

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

The present writer has chosen Francisco Scott Fitzgerald, an American novelist during the 1920's, well known as the Roaring Twenties. The present writer is interested in Fitzgerald because of his ability in creating interesting characters who represent the social condition of America during 1920's which was wild and luxurious. Fitzgerald is known as one of the members of the Lost Generation. The Lost Generation can be defined as the generation of men and women, who sought the meaning and the purpose of life through hedonistic life. This is the representation of the Americans living during 1920's.

Fitzgerald often writes novels which are based on social condition which happened at his time; moreover, in most of his works, he uses his life experience as the plot. It can be seen through the dominant theme of his novels, which concerns the middle and upper class materialism and the impersonality of modern society. Fitzgerald is largely known for some of his important works such as: This

Side of Paradise, The Great Gatsby, The Tales of Jazz Age, and Tender is the Night.

From some of Fitzgerald's works the present writer decides to choose The Beautiful and Damned (1922). In the present writer's opinion, the characters in this novel are well portrayed; it is shown by the actions of each character which give the present writer a clear view about their characteristics. The characters in this novel, especially the major characters, portray the characteristics of Americans living in the Roaring Twenties. Accordingly, this novel is interesting to be analyzed further intrinsically and extrinsically.

The present writer finds that character is the most significant element in the work chosen owing to the fact that a character is the portrayal of a person in real life. Character can be defined as "the aggregate of traits and feature that form the nature of some person or animal, the character also refers to moral qualities and ethnical standard and principle" (Shaw, 1972: 70). Consequently, the present writer chooses to analyze the portrayal of the Roaring Twenties reflected through the major characters in his thesis. The Roaring Twenties itself can be defined as "the era when the atmosphere of freedom from restrain and revolt against moral traditions that prevailed in the United States during the second and the third decades of the twentieth century" (Shaw, 1972: 211).

By analyzing the major characters and using historical background as the supporting element, the present writer wants to show how the Roaring Twenties deeply influences the society at that time, which is represented through the major characters. The present writer wants to apply the historical background owing to

the fact that The Beautiful and Damned was written and set in the 1920's. For this reason, the life of the Americans during the Roaring Twenties is portrayed through the major characters in the novel. It can be seen from the characteristics of the major characters especially when they interact with one another.

The present writer finds that the portrayal of the life of the Roaring Twenties generation is represented by the major characters: Anthony, Maury and Gloria. By analyzing these major characters, the present writer can see how the Americans lived at that time, when people tended to be money-oriented and worshipped the material world and success as the most important things, but at the same time they still felt empty in their lives. These are some of the characteristics of the people during the Roaring Twenties.

Finally, the present writer prefers discussing a novel rather than a drama and poetry on the grounds that the novel has more detailed information than play or poem. It is supported by the definition which is defined by J. A Cuddon: 'Novel is a type of genre which contains a lot of description, it is a format story of prose narrative containing character, action, incident and perhaps a pet' (Cuddon, 1979:430)

## **1.2 THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In order to analyze the topic chosen, the present writer states the problems as follows:

1. How are the major characters in The Beautiful and Damned portrayed?

2. How does the portrayal of the major characters represent the Roaring Twenties in The Beautiful and Damned?

### **1.3. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

1. To show how the major characters in The Beautiful and Damned are portrayed.
2. To show the portrayal of the major characters representing the Roaring Twenties in The Beautiful and Damned.

### **1.4 METHODS OF RESEARCH**

In writing this thesis, the present writer uses some methods of research, such as library research and research from the internet to support his idea. The present writer begins this thesis by searching some literary works and finds the information about those works. Having searched the literary works, the present writer chooses a novel titled The Beautiful and Damned by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Then the present writer starts reading the novel and finding the further information about the novel by searching from the internet and, from the reference books. Having collected enough data, the present writer continues his thesis by analyzing the novel and writing the thesis. And at last, the present writer concludes his analysis.

## **VII. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

In organizing the thesis, the present writer divides the thesis into three chapters. In Chapter One, the present writer puts the Introduction which contains the Background of Study, the Statement of Problems, the Purpose of the Thesis, Methods of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, the present writer will present the discussion of the life of the Roaring Twenties generation reflected by the major characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Beautiful and Damned. In Chapter Three, the present writer puts a conclusion pertaining to the discussion besides the hypothesis. In the end of the thesis the present writer puts the bibliography and the appendices.