

SOCIOLOGICAL CRITICISM IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S "THE GREAT GATSBY"

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini tentang Sociological Criticism pada novel karya F.Scott Fitzgerald yang berjudul "*The Great Gatsby*". Penelitian ini memfokuskan pada pendekatan kritis terhadap karya sastra khususnya kritik sosial dalam bidang sosiologis dalam novel. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui (i) Jenis-jenis kritik sosial dalam novel "*The Great Gatsby*" (ii) dan Bagaimana kekuatan lingkungan sosial terhadap peranan individu. Pada penelitian ini metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif digunakan sebagai desain. Data sumber penelitian ini adalah novel "*The Great Gatsby*" oleh F.Scott Fitzgerald itu sendiri. Peneliti menggunakan analisis dokumen dan pengambilan catatan sebagai pengumpulan data yang akan dianalisis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat lima jenis kritik sosial yang ditemukan dalam novel "*The Great Gatsby*". Lima jenis kritik sosial tersebut adalah, kritik sosial masalah ekonomi, kritik sosial masalah pendidikan, kritik sosial masalah budaya, kritik sosial masalah moral dan kritik sosial masalah keluarga. Pada penelitian ini juga ditemukan lingkungan sosial yang mempengaruhi individu, dan menimbulkan status sosial diantara tokoh dalam novel, seperti status old money (uang lama), new money (uang baru), dan no money (tidak ada uang).

Kata Kunci : Pendekatan Kritis; Sosiologi Kritisisme; Novel *The Great Gatsby*

This research is about Sociological Criticism in the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald entitled "*The Great Gatsby*". This research focuses on critical approaches to literary works, especially criticism in the sociological field in novels. The aim of this research is to determine (i) the types of social criticism in the novel "*The Great Gatsby*" (ii) and how the social environment influences the role of individuals. In this research, qualitative descriptive research methods were used as the research design. The source data for this research is the novel "*The Great Gatsby*" by F. Scott Fitzgerald himself. Researchers use document analysis and note taking to collect data to be analyzed. The research results show that there are five types of social criticism found in the novel "*The Great Gatsby*". The five types of social criticism are, social criticism of economic problems, social criticism of educational problems, social criticism of cultural problems, social criticism of moral problems and social criticism of family problems. In this research, it was also found that the social environment influences individuals and gives rise to social status among the characters in the novel, such as the status of old money, new money and no money.

Keywords : Critical Approaches; Sociological Criticism; Novel *The Great Gatsby*

PENDAHULUAN

English is one of the most important elements in education to develop human sources [1]. To mastered this English language, one of the steps is to learn form their literature work of English. Because in literature we can get many information that can improved our target language. Literature is a piece of text that cannot be separated from its author and all the society where the literature itself are made. According to literature has always born because of culture [2]. This one proves that literature, the author, and society are very influential on another since culture is the reason why literature exist and culture cannot be there without the help of society. Literary works can be influenced by society image, so one of the effective way to addres social problems is literary work because it is part of the social life. Trough literary works, people can write down any kind of social issues that usually going around in society. Because basically literary work is a platform that can be used to express how the author feeling at certain time. Besides that, the truth of a work of art is

obviously very different from the truth of a mathematical formula. Certainly, one's attitudes toward war, religion, sex, and politics have no bearing on the veracity of a formula, but it has everything to do with the judgment we associate with an author of literary works [3].

The difference between literature from ordinary works is beauty, experience and morality. A literary work must include all or at least one work to be considered literature. The beauty of writing depends on the linking words or simply how the writer artistically designs a text to explain a particular topic [4]. One way to appreciate a work of literature is to criticize it. By taking a critical approach to literature, we contribute to the part of social life, namely culture, because literature is a form of culture. Rahayu stated literary criticism is concerned with the value of literature, whether it is good or bad, not with its history [3]. Value judgments are usually highly subjective, raw, and sometimes even harsh, so discussions among literary critics involve differing reactions and evaluations of the same work. Literary criticism is the study/analysis/investigation/approach of specific literary texts, both in terms of theme and structure. Literary theory develops and proposes general methods and principles for studying literary phenomena. Therefore, literary criticism is considered not only the analysis or evaluation of specific literary works but also the formation of general principles for approaching those works [5].

Then, she also adds that there are three different critical positions of literature: the formalist, the sociological, and the psychoanalytic [3]. These three critical positions are selected not because they are the only ones, but because they represent three major and distinctive approaches of literary criticism that may help readers (or our students) formulate their responses to a work of literature. These three critical positions represent three important and distinctive approaches to literary criticism that help readers (or students) frame their responses to literary works. And in this research the writer would like to choose sociological as the critical approach because social circumstances are very influential on a literary work.

