

THE THREE DIMENSIONAL ASPECTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER OF *THE GREAT GATSBY*

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the three dimensional aspects of the main character of ‘The Great Gatsby’ novel as well as the function of his character. The data used for this study is The Great Gatsby novel; it is a well-known novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1925. The study applied the three dimensional character by Egri Lajos (1985) supported by Wellek and Warren (1966). The supporting theory applied is taken from Morner and Rausch (1991) to analyze the function of the character. The Great Gatsby novel comprises of nine chapter and was written in 1925 by F. Scott Fitzgerald, one of prominent author in the Modern Period of history of literature. The data were collected by observation method and the technique applied was note taking. The novel was read thoroughly and the lines describing the dimensional aspect of the main characters were highlighted, and later categorized. The data was analyzed descriptively by applying the qualitative method. The finding shows that the three dimensional aspects are as follow: The Physiological aspect shows that Jay Gatsby is an elegant person, around thirty, handsome and has polite yet mysterious manner. The sociological aspect shows that Gatsby is a man with reputable status and wealthy. The psychological aspect shows that Gatsby is a narcissist, a person who has extreme idealism about getting his true love returning to him after he is being wealthy, a liar as the consequences of repression of his genuine identity who grows up in a poor family

Keywords : three dimensional aspect, character, the Great Gatsby

INTRODUCTION

The literary works usually can be found in poetry, drama or novel. These literary works not only able to provide ideas, but also to educate or inform readers as many of the works are inspired from the every day life. Wellek and Werren (1967:1) states that literature represents “life” and “life” itself in large measure comes from a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been object of the literary imitation. This

study focuses on the three dimensional of the main characters of the novel of 'The Great Gatsby' and also the function of the character. The Great Gatsby is a well-known novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1925. As one of the prominent literary work in the development of American literature history, this novel depicts life of the American during the modern period. There are many moral messages conveyed within the story, such as loyalty, ambition, honesty, pride, social status and others. There were also found the universal value of the novel; love and money. The framework of the novel is the introduction of 'The American Dream' which is known worldwide up to present era. The data were collected by observation method and the technique applied was note taking. The novel was read thoroughly and the lines describing the characters were highlighted, and then categorized. The data was analyzed descriptively by applying the qualitative method.

II. METHOD

This present study used qualitative research method. It is a library research and data collection used documentation technique. Theoretically, this study focuses on the three dimensional aspects of the main character and the function of the characters of The Great Gatsby. To deepen the understanding, this chapter tries to elaborate the concept of character, novel and the theories applied.

2.1 Concept of Character

According to William Keney(1966:27) a character is obviously relevant to us and to our experience if he is like ourselves or like another whom we know. Lifelikeness then is properly understood as one form of relevance. A character is relevant if there are many people like him in the real world. Klarer (2004) stated that character as a figure presented in literary work, including main character or protagonist and minor character. While Mulyawan (2015) defined character as an entity, human or animal that is created by the author. Standford (2006:39) mentioned that characters are the fictional people who are part of the action of the literary work. He also mentioned that there are two important terms to keep in mind for describing people; protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is a major character with whom the protagonist is in conflict. The antagonist is generally not sympathetic. The protagonist is usually called the main character.

2.2 Concept of Novel

Novel is defined as a fictitious prose narrative of book length, typically representing character and action with some degree of realism (Oxford dictionary). Novel also defined as an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively

with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting (Anthony Burgess)

2.3 The Great Gatsby

The story tells about Nick Carraway who is a middle class American who moves East Egg and try his luck to work there and he meets a mysterious neighbor named Jay Gatsby who is a rich man who lives next of Nick's house and they became friend. Gatsby makes friend with Nick who is the second cousin of Daisy Buchanan. Through the help of Nick, Gatsby would like to reunite with his old and true love Daisy Buchanan (who has married Tom Buchanan, a reputable and wealthy man from Long Island).

The story ends with Gatsby's tragic death by Mr. Myrtle the one who thinks that Gatsby killed his wife. The fact is Mrs. Myrtle was died on an accident. Tom Buchanan who find out about the love affair bring his wife away from Gatsby. Gatsby was passed away while no one is around for him, not even Daisy.

2.4 The Framework

This writing applied the theory of character proposed by Egri Lajoz which concern with the three dimensional characters. Egri Lajoz (in Hamzah 1985:107) states that a character has three dimensions as its fundamental structure. Those dimensions are:

- a. Physiological dimension is the description of the physical aspects of a character, e.g. appearance and general health. Physical appearance may effect on the character's feeling regarding his/her surrounding, or the feeling of being secure/insecure. Physiological aspects of a character are observed through sex, age, or physical appearance such as the body shape, whether or not a person is beautiful or handsome, or the color of skin and hair.
- b. Sociological dimension is related to the description of the condition of character's environment. Sociological aspect can be effectively analyzed through the social life of the character, e.g. the house, the job, the education and the social status
- c. The psychological dimension deals with the characteristic of the character e.g. behavior, emotion, and thought

To support the characters, Wellek and Warren (1955:227). It is mentioned that the categorization of character are:

- a. Static character; it is the character which does not develop or examine a changing from the beginning to the end of the story
- b. Dynamic character; it is the character which is exhibit some kinds of changed and attitude or purpose as the theory of progress

According to the function, character can be classified into protagonist and antagonist (Morner and Raush,1991:31).

