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Representative Of Hedonism Ideology In A Novel Of The Great Gatsby By F. Scott Fitzgerald

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Abstract

This study analyzes the novel that entitled The Great Gatsby, written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Based on the novel, the character tries to do anything to get their happiness such as wasting their money for unimportant things which is called hedonism. This study aimed to analyze the representative of hedonism ideology and the culture in New York in 1920s in the Great Gatsby novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The theories that are used in this study are hedonism theory. This study uses sociological approach and library research which takes some information related to the research problems from books and other literatures to gather the data.

The result of the analysis to answer the first research problem shows that from seven kinds of hedonism, there are two kinds that are found by researchers in this study; Hedonistic Egoism, and Hedonistic Utilitarianism. The first kind is Hedonistic Egoism that can be seen when Tom and Daisy move to another city and let Gatsby clean up the mess that they have made. The last kind is Hedonistic Utilitarianism that can be seen when Gatsby often holds parties for anyone.

Keywords: Hedonism, Ideology, Representative, the Great Gatsby

INTRODUCTION

Language is the human's creation. Through language, humans can express ideas, opinions of the author to the reader, the moderator to the listener. The use of language in the novel is sufficiently differ from the use of other discourses, such as the use of language in scientific works, compose speeches, and make laws, make decisions, and so on. In the current era of globalization, literary works are increasingly relevant in the environment public. English is the international language used by community and people to communicate from various societies in the world (Rahman, et al, 2019; Hasnani, 2019; Sujarwo et al, 2020; 2021; Sasabone et al, 2022; Sukmawati et al, 2022). They can learn English through various media, including: radio, television, magazines, books, novels in English. Novel is a literary work that contains a concrete picture and behavior about people's daily lives (Susylowati, 2019).

The phenomenal novel from America. It was known that America in the twenties was swarmed by new belief; hedonism and materialism. Hedonism is a belief that pleasure is the chief good. Hedonists idolize pleasure and material comfort to its utmost. This kind of belief is contra-productive. It may result the interaction among members of a society simply for material benefit (Leuchtenburg, 1986: 188 as cited in Muniroh, Z, 2014). The attitudes which regard too much pleasure may create people who are selfish and insensitive of others' sufferings and pains like what is reflected in the characters of The Great Gatsby.

This work brings his name is included in the literature America. Vanspanckeren (without year) explain that it is important facing reality becomes a theme dominant in the 1920s and 1930s. Novels born in the 20th century, this describes the change of socialite society in the modern era. People who starting to believe that with the advancement of industry and the economy will lead to happiness (Wahidah, N. (2020).

The Great Gatsby is a written work in 1922 and published in 1925. The novel is set in a large and luxurious mansion on the Gold Coast, Long Island, New York. This classic work depicts an aspiration that represents luxury, excess, and prosperity 1920's. Fitzgerald described small life of American society socialite, spirit of an era, dreams status quest that ended up just is a nightmare (Gholipour et al, 2013; Boudreaux, 2014; Meehan, 2014; Muniroh, 2014; Fan, 2015; Zhang, 2015; Jerrim et al, 2015; Brandén, G. (2019; Connoll et al, 2019; Kourtellos, 2021; Durlauf et al, 2022;). Using characters Jay Gatsby's main example got up and the fall of the American Dream (Bloom, 2009).

Thus, in 1920s, American economic life, the union progressed rapidly, especially in New York. Investment to America Union continues to flow after the War World I. The 1920s are also known as the Jazz Age. This Jazz Age term created by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Origin the word Jazz Age comes from the type of music which at that time was very popular, namely Jazz music. Fitzgerald in his essay which

entitled "Echoes of the Jazz Age" year 1931 more went on to explain that the "Jazz Age" a term referring to decades after World War I. To be precise, on the decade before the stock market slump year 1929. Where at that time, America "the gaudiest spree in history" started on the so-called i.e. era American society is lavish. In the essay, Fitzgerald said that the whole race will behave hedonistic and decides everything on fun.

