

**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA  
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA**

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

N°:



DOMAIN: FOREIGN LANGUAGES

STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

OPTION: LITERATURE & CIVILIZATION

**NARRATING THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE IN F. SCOTT  
FITZGERALD'S *THE GREAT GATSBY***

**Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English in Partial  
fulfilment of the Requirements for the Master's Degree**

**Candidates:**

**Miss. Alima AFFANI**

**&**

**Miss. Roukaya CHELBEB**

**Supervisor: Mr. Bachir SAHED**

**2016 /2017**

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## DEDICATION

To the dearest people to my heart,

To my lovely parents, Nouari and Rbiha,

To my darling husband, Abdlkader,

To my brothers, Nasro and Abdou,

To the apple of my eyes, Aichouche,

To all my family,

To my dearest friends, Asia, Ahlem, Alima, Samira, Ichraf, Samia, Mouna, Ilham, Nawel, Ibtissem, Samia, Soumia, Khadidja, Zineb, Nesrine, Ikram, Amina, Marwa, and all my classmates.

I say: I LOVE YOU GREATLY!

**Roukaya**

## **DEDICATION**

To my beloved parents, RabeH and Torkia,

To my lovely husband, Mounir,

To my dearest brothers and sisters, Thouadi, Amer, Saida, Samira, Khalissa,  
and Mouna,

To all my family, and all my friends.

With my love!

**Alima**

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

*GG: The Great Gatsby*

## ABSTRACT

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is one of the most colourful and symbolic landmarks in American literature. The aim of this research is to analyse Fitzgerald's narrative discourse in the novel. Hence, the first chapter introduces the socio-historical context of the novel. It shows the impact of the Jazz Age on American life. The second chapter deals with narrative discourse in *The Great Gatsby*. It examines Fitzgerald's remarkable innovation in modern writing, breaking most of the previous literary rules and conventions. His use of multiple and unreliable narrators, relativity of time, modern tragedy, and colour symbolism are some of the stylistic techniques that brought the work many critical acclaims. The third chapter uses the deconstructive approach to literary to highlight the story's undesirability and postponement or absence of meaning. Therefore, *The Great Gatsby* is more than just a love story of a poor man who wastes his life on a lie. It is a probe into the absurdities of life and death, good and evil, wealth and poverty, past and present, innocence and guilt, sanity and insanity, dream and nightmare. It is especially about the emptiness of Gatsby as well as language.

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## INTRODUCTION

*The Great Gatsby* is a novel written by American novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald. It was first published during the Roaring Twenties. The Roaring Twenties is a name given to the period of 1920<sup>s</sup> in America. This period is characterized by many features namely industrialization, materialism and individualism.<sup>1</sup>

Technology thrived in the 1920<sup>s</sup>. Cars, movies, radio, and chemical industries were the most important technological advancements. Automobile industry had caused widespread effects. It helped in the rise of big cities. Radio was the first mass broadcasting medium, connected the nation and provided it with news.

During the Roaring Twenties, leaders of America were from the Republican Party, members of this political party were businessmen. They wanted government to act as a helpful part in business but not to limit or control it. They adopted a *laissez-faire* policy. Economic growth and prosperity convinced people that Republicans were right politics, and government during this period witnessed a strong alliance between politicians and businessmen.<sup>2</sup>

Eighteenth Amendments in 1920 applied prohibition. People, however, were unable to stop drinking neither in the country nor in the city. They were shocked and frightened by killing and loneliness that resulted from prohibition. Consequently, they traded illegally with alcoholic beverages. Smuggling and bribery were the main activities to buy liquor. Bootleggers emerged in the cities. They killed and stole in order to be strong and rich. Corruption spread in the society.

*The GG* brought a remarkable innovation in modern writing breaking most of the previous literary rules and conventions. In the novel, Fitzgerald introduces new stylistic strategies and techniques. Following the publication of the *GG*, Fitzgerald received a letter from his editor Maxwell Perkins when he was in Paris,

I like the book so much myself and see so much in it that its  
recognition and success mean more to me than anything else in

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<sup>1</sup> Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*. 1925; P167

<sup>2</sup> Reynolds, Guys, J. "Introduction To The Great Gatsby," Faculty of Publication University of Nebraska, 2001, P07-10.

sight at the present time; I mean in any department of interest, not only that of literature. [Y]ou can at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I shall watch it with the greatest anxiety imaginable in anyone but the author.<sup>3</sup>

Fitzgerald received many critical acclaims thanks to his narrative style. He is hailed as America's great stylist. He is affected by many writers since there are many shared characteristics between his writings and their ones.<sup>4</sup>*The GG* is a story of a poor man called Gatsby; he loves a woman from the upper class, and wants to marry her. Because Gatsby is not wealthy, Daisy marries Tom Buchanan who is also from the upper class. Gatsby works hard and hard in order to achieve his dream even by illegal activities. Nevertheless, he faces a tragic end.

*The GG* mirrors American society during The Roaring Twenties or the Jazz Age. America at that time witnessed the spread of modern ideologies. Technology is the main cause that led the new generation of men and women to break with the old norms and traditions. Individual freedom boosted the spread of alcohol, drinking, and many other immoral activities and caused a pervasive change in the American society.

Fitzgerald's *the GG* is affected by its socio-historical context. Electricity and light are recurrent motifs in the novel. Daisy is described as a bright shining girl always in white. Fitzgerald depicts the theme of materialism in his novel. It means that in order to reach the ideal life, one must have money, as there is no existence of immaterial things. By time, materialism spread to become an economic aspect of American society. This aspect appeared in *the GG*, as life of people at the time was full of parties and money. Nick said in this context,

*My neighbour, Mr Gatsby, gave parties all through the summer. Nearly every night his house and gardens were full of music. Men and Women walked among the beautiful flowers, laughing, talking and drinking champagne.” (GG, 19)*

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<sup>3</sup> Fitzgerald, Perkins, and the Great Gatsby, Carla Mulford, the Journal of Narrative, Vol. 12, No. 3(Fall, 1982), pp.210\_220, Journal of Narrative Theory, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Sebastian, Falth, Social class and Status in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Halmstad University, 2013, P04-05.

<sup>4</sup> Michaela, Pichova. Comparative Analysis of two Czech Translation of Francis Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby. Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald: The Great American dreamer, Masaryk University, 2014, p. 08.

Gatsby himself is a materialistic man. He works hard for the purpose of making money. Even though he succeeds in this, he could not achieve his dream, because people's minds are corrupted by money and materialistic ideas.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to materialism, individualism in the novel is depicted in the character of Jay Gatsby. He could transform his life from poverty to wealth. Nick also relies on himself in improving his social status. Gatsby moves from the East to the West searching for opportunities for a better life.<sup>6</sup>

Influenced by the winds of Modernism, Fitzgerald marks a notable break with the tradition thanks to his innovation in language and narrative style. Nick is a narrator and a character in the story. Fitzgerald uses him all the time as a narrator, and sometimes he uses other characters. Nick begins by introducing himself. He then describes the setting and character traits. Nick sometimes opts for the use of the direct speech rather reported speech. Thus, the narrator could have a free exploration of the character's thoughts and feelings. Therefore, Fitzgerald uses a first-person subjective point of view. Nick describes and comments on the different characters and settings, "*about half-way between West Egg and New York, the rail road crosses a dirty, narrow river.*" (GG, 12) He describes Miss Jordan Baker as "*slim, with grey eyes and a pale, unhappy face.*" (GG, 19) This use of description has three functions representing the narrator's criticism, showing the narrator's personal perspective, and mastery of style.<sup>7</sup>

Transformation of time is another characteristic of narrative discourse in *the GG*. Time is changeable in the novel. This is also clear in Daisy's change in her relations with Gatsby or Tom.<sup>8</sup>

Gatsby is considered great because he remains loyal in his love to Daisy, even though he hears that she is married to another man. Gatsby is also great in his efforts to gather money and become rich. He is a helpful man since he helps George and Myrtle Wilson and even Nick. He is great because he never drinks alcohol even if he trades in it.

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<sup>6</sup> Holly. *The Material and the Real: American conceptions of the materialism in the Nineteenth century*. P10-17.

<sup>7</sup> *Narration in the Great Gatsby, A stylistic study*; P47.

Raymond M, Vince. *The Great Gatsby and The Transformations of space-Time*. Peen State University Press. 2006, p116-117.

<sup>8</sup> Johanna, Svensson. *Mr. Gatsby's Illusory Greatness, How the narrator creates the "something gorgeous" in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby*. ENGK, spring 2009; P17.

Gatsby has a dream, the dream of winning Daisy's love again. His dream is used to symbolise the American Dream. Gatsby depends on himself in order to realize his ambition. He attempts to use different ways for the purpose of being rich. When he takes all his chances, he finds that his love Daisy is married to Tom. As Daisy decides to stay with Tom, she marks the beginning of Gatsby's tragedy which transforms his dream to a nightmare.<sup>9</sup>

Stylistically speaking, Fitzgerald is careful with the use of diction. He employs the right words in the right places. He uses figurative symbolic language in order to create a romantic sense. For example, he describes Daisy saying that her face was sad and lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes and bright passionate mouth. This passage is full of adjectives that make it easy for the reader to imagine Daisy's traits. Fitzgerald depends on the use of adjectives in describing settings and characters.<sup>10</sup>

Symbolism is extensively used in the novel. Fitzgerald uses colours as symbols as a powerful technique in his writing. He uses green as a symbol of spring, hope, and youth; red as anger, danger, and luxury.<sup>11</sup>

Therefore, this research examines:

## **NARRATING THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S *THE GREAT GATSBY***

It aims to answer the following research questions:

How does *the GG* reflect the spirit of its age? What are the characteristics of F. Scott Fitzgerald's narrative discourse? And how can we read *The Great Gatsby* from a Deconstructive perspective?

This research paper is divided into three chapters; the first chapter, **Socio-historical Context** will deal with the historical background that surrounded the publication of novel. It is divided into four sections. Section one, **The Roaring Twenties**, analyses the developments that characterized the 1920s. Section two, ***the GG* and the Twentieth Century**, deals with the

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<sup>9</sup>Tina, Hocenski. The concept of the American Dream in Fitzgerald's Great Gatsby and Arthur Miller's Death Of Salesman, Osijeku, 2015; P03.

<sup>10</sup> Combs, Maggie. How to Analyze the Works of Scott Fitzgerald. ABDO, Content Consultant: Joe Hughes, Department of English Literature, University of Minnesota. p49.

<sup>11</sup>A.E.E.ELMORE. Color and Cosmos in The Great Gatsby, The Sewanee Review, Vol. 78, No. Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. P11-12.

impact of the Roaring Twenties on Fitzgerald's novel. Section three, **The Twentieth's Century Philosophical Thought**, demonstrates the philosophical ideas that emerged at that time. This section is divided into two subsections: **Materialistic Views in Fitzgerald's Work**, and **Individualistic View in Fitzgerald's *The GG***. Section three, **Literary Scene during the Roaring Twenties**, examines literature of the twentieth century and its influence on Fitzgerald's style.

The second chapter, **F. Scott Fitzgerald's Narrative Discourse in *The Great Gatsby***, will represent the literary analysis of Fitzgerald's style. It is divided into seven sections. Section one, **Narrative Voice in *The Great Gatsby***, discusses the different techniques that are used by Nick Caraway as the narrator of the story. Section two, **Relativity of Time**, sheds light on the remarkable changes of time between the past and the present in the story. Section three, **the greatness of the protagonist 'Jay Gatsby'**, illustrates the different attitudes that make Gatsby great. Section four, **From a Dream to a Nightmare**, shows the tragic twist in Gatsby's life. Section five, ***The Great Gatsby* as a Melancholic Atmosphere**, analyses the mood of the novel. The sixth section, **The Power of Words in *The Great Gatsby***, scrutinises the use of diction in the novel. The last section, ***The Great Gatsby* as a Coloured World**, elaborates on the ability of F. Scott Fitzgerald in using symbolism and figurative language.

