

**THE ANALYSIS ON THE ELEMENTS OF FITZGERALD'S NOVEL  
*THE GREAT GATSBY* AND ITS APPLICATION IN TEACHING READING**

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**Abstract**

**This writing is based on the research of analyzing the elements of fitzgerald's novel *the great Gatsby*. This research is included in descriptive qualitative research. The researcher chooses the novel since it is about American, the English native speaker, for its application to English educational interests, especially teaching reading. The findings tell us that the story takes place at some parts of America. Since its theme is about love, it will inspire everybody in his/her era. Through the first person point of view, the author conveys the plot nicely.**

**Keyword: analysis, novel, elements**

**Introduction**

According to Brown (2007:8), teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, setting the conditions for learning. The understanding of how the learner will determine the philosophy of education, the teaching style, the approach, methods, and classroom technique. Harmer (2007: 99) states that reading is useful for language acquisition. When the students can more understand what they read, the more they read, the better they get at it.

According to Rees (1973 : 15), literature is a permanent expression in words of some thought or feeling or idea about life and world. Koesnosobroto (1988 : 2) says that literature offers hints, suggestions and flashes of insight in such a way as to refresh and encourage our own thinking, and so leads us to the insight of our own. Literary works always give many people many things can do. Based on their interests, they may pill out the content of literary works. In educational field,the teachers may apply them as their sources of teaching materials in which the students let to analyse something

from it or making certain writings. The high students may analyze them for completing their thesis or dissertation. Whatever the interest, they should understand the elements they are formed of. In example, in analyzing a certain point of a novel, they should understand first its elements.

The elements of novel consist of characters and characterization, setting / background, mood / atmosphere, theme, plot, style, point of view, and tone. They appear to color the content in whole. In this writing, The writer is going to present the analysis of the elements of the Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* (GG for short) since it takes place in America, talks about Americans, one of the English native speakers. Another reason is it is very interesting.

In her previous writing, she has presented the characters and characterization of this novel, so, here, she is going to go ahead with the rest elements of setting / background, theme, plot, and point of view. This finding, hopefully can inspire the teachers and students especially in teaching and learning reading.

### **Methodology**

Sugiyono (2011: 8) divides types of research into quantitative and qualitative research. According to Moleong (2000:5), a qualitative research is a research procedure which produce descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken of the person. So, this research is included in descriptive qualitative research design. The main source of the data is F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*. In analyzing the novel, the writer applies four steps, they are collecting the data, classifying the data, interpreting the data, and drawing conclusion.

## **Finding and Discussion**

In this discussion, the elements that will be presented are setting/background, theme, plot, and point of view.

### **a. Setting/Background**

In a narrow sense, setting means the particular place and the particular time or conditions in which action takes place. In a wide sense, it means the whole geographical area, the time in history, and the social and economic environment in which events take place.

According to Kenney (1966:38) the term "setting" refers to the point in time and space at which the events of the plot occur. While Connolly (as cited in Koesnosoebroto,1988:79) says that setting is in a sense "the time, place, and concrete situation of the narrative, the web of meant in which characters spin out their destinies." In short, setting is the world in which the characters live, move and have their beings. In order to understand the setting well and to be familiar with the characters, we should go into the author's imaginary world.

Usually there are two terms of setting that are often analyzed in a novel, namely setting of time and setting of place. In this case, "The Great Gatsby" generally takes place in New York in 1922.

I began to like New York, the racy, adventurous feel of it at night, and the satisfaction that the constant flicker of men and women and machines gives to the restless eyes. (Fitzgerald,1953:57)

Father agreed to finance me for a year, and after various delays I came East, permanently, I thought, in the Spring of twenty-two. (Fitzgerald,1953:3)

In detail, Fitzgerald also applies some specific places such as West Egg and East Egg village, Long Island.

"Do you live down on Long Island, too?" she inquired.

"I live at West Egg." (Fitzgerald,1953:32)

And so it happened that on a warm windy evening I drove over to go to see two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all. (Fitzgerald,1953:6)

## **b. Theme**

A good story provides us with valuable insights into life. Those insights can be caught from the theme of the story because the theme is what a story about. According to Perrine (1959:137) the theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story. Vivante (1980:52) calls it "the underlying concept of a story." (Koesnosobroto,1988:76).

From the definitions of the theme above, we can conclude that the theme is the central idea or view of life that the author gives through the current of life and thought of his characters in the story.

After reading "The Great Gatsby", we can find that the theme of this novel is

:

Surviving love without considering the reality is usually a suffer.

As explanation, Gatsby never gave up in getting his first love, Daisy, although he knew that she had gotten married with another man. He did not care of the fact. Moreover, he lied himself in the suffer and gave more sacrifices for Daisy until the death cut off his dreams.