The sociological approach to the study of literature has long and distinguished history. The several critics and scholars from Plato down to the present have discussed the different theories of sociological approach to literature. They believed in the simple conviction that literature is a social product, and thoughts and feelings found in literature are conditioned and shaped by the cultural life created by the society. The early critics did not doubt the reciprocal relationship between literature and society. Plato, who started the discussion of the relationship between literature and society, raised some questions about social implications of literature. However, his concern was primarily for social hygiene [6].

Sociological critic appears because there is indeed a social conflict going around the society. This sociological critic helps people to vocalize their opinion and responds towards the product of individual or group of individuals behavior. Sociological critic can be stated verbally or non-verbally depend on people preferences. Non-verbally criticism can be stated through media, and media itself has various kinds one of it is literature [7]. Whatever one's position on the matter of the 'value-free sociology', it seems difficult to maintain a position whereby one must become a literary critic before doing any sociology; it is up to the sociologist to consider what is relevant to his purposes in any work of literature. The representation of society in literary texts and the relationship between literature and other social structures, and theorizes that literature is part of the social system of its time. A structure cannot be analyzed and developed correctly without knowledge of certain institutions and organization groups. Therefore it can be said that literature maintains the relationship between art and life. Because a literary work is a reality of humanity, has a worldview and is born from the collective subject or social group of the author of the work [8].

Sociological criticism can focus on a literary text as part of a larger social and historical context and the interaction of its work with contemporary readers. New historians try to describe the culture of the period by reading different types of documents and noting various aspects of the culture such as political, social, economic and aesthetic concerns. The sociological approach to the study of literature has a long and notable history. Many critics and scholars, from Plato to present, have discussed different theories of sociological approaches to literature. They believe in the simple belief that literature is a social product and that thoughts and feelings in literature are regulated and shaped by the cultural life created by society. The first critics did not doubt the interrelationship between

literature and society [6]. Some scholars justify merging literary and sociological studies by assuming a continuity between the objects of study defined by the two disciplines, that is, between the literary work and the social world [9]. It is important to investigate social criticism because it helps us to understand the real world of the society when the work arises. In addition, studying social criticism will help us to understand much more about life [10].

Social criticism that is in literature can be in the form of criticism of social life that exists in real life, namely in the form of social inequality which is often social problems. The writer or writer in the work he creates is able to describe the reality of social life through the characters in it. The figures created act as symbols such as greed, lust, revenge, and other crimes that cause social issues. Social criticism can be classified into nine concepts (Marx, 1973, pp. 134-152). The first is social criticism of political issues, the second is social criticism of economic issues, the third is social criticism of educational issues, the fourth is social criticism of cultural issues, and the fifth is social criticism of moral issues. The sixth is social criticism of the family. The seventh is social criticism on religious issues, the eighth is social criticism on gender issues, and the last is social criticism on technology issues [11].

So, the society is really affecting the literature work, because society can influence the story line or even the characterization of the story. In the society it can be seen that many of us has divided into some class, race, or status. Marx, who saw society as fragmented into groups that compete for social and economic resources. Social Stratification: (Old Money -New Money -No Money). Social stratification refers to the ranking of people or groups of people in a society. But the term was defined by early sociologists as something more than the nearly universal inequality that exists in all but the least complex societies. Social stratification refers to a system of fairly predictable rules behind the ranking of individuals and groups, which theories of social stratification aim to explore and understand. The existence of a system of social stratification also implies a certain form of legitimation in the classification of people and the uneven distribution of goods, services and prestige. Without a belief system that justifies inequality and uneven rankings, the stratification system is unlikely to be stable over time [11]. Stratification is an indispensable part of social life. Every society determines a way to classify each person into a particular social group. Each individual's position in turn determines their value, which is determined by society as a whole; Therefore, the role of society is even more important in determining the value of each person. Differences in personal values and status lead to gender stratification in society [12].

That is why sociological criticism on literature still relevant on this day, because the topic about society can never be enough to discuss. And there is so many research about this. It can be seen on the poem, novel, novella or even short story. And the previous study has done by [13] is to analyzed social criticism in Wladyslaw Szpilman's novel entitled "*The Pianist*". In analyzing the data, the authors used descriptive qualitative research techniques within a sociological approach. Data were obtained using the read, note, and analyze technique. The finding shows that there are social criticisms such as: Social criticism of political issues, social criticism of economic issues, social criticism of education issues, social criticism of cultural issues, social criticism of moral issues, social criticism of family issues, social criticism of religious issues, social criticism of technology issues. The most widespread was social criticism of moral issues.