The third chapter, **Deconstructive Reading to *The Great Gatsby***, will examine the application of deconstructive criticism on the novel. It is divided into two sections. The first section, **Counterpoint in *The Great Gatsby***, will check out the binary oppositions that are used in the story. The second section, **Postponement of Meaning**, will attempt to highlight absence of meaning in the novel.

Therefore, the present research employs the deconstructive approach to literary criticism to highlight the story's ambiguity and instability of meaning. Deconstruction as a theory of literary criticism was led by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida. It is also adopted by many Yale University scholars such as J. Hillis Miller and Paul de Man. It deals with language and meaning of literary text. Derrida believes that language is arbitrary, and that speech represents thought more than writing. Thus, writing texts should be deconstructed. Deconstructionist critics should consider binary oppositions and postponement of meaning. As a deconstructive reading to *the GG*, the study shows that binary oppositions of present and past, East and West, innocent and decadence are recurrent in the story. By changing his name

and leaving his hometown, Gatsby escapes his past and lives in the present. Gatsby's innocence is opposed to his dishonest way of looking at life. Binary oppositions are also reflected in settings and characters. East Egg is corrupted, while West Egg is uncorrupted. It even exists between characters such as, Gatsby and Tom, Daisy and Myrtle.

## CHAPTER I: SOCIO-HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Roaring Twenties or the Jazz Age, these years were years of prosperity in all sides. The economy progressed and electricity helped in facilitating the work in factories. It was a time of machinery and urbanization. Moreover, the American society witnessed a transformation dominated by modern thought with more freedom given to women. Smoking and alcoholism were the characterizing features of American society. Technology contributed in shaping a new generation that went against all what is traditional. Politics, however, remained in the hands of the conservative party.

*The GG* mirrors the image of the American society in the 1920<sup>s</sup>. Fitzgerald was influenced by the dramatic changes that the American society witnessed in 1920's; he depicted many social problems in his novel like betrayal, prohibition, and social class struggle. He was also affected by many philosophical ideas that emerged at that time such as materialism and individualism.

Fitzgerald as a modernist writer is influenced by some modernist works and authors namely Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and T.S Eliot's "The Waste Land". He learned from Conrad style of writing, the use of narrator, also themes and plot.

### 1. 1. The Roaring Twenties:

Prosperity and technology of the twentieth influenced the American life, for instance the automobile helped in the rise of cities and urbanization. Agriculture was replaced by manufacturing; Light, electricity, cars, telephones, movies and photography were the main inventions in the 1920<sup>s</sup>.<sup>12</sup>

Prohibition of alcohol was adopted in the Eighteenth Amendments in January 1920. As a result, illegal activities such as smuggling, crimes, and bribery spread in society.<sup>13</sup> Americans obtained their alcohol from bootleggers who were very dangerous causing bloody street skirmishes. They fought against each other and the winner became richer. They bribed police officers in order to cover them. By the end of 1920<sup>s</sup>, corruption prevailed and the American society lost its respect.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Thomas Reeves, *Twentieth Century American a Brief History*, (New York: University Press, 2000), p. 85.

<sup>13</sup> Bryn O'Callaghan, *Illustrated History of the USA*, ( Longman Group, 2004), p. 95.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 95.

Movies and Radio programmes changed traditional values and life style. People went to the cinema each week. Hollywood became the Film making capital of the world. Movies were silent and people all over the world became addicted American movies.<sup>15</sup> By 1923, there were more than five hundred radio stations providing its listeners with news and different forms of entertainment.<sup>16</sup>

In the 1920<sup>s</sup>, American culture was influenced by materialism and greed. This was expressed in many books, articles, and poems. Art also flourished at that time. Many artistic figures emerged like Edward J. Steichen, Alfred Stieglitz, and Louis Armstrong who helped in paving the way to a new type of music “Jazz music.”<sup>17</sup>

Political speaking, The First World War fought in other countries and America was neutral. This policy benefited the Americans and made them rich. Moreover, the political scene in America was captured by the Republican Party which supported businessmen by law and money.<sup>18</sup>

In addition, congress imposed high taxation on external products in order to make imported goods more expensive and encourage internal commerce. Republicans said that wealth would benefit everybody. Herbert Hoover was the president of America during that time. He believed in American prosperity. He said that there would be a chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage.<sup>19</sup>

The era was characterized by the growth of industry and many Americans became wealth during this period. Industry of automobile became the first power in America. Henry Ford and Frederick Taylor were prominent industrial figures in the 1920’s, another new industry emerged in 1920’s which is the airplane with Glenn Curtiss.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>*Illustrated History of USA*, op. cit., p. 94.

<sup>16</sup>*Twentieth Century American a Brief History*, op. cit., p. 87.

<sup>17</sup>*Ibid.*, pp 89-90.

<sup>18</sup>Bryn O’ Callaghan. *Illustrated History OF U.S.A*, 7ed. ( Longman group. 2004), p. 95.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 95.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 92.

## 1.2. *The Great Gatsby* and the Twentieth Century

Fitzgerald's works reflected the Jazz Age.<sup>21</sup> *Great Gatsby*, the master piece of Fitzgerald is the greatest work of American prose, this novel can introduce the Jazz age like a documentary paper. It represented social classes, prohibition, and social changes that emerged at that age.<sup>22</sup>

Gatsby was the major character in the century. Americans were influenced by the novel for several years because Gatsby was a mythic character in which he personified the American romantic hero.<sup>23</sup> There was something wonderful about him and he represented the American elegance in this sense. Nick Caraway said, "There was something gorgeous about him." Fitzgerald made Gatsby like myth, he was like a son of God. Fitzgerald made Gatsby invisible person, and he was a fantastic character in fantastic world.<sup>24</sup>

*The GG* is a modernist work. Fitzgerald told his editor Maxwell Perkins: "I want to write something new, something extraordinary and beautiful and simple intricately patterned" Fitzgerald wanted to break the traditional norms and being an avant-gardist; he wrote something new and different.

Fitzgerald lived in America without technology (gaslight, using horses like means of transport) but by 1925, America knew electricity and technological innovations. That is what affected him to use technology in his novel.<sup>25</sup>

*The GG* introduced the urban world and technological innovation, the novel is a story of city, the city is presented in Fitzgerald's work. Gatsby moved to the city and Nick became resident there. Phone conversations are important in the novel, phones are used in the story in various contexts<sup>26</sup> as in "when dinner was nearly over, the phone rang in the house" (GG12), "one day the phone rang, it was my cousin Daisy" (GG6).

Influencing by light and electricity at that time, Fitzgerald described Daisy as an attractive girl always bright, she wears white and she is associated with light<sup>27</sup>, and he used light and colours. "I sat on the front step with them while they waited for their car. it was dark here

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<sup>21</sup>Ivan Nacic, *The American Dream in Great Gatsby by Fitzgerald*, International Journal of languages and literature, (American Research institute for policy Development, 2014), pp1-2.

<sup>22</sup>MaurisBowley, *Scott Fitzgerald 's Criticism of America*, (National Section, 2008), p. 01.

<sup>23</sup>SebastainFalth .*Social Class and Status in Fitzgerald's Great Gatsby*, ( *Halsmanted University, 2013* ), p. 04.

<sup>24</sup>*Scott Fitzgerald's criticism of America*, op. cit., p. 04.

<sup>25</sup> Reynolds Guys, " *Introduction To The Great Gatsby*," (Faculty of Publication University of Nebraska, 2001), p. 04.

<sup>26</sup>*Introduction To The Great Gatsby*, op. cit., pp. 07-10.

<sup>27</sup>Casie.E Hermanson, *Time and timelessness*, (1997), p. 01.

*only the bright door set ten square feet of light volleying out into the soft black morning*” (GG, 69).this quotation show electricity in the novel, and how light can break darkness.<sup>28</sup>

Prohibition of alcohol played an important role in the novel. Gatsby made his fortune by smuggling and bootlegging. Measuring wealth was by owning cars, houses, lands, and that what Gatsby seeks.<sup>29</sup>

"Gertrude Stein" introduced the term of "lost generation", which referred to the writers who were active after the first world war like Hemmingway, Cumming and Fitzgerald, their ideas characterized by the loss of idea of democracy, measuring of humanity by wealth, the rise of materialism and corruption in society and that what found in Fitzgerald's work.<sup>30</sup>

### **1.3. Twentieth's Philosophical Thought**

1920<sup>s</sup> was an era of the spread of many philosophical tendencies. These philosophies influenced all domains even literature as many writers adopted them in their writings.

#### **1.3.1. Materialistic America and Materialistic Gatsby**

*"A very long difficult and varying set of arguments which propose matter as the primary substance of all living and no-living including human beings."*<sup>31</sup> This quotation describes materialism and how human being became without values beside money.

Materialism has many definitions and meanings. There are two aspects of materialism: philosophical and economical one, the later represents the well-known usage of the world today in the American society in which money became the first power in America. Materialism started in America as a philosophy and then, it developed into an economical issue.<sup>32</sup>

The reason behind philosophical materialism is to deny the existence of immaterial things like God, and soul. Sebastian Tipanoro detailed in philosophical materialism with his book 1970 "*OnMaterialism*" he said:

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<sup>28</sup> "*Introduction To The Great Gatsby*," op. cit., p. 04.

<sup>29</sup>*Social class and Status in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby*, op. cit., pp. 04-05.

<sup>30</sup>*Time and Timelessness*, op. cit., p. 01.

<sup>31</sup>Raymond Williams, *A vocabulary of culture and society* (New York: Oxford University, 1975), p. 163.

<sup>32</sup> Holly. *The Material and the Real: American conceptions of the Materialism in the Nineteenth century*, p. 11-17.

By materialism, we understand acknowledgement of the priority of nature over "mind" or if you like, of the physical level over the biological level, and of the biological level over the socio-economic and cultural level; both in the sense of chronological priority ... and in the sense of the conditioning which nature still exercises on man cognitively, therefore the materialist maintains that experience cannot be reduced to either a production of reality by a subject ... or to a reciprocal implication of subject and object .we cannot, in other words, deny or evade the element of passivity in experience: the external situation which we do not create but this imposes itself on us.<sup>33</sup>

The idea of materialism emerged in industrial and post-industrial life. The term materialism in its economic sense started to appear in the nineteenth century. The material side is prior the spiritual. During the 1920<sup>s</sup>, materialism reached its top and influenced the American society.<sup>34</sup>

Lloyd shaped an image of materialism in the USA when he claims,

Theology has led a strong fight against it declaring the first cause to be the Divine power, philosophy had repeated and vigorously attacked it and has finally inflicted a deadly blow in the discovery of its weakest point the heel of Achilles of materialism consciousness and free will, the general public .Too, looks with abhorrence on materialism, dreading and combating it like an ulcer; although not sufficiently acquainted either with the facts upon which materialism is based or with its philosophical merits and errors, it feels darkly the presence of a danger to society in the principal.<sup>35</sup>

Materialism as a philosophical though covers the Americans lives with its merits and errors.

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<sup>33</sup>Timpanaro, *On Materialism*, (New Left Review: Mary, 1970), p. 9.

<sup>34</sup>Russel Belk, *Materialism: Trait aspects of living in the material world*. (Journal Consumer Research December 1985), p. 02.

<sup>35</sup>Alexander Pertrukevich, *the freedom of will: a study in materialism* (short hill, 1905), p. 01.

Materialism has negative and positive characteristics. This is shown in its impact on societies. It raises selfishness and egocentric behaviour. Materialism has a deep impact on interpersonal relations like giving gifts to children as a reward. This behaviour raises their materialistic motivation.<sup>36</sup>

Materialism has a negative side and it always gives the impression of greed and corruption. It also absorbed nation in business affairs. Americans established houses, railroads, factories and cities. They started to worship money and material resources<sup>37</sup>.

