

**JAY GATSBY'S PURSUIT OF BLISS IN
THE GREAT GATSBY MOVIE SCRIPT**

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Abstract

The goal of life for everyone is bliss. Many ways are done to achieve bliss. However, worldly problems which appear often become an obstacle to achieve bliss itself. This thesis is the analysis results of a movie script titled *The Great Gatsby* which is an adaptation of the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This movie script tells the story of a man named Jay Gatsby who pursues his bliss with the efforts which are done to change his social status into upper class. Jay Gatsby also wants to get his love back by trying to become a wealthy man through the achievement of the American Dream's idea.

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze *The Great Gatsby* movie script as a social conditions reflection of American society in the 1920s. The writer is interested in analyzing this movie script because there is the pursuit of bliss which is reflected through the main character, Jay Gatsby. This thesis focuses on the efforts of Jay Gatsby to improve his social class and achieve better situation economically and socially. In addition, the writer also analyzes marxism which exists in *The Great Gatsby* movie script.

The method which is used in this thesis is the library research which uses movie script titled *The Great Gatsby* as an object of analysis. Another books which are used to look for theories and references are literary theory and criticism books, and literary research methods books. The writer also uses marxist approach to analyze the social conditions of America in the 1920s that economic growth so as to bring influence to society.

The analysis results which use marxist perspective show that based on the historical background of American society, American Dream is made by society as the idea to achieve bliss with wealth, prosperity, money, glamour, and social status. They try to get wealth by doing anything whether it is legal or illegal.

Key words: Jay Gatsby, pursuit of bliss, American Dream, marxism, *The Great Gatsby*

1. Introduction

The literary work is the result of human musings about life whose

existence cannot be separated from life itself. The events in this life are the basis of processed authors. The

object on which to base these preparations is poured into a literary work whose results affect themselves for the audience. The impact is enriching experience. "*Karya sastra difungsikan di tengah-tengah masyarakat sebagai media pembelajaran bagi masyarakat. Karya sastra menuntun individu untuk menemukan nilai yang diungkapkan sebagai benar dan salah*" (Emzir, 2015: 9). In other words, anything is found in the literature lovers who read about the problems of life, such as death, love, happiness, justice suffering, good and bad, all that relate to their inner experience. The literature shows the picture of life as the social reality.

In the literature, bliss is the primary key in all themes. Bliss is identical with something fun. Because of that everyone would want bliss in his/her life. No human is always happy throughout his/her life. There is always a grief that complements the bliss itself. Many people argue that an abundance of material and high positions which is able to make individuals or perhaps the majority of people can be happy. But not few

people are happy with a simple life. Rich people who have a lot of money make bliss as the parameter because they can satisfy their worldly desires.

However by naked eye sometimes rich people actually have their own problem. It means if he is a businessman, he must continue to take care of his efforts to avoid bankruptcy in days later. He should be meeting here and there, thinking about product innovation, and other activities. Therefore, we often heard the story of a child of a wealthy businessman who is not happy because he/she feels less affection from both parents who are always immersed in his/her personal activities. Even few children of the rich are actually envious the lives of children of modest people whom their fathers' work are only trader or farmer who every night always goes home with minimal lighting but always faithful to help their children even just do a homework.

This study is chosen because the writer is interested in studying literature. By reading literary work automatically we can develop our knowledge and science. We can also

arrange the works that are chosen by the author. The idea in the literary works will bring the readers into messages. Then that messages will make the readers easier to understand. According to Poe, literary work has function to entertain as well as to teach something (Wallek and Warren, 1995: 25). The idea or the theme sometimes shows about social life. In fact, the literary work reflects society and social reality.

The writer can also get the author's feeling or experiences from the object of the study in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "*The Great Gatsby*". After reading and studying this movie script, the writer can give some information concerning the movie through the way of play based on the main characters of the story. The readers of this research can get an understanding of more general aspects through it such as human character, love, relationship, behaviour, mistery or message of life that may not hate someone else. It often tells about love, family, and the luxury of a life in the city.

In *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald writes about the social

class struggle among the society in America during 1920s. The main character, Jay Gatsby, struggles to change his class in the society and to achieve better situation socially and economically because Gatsby belongs to lower class. This movie script includes characters from several different socioeconomic classes.

In the society, there are different social classes even up now. In general, social classes are divided into three classes. They are upper class, middle class, and lower class. In this case, the idea that the writer would like analyze is Karl Marx's theory. This idea provides a theoretical basis for the struggle of the working class to achieve a higher form of human society. Karl Marx in Van Luxemburg and his friends *Pengantar Ilmu Sastra* (1992: 24) say that "*sastra sama dengan gejala kebudayaan lainnya mencerminkan hubungan ekonomi; sebuah karya sastra hanya dapat dimengerti kalau itu dikaitkan dengan hubungan-hubungan tersebut.*"

In this thesis, the writer will analyze the movie script using the theme that concerns with Jay Gatsby

who wants to change his social class. That's why the writer will analyze the efforts of Jay Gatsby to change his class in the society and to achieve better condition. The writer also discusses marxism theory of Karl Marx that is applied to the society in *The Great Gatsby* movie script.

During process of research, it is important to make the problem specification that are going to be analyzed. It is used to avoid the ambiguity of analysis and to support the writer to get description about the object of the research itself. So, it needs the limitation of the problem. The problem should be according to the topic and background of the study to be analyzed, therefore the result of the analysis can be more effective. This is supported by Husaini Usman and Purnomo (2008: 34) who states "*Pembatasan masalah adalah usaha untuk menetapkan batasan dari masalah penelitian yang akan diteliti. Batasan ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi faktor mana saja yang termasuk dalam ruang lingkup masalah penelitian dan faktor mana saja yang tidak termasuk dalam ruang lingkup masalah penelitian*".

Based on the description of background above, the formulation of the problems of this study are as follows:

- a) How are the efforts of Jay Gatsby in pursuing his bliss in *The Great Gatsby* movie script?
- b) How marxism theory is applied to the society in *The Great Gatsby* movie script?