This decade is also known as decade of prosperity or beyond known as The Roaring twenties. This prosperity is accompanied by changes in people's lifestyles. They often waste money by having a party. Roaring Twenties is a time when many people against prohibition, indulge in a new style of dancing and dressing, and many traditional moral standards that rejected

The values that are brought by hedonism also enable to provoke the burgeon of materialism which will be a jeopardy and dangerous to the values of humanity. For the sake of material comfort as their first priorities, they will do anything. Material comfort which they praise as their new God may neglect other values such as humanity. They no longer care of social and spiritual codes and sanctions which actually can control one's bad and corrupt behaviors. It can create selfish and heartless people who are insensitive to the sufferings of others like what are portrayed by Fitzgerald in The Great Gatsby.

The Great Gatsby is a classic novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. At first the novel was not popular when it was printed for the first time but became a legendary work and became one of America's best novels. This novel is also a reading standard in American literature studies and has been adapted on the big screen several times times and 1 received a number of awards. The Great Gatsby novel tells the story about a complicated love that is someone namely Jay Gatsby who still loves someone who is married is Daisy. Gatsby was originally from the lower classes however managed to become a millionaire (Indryany, 2019).

This novel describes many things that happen in 1920s in New York in great details with a lot of events, literary things, and theaters. By reading this novel, people will understand the social situation of New York people in 1920s. The novel is written over 80 years ago, but the story is still relevant today where wealth can undermine social values and moral cynicism, greed, and the fulfillment of the desire for worldly pleasures. Therefore, there are many studies conducted to analyze this novel from many aspects, such as the characters, the symbols, or the cultural background of the novel. This paper focuses on the representative of hedonism ideology in a novel of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

METHOD

This study applies the library research and can hand down the issues in terms of proposing and analyzing the various data through a descriptive analysis. It means that the study deals with the description of any data found out in the

work in order to relate all data comprehensively in achieving the objectives. There are two kinds of sources; primary and secondary source. The primary source is from novel title The Great Gatsby written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This novel is used as the main source for the study analysis. The secondary sources are books and articles related to the topic of this study. Those two sources are very useful to get the analysis for this study.

There are some steps to be done in this research. The first step is the writer reads the novel as the primary source for many times. The writers try to understand the story and focuses on the narrator named Nick Carraway as the main topic for this research. After that, the writer gets two problems that have been explained in the introduction of this research. The next step is the writer finds the appropriate approach for this research. The writers find sociological approach as the best approach for this research connected to the problems. The writer also finds some theories in the internet and also in some books related to the topic. The next step is the writer clarifies the theories and the approach from some lecturers of English Language studies, literature. Next is the writers try to analyze the character Nick using the theories. The last is the writers draw a conclusion to answer the research problems.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Great Gatsby Novel outlines the life of the people bourgeoisie in New York in the 1920s. New York is depicted with skyscrapers, grandiose parties, much cheaper alcohol, and moral decline to the point where it resulted in the restlessness of the New society York itself. But behind the praise, the success of the novel, as well as a number of achievements that achieved, this novel tries to give another perspective on other ones (Muyassaroh et al, 2016). One of the hedonism In this novel was *the music had died down as the ceremony began and now a long cheer floated in at the window, followed by intermittent cries of "Yea-ea-ea!" and finally by a burst of jazz as the dancing began.*

Hedonistic Egoism

Hedonistic egoism aims to get as much fun as possible (Labukt, 2011). The pleasure in question is that it can be enjoyed for a long time and deeply. For example: eating delicious food, lots and lots of variety, provided a long enough time to enjoy everything, as at a Roman banquet. When the stomach is full, a tool is provided to bite the esophagus, so that the contents of the stomach can be vomited out, then other types of food can be refilled, until satisfied (Levit, 2014).

Hedonistic Egoism happens when people do everything to get their own happiness and even they have to sacrifice other people's happiness. In the novel, this kind of hedonism can be found on:

> *"My house looks well, doesn't it? He demanded. See how the whole front of it catches the light.'*

I agreed that is was splendid.

'Yes his eyes went over it, every arched door and square tower. It took me just three years to earn the money that bought it.' (p. 58)

Next day Gatsby called me on the phone.

-Going away? I inquired.

-No, old sport.

-I hear you fired all your servants.

-I wanted somebody who wouldn't gossip. Daisy comes over quite often— in the afternoons (p. 114).