## **c. . Plot**

The word “plot” is in fact a technical term to say about a series of tied - together events in a story. In his book, Koesnosoebroto (1988: 28) presents some literary theorists’ definitions of plot. Perrine defines plot as the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. While Connolly (1955:6) calls it as the arrangement of the details and incidents in a story. Hall describes plot as what happens in a story, the story’s organized development, usually a chain linking cause and effect. So, we can conclude that plot is the arrangement of tied - together chronological events which have causal and thematic connections.

The structure of plot begins with the incentive moment, the beginning problem that introduces the conflict in the story, and developed by a series of complications that make the problem more difficult to solve. After that, it climbs to the climax where the conflict touches the highest intensity. Then the conflict will move down in the frame of falling action (reversa) that finally reaches the resolution (denouement) which the conflict being solved.

**a). Incentive moment**

Daisy’s memory of her first love appeared suddenly, when Jordan Baker mentioned the name Gatsby in her conversation with Nick at the dinner. The name was nearly forgotten for almost five years.

“You live in West Egg,” she remarked contemptuously. “I know somebody there.”

“ I don’t know a single—” .”

“You must know Gatsby.”

“Gatsby? ”demanded Daisy. “What Gatsby ?” (Fitzgerald, 1953 : 11)

While the marriage of Daisy and Tom was not harmonious, moreover Tom held affair with another woman, Myrtle Wilson.

“You mean to say you don’t know ?” said Miss Baker, honestly surprised.

“I told everybody knew.”

“I don’t.”

“Why ——“ she said hesitantly, “Tom’s got some woman in New York.”

“Got some woman ?” I repeated blankly.

Miss Baker nodded. (Fitzgerald, 1953:15).

## **b) Complications**

The story consists of a series of complications :

1. Gatsby loved Daisy very much. So he did everything to get her back after five years be apart. He held parties every night along the summer hoping Daisy would come to his party, but she never came.

“ Think he half expected her to wander into one of his parties, some night,” went on Jordan,”but she never did .“ (Fitzgerald, 1953 : 80).

2. On his way of looking for Daisy, Gatsby met Nick and Jordan who were close to Daisy. Then they became close friends that gave Gatsby a way to meet Daisy.

As I waited for my hat in the hall the door of the library opened and Jordan Baker and Gatsby came together. ( Fitzgerald, 1953 :52)

3. By Nick’s help, at last Gatsby could meet Daisy at Nick’s house. So, there was a very nice meeting between Gatsby and Daisy who seemed still to love each other.

They were sitting at either end of the couch, looking at each other as if some question had been asked, or was in the air, and every vestige of embarrassment was gone. Daisy’s face was smeared with tears, and when I

came in she jumped up and began wiping at it with her handkerchief before a mirror. (Fitzgerald, 1953: 90 )

4. Gatsby teased Daisy's heart with his wealth. As a very materialistic woman, she was easily in love with him again for his possessions.

He hadn't once ceased looking at Daisy, and I think he revalued everything in his house according to the measure of response it drew from her well - loved eyes.

(Fitzgerald, 1953 : 92)

5. Tom was suspicious towards the close relationship between his wife and Gatsby, and began to hate him.

“Who is this Gatsby anyhow ?” demanded Tom suddenly.

“Some big bootlegger ?”

“Where'd you hear that ?” I inquired.

“I didn't hear it. I imagine it. A lot of these newly rich people are just big bootleggers, you know.”

“Not Gatsby, “ I said shortly. (Fitzgerald, 1953 : 109)

6. Gatsby hoped Daisy getting divorce with her husband to marry him.

He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: “ I never love you.” After she had obliterated four years with that sentence they could decide upon the more practical measures to be taken. One of them was that, after she was free, they were to go back to Louisville and be married from her house just as if it was five years ago. (Fitzgerald, 1953 : 111)

7. Daisy's love to Gatsby grew well, and she often visited him.

“I hear you fired on your servants. “

“I wanted somebody who wouldn’t gossip. Daisy comes over quite often --- in the afternoons.” (Fitzgerald, 1953 : 114)

8. Tom clearly noticed that Daisy and Gatsby were in love.

Their eyes met, and they stared together at each other, alone in space. With an effort glanced down at the table.

“You always look so cool,” she repeated.

She had told him that she loved him, and Tom Buchanan saw. He was astounded. His mouth opened a little, and he looked at Gatsby, and then back at Daisy as if he had just recognized her as someone he knew a long time ago.

(Fitzgerald, 1953, : 119)

### c) Climax

In this part, the conflict is at the highest tension. The climax of the story is the hot quarrel between Gatsby and Tom for getting Daisy at the Plaza Hotel. Here, Gatsby exploited his past with Daisy.