Every research has its purposes and objectives. The objectives of the study summarize something to be achieved by the research. These objectives are closely related to the problem of the study. In making this study, the writer wants to convey the objectives for the readers, those are:

- a) To analyze the efforts of Jay Gatsby in pursuing his bliss in *The Great Gatsby* movie script.
- b) To find out how marxism theory is applied to the society in *The Great Gatsby* movie script.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 Movie Script as One Type of Literature

Movie as a very powerful art can enrich a person's life experience and cover aspects of the inner life. In addition as a means of entertaining, the movie is also useful as a learning medium. Movie can be considered a good education and visual media that has entertainment value, artistic, and communication.

The movie is closer to the performing arts as modern drama, both need a script, performed in public, and require the casts. Like a drama, the movie utilizes all kinds of other arts concerning the verbal, visual, and aural, except for the sense of taste, touch and smell. The movie contains the story, that is why it can be equated to the novel that tells the story in the form of conflicts over the characters. In a movie, there are also action and music. However, the movie has a set of rules and principles of artistic and aesthetic of its own that cannot be equated to the kinds of other art (Damono, 2012: 101-102).

The transformation from literary work to movie form is known as ecranisation. Ecranisation term is derived from the French, *écran*, meaning screen. Ecranisation (Eneste,

1991: 60) is "*Pelayarputihan atau pemindahan sebuah novel ke dalam film. Ekranisasi ini dimunculkan untuk memberikan berbagai perkembangan informasi dan pengetahuan edukatif yang terdapat dalam karya sastra terhadap masyarakat yang bukan pembaca karya sastra*". Wijayanto in Damono (2012: 97) says that a study of ecranisation compares the three texts: short story, script, and movie. A short story which just takes only a few pages of book, of course changed quite a lot in order to fill the duration of the movie which is about 1.5 hours.

The difference of short story and novel as a source of ecranisation from the movie is the screenwriter or movie director. The screenwriter or movie director must cut and select parts of the novel which are not needed or add scenes, characters, and plot that can meet the short story runtimes about 1.5 hour. A study that focuses on the narrative structure finds some parts of the changed and added to meet the needs of the movie. Beside, it is also the viewers' needs to get information about the various aspects of the story.

They are involving background, plot, and character.

Script is the text which will be drafted into the movie. Movie script is also a literary work similar to script of drama. It is still interpreted by the director before he/she is carrying out his/her duties as commander of drafting in moving picture. However, in these days the director also acts as a screenwriter so inevitably he/she has to read literary works in advance if he/she wants to make a movie that is adapted from short story or novel.

2.2 Intrinsic Elements

2.2.1 Theme

In making a movie script, the theme becomes very important because it is the first step in making the movie. The theme is an idea presented in the story. It usually concerns the meaning of life or the conditions of human. The theme includes the opinion of the author about things which are expressed in the script. The theme is developed through the storyline, with regard to character development and interpersonal relationships.

Kaztang in <http://perfilman.perpusnas.go.id/klipi>

ng_artikel/ states the theme in the movie can be divided into 4 categories. First, plot as theme. On the action or adventure movie genre, the main attention is given to sequences of event in the story about what will happen. Because of that, the sequences of event in the movie should be evoke and take place quickly in order not to be boring. The most important thing in the movie is the ending of the story, which has important meaning to the story or just a special portion of the overall as told. Second, condition as the theme. A lot of box office movies use a very special condition or an emotional effect as the focus or structural foundation. In the movie, plot plays an important role however the events that happened in the movie are determined by the emotional reaction caused by these events. The theme of the movie can be put forward by either expressing the main condition or expressing the emotional impact which is created. Third, character as the theme. The movie focuses on portrayal of a single unique character through actions and dialogues. The appeal of the characters is contained

in their uniqueness, their traits and characteristics that distinguish them from ordinary people. Fourth, idea as the theme. The idea is as a means to gain a better understanding of the various aspects of life, experience or the human condition. An idea can be directly addressed through specific events or through certain characters, but the theme is performed indirectly and the viewers must interpret the idea first.

2.2.2 Character and Characterization

Character is a key element or a basic element in literary work (such as a short story, novel, drama, television series and movie) so that it takes a great attention to studying it. The presence of a character in a story does not refer to someone who is presented in the literature, but rather refers to the overall actions which include personality, behavior, intelligence, moral character as well as physical.

Characterization is a literary device which is used step by step in literature to highlight and explain details about a character in the story through the appearance, attitude and

personal of figures. Many ways describe characterization to fit the theme. There are 8 ways to be able to know characterization. Characterization can be shown through appearance, dialogue, external action, internal action, reaction of other characters, contrast: dramatic foils, the choice of name and caricature and leitmotif (Boggs and Petrie, 2008: 59-67).

Character is an important element that builds the story because every character plays different role to build the plot of the story. Characters can be classified into major and minor based on the function during the course of the story. The major characters are the important figures that take important roles in the story. They are the main figures of the story. The minor characters are likely less important than the major characters in covering the story.

The major characters are divided into protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the main and important character who covers a story. It is usually in the forefront of the plot and provided with good moral, intellectual, emotional qualities while

the antagonist is the character that opposes and conflicts against the protagonist.

An important difference is between round character and flat character. A round character is anyone who has a complex personality, he/she is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person while a flat character is the opposite of a round character. This literary personality is notable for one kind of personality trait or characteristic. Boggs and Petrie explain that there is no one essentially making a round character is higher or more valuable than the flat character (2008: 70).

2.2.3 Setting

Many people often interpret the setting as the time, place and social condition in which the story of movie occurs. "That elements of fiction which reveal to us the where and when of even we call setting. In other words, the term 'setting' refers to the point in time and space at which the events of the plot occur" (Kenney, 1966: 38). Generally, setting is the most influential on other elements such as theme, visual effect, costume,

equipment and processes related to the lives of the character in the story. Setting is very important in the movie. The setting can be considered to introduce and deliver the illustration of the story.

The setting is extremely important to a story. It can have immense effects on the plot and the characters. Furthermore, the setting can do more than affect plot events. It can also establish the atmosphere or mood of a story or a specific scene. The setting which establishes this atmosphere or mood makes the viewers know the events experienced by the characters in the story.