Within *the GG*, Fitzgerald succeeded in depicting the Jazz Age, he was corrupted by materialism as he lives a wonderful life full of parties and money-spending. Through his novel, he realizes the corruption of American Dream by materialism. In the story, Nick comes from humble background to live in New York and make a fortune. He meets Jordan Barker, who herself is impacted by wealth.<sup>38</sup>

Gatsby is a materialistic man through the novel. Jay collects money by illegal activities. He is a bootlegger, owner of drugs, and even a murderer. Gatsby's aim is to achieve material wealth to win Daisy. Daisy herself is a materialistic. She leaves Gatsby because he is poor. She marries a rich man called Tom Buchanan. Tom wins Daisy's heart not through love but through money, diamonds, and pearls. Their marriage and Gatsby's wealth symbolise a society corrupted by greed and materialism.<sup>39</sup>

### **1.2.2. Individualism and the Self-made Man**

Individualism is an expression emerged in nineteenth century. It emerged during French and American Revolution. Historians dated back individualism to the Italian Renaissance and others argued that individualism already existed in the societies.<sup>40</sup> The term was introduced with the enlightenment. The first who use "individualism" as French concept is Claude Henri de Saint-Simon in the mid-1820<sup>s</sup>, and this idea was defended by Locke, Reid, Kant, Rousseau, Voltaire. They considered the individual as the centre of life. In Italy, Renaissance was characterized by the spread of individualism with Dante and Burckhardt, whereas individualism existed in the history of American nation from slavery, Ku Klux Klan, inter

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<sup>36</sup>*Materialism: trait Aspects of living in Material world*, op. cit., p. 03.

<sup>37</sup>*The Material and the Real*, op.cit., pp. 10-17.

<sup>38</sup>Neha. *Materialism and American Dream in F.Scott.Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby*. (University Campus, 2013), p. 01.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 01.

<sup>40</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 03.

racial marriage homosexuals and communists<sup>41</sup>. After the civil war individualism took place in the heart of Americans<sup>42</sup>.

According to Lamennais, individuality is the sovereignty of the individual over himself.<sup>43</sup> According to “Ronald Inglehart”, the growth of individualism is the rise of self-expression that focused on independence and the decline of traditional norms; while Robert illustrated the two aspects of individualism which are egocentric and competition. In addition, scholars like Scott Flagon and AieRie Lee talked about the shift of individualism from its cultural aspects “authoritarian” into its politic aspects “Libertarian value and democracy”.

Individualism is the cultural core of the American Dream, but it developed to be a political phenomenon. Scholars argue that individualism is responsible for the changes that occur in the society. The ideology of individualism helped in the spread of democracy, self-expression, liberty, ambition, and personal independence.<sup>44</sup> In America, individualism celebrated capitalism and democracy. It is also related to freedom, natural rights, and the American Dream.<sup>45</sup>

The relation between the American Dream and individualism is clearly achieved in *The GG*, when Jay as an individual tried to work hard and relied on himself to achieve his dream which is getting back his lover Daisy.<sup>46</sup>

#### 1.4. Literary Scene during the Roaring Twenties

*The GG* is placed in the modernist movement.<sup>47</sup> Fitzgerald narrates the story of America using multiple narrators from different viewpoints in an ironic tone.<sup>48</sup> *The GG* as a modern work, time and space in the story change in various ways.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>41</sup>Ibid., p. 12

<sup>42</sup>Steven Luke, *The Meaning of Individualism*. “*Journal of the History of Ideas*,” Vol. 32, No. 01 (Jan-Mar, 1971), pp. 45-66; p. 60.

<sup>43</sup> Steven Luke, *the meaning of Individualism*. “*Journal of the History of Ideas*” vol. 32, No. 01 (Jan- Mar, 1971), pp. 45-66; p. 46.

<sup>44</sup>*The Problem of Individualism examining the relation between Self-reliance*, op. cit., p. 03.

<sup>45</sup>*The Meaning of Individualism*. op. cit., p. 59.

<sup>46</sup>Filozofski Fakultet, “*The concept of the American Dream in S. Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby*,” (2015). p. 04-07.

<sup>47</sup>J, Zaal. *The Great Gatsby A new way of using the great conradianvitality*, (University of Kawzuler-Nato: South Africa.2016),p.01.

<sup>48</sup>Rynond M. vince, *The Great Gatsby and The transformation of space time: Fitzgerald modernist Narrative and the new physics of Einstein*, ( Penn state University Press. 2006). p. 92.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., p. 86.

Fitzgerald was admitted by Oswald Spengler's *The Decline of the West* in which he confuses between the past and the present. Fitzgerald adapted this idea in his novel. He was influenced by Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and *Nostramo*. He learned from them; rudderless narrator, themes, plot, situation, and duality of symbolism.<sup>50</sup>

Fitzgerald's was influenced by Conrad work's *Heart of Darkness*, the two works has many thematic stylistic and structural similarities.<sup>51</sup>For instance, Kurtz voice is full of ivory; also Daisy voice is full of money. Furthermore, the idea of a corrupted society dominated Conrad's writing *Heart of Darkness*, also this idea inspired Fitzgerald and he used it in his novel *TheGG*<sup>52</sup>.

The two works are example for modern narrative discourse<sup>53</sup>. The story of Kurtz started by Marlow as a narrator who narrated the story and the tragic end with the death of Kurtz. Similarly, Fitzgerald started his story by Nick's voice as a narrator and ended it with the tragic death of Gatsby.<sup>54</sup>

Conrad forms Fitzgerald's greatest novel,<sup>55</sup>in which loneliness of the hero is typically used by Conrad (Kurtz, Legatt and the untried captain in *The Secret Sharer*).This is also used by Fitzgerald in shaping loneliness of Jay Gatsby. Besides, Marlow is loyal to Kurtz and Nick is Loyal to Gatsby. Moreover, Gatsby and Kurtz are two characters sharing the same characteristic (vanishing) "*I turned toward Mr. Gatsby but he was no longer .there, when I looked once more for Gatsby he had vanished and I was alone again in the unquiet darkness*" (G.G89, 29)<sup>56</sup>

Fitzgerald as a modernist writer succeeded in portraying the Jazz Age as in his novel, he inspired by many modern works and many philosophical ideas.

In the next chapter, *The GG*'s Fitzgerald novel is going to be analysed thematically, stylistically, and structurally, with the deep meaning of the greatness of Gatsby, the full of American Dream, as the heart of the story by tragedy and melancholy end.

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<sup>50</sup>Robert Wooster, *Conrad and The Great Gatsby, Twentieth Century Literature*, Vol. 01, N. 01(Ap, 1955), pp. 5-12, (Hofestra University, 2016). pp. 05-06.

<sup>51</sup>John Skinner, *The Oral and the written: Kurtz and Gatsby revisited. Journal Narrative theory*, (2016), p. 131.

<sup>52</sup>*Conrad and The Great Gatsby*, op. cit., pp. 06-07.

<sup>53</sup>*The Oral and the written*, op.cit., p133.

<sup>54</sup>*Conrad and The Great Gatsby*, op. cit., p. 08.

<sup>55</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 05.

<sup>56</sup>*Ibid.*P07

## CHAPTER II: F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S NARRATIVE DISCOURSE IN *THE GREAT GATSBY*

Fitzgerald as a modernist writer breaks the rules of all the traditional works. He adopts a frame narrative voice and a complex intricate plot; he introduces new themes that appeared in the American society which turned their life into a nightmare.

In *the GG*, Fitzgerald adopts multiple narrators in order to create delusion and confusion in the reader. The story is told by Nick, Gatsby and Daisy. Nick Caraway, however, dominates storytelling in the novel. He is both a narrator and a participant in the story as he reports most of the events and interprets them.

Moreover, *the GG* witnesses innovation in the use of time in the story. Indeed, time shifts confusingly between past and present. Nick narrates the story after two years later. Jordan tells the story of the relationship between Daisy and Gatsby five years before.

The novel also shows Fitzgerald's masterly characterization. The story is about Jay Gatsby. He is great in different ways, when he loves Daisy, when he sacrifices his life for her, and when he helps Nick. However, the greatness of Gatsby is not only portrayed in Daisy or Nick but it is rather prevalent in the entire novel.

The major theme in *the GG* is the fall of the American Dream which foreshadows the downfall of mankind. Gatsby's dream tragically fails and turns into a nightmare. The story ends with his death and George Wilson's suicide.

Fitzgerald's style in *the GG* is also characterized by the use of imagery and symbolism in order to present characters and themes. The most noticeable feature of this technique is the use of colours and cars as symbols.

Fitzgerald is known for his ability of using the best expression for the best thought and feeling. He successfully uses grammatical and lexical structures such as oppositional and prepositional phrases and contrasted adjectives.

## 2.1. Narrative Voice in *the Great Gatsby*

Fitzgerald narrates Gatsby's story through Nick and distributes through history. He uses many flashbacks; Nick tells the past and the present of Gatsby and connects between them in a sequence of events.<sup>57</sup>

The choice of the point (s) of view from which the story is told fundamentality affects the ways readers will respond emotionally and morally to the fictional characters and their actions.<sup>58</sup>

Fitzgerald narrates Gatsby's story through Nick and distributes through history. He uses many flashbacks; Nick tells the past and the present of Gatsby and connects between them in a sequence of events.<sup>59</sup>

Nick starts by introducing himself and his personal experiences in the eastern part which is New York. After that, he presents the setting and the characters of the story. And then, he reached the climax in which Tom, Daisy, Gatsby faced each other.

Until chapter seven, Nick could not control the events, and he uses the direct speech to report only the events. While in chapter nine he narrates the death of Gatsby and Mr. Wilson by using his imagination.<sup>60</sup>

The narrator functions are like a bridge that relates the reader to the story.<sup>61</sup> Fitzgerald uses Nick as a narrator in order to place the reader in an indirect contact and touch with the events. Nick is in a strategic position to narrate the story because he is close to all the characters namely Tom, Daisy, and Gatsby. He is Daisy's cousin and neighbour, as well as Tom's classmate at Yale University.<sup>62</sup> Fitzgerald used Nick as a cohesive device in which he keeps the text coherent until the end.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> SeiwaFujitani. *A study of Fiction Technique in The Great Gatsby*. p. 148.

<sup>58</sup> David Lodge. *The Art of Fiction*. (1994).

<sup>59</sup> SeiwaFujitani. *A study of Fiction Technique in The Great Gatsby*. p. 148.

<sup>60</sup> *Narration in the Great Gatsby, A stylistic study*, p. 47.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 92.

<sup>62</sup> *A Study of Fiction Techniques in the Great Gatsby*, op. cit., p. 145.

<sup>63</sup> *Narration in Great Gatsby, A Stylistic Study*, op.cit., p. 100.

Fitzgerald and Gatsby share a lot of similarities. This made difficulties to write problems objectively. Thus, he uses Nick as a narrator to detach himself from the story.<sup>64</sup>

Gatsby's story was told in the first person narrator which is Nick Caraway. He was a narrator and a participator in the story, readers of the novel relied on Caraway to guide them through his voice.<sup>65</sup>

Fitzgerald uses clever narrative tricks to portray Gatsby and the whole story. Interpretations of Nick about thought and feeling of others are widespread in the novel. Nick reports the events of the story based on the testimony of other characters.<sup>66</sup> He evaluates the events by expressing his feelings and attitudes throughout the novel. In this sense, he says: "*...it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again.*" (GG, 08) In this passage, Nick expresses his feeling and emotion.