It is a conversation between Nick and Gatsby when Gatsby suddenly fires all of his servants only for avoiding people who spread an issue about him and Daisy. In this case, Gatsby does not think about his servants because he just tries to keep his relationship with Daisy well.

The second case that shows the Hedonistic Egoism is on page 140. It shows that Tom starts to tell Mr. Wilson that Gatsby is the murderer of his wife. He considers Myrtle's death as his chance to make Gatsby get in a trouble. Therefore, he wants to make sure that Wilson does not get wrong about the murderer of his wife and tells that Gatsby is the murderer:

-Listen, said Tom, shaking him a little. I just got here a minute ago, from New York. I was bringing you that coupé we've been talking about. That yellow car I was driving this afternoon wasn't mine, do you hear? I haven't seen it all afternoon.

-I'm a friend of his.‖ Tom turned his head but kept his hands firm on Wilson's body. He says he knows the car that did it.… It was a yellow car (p. 140).

Tom tries to remove Gatsby from his relationship with Daisy by making Gatsby into a big trouble. He does not care what happens next to Gatsby and even

after Gatsby's death. He only tries to get his happy life back with his little family. There is more fact that Tom and Daisy do not care about what happens to Gatsby:

But she and Tom had gone way early that afternoon, and taken baggage with them.

-Left no address?

—No.

-Say when they'd be back?

—No.

-Any idea where they are? How I could reach them?

-I don't know. Can't say (Chapter IX, p. 165).

It is a conversation between Nick and Tom's housekeeper. It explains that Tom, Daisy, and their daughter move. They do not tell Nick or anyone where they move. They disappear suddenly when they know that Gatsby needs their help. It proves that they really do not care about Gatsby anymore after they ruin Gatsby's life until he dies. They sacrifice Gatsby's life to make his family far

from troubles.

Hedonistic Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is an ethical understanding which holds that the good is what is useful, and profitable. On the other hand, what is evil or bad is what is useless, and harmful. Therefore, good and bad behavior and actions are determined in terms of useful, and beneficial or not. From this principle, a theory of the purpose of action is formed (Bryan, 2001; López et al, 2011; Chang et al, 2014).

This kind of hedonism is the opposite of Hedonistic Egoism. It explains about getting happiness that is not only for an individual, but for everyone. In the novel, this kind of hedonism is shown by Gatsby when he holds so many parties in his house:

-That huge place there? She cried pointing.

-Do you like it?

-I love it, but I don't see how you live there all alone.

-I keep it always full of interesting people, night and day. People who do

Interesting things. Celebrated people (p. 58).

It demonstrates Gatsby's desire to make everyone happy at his parties. He fills his house with individuals who make him feel less alone, even though it is mentioned before that people who attend his parties are not invited. As a result, it can be assumed that they are looking for fun gatherings, which Gatsby successfully provides.

"My house looks well, doesn't it? He demanded. See how the whole front of it catches the light.'

I agreed that is was splendid.

'Yes his eyes went over it, every arched door and square tower. It took me just three years to earn the money that bought it.' (p. 58)

It can be concluded that almost all kinds of hedonism can be found in New York 1920s that are reflected on this novel. Four kinds of hedonism can prove that at that time, people were affected by the end of the First World War and they started to live a life in a new way that forced them to be hedonist people.

CONCLUSSION

A novel titled *The Great Gatsby* written by F. Scott Fitzgerald shows a story about Gatsby who tries to get her love back. This novel has a background after the First World War in New York. There is a phenomenon in that time because of the emerging of a new culture that is affected by the war.

Topic discusses about hedonism in New York in 1920s. There are seven kinds of hedonism that are found according to Weijers (2011), those are Folk Hedonism, Value Hedonism and Prudential Hedonism, Motivational Hedonism, Normative Hedonism, Hedonistic Egoism, Hedonistic Utilitarianism. However, there are only two kinds of hedonism that can be used by the writers in this study. The first kind

is Hedonistic Egoism which means people do anything to make them happy although they have to sacrifice the other people's happiness. It can be seen when Tom and Daisy move to another city and let Gatsby clean up the mess that they have made. The second kind is Hedonistic Utilitarianism which means people in order to reach happiness, they also think about the happiness for the other people. It can be seen when Gatsby often holds parties for anyone. Those two kinds of hedonism show the life style of the society of New York at that time.

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