2.2.4 Plot

Plot is a literary term that refers to how narrative points are arranged to make up a story understandable to the viewers. The events in the story relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. To build a structure of an interesting story, it can be presented suspense or surprise. It can be a simple surprise able to develop curiosity of the viewers. Suspense which is well maintained can strengthen the dramatic structure of a story.

According to <https://eduaksi.com/apresiasi-film-2/>, plot has four types. First type is circular, a plot story that begins with A and back to A. Second type is linear, a plot of the story that starts from the starting point and move forward to the end point of the story. Third type is foreshadowing, a plot that tells about events that will occur in the future, jump on other events and end on recount about the events that had already been told ahead. The last type is flashback, tells events in the past.

2.3 Extrinsic Element

Marxism is the Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' theories of political, economic, and social including the belief that the struggle between social classes is a major force in history and it should eventually be a society in which there are no classes. A system of political, economical and social philosophy is based on ideas that view social change in terms of economic factor. A central principle is that the means of production is the economic base which influences or determines the political life.

Karl Marx says that every society is composed of social classes. He says that the history of a society from ancient times until the end is the historical forms of class conflict in society. He assumes that social class is divided into a lower class and upper class. The upper classes is controlled by the owners of the means of production, while the lower class is occupied by the workers. The relationship between them is the domination/power force. Besides, the society is also known for the infrastructure and superstructure. The superstructure is determined by the infrastructure on an economic basis. *"Kunci-kunci untuk memahami pemikiran Karl Marx antara lain menangani masalah eksploitasi, keterasingan subjek, konsep basis dan superstruktur, kesadaran kelas, ideologi, sejarah materialisme, dan politik ekonomi"* (Susanto, 2012: 161). Despite the variations and additions which are occurred in the century that followed, on the whole, Marx's writing still provides the theory of economics, sociology, history, and politics called Marxism.

Based on theory of marxism, people have different function in economic activities. The difference affects social class within the society. The resistance of lower classes toward the oppression from the capitalist sometimes triggers a revolution in which lower classes want to change their life and get better life. Under marxism, outdated class structures are supposed to be overthrown with force (revolution) instead of being replaced through patient modification. It holds that as capitalism has succeeded feudalism. It will be removed by a dictatorship of the workers (proletariat) called socialism, followed quickly and inevitably by a classless society which governs itself without a governing class or structure.

2.4 The Pursuit of Bliss

Bliss is a magnified emotional state of joy, personal fulfillment and happiness. According to Merriam Webster Online Dictionary, bliss is complete happiness. People spend their entire lives trying to find happiness, because the pursuit of bliss is a fundamental right as a human. People believe that marriage,

children, and high-paying jobs are the things needed to be happy. But bliss does not depend on other people or a particular relationship. Although a healthy relationship can increase a person's bliss, the relationship will never define bliss of individuals. Likewise with money. Money can help improve a person's bliss, but money does not necessarily make someone happy.

Bliss is the goal of life for every human beings. There are many ways to reach the bliss. However the mundane problems that appear are often as a barrier to achieve the bliss. Bliss in the real life is more important than money and possessions. Bliss is also the highest level of life component. Because being the highest level to be achieved, bliss is not easily owned by everyone. Lot of factors influencing such as social problems, conflicts, family, poverty, and many others.

2.5 American Dream

The term "American Dream" was firstly used by the American historian James Truslow Adams in his book "*The Epic of America*" published in 1931. At that time the United States

were suffering under the Great Depression. Adams used the term to describe the complex beliefs, religious promises and political and social expectations.

American Dream has become a widespread term to describe the American Way of Life in general, but it is by far not that easy. The American Dream always has something individual. To make American Dream come true, all Americans have to work together. American Dream is supposed to be for each American, despite all social groups. According to Adams, too many Americans have built mistrust towards American Dream because they did not reach what they had hoped for and also had expected.

For a lot of people, American Dream is connected to becoming wealthy and the ability to achieve everything if one only works hard enough for it (from rags to riches). It is much more and is beyond materialism. It is also the dream of living a simple, happy and fulfilling life and the most important features being faith and equality. So, American Dream is also about liberty

and America being the country of unlimited opportunities.

American Dream becomes a spirit to achieve success and bliss. America known as industry and technology area can attract anyone who wants to change their life better. The growing economy and industries create opportunities for people to work. Job is a promise to earn money easily and quickly. A lot of people are interested in the pursuit of bliss by collecting the possessions. A great success is measured by the amount of the possessions which is owned. As said by Monica F. Ghiotto in her thesis "American Dream is the freedom to its citizen to make whatever dream they want to achieve, any dream to have better life conditions can be achieved through hard work. Better life conditions cover many aspects; it can be success, fame, and wealth" (2015: 17). Success in achieving material is the evidence of success and hard work of American Dream.

3. Method of Research

Methods of the study are important procedures which are used to collect and to analyze the data by using

correct steps to find out new facts or information. The methods that is used by the writer are as follows:

3.1 Method of Collecting Data

To start and complete this research, the writer must get and collect data that support the discussion according to the point in objectives of the study. Because of that, the writer uses method of library research using the written texts as the resources to get the data. Atar Semi states that, "*penelitian yang dilakukan di kamar kerja penelitian ruang perpustakaan, di mana peneliti memperoleh data dan informasi tentang objek penelitian lewat buku-buku atau alat-alat audiovisual lainnya*" (1993: 8). So, library research is a method of data collection which is directed to find out the data and information through documents, whether written documents, photographs, pictures, and electronic documents that can support the writing process.

3.2 Method of Approach

The approach is the first step in realizing the objectives. The main data source in this research is the movie script of F. Scott Fitzgerald's

The Great Gatsby. Supporting data sources are the sources of the literature on the object under study. The writer uses marxist approach to analyze *The Great Gatsby* movie script. Marxism has not only affected the world of philosophy, but it also has affected in various fields of study such as economic, social, political, human sciences and literature. Marxist is an important phenomena in development of literature theory in the world.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Character of Jay Gatsby

The movie begins with conversation between a young man and a doctor. A young man named Nick Carraway is experiencing psychological distress, so he comes to a psychiatrist. He tells the doctor that there was someone who he could never forget, a full of hope person in the world he had ever met.