Nick as a narrator and a character in the story does not know the events of what will happen. He tries to guess the thoughts and feelings of others. Columan states:

An opportunity for Nick to fill Gatsby's emptiness with lyrical prose, his absence with perfect metaphors, his silence with words for the feeling that Nick imagines his hero must have felt, that is: the novel as a whole might be less about the self the Gatsby creates for the love of Daisy than about "something gorgeous" that Nick attempts to make out of Gatsby.<sup>67</sup>

The narrator creates delusion about Gatsby in order to show that Gatsby is a successful man. Nick is an observer who narrates the story in a subjective point of view.<sup>68</sup> His style made Gatsby a mystery. As the story ends, Nick still does not know who Gatsby is.

No one ever knew who Gatsby was some said he had been a German spy, others that he was related to one of Europe's royal family's. Nearly everyone took advantage of his fabulous hospitality. And it was fabulous. In his super long Island home

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<sup>64</sup> A Study of Fiction Techniques in the Great Gatsby, op. cit., p. 147.

<sup>65</sup> Narrative voice, w. w. tesouk, (TSF English. 2010), p. 01.

<sup>66</sup> Johanna Svensson. Mr. Gatsby's Illusory Greatness, How the narrator creates the "something gorgeous" in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby. (ENGK, Spring, 2009), P01.

<sup>67</sup> Coleman Dan. "Tuning in to conversation in the novel: Gatsby and the Dynamics of dialogue, Northern Illusions University" (English Department, 2009), p. 72.

<sup>68</sup> Mr. Gatsby's Illusory Greatness, op. cit., p. 01.

he gave the most amazing parties, and not the remarkable thing about them was that few people could recognize their host. He seemed to be a man without a background, without history: whose eyes were always searching the glitter and razzamatazz for something ...someone?"<sup>69</sup>

Nick prioritizes towards Gatsby and he described him, "*Something in his leisurely movement and secure position of his feet upon the lawn suggested that it was Mr. Gatsby himself, come out to determine what share was his of our local heavens*" (GG, 27), he said that there is "*something gorgeous about him.*" (GG,08) Nick prefers Gatsby that what affected his negative portraying to other characters.<sup>70</sup>

In *the GG*, Nick takes two positions as a narrator. First, he is a character in the story. He narrates his story or some events he witnessed. Second, position is when he had no information about the events, he is outside the story<sup>71</sup>. Narrating voice in *GG* is both first person and the third person "without and within". Nick narrates the story by himself but the focus was not over him, it was over Gatsby.<sup>72</sup>

Moreover, Nick is not just a reporter, he is also a participant and he explains and interpreted some events. When he used direct speech in the narration, this means that he transformed from a narrator to a character. In order to vary the techniques of narration, Nick sometimes shows himself and another time hid himself, in other words, he imposed his voice or controlled it.<sup>73</sup>

In some situations, the narrator tells the story in his own words without depending on other characters, while in other situations, the narrator uses direct speech, "*The nurse took a step forward and held out her hand. Come, Pammy Good-bye, Sweetheart!*"(GG.112). the nurse's word has not changed when she has taken Daisy's daughter, "*Good bye sweetheart.*" So, here the narrator only reports the situation without control.<sup>74</sup>

As a narrative technique, Nick describes each character and the manner how they talked and said things as in the following situations; "*The God damned coward! He whimpered*"

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<sup>69</sup> Jean Paul, Tribbles. *The Great Gatsby*. (Penguin Books, 1950), p. 99.

<sup>70</sup> Mr. Gatsby's Illusory Greatness, op. cit., pp. 03-12.

<sup>71</sup> Narration in *Great Gatsby*, A Stylistic Study, p. 34.

<sup>72</sup> Narrative voice, w. w. tesco, (TSF English, 2010), p. 01.

<sup>73</sup> Narration in *Great Gatsby*, A Stylistic Study, p. 56.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 84-85.

(GG.135), here Nick shows the manner how he whimpered in asking God for sake. “Daisy! Daisy! ”Shouted Mr. Wilson (GG.39), in those words Nick describes how Mr. Wilson shouted when calling Daisy “They’ll keep out of my way” she insisted (GG, 59)

“Who?” He demanded rudely (GG.108)

Nick in some passages is absent, in which the character discusses and talks without his interference, and this is stated in:

“I just got back from Monte Carlo”

“Really”

“Just last year, I went over there with another girl”

“Stay long”

“No, we just went to Monte Carlo and back, we went by of Marseilles we had over twelve hundred dollars when we started, but we got gyred out of it all in two days in the private rooms, we had an awful time getting back, I can tell you, God, how I hated that town!”<sup>75</sup>

Nick narrates the events and reports the actions as this example when Nick reports Gatsby’s actions, “... *Gatsby took an arm of each of us and moved forward into the restaurant,*”(GG, 68) he is a reporter of action; “*I followed him over a low white washed railroad fence and we walked back a hundred yards along the road,*” (GG, 27) he interprets the event “*so my first impression, that he was a person of some undefined consequence, had gradually faded.*”(GG, 63).<sup>76</sup>

Nick reports the speech act by reporting utterances” *At this point Jordan and I tried to go, but Tom and Gatsby insisted with competitive firmness that we remain,*” (GG, 124). He used indirect and direct speech “*Who is he? I demanded.*”(GG,50).<sup>77</sup>

The narrative voice in *the GG* was applied by Fitzgerald in three methods, the first one is when he reported what he sees (actions), the second one, Nick reported what he hears by his own words or others words. The last method is when Nick reconstructed the story in which he

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<sup>75</sup> Narration in *Great Gatsby, A Stylistic Study*, pp. 29-30.

<sup>76</sup> Narration in *Great Gatsby, A Stylistic Study*, pp. 12.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 27-29.

reported events that he was not witnessed like Gatsby's youth and that what make delusion and mystery of Gatsby, resulting confusion to the reader.<sup>78</sup>

Furthermore, Nick reconstructs the story in three ways. First, Nick's imagination and this is shown in Gatsby's murder,

He must have looked up at an unfamiliar sky through frightening leaves and shivered as he found what a grotesque thing a rose is and how raw the sunlight was upon the scarcely created grass, a new world, material without being real, where poor ghosts, breathing dreams like air, drifted fortuitously about...like that ashen, fantastic figure gliding toward him through the amorphous trees. (GG, 162)

In addition, the second way and the third way are integrated together. In which Fitzgerald uses sub-narrators and he uses information that heard from others or read it in newspapers. This is appeared when Jordon tells Nick about the ex-relationship that was gathered Gatsby and Daisy before wartime.<sup>79</sup>

Description took a huge part in Nick's narration in order to contribute to readers' understandings. Nick describes places in a topographic way, "*The apartment was on the top floor a small living room, a small bedroom, and a bath*"(GG, 31) .He describes time as in, "*On Sunday morning while church bells rang in the villages along shore, the world and its twinkled hilariously on his lawn*"(GG, 60)and as a type of description, he describes the whole context of a situation as in, "*The large room was full of people, one of the girls in yellow was playing the piano, and beside her stood a tall ,red-haired young lady from a famous chorus, engaged in song.*"(GG, 52).<sup>80</sup>

Nick's description has many functions. The first description shows mastery of style and illusion of the writer and narrator as in,

A breeze blew through the room, blue curtains in at one end and out the other like pale flags, twisting then up toward the frosted wedding-cake of ceiling, and then rippled over the wine colour drug, making a Shadow on it as wind does on the sea (GG,13)

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<sup>78</sup> A Study of Fiction Techniques in the Great Gatsby, op.cit., p. 146.

<sup>79</sup>A Study of Fiction Techniques in the Great Gatsby,op,cit,p.146

<sup>80</sup> Narration in Great Gatsby ,A Stylistic Study,pp.85-86

The second function of description shows subjectivity by expressing the narrator's personal way of seeing things as in:

He was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American, that comes, I suppose with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games, this quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness. (*GG*, 62-63)

In this quotation "I suppose"; Nick subjectivity is clearly stated.<sup>81</sup>

The third function of description shows the narrator criticism, in this sense Nick described Mr. Wilson in an evaluated manner:

Then I heard footsteps on the stairs, and in a moment the thickest figure of a woman blocked out the light from the office door, she was in the middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her flesh sensuously as some women can, her face, above a spotted dress of dark blue crêpe-de chine, contained no facet or gleam of beauty, but there was an immediately perceptible vitality about her as if the nerves of her body were continually mouldering. (*GG*, 28)

The choice of narration in *the GG* made the story interesting. The writer creates delusion and confusion.<sup>82</sup> Nick uses a lot of techniques in narration, and shifts from one to another in order to not to seem too possessive of the narration. This is what allowed harmony in the novel.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Narration in *Great Gatsby*, A Stylistic Study, p.88

<sup>82</sup> *Mr. Gatsby's Illusory Greatness*, op.cit, p.17

<sup>83</sup> Narration in *Great Gatsby*, A Stylistic Study, p.56

## 2.2. Relativity of Time in *The Great Gatsby*

Time is transformed in various ways throughout history especially in the twentieth century. This is due to the emergence of physic theories at that time. This issue influenced literature and this including *The GG*.<sup>84</sup>

*The GG* is one of the most modernist works that is characterized by the transformation of time in order to make it new. Besides, *the GG* is not the story of Jay Gatsby only; it is the story of era and time.<sup>85</sup>

In this novel, corruption of time and wealth is clearly showed in many parts. *The GG* was narrated by Nick in a retrospective way. He narrates the events two years after that summer. In which there were the murder of Gatsby, Myrtle's accident, and Wilson's suicide, also he narrates the event of the love story that was between Daisy and Gatsby before war time, five years before that summer.<sup>86</sup>

Gatsby's story is a struggle against time, and this shown when Nick warns Gatsby that the past cannot be repeated; Gatsby replies "can't repeat the past? He cried "why of course you can! I'm going to fix everything just the way it was before"<sup>87</sup>.

Time was described by Nick as changeable and this appeared in Daisy's change between her relation with Gatsby and her relation with her husband Tom. Also the incredible change of Gatsby started by his name from James to Jay<sup>88</sup>.

## 2.3. The Greatness of the Great Gatsby

Gatsby's greatness arises with Nick, when Gatsby helps him, and enters his life, everything change. He brings him a life when he comes to East to find new life, Gatsby saves and helps him from failure.<sup>89</sup>

Gatsby is great; when two years after his death Nick still loyal and faithful to him. In this sense Nick states:

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<sup>84</sup>Rymond M, Vince. *The Great Gatsby and The Transformations of space-Time*. (Peen State University Pres, 2006), pp.86-108.

<sup>85</sup>Casie, E Hermanson, time and timelessness in *The Great Gatsby*, (1997), p.1.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid,p.1.

<sup>87</sup> Raymond M, Vince. *The Great Gatsby and The Transformations of space-Time*. (Peen State University Press, 2006), pp.116-117.

<sup>88</sup>Casie, E Hermanson, time and timelessness in *The Great Gatsby*, (1997),p.1.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid, p. 1.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid., p. 791.

Only Gatsby, the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction Gatsby who represented everything at which I have an unaffected scorn... there was something gorgeous about him ...it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness which it is not likely I shall ever find again, No, Gatsby turned out all right the End. (*GG*, 44)

For him, Gatsby represents everything; he was an ideal man. Gatsby as a protagonist of the story lives in poor conditions and loses his love Daisy because they are from different social classes. He works hard and gets a lot of money that enables him to be rich in order to get his love back. Gatsby's Greatness relies on three aspects: his conflict with his destiny, his self-discipline and self-sacrifice.<sup>90</sup>

The first aspect is conflict with his destiny; Gatsby born in a poor family and he lives in poverty. He has no opportunity to get Daisy. He suffers a lot, he works hard and gathers money and he becomes a rich businessman relying on illegal activities. He enhances his social status and he starts organizing parties in his gorgeous house in order to attract Daisy .Gatsby fights his destiny as being poor, as being neglected from his society, and as losing his life's love. He works hard and achieves fortune and wealth. He becomes a prominent figure in his society. In this way Gatsby is great.<sup>91</sup>

Gatsby also fights against this destiny in love. Gatsby lives in miserable conditions of life; he loses Daisy because of his economic status. And in order to get her back, he should become wealthier. Daisy marries another richer person named Tom. Gatsby wants to be with his love .he starts to make parties in his house in order to attract her. He connects with her cousin Nick, and he convinces him to make them contact and met each other again. After the accident and the death of Myrtle, Gatsby takes the blame over Daisy and he wants her to be secure. He is loyal to her, but Daisy is unfaithfulness. She is not deserved his love, she is not serious in her love with Gatsby she is selfish, this opposite in love between Gatsby and Daisy created the greatness of Gatsby.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>90</sup>Lili, Zheng, *The Greatness of Gatsby in The Great Gatsby*. (Boarding University. 2015), p. 01.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 02.