“I want to know what Mr. Gatsby has to tell me.”

“Your wife doesn’t love you,” said Gatsby. “She’s never loved you. She loved me.”

“You must be crazy !” exclaimed Tom automatically.

Gatsby sprang to his feet, vivid with excitement.

“She never love you, do you hear?” he cried. “She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me. It was a terrible mistake, but in her heart she never loved any one except me !”



“I told you what’s been going on,” said Gatsby. “Going on for five years

\_\_\_\_\_ and you didn’t know.

Tom turned to Daisy sharply.

“You’ve been seeing this fellow for five years?”

“Not seeing,” said Gatsby. “No, we couldn’t meet .”

But both of us loved each other all that time, old sport, and you didn’t know.

I used to laugh sometimes” \_\_\_\_\_ but there was no laughter in his eyes\_\_\_\_\_” to think that you didn’t know.”

“Oh\_\_\_\_\_ that’s all.” Tom tapped his thick fingers together like a clergyman and leaned back in his chair.

“You’re crazy !” he exploded. (Fitzgerald,1953 : 131-132)

Daisy was so confused when she must choose one of them, because she actually loved both of them, Gatsby and Tom.

“Oh, you want too much!” she cried to Gatsby. “I love you now\_\_\_\_\_ isn’t that enough? I can’t help what’s past.” she began sob helplessly. “I did love him once\_\_\_\_\_but I loved you too.”

Gatsby’s eyes opened and closed.

“You loved me too?” he repeated.

“Even that’s lie,” said Tom savagely. “She didn’t know you were alive. Why\_\_\_\_\_ there’s things between Daisy and me that you’ll never know, things that neither of us can ever forget.”

“The words seemed to bite physically into Gatsby.

“I want to speak to Daisy alone,” he insisted. “She’s all excited now\_\_\_\_\_.”

“Even alone I can’t say I never loved Tom,” she admitted in a pitiful voice.

“It wouldn’t be true.” (Fitzgerald,1953:133)

Angrily, Tom opened who actually Gatsby was, a criminal, that made Daisy very disappointed. She changed her mind and Tom won in the quarrel.

“I found out what your ‘drug-stores’ were.” He turned to us and spoke rapidly. “He and this Wolfsheim bought up a lot of side-street drug-stores here and in Chicago and sold grain alcohol over the counter. That’s one of his little stunts. I picked him for a bootlegger the first time I saw him, and I wasn’t far wrong.”

“What about it ?” said Gatsby politely. “I guess your friend Walter Chase wasn’t too proud to come in on it.”

“And you left him in the lurch,didn’t you? You let him go to jail for a month over in New Jersey. God ! You ought to hear Walter on the subject of you.”

(Fitzgerald,1953:134)

#### **d) Denouement**

It is the point where the conflicts being solved. The story of this novel ended by Gatsby’s death. He was shot by Wilson since he supposed that Gatsby who had killed his wife.

“Hello!” I interrupted breathlessly. “Look here \_\_\_ this isn’t Mr. Gatsby’s dead.”

(Fitzgerald,1953:167)

While Daisy went away with Tom to spend their beautiful life without taking care of Gatsby anymore.

“I called up Daisy half an hour after we found him, called her instinctively and without hesitation. But she and Tom had gone away early that afternoon , and taken baggage with them.” (Fitzgerald,1953:165)

**d. Point of view**

Since stories do not tell themselves, an author applies a definite way in telling his story. Francis Connolly ( quoted from Koesnosoebroto,1988:85) states that one of the chief means the short storywriter employs to organize his action is point of view.

In this case, Connolly also presents four types of point of view, they are the omniscient point of view, the limited omniscient point of view, the first person point of view, the objective point of view.

From the types of the four types of point of views above, we can see that Fitzgerald uses the first person point of view in telling his story. In this case, he chooses Nick Carraway who presented in “ I “ position to convey the story. Although he is not a major character, he holds a great role as the narrator of the story.

**The Application in Teaching Reading**

Nation (2009:6-8) states that to encourage the students’ fluency development learners should enjoy reading and feel motivated to read also have access to interesting texts and be involved in activities like listening to stories, independent reading, and shared reading (blown-up books).

Based on the opinion above, the teacher can conduct the students’ reading activities.

1. Shared-Reading the novel
2. In group discussion, finding out the elements of the novel
3. Presenting the work

4. Getting feedback from the teacher.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the finding, it can be concluded that GG takes place in New York especially and some villages in America in 1922. The theme is about love. Through the first person point of view, the plot is started from the incentive moment, developed by a series of complications then climbs to the climax and move down finally reaches the resolution (denouement). In teaching reading, the application can be in the form that can motivate and encourage the students to enjoy, learn and understand the content of novel.

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