NICK: When I came back from New York, I was disgusted. Disgusted... with everyone, and everything... Only one man was exempt from my disgust. Gatsby... He was... the single most hopeful

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person I have ever met... And am ever likely to meet again. There was something about him... (Luhrmann & Pearce: 2)

Jay Gatsby is a protagonist in *The Great Gatsby*. The statement of Nick can be proved by the sentence "the single most hopeful person I have ever met". The word hopeful has positive meaning. Hopeful is a person who hopes to be succeed at something in the future event (Hornby, 1995: 573). Beside protagonist, Gatsby is the main character in *The Great Gatsby*.

"Nick pulls a final page from his typewriter, sets the page on his completed manuscript and we clearly see the title: "GATSBY." Nick considers this and then handwrites: "THE GREAT..." (Luhrmann & Pearce: 132).

Based on the quotation above, the director ensures the readers about the main character in *The Great Gatsby*. He has already mentioned "we clearly see the title: "GATSBY" that describe a lot about who will be the main character in *The Great Gatsby*. It is also explained that Gatsby has already done some efforts to be success from

the sentence "Nick considers this and then handwrites: "THE GREAT..."

Gatsby's character is explained in detail by the director. Gatsby also has background story that can be considered as the main character in *The Great Gatsby*. In addition, Gatsby is the character that mostly shows up from the beginning until the ending of *The Great Gatsby*.

Gatsby is round character in *The Great Gatsby* movie script. He has a complex motives and desires and living in the plans and ambitions. He is a man of mysterious figure, because no one knows his whereabouts and how he becomes rich. Gatsby appears as mysterious, friendly, happy, angry, scared, frustrated and disappointed to the readers throughout *The Great Gatsby* movie script. Besides, through narration of Nick, the readers get an insight into his human mind and all his emotions and whims.

In the beginning of the story, Gatsby is described as a mysterious characteristic. Gatsby throws a lavish party every weekend at his castle. Food and orchestra are presented. A lot of people from businessmen, artists, mafia, government, sportsmen

up to ordinary people come to his party. Not everyone is invited, but they are allowed to come to his party. Not everyone knows even sees Gatsby. Much speculation arise about guests' conversation that he had ever killed anyone, became a German spy, and studied at Oxford.

OWL EYES: Which one; the Prince, the Spy, the Murderer? I've been wandering his halls drunk for about a week now – but no matter where I look, I can't find anyone who knows anything real about Mr. Gatsby (Luhrmann & Pearce: 31).

Gatsby is a super rich man, at least it is proved by super fancy parties that he throws over the weekend. He is mysterious figure too for the citizens in New York City. It is also proved that no one knows who Gatsby is, what the job of Gatsby and where he got his abundant wealth like that from the sentence "I can't find anyone who knows anything real about Mr. Gatsby."

Gatsby becomes extremely wealthy and builds a house like castle, ostentatious house right across bay from Daisy's mansion. He throws

lavish parties every weekend by inviting everyone who wants to come, hoping Daisy will attend as so many others do.

"JORDAN: It's no coincidence. He bought that house to be near her, he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander in one night. He constantly asked about Daisy... I was the first one who knew her" (Luhrmann & Pearce: 54).

From the quotation above, Gatsby is too obsessed to his first love, Daisy, who has been married to Tom Buchanan. It is proved by Gatsby who bought a mansion not far from Daisy's residence and threw lavish parties hoping Daisy will visit the party someday. His only desire is winning back his one and only true love, Daisy Buchanan. In his mind, he has imagined that Daisy is more honorable and pure than she is. He unrealistically believes that if he can impress her enough by gaining enough wealth and prestige, he can win her back.

Nick accepts Gatsby's request. Before Daisy arrives at the Nick's home, Gatsby prepares Nick's home as beautiful as possible. He wants it to

be perfect at the first meeting after nearly five years they do not meet.

Reveal: An army of gardeners giving Nick's lawn and garden a make-over, fresh paint, new flowers, trimmed hedges...

Gatsby, dressed in white flanel suit, silver shirt, and gold tie, leads a dozen umbrella-holding servants across the lawn. Herzog holds an umbrella over Gatsby; the other servants shelter extravagant floral arrangements in crystal vases...(Luhrmann & Pearce: 57-58).

Gatsby is a perfectionist man. He wants to look perfect anywhere and anytime. It is just as when he meets Daisy again at Nick's home. He orders the servants to tidy Nick's house up as a meeting place of Gatsby and Daisy. This is also shown by the clothes worn by Gatsby like in the statement above "in white flanel suits, silver shirt, and gold tie". This is done for Gatsby wants to appear charming and fascinating, especially in front of the woman he loved, Daisy.

Gatsby talks a lot about the past and Nick understands that he wants to get something back, perhaps a figure

of himself swept away by loving Daisy. Confusing and messy life since that time, but if once again he can go back to a certain starting point and live it again slowly, he can find what he is looking for.

GATSBY: Why of course you can. Of course you can. You'll see. I am going to fix things just the way there were before. Everything's been so... so confused since then... Gatsby look out to the green light.

NICK (V.O.): He talked a lot about the past... As if he wanted to recover something...

GATSBY: If I could just get back to the start... If I could just get back to the start I could find it again.

NICK (V.O.): Some vision of himself that he had put into loving Daisy... (Luhrmann & Pearce: 86-87).

Nick is closer and more familiar to Gatsby. Nick knows about the biggest dream of Gatsby. His biggest dream is to repeat his love relationship with Daisy, marry her and live with her in the Gatsby's castle. The word "vision" in the last sentence by Nick's utterance has a meaning. According to the Oxford Dictionary, vision is a

thing experienced powerfully in the imagination, especially concerning the future (Hornby, 1995: 1330). Gatsby is a dreamer, he believes that he can go back in time and win his true love and spends his wealth and time obsessively going after this dream.

“GATSBY: I knew it was a great mistake for a man like me to fall in love. A great mistake. I’m only 32.. I might still be a great man if I could only forget that I once lost Daisy. But my life, old sport, my life has got to be like this...

He draws a slanting line from the lawn to the stars.

GATSBY (CONT’D) : It’s got to keep going up” (Luhrmann & Pearce: 89-90).