<sup>92</sup>*The Greatness of Gatsby in The Great Gatsby*, op.cit., p. 02.

The greatness of Gatsby emerges in his emotions that outface time. He devotes himself to his love Daisy. Although she marries Tom and he convinces himself that Daisy who he loved is not Daisy who Tom married, Daisy for him “*blossomed like flower.*”<sup>93</sup>

The second aspect is self-discipline. Gatsby programmes his life and he makes a plan to his actions. He knows his dream, his ambitions, and he is an organized man. He is not lazy as he always gets up alertly. Gatsby practices sport. He rejects smoking and drinking and he considers them bad habits. Nick reports that Gatsby sees his guest drinking and smoking in his parties in calm. This self-discipline of Gatsby made him great.<sup>94</sup>

The last aspect is Gatsby’s self-sacrifice. Gatsby sacrifices a lot in the story. For instance, after the accident, both Tom and Gatsby know that Daisy is the responsible, but their reactions are different. Gatsby tries to protect her, while Tom runs away, and Gatsby really wants to sacrifice for her. This sacrifice makes his greatness.<sup>95</sup> Gatsby was great when he was innocent from Daisy’s crime, and he took the blame over her. As a result for this brave reaction, he was murdered.<sup>96</sup>

## 2.4. From a Dream to a Nightmare

*The GG* was first published in 1925, and it was republished in 1945 and 1953.<sup>97</sup> It is a novel that covers the story of Jay Gatsby. The major themes that Fitzgerald tackled in his novel are: money, relationships, social status, and love, and it’s a novel about the American identity and American Dream.<sup>98</sup>

Gatsby’s dream is a symbol of the American Dream.<sup>99</sup> The American Dream was clearly illustrated in *the GG*; Gatsby in few years gained wealth and celebrated his identity. He is finally in the position to achieve his dream; and when he gets the opportunity to be with Daisy, he finds her married to another person.<sup>100</sup>

Gatsby’s dream is not material wealth, but rather Daisy’s love. Daisy is materialistic woman; her voice is full of money, careless and selfish. His dream is corrupted. It is hard for

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<sup>93</sup>Charles Thomas Samuels. *The Greatness of Gatsby*. The Massachusetts review, vol7, N°4(Autumn 1966), pp. 783-794, p. 787.

<sup>94</sup>The Greatness of Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby*, op. cit., p. 03.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid., p. 05.

<sup>96</sup> *The Greatness of Gatsby*, op.cit., p. 788.

<sup>97</sup>Jing Jing. *on The Great dream in the Great Gatsby*. (Changchun University, 2015), p. 895.

<sup>98</sup>*The concept of the American Dream in Fitzgerald’s Great Gatsby*, op.cit., p. 05.

<sup>99</sup>*on The Great dream in the Great Gatsby*, op. cit., p. 895.

<sup>100</sup>SulmanBauti. *American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald ‘s The Great Gatsby*. p. 02.

him to be achieved. And many poor people suffered to achieve their dream in the American society<sup>101</sup>.

Gatsby's dream is opposite to Daisy's one. Daisy is a materialistic girl, but Gatsby's dream was spiritual dream. The love of Daisy is endless for Gatsby. He does everything to get her back. She represents his dream.

Own dream for himself is modified somewhat when, as an officer waiting to go overseas during the war. He meets Daisy Fay and falls in love with her. While realizing that she lives in a rather different social world.<sup>102</sup>

Daisy was the desire of Gatsby; he dedicated his life for her:

The officer looked at Daisy while she was speaking, in a way that every young girl wants to be looked at sometimes, and because it seemed romantic to me I have remembered the incident ever since. (GG,48)

American Dream can be shown in *the GG* in many characters such as Jay Gatsby, George Wilson, and Myrtle Wilson. Jay represents individual success in the society regardless of his own origin and history, "*And the moon raised higher the essential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors eyes...*" (GG, 187)

Gatsby passes a long time to get his dream. This becomes visible as he is in front of Daisy's house waiting for her. Nick asked him how long he was going to wait; Gatsby responded, "*all night, if necessary,*"(GG, 92)without his dream, Jay could not live, it becomes part of him. Gatsby's identity is his dream and he lets his dream define him.<sup>103</sup>Gatsby centres his wealth, house, parties all around Daisy, all what he achieved is based on one desire which is "*his love: Daisy.*"

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<sup>101</sup>*The concept of the American Dream in Fitzgerald's Great Gatsby*, op. cit., p. 03.

<sup>102</sup>Handley, *Grahm.Brodies's Notes on F. Scott Fitzgerald 's the Great Gatsby and tender is the night*, (London, 1989), p. 33.

<sup>103</sup> *The concept of the American Dream in Fitzgerald's Great Gatsby*, op. cit., p. 07.

## 2.4. *The Great Gatsby* as a Melancholic Atmosphere

Tragedy is one of the most noticeable aspects in the novel, where Gatsby is the tragic hero, and the son of shiftless and unsuccessful farm people. He wants to create himself as the wealthy man through collecting money and organizing parties in order to win back Daisy's love.<sup>104</sup>

*The GG* is a story of a poor boy that is in pursuit of a dream. He transforms himself into the image of success. Unfortunately, Gatsby did not succeed in his hope and dream to repeat the past and return back his love Daisy because he sees Daisy as an ideal of perfect womanhood. Thus, he could not see Daisy's fallibility and weaknesses. He loves Daisy and he stays love her even after he had heard that she married Tom, they were all the time happy when they were meeting each other's "Daisy and Gatsby were both setting on the couch. There were tears on Daisy's face, but she was smiling. Gatsby's face was shining with joy.<sup>105</sup> Their happiness filled the room" (*GG*, 37-38), it means that he is happy with Daisy but with a sad face, because she marries Tom Buchanan and builds a house with him even she did not love him. This makes her live in an endless tragedy, "*Tom and Daisy came to the door and stood there together. Two rich people with everything they wanted. But Daisy had told me that she was unhappy.*" (*GG*, 11)

The desire of Daisy of living in better life conditions pushes her to select a wealthy man as a husband. This decision do not cause only her tragedy, she marks also Gatsby's tragedy. Gatsby tried many times to return his love back, but without any positive result. In this context, Nick said that "there was a reason for all those parties. Gatsby had hoped that one evening; Daisy would walk into his house" (*GG*, 35), "He had waited five years. He had given big parties to strangers. And why? To see Daisy, one afternoon, at tea" (*GG*.35). He organized parties every night waiting for Daisy's coming despite the fact that she married Tom; Gatsby wants her to remain loyal to him.<sup>106</sup>

Gatsby as a tragic hero wants to do anything in order to win Daisy's love even by breaking the law. He reaches his wealthy by illegal activities. Gatsby's dream represents the American Dream which demonstrates that one can reach whatever he wants without regarding to his believes.

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<sup>104</sup> Aspects of Tragedy: Text overview-The Great Gatsby, p. 01.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>106</sup> How to Analyze the Works of Scott Fitzgerald, op. cit., p. 49.

He is represented as a kind of tatter to fortunes, modern hero. He was a successful man, but he corrupted his wealthy by the excessive parties and illegal activities. "People say he got his money from Germany. In the war" (GG, 16). The following passage shows the ambiguity of Gatsby:

"there's something strange about a man like that 'another girl said. 'He doesn't want any trouble from anybody'. She leant across the table and said 'somebody told me that Gatsby killed a man'" (GG, 20)

Gatsby has a false belief that by money he could buy the world, and that money could enable him to win Daisy. His dream does not come true; he recognized that his belief in materialism is wrong, because money is not everything.<sup>107</sup> "*Gatsby didn't get any of the old man's money. But Gatsby had learnt how the rich live. Gatsby now knew what he wanted.*" (GG.64) Gatsby realized from his meeting with Cody that money cannot bring everything. He was limited by his origins; he is Mr. nobody from nowhere. He is presented as an undeniably modern figure.<sup>108</sup>

Gatsby is described as a classical tragic hero. Nick relates him to greatness; and it is also admitted by Fitzgerald in the book's title. Gatsby's desire for reaching his dream separates him from the other characters of the story. So Gatsby was a classical tragic hero because of Daisy's carelessness and Tom Buchanan's rancour.<sup>109</sup>

Daisy and Tom's villain and felonious personalities are the cause behind the tragedy of Gatsby. Tom is a careless man with no moral ethics. He lacks compassion and idealism. He was all the time in contrast with Gatsby. He contributes in an indirect way in the death of George, Myrtle, and Gatsby. Thus, he is considered as a responsible for Gatsby's tragedy and the lost lives of George and Myrtle.<sup>110</sup>

Fitzgerald considers Tom's "*hard malice*"<sup>111</sup> as one factor that led to the decline of Gatsby's dream. Just like her husband, Daisy is also villainous, because she does not tell the truth; she does not admit that she is the driver of the car that caused the death of Myrtle.

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<sup>107</sup> Aspects of Tragedy: Text overview-The Great Gatsby. p05.

<sup>108</sup> Combs, Maggie. How to Analyze the Works of Scott Fitzgerald. Op. cit., p. 48.

<sup>109</sup> Aspects of Tragedy: Text overview-The Great Gatsby. p. 07.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>111</sup> Aspects of Tragedy: Text overview-The Great Gatsby. p. 8.

Daisy refuses to attend Gatsby's funeral; and because of her alluring voice which is full of money. She destroys Gatsby's dream leading to his tragedy.<sup>112</sup>

American setting is another reason that contributed in the tragedy of Gatsby, as America during the 1920's had has a flinty rigid class structure which is composed of the rich class contrasted with the hot struggles of the poor. In this sense, Fitzgerald used contrast for the purpose of demonstrating the social divisions and social inequalities in America during the 1920's. Fitzgerald deals with the difference between the Buchanan's situation of wealthy, and the situation of poverty in the Valley of Ashes. Even people who own money do not far from despicableness and flouted, for example, Gatsby is not accepted from the elite of his society as a wealthy man, and his wealth is considered as corrupted new money.

By this, Gatsby's dream is destroyed by the culture of the Jazz Age which is characterized by the spread of alcohol, drinking, the emergence of new type of women (flappers), and the rise materialism<sup>113</sup>.

## **2.6. Power of Words in *the Great Gatsby***

In 1925, Fitzgerald received a letter from T.S. Eliot, informing him that he had read his novel *the GG*, and that he was excited by it more than any other English or American novel, "*when I have time I should like to write to you more fully and tell you exactly why it seems to me such a remarkable book.*"<sup>114</sup> That is, *the GG* is an important literary work in term of fictional and stylistic techniques.<sup>115</sup>

What makes Fitzgerald's *the GG* one of the great works is its writer's use of figurative language. In order to create a romantic sense, Fitzgerald uses verbal pictures which are full of adjectives; for example, she was described having a sad and lovely face with bright things in it, bright eyes and a bright passionate mouth. Here, Fitzgerald uses adjectives even the ones which are juxtaposed like sad and lovely to describe Daisy. He also repeats the adjective bright to indicate that Daisy is always bright for instance, "I'm very happy to see you again, Daisy said. Her eyes were bright and exciting" (GG.7).

