europe, then he also changed his passion to collecting jewelery and installing paintings. Gatsby is indirectly disturbed by the ideology of mimicry, which describes the way Gatsby

and several other figures from the lower class imitate the upper class, and like to made his new name for change the identity.

Racism and Ethnicism in this novel like Gatsby's words are also seen in the racial distinction between master and servant, which are distinctly different. The speaker refers to the Finnish ethnic devil, who is very condescending and once colonized, although white but the ethnicity is well known to the lower class, because of a servant. And his his ideology also participated in demeaning the Finnish ethnicity, this shows that he wants to be distinguished from his class with that ethnicity, which is considered trivial and low.

Classicism and Sexism can be this can be reflected in the gender prejudice of Tom Buchanan's behavior towards judgment and judgment of women as in the following quote:

"That was in August. A week after I left Santa Barbara Tom ran into a wagon on the Ventura road one night, and ripped a front wheel off his car. The girl who was with him got into the papers, too, because her arm was broken — she was one of the chambermaids in the Santa Barbara Hotel." Fitzgerald, ch.4, (p.60).

During their honeymoon, Tom and Daisy, his wife, spend the night at the Santa Barbara Hotel, but a week later Tom returns to the hotel for a date with a maidservant, who then has a road accident due to a flat tire. This show is also called the psychology of sexism. Even though Tom is a rich man from the top of the class, he wants to date a lower class girl. Besides, as a man who has only honeymooned, it's inappropriate to do so. He must still admire his wife and still be happy with her. The truth is not like that, Tom feels dissatisfied in controlling his gender. He seems to be having an affair with the lower class which is finally revealed because of an accident, a car tire burst, while Tom has just made the girls as objects of sexuality. If no accident happened, Tom's affair with the servant girl would not have been exposed. Classicism and sexism in Tom's ideology is like white people who sacrifice native women, like Myrtle Wilson, even though Myrtle actually wants to take Tom from Daisy's hands by any means. Because Tom is full of wealth and belongs to the upper class, despite his abusive and often sexually abusive behavior towards women other than his wife, whom he likes. In the culture, it is customary for working women to be naughty girls, used as sexual objects, then from the lower class, to compare them from the upper class.

4.7 The Reflection of Social Class in Hegemonic Culture

Hegemony is a form of power that dominates and is owned by one group or person over another group. In the reflection of the hegemony that occurs in the literary work The Great Gatsby, then it is formed and classified into three, namely, upper class, middle class, and lower class. It is also driven by the basis of Max Weber's view of social stratification which refers to 3 aspects, which are power, wealth and prestige. In the upper-class, which considered most dominating in the social life environment it is Tom, Daisy Buchanan and Jordan Baker. Buchanan family is also considered upper class family name and great legacy. Meanwhile, Jordan Baker is a person

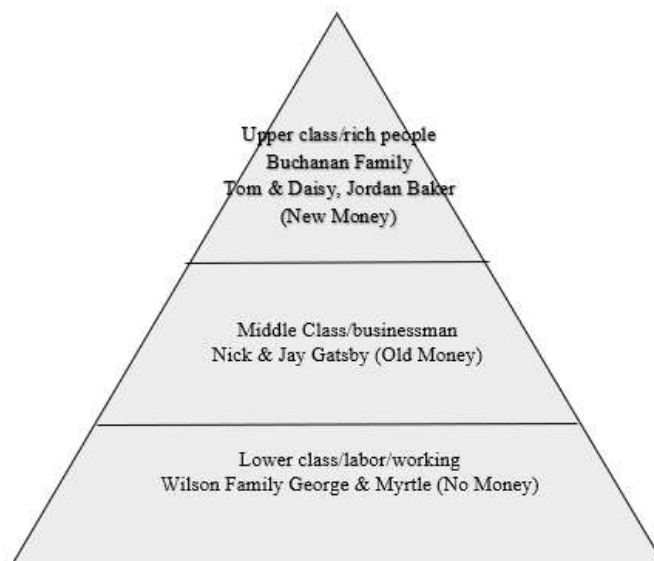
who also has wealth and is trying to be famous. Moreover, this woman is a golfer as a hobby.

“They were careless people, Tom and Daisy - they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness... and let other people clean up the mess they had made.” Fitzgerald, ch.9, (p.137).

In the middle-class, it is like Nick Carraway and Jay Gatsby as a main character. They are in the middle class although they are often associated with other figures, both above and below. Nick Carraway is a close friend of Gatsby who is also a young man from Minnesota. He is a bond businessman, and has an honest, tolerant personality, and tends to save judgment. And he also has a lot of connections and similarities as did the Buchanan family to high social life, such as inheriting the upper class wealth from his family name, and being the uncle of Daisy. In his life, he kept his emphasis on simplicity and was not obsessed with wealth and money, nor did he take possession of money lightly. Meanwhile, Jay Gatsby is the rich young man which is also famous for holding lavish parties. He was born as James Gatz to a poor farming family in North Dakota, but aspired from a young age to live up to the American dream, by changing his name and increasing his social status, as his best friend Nick found out. And Jay Gatsby is a man from the countryside who is described as always escaping from the shackles of his low social status, and a hard worker who has an independent life. It is also explained in the following quote:

“His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people - his imagination had never really accepted them as his parents at all. The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God.” Fitzgerald, ch. 6, (p.76).