Based on the quotation above, Gatsby is the only kindest and most optimistic person that Nick had ever known. For Gatsby, the past can be repeated. The dreams should be realized although it must be by desperate effort. It can be proved by the sentence “He draws a slanting line from the lawn to the stars” and Gatsby’s utterance “It’s got to keep

going up” that describe life must be keep going up in the future.

4.2 Jay Gatsby’s Pursuit of Bliss

Jay Gatsby is from the lower class. He was not born from the upper class. From that social class background, it makes Gatsby have ambitions to change the social class. He has a dream to change his destiny and reach his bliss. There are some efforts which are conducted by Jay Gatsby to pursue his bliss. Jay Gatsby came from North Dakota. His real name is James Gatz. His parents are poor farmers. When he was young, he was not see himself as part of that family and as he was getting older, he sets off to accomplish more. At sixteen years old, he ran away from home and left poverty.

NICK (V.O.): His parents were dirt-poor farmers from North Dakota...

DISCOVER: YOUNG GATZ, barefoot, at a dusty desk, surrounded by tattered books, strange charts, and lists. He is practicing his signature...

NICK (V.O.): But he never accepted them as his parents at all.

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Young Gatz turns from his writing, and looks through a hole in the roof towards the infinite heavens...

NICK (V.O.): In his own imagination, he was... a Son of God...

CLOSE ON: The little boy looks up at CAMERA.

NICK (V.O.): Destined for future glory...

The silhouette of TEENAGE GATZ, now 16 years old, disappears into the hills...

NICK (V.O.): Chasing this destiny, a sixteen year old Gatz ran far, far away (Luhrmann & Pearce: 73)

Jay Gatsby was born with the name James Gatz. He is the son of the poor farmers in North Dakota. The sentences of "In his own imagination, he was... a Son of God.." and "Destined for future glory" mean that Gatsby's dream is to be rich but he does not just want to get rich. He wants to seem like he was always rich with the style, the manners, the clothes, and the way of talking of someone from the upper class.

Work is one of the part of Jay Gatsby efforts to improve his social class. Gatsby started to change his fate when he was 17 years old. When he looked at a yacht owned by a millionaire, Dan Cody. Then he swam toward the yacht and rescued him from the storm. Gatsby was working at Dan Cody and changed his name from James Gatz became Jay Gatsby. Slowly Gatsby became right-hand of Dan Cody until Dan Cody died.

EXT. LAKE SUPERIOR - LATE AFTERNOON

CLOSE ON: A handsome 17 year old YOUNG GATSBY, in a torn jersey and dirty canvas pants, rowing with all his might.

NICK (V.O.): One afternoon, off the coast of Lake Superior, he spotted a yacht in peril...

Young Gatsby lets the row boat drift close to a magnificent yacht. Wind is whipping whitecaps on the bay.

NICK (V.O.): He rowed out and rescued the vessel, and its captain, alcoholic millionaire Dan Cody...

The bleary face of DAN CODY appears at the yacht's railing.

CODY: Whadzamatta...?

Cody is very drunk. Young Gatsby calls urgently.

YOUNG GATSBY: Sir!

The shoal here's bad, this wind could drag you onto it....

Cody waves a dismissive arm...

CODY: Whaderathinkyerdoin..., *old sport?*

He collapses, dead drunk.

PUSH IN: On Young Gatsby; a plan forming...

NICK (V.O.): This was his opportunity, and he seized it.

Springing into action, he clambers onto the yacht.

GATSBY (VOICE): I decided right then and there to call myself: Jay Gatsby (Luhrmann & Pearce: 74).

At a glance of the beginning of the story, Gatsby's pursuit of bliss is that he wants to change the fate from the lower class to the upper class. Gatsby who is from the lower class is motivated to raise his class by getting occupation that produces a lot of money. From the beginning of his career, he has been encouraged from economic factor. This can be associated when he looked at the

yacht and asked for a job to Dan Cody. In this case, Gatsby is also very clever to see the opportunity. Yacht becomes a magnet to Gatsby's sight who is from a lower class background.

After worked for Dan Cody for long time, Gatsby joined the military. At that time, Gatsby and the other officers from Camp Taylor were at Daisy's house in Louisville. Gatsby who first met Daisy immediately fell in love to her. Daisy was a girl who came from the upper class in Louisville while Gatsby was a penniless.

GATSBY (BY THE POOL): I went to her house first with some of the other officers from Camp Taylor... I'd never been in such a beautiful house before...

There's so many dashing young officers here, and from such illustrious family's... (Luhrmann & Pearce: 87-88).

When Gatsby is sent to war, he asks Daisy to wait for him until he is successful. Gatsby realizes that Daisy is from the upper class. This is vastly different from Gatsby who is from the lower class. It can be proved with

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Nick's statement "But his uniform hid the truth. That he was a penniless young man with only the grand vision of himself." Daisy's mom also wants Daisy has a husband from upper class. The word "illustrious" means very well-know, admired, and respected (Hornby, 1995: 592). To be able to marry Daisy, Gatsby should work hard to become a wealthy and successful man.

However Daisy is married to Tom Buchanan, a man of tremendous wealth from Chicago. Gatsby is committed to become a rich man with a goal of getting back Daisy's love. Later, Gatsby conspires with the bootlegger such as Meyer Wolfsheim for illegally selling alcoholic beverages.

TOM (CONT'D): Mr. Gatsby who exactly are you anyhow? You see, I have made a small investigation into your affairs... You're one of Meyer Wolfsheim's bunch. See, he and this Wolfsheim bought up a lot of 'drugstore' and sold bootlegged alcohol over the counter! (Luhmann & Pearce: 106).

After his career in military is over because of World War, Gatsby switches his profession to become bootlegger. The definition of bootlegger is a person who makes and sells especially alcoholic drinks without registration or payment of taxes. The illegal business was very successful and he suddenly became the new money. Economic level of Gatsby changes drastically from previous occupations. This illegal business is the impact of high levels of consumption of liquors in the United States. Meyer Wolfsheim was the man who introduced Gatsby the criminal world (bootlegger).