Nick said about Gatsby,

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<sup>112</sup> Combs, Maggie. How to Analyze the Works of Scott Fitzgerald. Op. cit., p. 49.

<sup>113</sup> Aspects of Tragedy: Text overview-The Great Gatsby. p. 8.

<sup>114</sup> T.S. Eliot, one of "Three Letters About The Great Gatsby," The Crack-Up, ed. By Edmund Wilson (New York: James Laughlin for new Directions, 1945), p. 310.

<sup>115</sup> Miller James. The Fictional Technique of Scott Fitzgerald, International Scholars Forum, ( University of Nebraska, Springer-Science+Business Media, B, V. 1957).

But his heart was in constant, turbulent riot. The most grotesque and fantastic conceits haunted him in his bed at night. A universe of ineffable gaudiness spun itself out in his brain while the clock ticked on the wash-stand and the moon soaked wet light his tangled clothes upon the floor. Each night he added to the pattern of his fancies until drowsiness closed down upon some vivid scene with an obvious embrace. (*GG*, 132)

In this passage, there are many adjectives like *fantastic*, *constant*, *vivid*, *tangled*, *turbulent*, *obvious*, and *grotesque*. *Constant* and *turbulent* represent Gatsby's dream, while the adjectives *grotesque* and *fantastic* modifying *conceits* bring the allusion that this dream is inapproachable. Involving expressions that describe the scene like *the moon soaked with wet light his tangled clothes* helps the audience to fantasize the scene.<sup>116</sup>

Fitzgerald uses contrast adjectives for the purpose of producing a dreamy fantastic world. Moreover; he uses adjectives to describe automobiles which are introduced to show wealth. Nick describes the car of Gatsby in the following passage,

It was a rich cream colour, bright with nickel, swollen here and there in its monstrous length with triumphant hat-boxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes, and terraced with a labyrinth of wind-shields that mirrored a dozen suns. Sitting down behind many layers of glass in a sort of green leather conservatory we stated down. (*GG*, 85)

The automobile in this passage symbolises wealth. Among all Gatsby's properties, his car has many significations. It serves not only as a means of travelling or just as a material object, but also as a reflection of characters' personality.<sup>117</sup>

Fitzgerald uses various words through objective description in order to characterize, for example, Gatsby was described directly in the following passage,

He smiled understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with the quality of eternal reassurance in it that you may come across four or five times in life. It faces-or seemed to face-the whole

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<sup>116</sup> Stylistic Analysis of The Great Gatsby Lexical and Grammatical Category, p. 662.

<sup>117</sup>Ibid., p. 664.

eternal world for an instance, and then concentrated on you  
with an irresistible prejudice in your favour.<sup>118</sup>

In this passage, the writer describes Gatsby's smile. He uses lexical clusters such as: eternal reassurance, eternal world, and irresistible prejudice in order to describe Gatsby's mood. Gatsby is described as having many features related to personality such as ostentation, wealth, materialism, criminality, selfishness, for example "the house on the right of my house had a swimming pool and was surrounded by beautiful lawns and gardens. It was Gatsby's house." (*GG*, 5)

What distinguishes him from the other characters is his romantic idealism to Daisy; this is shown clearly in the novel, for example: "Gatsby had dreamed of Daisy for almost five years. Now his dream was beside him" (*GG*, 41), "Gatsby stood in the middle of the room in his elegant, pink suit. He could not believe that he was in Daisy's own house. Daisy watched him and gave her sweet" (*GG*, 46). These two quotations show Gatsby's romantic sense that makes him different. However, words used to describe Tom are revelatory of his physical strength, athleticism, wealth, restlessness, virility, materialism, dandyism, extravagance. As an example about wealthy life of Gatsby, Nick describes his house as an "enormous house" (*GG*, 38), jealousy, vulgarity, untrustworthiness, possessiveness, cruelty, selfishness, and physical violence these words are applied directly in the novel.

Inner feelings and emotional changes are depicted in the novel by using formal style. In *the GG*, Fitzgerald did not tend to use complex difficult sentences, since there are not many examples of clauses inside other clauses in *the GG*; there is some subordination, but it would appear that most of the complexity in the extract would appear to be a series of main clauses coordinated together. For example "the groups change more swiftly, swell with new arrivals, dissolve and form in the same breath..."<sup>119</sup>

In this passage, Nick describes one of Gatsby's parties. What makes it easy for the reader to move from one sentence to another is the intelligent selection of various sentence structures on different thematic values; this is why the passage is reasonable and readable.<sup>120</sup>

Syntactically speaking, in the most beautiful lines of *the GG*, Nick showed his sympathy with Gatsby and for his suggestions that indicate his ambitions, and Gatsby's story was told

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<sup>120</sup>Ibid., p. 665.

in a very lyrical way or style. This later contributed in the continuation of sentences and the representative of this feature is the oppositional phrase.

In addition to the use of oppositional phrases, Fitzgerald uses the prepositional ones which have the function of adverbials and which are grammatically extraneous. The fact that they are grammatically extraneous does not mean that they are semantically extraneous. The writer uses these prepositional phrases as he describes the text's scene-setting or atmosphere,

Already it was deep summer on roadhouse roofs and in front of way side garages, where new red petrol-pumps sat out in pools of light and when I reached my estate at West Egg I ran the car under its shed and set for a while on an abandoned grass roller in the yard. The wind had blown off, leaving a loud, bright night, with wings beating in the trees and a persistent organ sound as the full bellows of the earth blew the frogs full of life. The silhouette of a moving cat waved across the moonlight, and turning my head to watch it.

There are four sentences in this passage, in each of them there are many prepositional phrases, and these phrases have the function of mooring a text in time and space.

## **2.7. *The Great Gatsby* as a Coloured World**

One of the most causes that make *the GG* a great novel is the use of symbolism. Fitzgerald uses colours as symbols of characters' personalities and lives in order to present an image about the American Society in 1920<sup>s</sup> and its people life style. The most extensively used colours are yellow, golden, white, silver, and green.

Nick Caraway as the narrator of the story talks about the white palaces of fashionable East Egg which present the white mansion of the Buchanan. "The idea is if we do not look out the white race will be utterly submerged" this speech was repeated widely, at different times, taking distinguished forms. For example, Daisy Buchanan considered herself better than her husband in term of skin colours. When Nick visits the East Egg for the first time, he describes Daisy Buchanan and Jordan Baker by using the expression, "both in white" (GG, p6), "two young women were setting on an enormous couch. Their white dresses blew about in the wind until Tom shut the windows" (GG, p7). Daisy is also described by Jordan Baker by saying: Daisy "dressed in white, and had a little white roadster" (GG, p9). Even white is the

most dominant and useful colour in the novel, it is replaced by silver in many cases; it was used to describe the West Egg or its characters.<sup>121</sup>

Daisy is associated with whiteness. She is often described as dressing white clothes, staying in a white room. White is employed by Fitzgerald in two different meanings: the traditional meaning of purity and the empowerment of whiteness since white is the symbol of purity and empowerment. Daisy represents the two of distinction and purity, “Daisy always dressed in white and she had a little white car” (GG.32). The association of white colour to Daisy do not deny the evil side in her personality.

White colour is used also in some exceptions such as describing Gatsby’s clothes. In the beginning of the novel, Nick said directly that Gatsby represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn, and even he used to wear a caramel or pink suits, he was described ones as wearing white clothes; Nick said that “ Gatsby himself arrived. He was wearing a white suit, silver shirt, and gold tie” (GG, 37). He said this in his first attendance to Gatsby’s parties.

Throughout Nick’s first visit to the Buchannan, he was attracted by light when he went their house. He noticed that the windows were “glowing now with reflected gold” (GG, 11) of the sun, the porch is “open toward the sunlight”(GG, 10), “candles were burning on the table” (GG, 9). Even inside the house, she was attracted by colours and light, “the crimson room bloomed with light.” (GG, 13)

By the end of the narrator’s visit, he describes the Bachanans staying “side by side in a cheerful square of light,” (GG, 14). Nick also uses the word bright to describe the night when he was driving home, for example; “as it became dark, the lights grew brighter” (GG, 19). This word is used also to describe Daisy, She is considered as the Louisville, who always gleaming, and bright.

In the second chapter, Nick introduces the Valley of Ashes as obscure, dusty, and gray. In this sense, he uses many words to describe the Valley of Ashes such as: impenetrable, obscure, dimmed, dim, dismal, bare, dust-covered, darkening, and black.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>121</sup>A.E.E.ELMORE. Color and Cosmos in the Great Gatsby, The Sewanee Review, Vol.78, No. Published by the Johns (Hopkins University Press). p. 3.

<sup>122</sup>Color and Cosmos in the Great Gatsby, op. cit., p. 3.

Fitzgerald's Valley of Ashes is dark and dust with its inhabitants. They were described as ghostly people. The East Egg is featured by whiteness, light, and purity, whereas the Valley of Ashes is characterized by darkness and dimness. The West Egg is featured by the broken light of prism or rainbow, various lights, much colourful glass. This coloured setting contributed in forming the wonderful fantastic garden of Gatsby.

The halls and salons and verandas are described in a very colourful image one of them: yellow. This colour often used in the form of gold and it is the most famous and useful colour in *the GG*. For example, Gatsby's car is yellow "Gatsby got out of his beautiful yellow car and stood beside it proudly," (GG, 26) everyone in West Egg knew Gatsby's car. "Yellow and silver" (GG, 26) It is used also to describe other things such as Pastry pigs and turkeys are bewitched to a dark gold, the bar has a real brass rail, the orchestra plays yellow cocktail music, two girls wear twin yellow dresses, and Nick linked the yellow colour with them.<sup>123</sup>

In this novel, yellow is the most dominant colour in addition to white. Both of yellow and gold are used to talk about the West Egg and also to talk about Gatsby. Yellow is the gold's colour that Gatsby needs in order to buy his dream. It is used by Nick in describing the car. It is also associated with gold and white, the first one represents Gatsby, while the second one represents Daisy. For example, "inside the house, Tom and Miss Baker were sitting on the long couch. She was reading aloud from a magazine and the light shown on her golden hair" (GG, 10).

Fitzgerald uses the right words in the right place; the most noticeable feature of his style is symbolism. He is a painter by this technique which makes his writing bright and visual. Green was one of the colours that indicate spring, hope, and youth. It is used widely in *GG* such as, "I looked out to sea, too. There was one green light." (GG, 11)

Money and its power in society are symbolized by the green colour, because in the story, people's life was governed by money. This is why Gatsby found himself in a great necessity for money in order to reach the life he wished. Moreover, the green is also considered a symbol of stability, and it is the colour of the new American dollars.

In Gatsby's case, the green colour is used to symbolize future hope.<sup>124</sup> Green light is associated with Gatsby as a symbol of reunion with Daisy. The green light is also used by the

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<sup>123</sup>Ibid., pp. 11-12.

end of the novel to symbolize romantic unions. It is considered a key image in this story, “you always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock.”<sup>125</sup>

There are other useful colour words that have a relation with the expensive minerals like: gold, brass, and silver. These colours are often used for rich characters and beautiful things in addition to other colour words that deal with nature like the sun and its light.

People in the past used to use gold as tool of exchange, from this time, the green money replaced it as a national currency. As a result, the old money is represented by gold, whereas the new one by the green. Following the same way, gold symbolizes Daisy and Tom’s old money, while the green symbolizes Gatsby’s new money.<sup>126</sup>

Silver is often used to symbolize many things such as: dream, reality, and romantic hope. It is also the symbol of money and corrupt materialism. It represents jewellery and richness. In this story, the moon and the stars are often silver.