The lower-class in The Great Gatsby novel it is like Myrtle Wilson and George Wilson. They are the Wilson family who are in this class because they feel the most oppressed, either by the system or by middle and upper figures. Myrtle is the wife of George. She tried desperately in search of a better life than he had. However, she feels imprisoned in her marriage to George, a downtrodden and uninspired man whom she mistakenly believes has the breeding of good. Then, George is the husband of Myrtle. He also lives with his wife and is a mechanical mechanic and owns a gas station owner's place and a breakdown auto shop. He is the representative of the working class in the novel and has been defeated by his circumstances. Her character in the story is also described as a blonde, spiritless and anemic person, as well as looking weak and demotivated.



Picture 1 Pyramid Difference of the social class In the Great Gatsby

4.8 Materialistic Reflection of the Hedonism Lifestyle

Materialism departs from the literary theory of Marxism, and the estuary of hegemony which can be connected by life level which are referred to as social class. Materialism is also obtained when someone tries to realize a free lifestyle with the aim of seeking satisfaction and pleasure. This is something called Hedonism, which is a view of life that assumes that a person will feel happy by seeking as much happiness as possible and in any way must avoid feeling that can make him feel pain. Materialism is also not free from social problems. According to Marx, social problems stem from the economic production system which is the basic structure of a society, and this production system influences the superstructure of government, education, culture, the arts, and others.

It can be concluded that life of materialism in The Great Gatsby's work can be seen from the various behaviors of the characters in the novel. Researchers take some data which can then be studied and analyzed in the quotations of these figures. The first is the incident when Gatsby wanted to get Daisy back. Gatsby's background is actually not rich. After retiring from the army, he worked for a Jew. It was not explained what and how he was doing. With a relatively young age, he was able to raise money and build a luxurious house complete with a beautiful garden. Herein lies Gatsby's fallacy. Money is not a tool to achieve happiness. It is undeniable that to achieve that happiness, money is needed. Taking a walk to a beautiful place, doing hobbies, buying food, buying clothes and so on that is fun, of course require money. From the character of Jay Gatsby is a figure who wastes money frequently, and gives the impression that he is a materialist and wasteful of money. An obvious example in the text can be seen at the beginning of Chapter three, where Gatsby throws a very lavish party.

“At least once a fortnight a corps of caterers came down with several hundred feet of canvas and enough colored lights to make a Christmas tree of Gatsby’s enormous garden”..... “By seven o’clock the orchestra has arrived, to thin five places affair, but a whole pitful of oboes and trombones and saxophones and viols and cornet and piccolos and low and high drums” Nick, ch.3 p. (32)

“There is something funny about a fellow that I’ll do thing like that “said the other girl eagerly. He doesn’t want any trouble with anybody” Nick, ch. 3 p. (35)

“He smiled understandingly-much more than understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across for five times in life.” Nick, ch. 3 p. (39)

“anyhow he gives large parties” said Jordan, And I like large parties. There are so intimate. At small parties there isn’t any privacy.” Jordan & Nick ch.3 p. (40)

Based on multicultural understanding, organizing this very lavish party comes from the bourgeoisie which carries a culture of hedonism, where this is formed within the framework of capitalist materialism. Life which assumes that people will be happy if they collect as much pleasure as possible. As well as understanding like this which of course will become an ideology for someone, where a figure like Jay Gatsby can also be categorized as one who belongs to the bourgeois community. The second data it is Jay Gatsby ideology which affected their own experiences and lives. This is the prove quotes being with Nick in the chapter 4 page 51:

“I’ll tell you God’s truth’, his right hand suddenly ordered divine retribution to stand by. I am the son of some wealthy people in the middle west-all dead now.”..... “my family all dead and I came into good deal of money.”..... “After that, I lived like young rajah in all the capitals of Europe- Paris, Venice, Rome-collecting jewels, chiefly rubies, hunting big game, painting a little, thinks for myself only, and trying to forget something very sad that had happened to me long ago.” Jay Gatsby ch. 4 (p. 51)

From the quotation above, there is a finding of a relationship or connection between Gatsby’s habits and pleasure to hold parties with his family background and life. However, there are several things that seem contradictory in the next story. Especially Nick’s views on Gatsby are different. There is a feeling of awe that he has towards him, but there is also a sense of distrust and cynicism towards the Gatsby character. The social life of Gatsby’s pleasure, namely holding a party at his house, could be the influence of habits left by his family, who, as he admits, are rich people. And what is done by someone in the formation of an ideology is not separate from all forms of social processes. Therefore, the justification for what someone does is not solely from the Gatsby, but also from the people around him.