To getting his first love, Gatsby also intentionally buys his home like a castle across Daisy's home, hoping to see her. Daisy lives in a mansion in East Egg with her husband and her daughter, the other part of Long Island that separates the sea, where the house can be seen from the Gatsby's castle. Nick remembers the night he saw Gatsby stretching his arms out to the water and realizes that the green light he saw was the light at the end of Daisy's dock.

DAISY: Look. It's my house.
Just there across the bay...

Gatsby and Daisy's eyes meet.

GATSBY: I know. I have
the same view from place
(Luhrmann & Pearce: 64).

The conversation above is occurred in Nick's house. It is also done when Gatsby and Daisy meet again after five years they do not see each other. Based on the conversation of Daisy and Gatsby above, it shows that Gatsby builds a house like castle, ostentatious house right across bay from Daisy's mansion. The words "same view" which is uttered by Gatsby has a meaning. The meaning is Gatsby lives next door to Nick and be Nick's neighbor where he can near to Daisy's residence.

After becoming a millionaire, Gatsby's life changes drastically. A lavish party is often held by him. Gatsby often throws the lavish party on the weekend. Gatsby throws the lavish party to attract his love, Daisy. He hopes Daisy will suddenly come to his party. It is another reason besides Gatsby buys his house in West Egg solely to be near Daisy.

JORDAN: It's no coincidence.

He bought that house to be near her, he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander in one night.

He constantly asked about Daisy...

I was the first one who knew her
(Luhrmann & Pearce: 54).

The lavish party which is carried out in his house brings great influence to Gatsby. The guests who come mostly from the upper classes and the wealthy man will see the festive party and luxury property owned by Gatsby, such as luxury homes and furnitures. The party which is held by Gatsby is very lavish. However, the party activity is just an existence of Gatsby who wish to be considered as upper class. The sentence of "he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander in one night." is an evidence that Gatsby actually does not like the party. The party is a simply Gatsby's way to attract the attention of his love, Daisy.

After five years and Gatsby becomes a wealthy man, he actually wants to invite Daisy to his house. But Gatsby is afraid if Daisy rejects it because she now has a husband. Because of this, Gatsby asks Nick to

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help him to reunite Gatsby and Daisy. Gatsby knows that Nick is Daisy's cousin. Based on the information from Jordan, Nick finds the facts that Gatsby still cherishes a very deep love for Daisy. Five years ago, when Gatsby became officer, before Daisy was married to Tom, Gatsby and Daisy were lovers. Gatsby came from a poor family, he hoped she would wait for him until Gatsby made something of himself. But when the war had been ended, she was married to Tom Buchanan, a wealthy man. Since then Gatsby worked hard to acquire more wealth in order to get Daisy back. Gatsby bought a luxury house near the residence of Buchanan, just separated by the sea, in order to monitor Daisy. Gatsby often threw a lavish party wishing Daisy came. Unfortunately she never came.

JORDAN: It's no coincidence. He bought that house to be near her, he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander in one night. He constantly asked about Daisy... I was the first one who knew her.

Nick takes this in; as if seeing Gatsby for the first time.

NICK: All that for a girl he hasn't seen in five years...? And now he just wants me to have her for tea...? (to himself) The modesty of it (Luhmann & Pearce: 54).

Gatsby has made some efforts to attract the attention of his love, Daisy. However, the efforts which are made by Gatsby are implicitly. It can be proved from the sentence of "He bought that house to be near her, he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander in one night." The efforts made by Gatsby are causing him to be mysterious figure. Therefore, Gatsby asks Nick help, who is Daisy's cousin. It is proved by Nick's rethorical question "And now he just wants me to have her for tea...?" that Gatsby persuades Nick to have both Daisy and him for tea. With Nick, Gatsby hopes to win back the woman of his dreams, Daisy Buchanan.

DAISY: Is all this made entirely from your own imagination?

GATSBY: No... You see you were there all along, in every idea, in every decision... Of course, if

anything is not to your liking, we can change it...

DAISY: It's perfect. From your perfect, irresistible imagination... (Luhmann & Pearce: 80)

Gatsby is having money now, he tries to repeat the past by winning Daisy's love. Since loving and losing Daisy before he is sent to war. Based on the conversation performed by Gatsby and Nick, it shows that Gatsby has been obsessed with her. She has become his dream. It can be proved by Gatsby's sentence "You see you were there all along, in every idea, in every decision..." He continues to hold on to hope, thus going out of his way to get Daisy. All that Gatsby done just for a purpose that is hope that one day Gatsby and Daisy could see again.

Blinded by his old love, Gatsby would do anything to feel again the beauty of that love. Gatsby had once at war and that was when Gatsby met and fell in love with Daisy who was the daughter the wealthy family. After the war ended, she still did not know that Gatsby was actually poor. It is different from the impression gained by Daisy when they first met. Because aware that he would not be able to

have Daisy, Gatsby was going to do anything to achieve the dream of becoming rich and living in the beauty he saw in himself rich people at that time. Persistence and ambition bring Gatsby step by step into the business world, although it perhaps not entirely legal, and finally brought to a wealth Gatsby five years later.

The American dream is represented by Gatsby's dream at that time. Dreaming is a positive thing, because it will make someone is able to achieve a better reality, as long as someone remains aware of the boundary between dream and reality.

NICK (V.O.): It eluded us then, but that's no matter – tomorrow we will run faster... Gatsby reaches out--

NICK (V.O.): Stretch out our arms farther... And one fine morning... As we PUSH PAST Gatsby's outstretched hand, THE OPENING IMAGE RETURNS: The green light pulsing in the abstract dark...

Nick's final words appear as TYPE ON THE SCREEN.

NICK (V.O.): So we beat on, boasts against the current, borne

back ceaselessly, into the past (Luhmann & Pearce: 132).

Nick reveals Gatsby's lifelong quest to transcend his past as ultimately ineffectual. Nick's statement above conclude the movie script and find Nick returning to the theme of the significance of the past to dreams of the future. It is represented by the green light. He focuses on the struggle of people to achieve their goals by both transcending and recreating the past. Yet people prove themselves unable to move beyond the past. This past functions as the source of their ideas about the future.