In *the GG*, the red colour represents luxury, anger, and danger. It is associated with the description of the house of Daisy and Tom which is always full of danger, anger, and problems.

Myrtle and George Wilson are symbolized by the grey colour as a figurehead which represents facelessness, ignorance, melancholy, and low class. There are other colours that are used by Fitzgerald in order to symbolize characters for example: the brass colour which symbolizes wealthy and richness in the character of Daisy and Gatsby brass rail and brass buttons, brown as a symbol of earth and death, blue as a symbol of sadness in Gatsby’s character monograms of Indian blue, a symbol of melancholy and mystery for Daisy “*blue paint across her check.*”<sup>127</sup>

In order to describe characters, Fitzgerald uses cars as symbols of characters. That is characters are represented by the cars they drive. For example, Nick has an old Dodge, while Gatsby’s car was a gorgeous one from its appearance. It symbolises Gatsby’s wealthy status. His car is a selection of the gaudy dream; it is a feature of intelligence, imagination, and a

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<sup>125</sup> Hollister Michael. F, Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. (2014), PII, IV, IX.

<sup>126</sup>Color and Cosmos in the *Great Gatsby*, op. cit., P 18.

<sup>127</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 39.

fashion of the common American dream. Gatsby thought that there is no need for originality.<sup>128</sup>

Gatsby is both a romantic and pragmatic man. The mixture colours of his car represent the two traits. It is a rich dream colour, a combination of white colour which represents the dream, and yellow one which represents money.<sup>129</sup>

Jordan Baker also was known by her correlation with cars, because handled and drove a lot of them. In golf tournament for example, Nick described her as a “rotten driver” because she used to cheat in this tournament. From this careless, the cars soon became a symbol of death since it caused a disastrous consequences when already by the end of Gatsby’s parties, there were many accidents because of the dozen of cars in addition to people’s careless.<sup>130</sup>

The moth is one of the symbols that are used by Scott Fitzgerald in *the GG*. This insect has a night life. It is moving and zigzagging around the light without purpose like the gesticulations of Gatsby. They have a night life full of dancing and drinking, and this insect represents the purposeless life of the 1920’s generation.<sup>131</sup>

The beginning of chapter three, there is a description of Gatsby’s gesticulations: “*there was music from my neighbour’s house through the summer nights. In the blue garden, men and girls came and went like moths among whisperings and the champagne and the stars*” (GG, 50)

In *GG*, in each chapter, there is a dominant colour; in chapters one, two, three, four, six, and seven, the most repeated colour is the white. Yellow dominated the third and the eighth chapters. Green is so much used in chapters five and nine, and because tragedy was in its beginning in chapters five and six, it is very noticeable that the shiny colours started to disappear.<sup>132</sup>

Fitzgerald succeeded in narrating Gatsby’s story with intelligent and modern techniques. He used Nick’s voice to report the plot, and he shed light on the various themes like the American Dream. The fall of Gatsby’s dream in a tragic way representing the nightmare of the Americans during the 1920<sup>s</sup> in which materialism and greed controlled their dreams.

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<sup>128</sup> Imagery and Symbolism in the Great Gatsby, p. 2.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>130</sup> Imagery and Symbolism in the Great Gatsby, p. 7.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

Fitzgerald used a symbolic words and different colours in his novel to represent his story in a coloured way. Because he was a modernist writer, he played with words using binary opposition which lead each reader interprets the story by his own way. And this would be dealt with in the next chapter by applying the deconstruction theory.

### CHAPTER III. DECONSTRUCTIVE READING TO *THE GREAT GATSBY*

The word deconstruction is from the French verb “*deconstruire*”. It means to take to pieces. Deconstruction was developed by Jacques Derrida and it started as a series of techniques to analyze literary and philosophical texts. These techniques were connected to larger philosophical claims about the nature of language and meaning.<sup>133</sup>

Deconstruction is a method of reading and a theory of language that seeks to subvert meaning. One has to be aware of the fact that language of the text is ambiguous and unstable, and that the literary text consists of multiple conflicting, overlapping, and fluid meanings. This is because the signified is postponed.

Deconstruction is a critical theory from French origins. It finds the real significance of literary and philosophical texts not in their explicit meaning, but rather in their complexity. It is a way of reading against the text “*deconstructive reading attends to the deconstructive processes always occurring in the text and already there waiting to be read.*” deconstructive reading is already in the text and all texts is needed to be deconstructed.<sup>134</sup>

Jacques Derrida said,

I have never claimed to identify myself with what may be designated by his name. It has always seemed strange to me. It has always left me cold. Moreover I have never stopped having doubts about the very identity of what is referred to by such nick-name.<sup>135</sup>

He did not want to be associated with any nick-name. He states that deconstruction is nothing, “*What is deconstruction? Nothing of course.*”<sup>136</sup>

Deconstructive criticism developed during 1960’s by Jacques Derrida. In 1967, he became a very famous through his publication of three major critical works; *Voice and phenomenon* and other essays on Husserl’s theory of signs, of grammatology, and writing and difference which talks about different scholars in the fields of history, philosophy, and art. According to

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<sup>133</sup> Jack M. Bal Kim .*Deconstruction’s legal career*. vol. 27(2005), p. 719.

<sup>134</sup>Prayne, *Reading theory*, (oxford university, 1993), p. 121.

<sup>135</sup>Derrida. “*The time is out of join: Deconstruction in America: A new sense of political,*” (New York University , 1995), pp14-41, p. 15.

<sup>136</sup>Derrida. *Letter to a Japanese friend: A Derrida Reader*, (Harvester New York, 1991), pp 270-276, p. 275.

Derrida, “language is not the reliable tool of communication we believe to be, but rather a fluid, ambiguous domain of complex experience in which ideologies programs without our being aware of them”.

Derrida criticizes the concept of signifier and signified. The relation between them is arbitrary. Language for him is not a reliable means of communication; it contains multitudes of meanings. Derrida’s discussion of speech and writing is the best example of how one deconstructs. According to him many thinkers valued speech over writing because speech is the presence of thought in which words convey immediately what one wants to say. However, writing is inferior to speech, and it can be separated from the presence of the writer’s thoughts. It can also be misunderstood.<sup>137</sup>

In addition to Derrida, Yale scholars are a group of critics who are connected with deconstruction in the 1970<sup>s</sup> and 1980<sup>s</sup> in the USA. It includes J. Hills Miller, Paul de Man, Lucy Irigary, and Geoffrey Hartman. They are the supporters of Derrida’s deconstructive theory. Deconstructionist critics tend to emphasize not what is being said but how language is used in a text, “*between what the text manifestly means to say and what it nonetheless constrained a mean.*”<sup>138</sup>

Deconstruction was imported to American literature. It was fashionable in America as reader response theory. Those two theories were widely used to interpret literary text. It emphasizes people’s thoughts and it is shaped by structures of linguistic and cultural meanings. In literature, deconstruction is a conservative movement in which any text could be deconstructed. Indeed, deconstructionists spend much of their time demonstrating the ambiguity of all literary texts.<sup>139</sup>

Deconstructionists look for a set of counter principles. They try to show that these counter principles have a great significance and importance to maintaining the intellectual coherence of the body of the literary text.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> « Deconstruction’s legal », op.cit., p. 723.

<sup>138</sup> Norris, *Derrida*, (london, 1987), p. 19.

<sup>139</sup> « Deconstruction’s legal », op. cit., p. 721.

<sup>140</sup> Ibidem.

### 3.1. Counter Points in *The Great Gatsby*

In *the GG*, binary oppositions are widely used in order to show the contrast between characters, money, and places. Throughout the novel, five binary oppositions are obviously apparent: rich and poor, East Egg and West Egg, old money and new money, past and present, innocent and guilty.

The narrator's description of the East which follows his memories about Wisconsin winters contains contrast between past and present, innocence and decadence, East and West,

Even when the East excited me most, it had always for me a quality of distortion, West Egg especially still figures in my more fantastic dreams, I see it as a night scene By A hundred houses at once conventional and grotesque. (*GG*, 184)

Poverty and wealth are clearly shown in the novel. Poor people, like George and Myrtle, have less chance to achieve their dream. Rich people, like Gatsby and Tom, are more likely to become rich.

East Egg and West Egg are different. In East Egg money is inherited from generation to generation, and People are unconcerned, unfriendly, and unreliable. In West Egg, however, people must work in order to make money. Besides, the West is associated with the innocent dreams of the past, while the East is associated with the decadence of the present. This opposition is a matter of geographical situation and it is also a matter of contrast between the countryside and the city. West's pure nature represents America. East however represents the corrupted societies of European civilization.<sup>141</sup>

Nick as the narrator of the novel represents innocence. He gets into the story with innocent and youthful optimism "*foul dust*" (*GG*, 6), and "*abortive sorrows*" (7). After spending a summer in the East, Nick returns once again to the Midwest, looking for a better life. He says, "*When I came back from the East last autumn, I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention forever; I wanted no more riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart.*" (6) Gatsby was part of the corrupted world that Nick has entered.

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<sup>141</sup> Lois Tyson, *Critical theory today A user friendly Guide*, 2ed, (New York, 2006)p. 275.

The decadence is revealed in Nick's attraction to Jordan Barker, she was "*great sport woman*" who would "*never do anything that wasn't right*" (GG,76) she attracted him.<sup>142</sup>

The character of George Wilson also represents innocence in the story. He does not harm anyone, and he trusts everyone, although he knows about his wife infidelity "*he had discovered that Myrtle had some sort of life apart from him.*" (GG, 130) He still loves her and takes revenge for her death.

Gatsby is portrayed as a romantic hero, a self-made man, and a brave soldier, "*there was something gorgeous about him*" (GG, 6) with his "*gorgeous pink rang of a suit.*" (GG, 162) Yet, he is also corrupt. He makes his fortune through bootlegging and crime.<sup>143</sup>

Gatsby's past is not good. "*His parents were shiftless unsuccessful farm people.*" (GG, 6) Gatsby leaves his home and changes his name from James Gatz into Jay Gatsby. He tells Nick that his family "*all died and I came into a good deal of money [...] after that I live like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe[...] collecting jewels [...] hunting big game, painting a little.*" (GG.70) He escapes from his past to "*repeat the past.*" (GG.116)

In *the GG*, Fitzgerald uses many and a varied techniques. Counterpoint is one of them. He uses this technique in characterization, setting, and narrative structure in order to illustrate to the audience the change in ethics and moral growth of his narrator Nick Caraway. He places character against character, setting against setting, and one plot against another.<sup>144</sup>

In ethical and moral terms, Nick worked to evaluate characters, places, and scenes. People's characters started to change and to look for better life which is full of corruption and unethical behaviors. That is, the American Society transformed from one based on tradition and conservative ideas to a modern one influenced by materialism. In this context, Nick uses counterpoint in order to demonstrate this change in characters and even in society.

Moral and ethical standards are changing in American Society. The idealistic men of this society turned out to be great bootleggers, working on illegal activities and forgetting about morals and ethics.

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<sup>142</sup> Ibid., p. 273.

<sup>143</sup> Critical Theory, op. cit., p. 276.

<sup>144</sup> James M, Mellard. Counterpoint as Technique in The Great Gatsby, The English Journal, Vol. 55, No. 7 October. 1966, pp. 853-859, The National Council of Teachers of English. P853.

Counterpoint is also used by Fitzgerald in characterizing the relationship between Gatsby and Tom Buchanan, because Tom and Gatsby are almost opposite in their attitudes and personalities. They differ in some points, for example, Tom Buchanan is a man who reaches the highest degree of excellence only at the age of twenty one as he is a good football player. He has a good economic and social status that makes him one of the greatest men. Yet, this leads him to act greedily; he shows no care for others, and no intellectual or humanitarian sense.<sup>145</sup>

Gatsby by contrast thinks only for the future and how he could be a wealthy man and realize his dreams. Dreams are related to the future and becoming rich. Life of Tom Buchanan is all condemned, while Gatsby's life is all rising action. Tom's energy is physical, whereas Gatsby's is spiritual.