Furthermore, materialism in the third cases from Gatsby also implemented in combined between idealism with

turned out to be contrary to Plato’s ideas. This can be seen from how he and a richer man, replace a name from James Gatz to Jay Gatsby. Here is the quotes:

“James gatz- that was really, or at last legally, his name. he had changed it at the age of seventeen..” Jay Gatsby ch. 6 (p.75)

“I suppose he’d had the name ready for a long time, even then. His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people-his imagination had never really accepted them as his parents at all. The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg, Long Island sprang from his platonic conception of himself.... And to this conception he was faithful to the end.”“An instinct toward his future glory had led him.... To the small Lutheran college of St. Olaf’s Southern Minnesota.” Jay Gatsby ch. 6 (p.76)

In this case, Gatsby with his vagueness also has too much faith, that he can get a woman or whatever he wants with 'abundance of wealth. And in fact it is useless and ultimately only self-destructive. He is too late in sadness but always obsessed with reaching the top social level that has long been desired.

The Social Function of Literature in The Great Gatsby novel

Every creation of a literary work has its own various functions in the embodiment of ideas, especially in the realm of social life that is narrated. The presence of The Great Gatsby is also a milestone of change and renewal of culture that seeks to present and introduce a new era of wealth and romance after the war. There are 3 fundamental things that can be conveyed in the social function of The Great Gatsby’s work, including as knowledge of Jazz Era culture, as America’s first post-war life renewal lesson, and as language arts entertainment in the adaptation of novels.

As knowledge of Jazz Era culture as meant by the author, around the 1920s was an era when the flow of jazz music could bridge the tastes of all classes and when the standard of morality became gray. Free sex, drunkenness, corruption, and gangsters are standard values in New York. This era is also quite considered as part of the influence of class discrimination, skin color, and status which is mapped in black and white. Between West Egg (working area) and East Egg (wealthy area) on Long Island, between the "old money" (those whose majority of their wealth is inherited) and the nouveau riche, between the affair between the upper class and the lower class. The Jazz Era was also influenced by the social mobility factor that exists in this literary work. This is reflected in Jay Gatsby’s character with several elements, namely motivation, increasing his social class through changing his real name, his job, to the motivation to maintain the upper class and classmates’ views on life partners. And this period also known as the decade of prosperity or what is commonly referred to as the Roaring Twenties which was accompanied by changes in people’s lifestyles which led to the habit of life, namely often wasting money by holding big parties. Roaring Twenties itself was a time when many people defied prohibition, indulging in

new styles of dancing and dressing, until traditional moral standards were rejected and the era finally ended in 1929 before being replaced by the era called the Great Depression.

As America's first post-war life renewal lesson is a big paradigm learn in the modern America 1920s. In the economic field that made America begin to emerge as the leading creditor and industrial power in Europe. The impact of the real infrastructure damage in each European region could add to the burden of financial loss from this very large war. From the social side, the impact on World War I that occurred throughout the years 1914-1918 was to encourage the development of innovations on the battlefield and outside the battlefield which had an impact on people's lives in their era. Innovations in warfare also contribute to the development of new weapons technologies. The war ushered in a new era of lethal military technology, including land mines, flamethrowers, submarines, tanks and fighter planes. The Great Gatsby novel also had a rapid impact on the frenzied changes in the development of American culture at that time which was believed to be an afterthought to further open the gates to great superpowers, including social life. Especially in the face of the great recession crisis and welcoming the second world war.

As Language arts entertainment in the novels adaption from The Great Gatsby it is more evocative and elevating at the same time to figure of an author named Francis Scott Fitzgerald. Apart from being a critic in the 1920s and having been part of the military army, he is also well-known as a writer in various literary works in America which is his main livelihood throughout his lifetime. Apart from novels, The Great Gatsby was also introduced to opera theater plays in America. And then adapted and visualized into the realm of film 5 times, namely in 1926, 1949, 1974 starring veteran actor Robert Redford, 2000 and 2013 with the same title and played by the main actor Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby. This novel work was also republished in 1945 and 1953. The masterpieces of this literary work also accompanied when The Great Gatsby's name grew stronger, both in the realm of novel works and film works he had made. The Great Gatsby in the economic sector also able to increase the massive income earned by Francis Scott Fitzgerald as its author, even though his life's journey was often not easy for him to go through. The author also deals with alcohol in various aspects of The Great Gatsby, particularly those concerning the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age and alcoholism.

V. CONCLUSION

In the literary work research of The Great Gatsby, it can be concluded that this novel is full of social culture, especially in the 1920s. This novel has stories behind the inspiration of life from the author F. Scott Fitzgerald to the story behind the main character in The Great Gatsby. This novel is also reflected in the story of social society in America in the 1920s in post-World War I life, besides that there is also a culture of feminism in its female characters, Postcolonialism in their ideological play, a clear culture of social class, to a lifestyle that is completely covered by materialism. and

adorned with luxury, and the things that embodied the American dream which is the embodiment of the nation's purpose. The knowledge of the Jazz Age culture becomes a staple in the presence of this literary work in the social function of literature. So that the novel by The Great Gatsby left a lot of stories, social messages, to the historical life of that era which made The Great Gatsby have real education, both in the story of the author and the characters it implied.

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