No matter how great Gatsby is, he remains an ordinary man who could love a girl and still love her eventhough they had never interacted during five years. But in this case, he could be said the great. His obsession to Daisy remains big and can be considered an obsession that brings him struggle to escape from poverty. On the other hand, this obsession catches him into his past. In other words, Gatsby is difficult to move on. It is seen from how he buys the house only to be staring at the green light

dock of Daisy's house and how he throws a lavish party without an invitation to the guests, in the hope Daisy will come to his party.

4.3 Marxism in *The Great Gatsby* Movie Script

The Great Gatsby movie script starts out showing the theme of Marxism almost immediately with the introduction of Nick as the narrator and his experience in society. Nick's experience in the society allows him to see things objectively, as he is not quite in the same class as any of the other characters. There is Tom and Daisy who both come from wealthy families who have money for generations. Then Myrtle and George Wilson, her husband, who both represent the lower class. The last is Gatsby who started his life as lower class, and moved up in the world with his questionably acquired wealth. It is undeniable that these character's experiences stem directly from their class. The other side, the impact of each class makes the reader conclude that society will indeed be better off without all these classes that cause more trouble.

a. Changing Class

Jay Gatsby represents all the ambitious poor people who believe in the opportunity, as he follows his dream until the end. He is unquestionably rich, seen from the descriptions of his grand mansion and lavish party. He is the archetypal rags to riches story but without happy ending. His parents were *dirty poor farmers*, and he changes his name from James Gatz to Jay Gatsby in order to separate himself from them. If he had admitted to being from a poor background, it is likely he would not have been as popular as he was. The goal of Jay Gatsby as the main character is to win Daisy's love, whom he lost the chance to marry when he was an officer. At the beginning of Gatsby and Daisy's relationship, when he was an officer, the ambitious of young Gatsby realises that his current status is not going to be enough to maintain his love.

At the bottom of the steps, smiling up, is : THE OBJECT OF HER AFFECTION, Young Gatsby in officer's uniform.

NICK (V.O.): But his uniform hid the truth. That he was

a penniless young man with only that grand vision of himself (Luhrmann & Pearce: 87).

Daisy's husband, Tom Buchanan is very wealthy, and will be considered as old money, which Gatsby cannot compete with as he comes across his wealth through his own means.

Gatsby lives in this luxurious house all by himself, with one goal of getting Daisy back. For five years, he has held the belief that when Daisy sees his house, and the wealth he has accumulated, Daisy will be his again. This reinforces the Marxist perspective that the upper class holds all the power, as Gatsby believes that money is the key to obtain Daisy's love. It looks like he will be successful, as they start seeing each other. Even Daisy tells Tom that she will leave him. However, the upper class of Gatsby, who is represented by Tom Buchanan is different. Tom puts doubt into Daisy's mind by telling her that Gatsby is just a bootlegger such as Meyer Wolfsheim.

Eventhough Daisy claims that she loves Gatsby, she is not even turning up to his funeral. In Daisy's world,

security and money are everything, and she will not let love get in the way of these things. Basically, classes are the driving force behind Gatsby's goal. Marxism in the society involves a struggle between the upper and lower class, which is in essence what Gatsby is struggling against, as he fights to be accepted and recognized as upper class.

b. Class Conflict

There are differences among social classes during 1920s in *The Great Gatsby*. These class differences in 1920s describe different characters of different social classes and distinctly describe them in the way they act belonging to that of one class. It also introduces the setting that is designed to show these class differences by placing them in different locations. Such as character of Tom, Daisy, and Gatsby are examples and *The Great Gatsby* movie script surely shows how they conflict over these class differences.

The Great Gatsby movie script portrays the newly developing class rivalry between "old money" and "new money" in the struggle between Gatsby and Tom over Daisy. Gatsby

lives on West Egg in Long Island area. The West Egg is an area of the wealthy elite men or new money. The new money made their fortune in 1920s. Instead, in East Egg which is known for housing those with old money or family wealth handed down from the 19th centuries or before.

Tom is a stereotypical aristocrat of America, who is a believer in the pure white face's need to subjugate everyone else in the world. It is another example of the vast chasm between social classes. Tom represents the very top of the social hierarchy, who always gets what he wants as he is very arrogant. Throughout the movie script, Gatsby is put down, especially by Tom, for being his rival to win Daisy's love. For example is when the truth comes out about Gatsby and Daisy's relationship. Tom scorns the very idea that a girl from upper class would love a poor man.

TOM: She's not leaving me; and certainly not for a common swindler! (Luhrmann & Pearce: 106).

From a Marxist perspective, this was to be expected, as someone as

rich as Tom would never see Gatsby as a viable candidate for his wife's affections. Tom scoffs the idea that a poor man marrying the upper class woman. Although Gatsby is wealthy, he does not possess the complete status of living the high life or being considered as old money.

c. American Dream

Gatsby has worked hard during his life. He is more self-invented than any other characters in the movie script. He knows that when he was young, he wants to be rich and does whatever it took to achieve this. When he ran away and worked for Dan Cody on his yacht, he takes his first step up to go the upper class. Yacht of Dan Cody is magnificent for Gatsby. Gatsby sees the class above him as well as Daisy, his love interest. Neither of the Gatsby and Daisy are as wonderful as he imagines them to be. No one in the characters of *The Great Gatsby* movie script is really happy in his/her class. He/she either wants to become richer and move up a class or becomes one of the few in the very top order, like Tom and Daisy. With the Marxist perspective, life is a continuous

struggle between the bourgeois and the proletariat.

The ambition of succeed is central in American Dream. It also presents in *The Great Gatsby* movie script, with the characters trying to get more than they already have. The presence of American Dream makes people born free and equal. Everyone in American Dream has the right and often the duty, to try to succeed and to do his/her best to reach the top. Because everyone is born free and equal, he/she has the same opportunities to succeed in life.

American Dream is symbolized by the character of Jay Gatsby. Gatsby succeeds in changing his life as he goes from having nothing to be very rich. His success comes during 1920s. How Gatsby makes his fortune is not clear but it is clear that he is involved in some illegal business.

d. Economic Status and Economic Power

Daisy is perfect woman for Gatsby. She is destined to be forever out of reach for him. Throughout the movie script, Daisy is described as a sweet and exciting woman. Even her affair with Gatsby does not make her

husband to be mad to her after he finds out the truth. Through Daisy, the upper class women are as better than all others. Daisy is definitely portrayed as a lot classier than lower class women like Myrtle. Myrtle differs from Daisy in that her socio economic status is much lower.