In Nick's point of view, Gatsby is both stronger and weaker than Tom Buchanan. He is considered stronger because he is morally less corruptible; and what makes him weaker is his physical vulnerability towards the world's flaws. Nick recognizes that Gatsby is superior to Tom and he represents the American Dream itself which is considered as man's universal dream of fulfillment.

Daisy Fay and Myrtle Wilson are other important characters. Daisy represents the central point of the bilateral romantic triangle made of Gatsby, Tom and George Wilson. The difference in the characters of Daisy and Myrtle demonstrates the difference between Gatsby and Tom, since Tom is dynamic and physical, whereas Daisy is viewed only in the metaphysical and static terms.

In addition, the contrast between Daisy and Myrtle can be seen from the language Nick uses to describe the two of them. For instance, about Myrtle, he states that *«there was an immediately perceptible vitality about her as if the nerves of her body were continually smoldering;»* he also described her as *«in the middle thirties, and faintly stout [...] she carried her surplus flesh sensuously as some women can.»*<sup>146</sup> In this quotation, Nick describes the strong body of Myrtle.

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<sup>145</sup> "Counter Points as Technique," op. cit., p. 854.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid., p. 855.

Daisy, on the other hand, is never described as being physically harsh like Myrtle. She is described as having musical terms. Nick says that “*Daisy said softly*” (GG, 39), “*Daisy gave a little laugh.*” (GG, 37)

The symbolic nature of Daisy is understood from how Gatsby views her. While Nick hears Daisy’s voice as music, Gatsby hears her voice as money, not money in the real meaning of money, but the sense that it represents. So what is attractive in Myrtle for Tom is her physical appearance. For Gatsby, however, it is the purely idealistic, romantic, and metaphysical reasons that make him fall in love with Daisy.

In addition to characters, settings are also counterpointed in the novel. The most important settings are the East and the Middle West. One of the measures of ethical and moral change is the contrapuntal setting. The narrator of the novel lives in the Middle West, and because he could not stay there, he decides to go to New York. He decides to settle there in order to develop his business. According to him, East is more superior to the sprawling towns of the West.<sup>147</sup>

### **3.2. Postponement of Meaning**

*The GG* is considered as a very ambiguous work in the modern era. Every character in the story sees things differently and this quotation shows Nick’s view and Gatsby’s view toward the green light.

He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way, and, far I was from him, I could have sworn he was trembling. Involuntarily, I glanced seaward and distinguished nothing except a single green light, minute and far away, that might have been the end of a dock when I looked once more for Gatsby he had vanished, and I was alone again in the unquiet darkness. (GG, 21-22)

Fitzgerald uses the word stretch, which means that Gatsby wants something. The dark water symbolizes that he cannot really see what he tries to see. Gatsby’s hand trembles; it can be read as a sign of fear. There is a green light which for Nick means nothing, but for Gatsby

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<sup>147</sup>Ibid., p 856.

means hope. The use of the word “*vanish*” shows that Gatsby is a mystery. The unquiet darkness is paradoxical for Nick’s thoughts and his loneliness.

When Nick sits on the beach the evening before his return to Wisconsin, he thinks on:

The old island here that flowed once for the Dutch sailors’ eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world; its vanished trees. The trees that had made way for Gatsby’s house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams; for a transitory enchanted moment man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, compelled into an aesthetic contemplation he neither understood nor desired face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder. (*GG*, 189)

This passage represents all the losses in the novel, the loss of values in modern America, the loss of innocence and vitality, and the loss of dreams.<sup>148</sup> The Valley of Ashes in *the GG* represents the spiritual poverty of the modern world,

A fantastic form where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens, where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and finally... of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air. (*GG*, 27)

Fitzgerald describes the Valley of Ashes as a farm that grows and takes the form of houses. It illustrates the image of poverty for the modern world.<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>148</sup> Lois Tyson, *Critical theory today A user friendly Guide*, 2ed, (New York, 2006), p272.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 268.

## CONCLUSION

The present study analysed *Narrating the American Nightmare in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The GG*. It aimed to demonstrate the socio-historical context of the novel, to examine F. Scott Fitzgerald's narrative discourse in the GG, and to use the deconstructivist approach to criticize the GG. The GG is a masterpiece of what Fitzgerald himself named the Jazz Age. The story is about Jay Gatsby, who sacrifices his life pursuing wealth for the sake of love. His hope perishes and his dream results in a tragic nightmare.

The first chapter shed light on the socio-historical context of the novel in which Fitzgerald wrote *The GG*. The period witnessed a cultural transformation due to the emergence of new generation affected by materialistic ideas and new technologies. This led to the appearance of new type of woman with more freedom and more rights. Fitzgerald was influenced by the technological advancements during the Roaring Twenties.

Young ladies of the era imitated young men to gain more freedom. They were known as Flappers with more freedom and anew fashionable style and ideas. The traditional concepts of love and marriage were thrown away. America in the 1920<sup>s</sup> became obsessed with the subject of sex.

The Jazz Age was an era of the spread of many philosophical ideas such as materialism and individualism. Literature is influenced by these ideas and many writers applied them in their works. People at that time wanted to achieve wealth. Every one of them started to depend on himself since for them money is everything.

Materialism spread in the American Society giving way to greed. It had a great impact on American minds and American life both negatively and positively. It resulted in Americans' quest for a better life; it also caused feelings of egocentric behaviour, greed, and corruption.

Individualism is another ideology that spread widely in America during the Roaring Twenties. There is a relationship between nature and the individual. Any living being is an independent being. Nonconformity with traditional norms was the main element of the American Dream giving rise to freedom, self-expression, and competition. The concept of the self-made man is clearly achieved in *the GG*, especially in the character of Gatsby who relies on himself in order to reach his dream of having Daisy back.

The second chapter examined Fitzgerald's narrative discourse. The writer employs Nick Caraway as a first-person narrator. Nick, however, is used as a first person narrator who dominates storytelling both as a narrator and as a participant. Besides, he adopts multiple narrators to create delusion and confusion, since the novel is told by Nick, Gatsby and Daisy.

Gatsby is great throughout the novel. His greatness relies on three aspects: his conflict with his fate, his individualism, and his love for Daisy. Gatsby's dream which is symbolized by the American Dream ends up being a tragic nightmare. Daisy lives with Tom, giving no interest to Gatsby's sacrifices for her.

Gatsby as a tragic hero wants to do anything in order to win Daisy's love even by breaking the law. He manages to gather money and he could reach wealth even by illegal activities. Gatsby's dream represents the American Dream which demonstrates that one can reach whatever he wants without any regard to his beliefs.

Daisy's carelessness and Tom Buchanan's rancour makes Gatsby a modern tragic hero. Tom is depicted as a careless immoral character. He contributes to the tragic end of Gatsby, Myrtle, and George Wilson. Tom's malice and Daisy's villainous personality are considered to be the causes of the downfall of Gatsby.

In terms of style, the novel is full of imaginary and symbolism. Many writers such as T. S. Eliot acclaimed Fitzgerald as America's great stylist and *The GG* as one of the most gorgeous works in American literature. The writer uses images which are full of adjectives. These adjectives create a romantic sense inside the novel. He uses contrasting adjectives to describe characters, settings, and even automobiles. Automobiles symbolise wealth. Among all Gatsby's properties, his car has many interpretations. It serves not only as a means of travelling or just as a material object, but also as a reflection of characters' personality.

In addition to describing characters and settings, inner feelings and emotional changes are also depicted in the novel using a formal style, including oppositional and prepositional phrases. Fitzgerald uses direct language and simple style rather than using complex difficult sentences. Symbolism is also widely viewed in *The GG*. Fitzgerald uses colours as symbols of characters' traits and lives in order to present an image about the American society in 1920<sup>s</sup>. Yellow, golden, white, silver, and green are the most used colours in this novel. Fitzgerald uses white colour to describe Daisy, Jordan Baker, and even to describe white palaces of fashionable East Egg which represent the white mansion of the Buchanan. White

is used in two different meanings: the traditional meaning of purity and the meaning of empowerment of whiteness. While the Valley of Ashes is dark, the East Egg is characterized by whiteness, light, and purity.

Yellow is used to describe halls, salons, and verandas. The car of Gatsby is also yellow indicating wealth and nonconformity. In *The GG*, yellow is the second dominant colour after white. It is used to talk about West Egg as a symbol of richness and upper class. Green is used as a symbol of spring, youth, hope, money, and romantic unions. Silver, brass, and gold are used to describe wealthy characters and beautiful things. Silver is often used as a symbol of dream, reality, romantic hope, money, and corrupt materialism.

In *the GG*, cars are used as symbols of characters. For instance, Gatsby's car is a brilliant one. It indicates the wealthy status of Gatsby. This use of symbolic words and various colours present the work as a coloured, imaginary, and symbolic.

The third chapter applied deconstructive criticism to *The GG*. Deconstruction was led by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida. It started as a series of techniques to analyse literary and philosophical text. Deconstruction is a method of reading and a theory of language that views language as unstable because the signified is absent and postponed.

In *the GG*, binary oppositions are widely used in order to show the contrast between characters, money, and places. Throughout the novel, five binary oppositions are obviously apparent: rich versus poor, East Egg versus West Egg, old money versus new money, past versus present, and innocent versus guilty.

East Egg is corrupted, while the West Egg is uncorrupted. In the East Egg, money is inherited from generation to generation. However, in the West Egg, people must work in order to get money. Besides the juxtaposition of settings, characters are also juxtaposed such as Gatsby versus Tom, and Daisy versus Myrtle.

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## المخلص

تعتبر دراسة الأسلوب الأدبي في رواية "غاتسبي العظيم" لـ "سكوت فيتزجيرالد" من بين أهم المسائل الشائكة في العصر الحديث و الأدب الأمريكي، و عليه فالهدف من وراء هذه الأطروحة هو دراسة الأسلوب الأدبي و الخطاب السردي للكاتب. الفصل الأول من هذا البحث يعالج الإطار السوسولوجي و التاريخي للرواية و مدى تأثير عصر الجاز على حياة المجتمع الأمريكي و ما للأفكار الفلسفية التي انتشرت في ذلك الوقت من تأثير على الكاتب. الفصل الثاني يهتم بتحليل أسلوب الخطاب في هذه الرواية و إلى أي مدى كان لفيتزجيرالد دور في تطوير الكتابة الأمريكية من خلال استعماله لتقنيات جديدة تبرز تأثيره بالأدب الأمريكي. أما بالنسبة للفصل الثالث فهو يناقش القراءة النقدية التفكيكية للرواية التي تفند احتمالية فهم و تفسير النص بشكل موضوعي نظرا لما يحمله من معاني و كلمات متضادة.

## Résumé

Le roman « Gatsby le grand » de « Scott Fitzgerald » est un des ouvrages les plus importants dans le temps moderne et la littérature américaine, tout d'abord l'objectif de cette mémoire est d'étudier le style littéraire et le discours narratif de l'écrivain. Le premier chapitre de cette recherche contient la partie sociologique et l'histoire du roman et l'effet de la culture d'époque de Jazz sur la société américaine. Le deuxième chapitre porte sur l'analyse du style de discours dans ce roman, à quel point l'attitude de Fitzgerald a eu un rôle dans l'accroissement de l'écriture américaine à travers l'emploi de nouvelles techniques et leur effet avec la nouvelle littérature, relativement au troisième chapitre discuté la lisibilité et la déconstruction pour le roman qu'elle conteste la possibilité de comprendre et expliquer le texte de façon objective selon la richesse des synonymes et d'antonymes dans le texte.