

The Value Of Money In The Great Gatsby

NOEL Y.W. SUMANTRI , MERLIN M. MAUKAR , FIVY A.ANDRIES

Universitas Negeri Manado

Correspondance author : shanksinfamous@gmail.com

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Abstract: The tittle of this research is the Value of Money in Scott Fitzgerald. The Great Gatsby , the problem to be discussed is how the uniqueness and peculiarity of some things that have been found in The Great Gatsby novel , this research used descriptive qualitative methods , because the literary work itself is a description of human life in society and in the era of so called American dream , in this case , after analyzing the data , the writer then provided a description about the American dream in the novel , the writer chooses passage or quotes from the novel , and other source such as the world wide web that are related to the research topic , that indicate the "Value" of money in The Great Gatsby , it is expected to be the reference for those who want to conduct similar studies in the future , and acknowledge the reader about certain issue in a novel that might be found in our daily life

Keywords: *Hedonism , Society , Money , American Dream , The Great Gatsby*

INTRODUCTION

The influence of society on one's view of wealth in the novel The Great Gatsby turns into an intriguing topic for investigation, as this analysis uncovers how individuals gain their freedom through substantial wealth and how societal factors can influence their behavior. Another reason the author chooses this title is that the themes presented can bolster the claim that literature mirrors real-life events, as observed by Wellek and Warren (2013: 98) concerning the relationship between literature and society

The Problem that will be discussed is how the uniqueness and peculiarity of the metaphorical language style used in The Great Gatsby , and how the function and

purpose of using this figure of speech are used to express the character's thought's in conveying the message , based on the identification of the problem , the formulated problem that will be analysed are how is the value of money shown in *The Great Gatsby* , and what are the connection between hedonism

The reason this topic occur is because in *The Great Gatsby* show the condition in 1920's era or The golden era . but it also the lowest years of government in all of America. Where the wealth be more rich and the poor be more poor. This causes people to have to work harder to make ends meet. This also results in an increase in the level of capitalism because people want to live better by having luxury goods as their outlet. The writer wanted to show the value of money in society that become the problem of capitalism that also become a problem faced by people in the 1920's, where makes money become the most valuable thing in that time and this problem are still relevant today.

It is found here exist a varieties of problems that money can caused and affect the characters that is why this research will be limited to focus on revealing the lifestyle of the main character about hedonism , that leads to the understanding of the value of money and its effects that are describe in the story.

And also it is hoped that this study will provide an understanding of the theory applied in this research , acknowledge about certain issue in the novel that might be found in our daily life , and to enrich the hegemony theory , furthermore to be the reference for those who want to conduct similar studies

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative methods by[Creswell, 2009; Hancock et al., 2009]: narrative, phenomenology, grounded theory, action research, case study, ethnography, historical research, and content analysis, because the literary work it self is a description of human life society . In this case,

after analyzing the data, the writer then provided a description about the American Dream in the novel. In collecting the data the writer carried out several activities, that is identify and classify data from the novel, especially the main character including the interactions between the main characters and the supporting characters, the data is collected from the novel and other reference related to this research topic, the focus of this research is the behavior of women towards men, and how society influences this behavior. The characteristics of hedonism are identified and collected through character analysis of the characters in this novel. How society influences hedonistic behavior will be identified using the novel *The Great Gatsby* itself and other references related to life in New York in 1922, the setting of this story.

Intrinsically, the writer analyses the main character and their behavior in the novel *The Great Gatsby* (Renewellek1849:139). Extrinsically, the writer analyses the relationship between American society in 1922 and the value of money which triggered by the behavior of hedonism as reflected (Wellek&Warren1963:139)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In summary, money in *The Great Gatsby* is used not only as a symbol of wealth and power, but also as a means to explore deeper themes such as the American Dream, social class, and the emptiness of materialism. Money has a corrosive effect in the novel, shaping the characters' identities, relationships, and moral choices, but ultimately proves to be insufficient for achieving true happiness or satisfaction.

Gatsby view point on the Value of Money

Material and wealth appear to hold considerable sway and lead individuals in power to believe they can either imply or purchase happiness for others. Essentially, wealth is characterized as a valuable resource whose existence significantly affects a person's life. "In my younger years my father gave me some advice 'Whenever

you feel like criticizing any one just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (Fitzgerald 1925;3). The primary factors within the social structure demonstrate how money can corrupt individuals, categorize social groups, and alienate others, exert influence and grant power, yet cannot assure particular values in life.

Linking the hedonistic

There are instances where people in contemporary societies use their economic influence to assert either political interest or position to the common citizens because they can afford to pay daily expenses. Nonetheless, they all fail to attain maximum happiness and fulfillment in life because money can never be everything a person needs to survive. Seemingly, however rich or poor a person could be in a society, joyfulness is an individual choice. Richness comes with massively ending sacrifices that sometimes may cause mayhem in families.

Conclusion

In this research the writer conclude that the presence of middle class and working class is portrayed alongside the upscale society the contrasting socioeconomic classes, reflecting the perception of the American public during the 1920s. The notion of not belonging to certain social classes is evident, as the characters strive to fit into a world that does not accept them based on societal norms of that era. The writer also explores the concept of the American dream, showcasing how Gatsby can achieve remarkable success despite starting with very little. this study underscores the social class and the challenges it poses, irrespective of one's social origins. Gatsby takes pride in his wealth, yet he is not viewed on the same level as those so called old money and is not considered equal in their eyes , It is evident that one's background is just as crucial as financial status in determining social standing, particularly in the elite circles of 1920s America. In this study we can understand that Tom Buchanan epitomizes the American aristocrat, embodying the social hierarchy's pinnacle where his arrogance allows him to have

his every desire fulfilled as a member of the upper class who squanders his inheritance on his own pleasures.

The entire upper class embodies all the negative aspects of a society divided by social class, as they are willing to sacrifice those around for selfish desires. Tom's sense of entitlement can possibly be attributed to the fact that he has spent his life believing he is part of an elite group of individuals due to their exceptional background. On the other hand, Gatsby symbolizes the interpretation of the American dream, a time when it was difficult to rise from poverty to wealth.

However, Gatsby's life lacks perfection without Daisy, highlighting the issue of the social class system. Family inheritance plays a crucial role in determining one's social status. Gatsby's inheritance does not grant him the same social status as Daisy in the community he hails from.

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