NICK (V.O.): Daisy Buchanan. The golden girl. A breathless warmth flowed from her. A promise that there was no one else in the world she so wanted to see... (Luhmann & Pearce: 9).

Contrastingly, Myrtle is described as buxom, smoldering, and elementally sensual. Daisy can have any men she wants, but this would not be the case if she were poor. This is also the case with Tom, who although has won Daisy's love as his wife but still wants more. He is not satisfied even with the women available to him. He is having affair with Myrtle.

The women of main characters in *The Great Gatsby* movie script are Myrtle and Daisy. There are definition connections between Daisy and Myrtle. For instance both of them are unhappy with the person they are married to. This is because they are

both in love, in different ways, with Tom. They each seem to want a different guy. Daisy wants Gatsby and Myrtle wants Tom.

When Nick calls Tom and Daisy that are reckless, it signifies that he understands their true spirits. Nick realizes how much Tom and Daisy take advantage of the convenience of their wealth.

NICK (V.O.): They were careless people, Tom and Daisy. They smashed up things and people and then retreated back into their money and their vast carelessness... (Luhmann & Pearce: 128).

It shows how Tom and Daisy's perception on life is because of their wealth. They possessed so much that nothing meant anything to them any longer. Tom and Daisy are unaware to any responsibilities because any challenges they face is either handled by others, or dealing with in the form of money.

e. The Proletariat

Myrtle and her husband, George Wilson, are representation of the lower class, which is generally gloomy, and makes the lower class

lifestyle seem very depressing. Wilson is a very pathetic character, who is not even aware that his wife is having an affair with Tom Buchanan. The fact that Tom is having an affair with a lower class woman also reinforces the prejudiced view that poorer women are more likely to sleep around than classy women. It would seem that money makes an interesting and happy people, while lack of this inevitably leads to a boring, such as people's life in the valley of ashes. Marxism would dispute it because Marx wants classes to be overthrown, implying that everyone is capable of living in the same standards as each other and are therefore all equal.

Although George Wilson, like Gatsby works hard, the American Dream of obtaining prosperity through hard work eludes him. It is alluding to the fact that it is much easier to get rich fast through unscrupulous means as Gatsby has done to be bootlegger, while George has done the owner of car shop in his small garage. George is described as a *nervous and spiritless man*. He is also under the power of Myrtle, his wife

who bosses him around. As well as Tom, who starts doing business with Wilson even promising to sell him a car. Wilson really does not realize the affair that occurs between Myrtle and Tom.

Myrtle and Wilson are a reinforcement of the rags to riches goal with no happy ending just like Gatsby's life. They never progress beyond the rags status, although they try their hardest to improve their lot in life. George, by working hard in his store and Myrtle, by associating herself with the high class of Tom Buchanan. Classes are always prevalent in *The Great Gatsby movie script*. There is always richer and poorer person in each characters. Myrtle dies without being married by Tom in the end, while Wilson goes mad. His murder of Gatsby could be read as an attempt to overthrow the higher society, as a step towards a more equal society.

Throughout the movie script, it is implied that it is impossible to rise above one's class. Gatsby tries it and it seems like he may be successful in getting Daisy to love him back. But in the end, Daisy stays with her wealthy

husband, disregarding her heart which wants Gatsby, for the security and wealth that her husband offers. This is a mockery of the American Dream which gave hope to everyone that if they worked hard, they would reap the rewards, no matter their surname or beginning in life. Everyone is basically chasing money or power. Gatsby, who was chasing his love, actually ends up chasing only these materialistic things to impress his love.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

5.1 Conclusion

Bliss is the goal of life for everyone. Many ways are doing by people to achieve bliss. Competing to fighting over wealth or power is as one way to achieve bliss. However, it represents human greed. No human is always happy throughout his/her life. There is always a grief that complements the bliss itself. Each problems faced makes people feel difficult to achieve their bliss.

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in the previous chapter, the writer draws some conclusions after analyzing Jay

Gatsby as the main character in *The Great Gatsby* movie script. Jay Gatsby is a figure with a unique character, he is a mysterious and ambitious figure. Although he is included in the upper class and he likes to throw lavish parties, in fact he never likes those party. Although there are also many wealthy and beautiful women in the party, but he remains faithful to his true love, Daisy.

Actually Gatsby is a young man who was born from a poor family, but eventually he is able to achieve success and high social status. The main goal of Gatsby is to become the upper class. There are some efforts which are done by Gatsby to be a wealthy man, such as worked for Dan Cody, became an officer in World War I, sold liquors illegally, bought a grand mansion in Long Island and threw lavish parties. Daisy is an upper class symbol to Gatsby so if Gatsby wins Daisy's love, he would be an upper class and maintain his social class.

From the analysis that has been conducted by the writer, it can be concluded that *The Great Gatsby*

movie script represents the society change efforts, such as one practiced by Jay Gatsby to improve his economic status. The writer uses marxism theory to analyze *The Great Gatsby* movie script. *The Great Gatsby* is an idea of Fitzgerald in reflecting social condition of United States in 1920s that was experiencing economic growth. Economic growth brought the influence for the society that they were willing to do anything to improve their economic status.

Besides a romantic story, it also shows the greed, the affair, and American dream which cannot be separated from money. As the result of this analysis, there is a great division between the different social classes, and it is nearly impossible to cross these boundaries. In *The Great Gatsby* movie script, Fitzgerald proposes the failed American Dream.

5.2 Suggestion

On the basis of those conclusions, this study reveals several suggestions to the readers. The first suggestion is one should perform their best to achieve their goal. We should examine the past and learn from the mistakes, so that future generations

can live in a more peaceful world. The second suggestion is one must look at things from another's perspective in order to understand and treat others kindly and respectfully. The last suggestion is for the future researchers, they can explore the internal conflicts faced by the characters in the novel more comprehensively.

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