- a. The protagonist is the character who usually shows to the reader ideal values or norms. We often recognize him as the hero or the adorable character. Moreover, the protagonist is described as the character, which is suitable with the reader perception and hopes
- b. The antagonist can be defined as the character that causes the conflict in a story and usually admirable than the hero. It also can be defined as the opposites of the protagonist, directly and indirectly, physiologically or psychologically. Conflicts are not only caused by antagonist or individual who is clearly pointed out but also caused by accident, the environment and moral principle

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter tries to analyze the focus of the study; which are the three dimensional aspects of the main character and also to identify the function of his character. Having the framework of Egri Lajoz, it can be found that the three dimensional aspect of the character of ‘The Great Gatsby’ are described in the following

The main character is named Jay Gatsby. He is pictured as a mysterious man who keeps his true love until the death took his life. The characterization of Gatsby is a Static character because it was found that there was no certain change of his character from the beginning to the end of the story. He was in love with Daisy Buchanan, his first love who has already married to Tom Buchanan (a reputable and wealthy man from Long Island who is not loyal to Daisy).The function of the character shown in the novel is a Protagonist character. It is can be seen through his qualities which pictured such as: friendly, loyal, brave, ambitious, and mysterious and others.

The three dimensional aspects of the main characters found are:

- a. Physiological : he is pictured as an elegant person, charming, around thirty, handsome and has polite manner

The following lines show the surprised encounter of Nick Carraway (Gatsby’s neighbour; second cousin of Daisy Buchanan who lives next door to Gatsby’s castle) with Gatsby

“.....and I was looking at an elegant young rough neck, a year or two over thirty , whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd. Sometimes before he introduced himself I'd got a strong impression that he was picking the words with care.”(chapter III)

b. Sociological

He is pictured as a wealthy yet mysterious person who lives in a big mansion which rather like to be seen as castle. He often threw large parties as a camouflage to hide his sadness for not being able to meet his true love, Daisy Buchanan. He often threw parties with the hope that she would come to the party one day. His wealthy is questionable by many people as seen in the following lines:

“.....I was down there at a party about a month ago. At a man named Gatsby's. Do you know him?

“I live next door to him”

“Well, they say he's a nephew or a cousin of Kaiser Willhelm's. That's where all his money comes from .” “Really?” (chapter II)

c. Psychological

Gatsby is depicted to be a pathological narcissist. The sign shown includes his sense of perfection and entitlement, his poor sense of reality and an extreme idealism that he will be able to unite with his true love after returning as a wealthy person. He believe himself to be the son of God; he thinks he can do everything by having a lot of money, he thinks that he can get Daisy back to his arm with all the wealth and social status that he has. He uses the psychological defense to repress the memories of his past because he is ashamed of the fact that he grew up poor. He was telling lie to Nick Carraway about his identity. In the following lines for instance:

“Well, I'm going to tell you something about my life,” he interrupted. “I don't want you to get the wrong idea of me from all these stories you hear.”

“I'll tell you God's truth.....I am the son of some wealthy people in the Middle West-all dead now. I was brought to America but educated in Oxford, because all my ancestors have been educated for many years. It is a family tradition.”

He looked at me sideways-and I knew why Jordan Baker had believed he was lying. He hurried the phrase educated at Oxford,” or swallowed it, or chocked on it as though it had bothered him before.....(chapter IV)

IV. CONCLUSION

The three dimensional aspects of the main character of the Great Gatsby were Physiological, Sociological and Physicological. The Physiological aspect shows that Jay Gatsby is an elegant person, around thirty, handsome and has polite yet mysterious manner. The sociological aspect shows that Gatsby is a man with reputable status and wealthy. The psychological aspect shows that Gatsby is a narcissist, a person who has extreme idealism about getting his true love returning to him after he is being wealthy, a liar as the consequences of repression of his genuine identity who grows up in a poor family. The function of the character is Protagonist, it is the character who usually shows to the reader ideal values or norms. The ideal value could be identified through Gatsby's characters such as: elegant, charming, kindhearted, loyal, rather ambitious even though he has problem with his love story. According to Warren and Wellek's frame the categorization of the main character can be described as Static character; it is the character which does not develop or examine a changing from the beginning to the end of the story.

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