

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the theme through the portrayal of the protagonist in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, I would like to draw some conclusions in this chapter. Jay Gatsby, the protagonist of the novel, comes from a lower income family background in North Dakota. Because of his poor condition, Gatsby has to work at a young age to support his daily needs. This situation makes Gatsby dream about his future. He starts to have an ambition to become a wealthy person and tries to reach his dream. Unfortunately, because of his love toward a rich woman, he gets nothing at the end of his life.

Firstly, Jay Gatsby is portrayed as an ambitious person. His being ambitious can be seen when he tries to do anything to be a wealthy and successful man. Gatsby tries to present himself with a new image as a wealthy and successful man by changing his name from James Gatz to Jay Gatsby. When Gatsby works for Dan Cody, a millionaire who owns yachts along the Lake Superior's shore, Cody states that Gatsby is extravagantly ambitious. Later, Gatsby's father, James Gatz, tells Nick, Gatsby's neighbor, how ambitious his son was since Gatsby was

a boy. All the indications above show that Gatsby is being ambitious to become a successful, rich and powerful person.

Gatsby is also portrayed as a hard-working person. His ambition drives him to work hard to gain wealth. His being a hard-working person can be seen when he tries to do many jobs to earn money so that he can become a wealthy person. Gatsby has worked as a clam-digger and a salmon fisher in the Lake Superior for over a year to get food and bed. Then Gatsby works for Dan Cody as his steward, mate, skipper, secretary, and even jailor for five years. Later, he starts to manage his drug and oil businesses. All the indications of his being hard-working show that Gatsby makes great effort in his jobs and has already been doing them well, so he becomes a successful person who has gained great wealth.

After Gatsby becomes a wealthy person, he focuses his attention on reuniting with Daisy Buchanan. In spite of the fact that now Daisy is already married to Tom Buchanan, Gatsby still loves her and is obsessed with her. Thus, Gatsby is portrayed as an obsessive person. Actually, his obsession towards Daisy is one of the reasons why he becomes ambitious and hard-working. At first, his motivation to become rich is because he wants to change his financially poor condition. However when he met Daisy and found out that she actually comes from a rich family, he becomes more motivated to be successful and rich so that he can be financially equal with her.

His being obsessive can be seen when he tries many ways to win her back to his side. One day, Gatsby tells Nick how deep his feelings are for Daisy, that nothing is more important than getting Daisy's love. Then Gatsby intentionally bought a great mansion which is located across the bay from Daisy's house so that

he can feel closer with her. Moreover, he spends a lot of money for holding glamorous parties and invites a lot people to the parties, only for the sake of meeting Daisy. He also starts to ask people questions in order to get information about Daisy. Furthermore, Gatsby is willing to sacrifice his own life by taking the blame for Daisy's accidentally killing Mrs. Wilson. In the end, the consequence of his action causes his death by murder, and he therefore loses both his wealth and love. The fact that he is willing to do anything for Daisy shows that he always thinks about her. All the actions that he did, he did for Daisy's sake, even though he has to sacrifice his own life.

Gatsby's obsession towards Daisy also makes him continue to live in the moment when they fell in love with each other. He wants to get Daisy back in his life, which makes him become an unrealistic person. His being unrealistic can be seen when he wants to repeat his past moments with Daisy and he hopes that everything can return to the way it was five years earlier when they met in Louisville. Gatsby also hopes that Daisy will go back to him in spite of the fact she has married Tom Buchanan. All the indications show that Gatsby is being unrealistic because he cannot accept his present life without Daisy.

From the discussion above, it is shown that Gatsby's ambition and hard-working attitude make him become a successful person with a high level of wealth. But, because of his obsession toward Daisy, he is not able to enjoy his wealth in the present life. He spends so much money only to feel closer with her and meet her again. His obsession toward Daisy also makes him to be an unrealistic person because he tries to regain his relationship with her like it was five years earlier when they met for the first time. In the end, Gatsby's obsession

with love for Daisy makes him behave in an unrealistic way which ruins the result of his ambition and hard-work. He sacrifices his own life: in the end he loses his wealth, his love and everything he has by his death. Thus, the theme of the story is “Obsession about the past love may cause unrealistic behavior that ruins one’s present success and effort.”

From the portrayal of Jay Gatsby, I find that Gatsby’s ambition and his hard-working attitude make him successful to gain wealth. He shows great efforts to get his wealth. However, on the other hand, his obsession towards Daisy makes him lose everything that he has achieved in his life. He does not realize that his obsession of love with her brings many problems to his present life. He does not hesitate to spend a great deal of money even to feel closer with her and meet her. Even when she accidentally kills a person, he is willing to sacrifice his own life by taking the blame for it. As the consequence, he loses everything due to his death; thus, all his efforts during his lifetime become useless. Furthermore, his unrealistic behavior in his relationship with Daisy also makes him continue to live in those past moment because he cannot accept his present life without her. Thus, from the portrayal of the protagonist, I conclude that no matter how deep one’s love is to someone, one should not make it an obsessive love. One also has to live in the present moment because no matter how great one’s efforts and how wealthy one is, it is still impossible to repeat the past.