Another previous study has done by [14], this paper examines the analysis of capitalism in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "*The Great Gatsby*" using a literary sociological approach. The method of this study was a descriptive qualitative method. As a tool for this research method, researchers use note-taking. Two types of capitalism appeared in *The Great Gatsby*. They were the influence of capitalism on new social classes between individuals and groups. As Gatsby spends her social life alone, she discovers how much she still loves Daisy.

While the research by [15] This study aims to describe the three-dimensional aspects of the main character in the novel "*The Great Gatsby*" as well as the function of this character. Data were analyzed descriptively using qualitative methods. Data was collected through observation and the technique applied was note taking. The results show the following three-dimensional aspects: Physiology, sociology and psychology in the main character of the novel *The Great Gatsby*.

Sociology allows us to study individual behavior in a broader context, examining how social forces can impact individuals, as well as how individuals construct the world around them. and how they manage to resist existing power relations to achieve social change. It examines literature within the cultural, economic and political context in which it is received.

Those previous studies shows that critical approaches to literature are still relevant today. And there are so many forms of a literacy work that can be analyzed toward critical approaches and one of the literacy works is a novel. In this world, there are so many outstanding works of novels. But in this research, the writer have chosen one interesting novel for she to discuss further. The novel is called "*The Great Gatsby*" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the reason she chose the novel was that she was interested in the title that said the majesty of Gatsby, and she became curious about what Gatsby was talking about in this novel, whether it was a human, a pet or just a place name. Then the writer have learned that this Gatsby is a human being whose majesty is spoken of in this novel. However, the further she learned about this novel she realized that the author wanted to convey a moral message about the societal misbehaviour that we often encounter. And it is about money, popularity, and beauty as a source of happiness, which we should not use as a benchmark for us to judge someone. Besides that, in this research the writer will also analyze the characteristics of the novel and will describe how their character affected by the society around them with the recent theory that still relevant for literature today. Then, in this present study the writer will also classified the main character based on the social stratification.

After learned of the storyline in the novel *The Great Gatsby*, she realized that this novel would raise social issues that even today still encounter, not only in the author's time. Therefore, the writer chose sociological criticism as her critical approach on this novel. The novel *The Great Gatsby* is an excellent example of how society is divided into different social classes, known as social stratification. The theme of social stratification is strong, since the first scene when the narrator, Nick Carraway talked with another character on this novel. Then, it is the existence of social classes or social statuses created in the community environment that influences the behaviour of the main character of this novel, that is Gatsby itself. So, the following are research questions of this research:

1. What are the types of social criticism in the novel *The Great Gatsby*?
2. How societal forces might upon individuals in the novel *The Great Gatsby*?

To answer the questions, the objectives of thi study is to find out the types of social criticism in the novel *The Great Gatsby*. And then, to find out the individuals of the novel that influenced by the societal.

METODE PENELITIAN

This research used descriptive qualitative data. Qualitative design was chosen in order to explore and understand the social phenomenon [16]. Descriptive research provides an answer to the questions of how something happens and who was involve, but not to answer the question why something happens or why someone was involve. The document analysis was held to describe sociological appears in the novel. Documents provide an excellent source of text (word) data for qualitative research. The data documented for this study is novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. First, the researcher read the novel, and then the researcher analyzes the novel to gathering the data. Besides that, the researcher also do note taking. This study focuses on reliability to avoid subjectivity and to minimize invalid data. To ensure reliability, this study applied triangulation. Mat Long (2004:178) says that triangulation is a technique for testing the reliability of data by using something external to the data to verify it [17]. Additionally, triangulation can be done by cross-checking data with other researchers. In this study, triangulation was performed by comparing the data found with related theories by cross-checking with other researchers.

HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

HASIL

Types of Social Criticism in the Novel *The Great Gatsby*

1. Social Criticism of Economic Problems

Data 1

Pages 51 (Conversation between Nick and Gatsby)

“My family all died and I came into a good deal of money.”
“After that I lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe — Paris, Venice, Rome — collecting jewels, chiefly rubies, hunting big game, painting a little, things for myself only, and trying to forget something very sad that had happened to me long ago.”
He looked at me sideways — and I knew why Jordan Baker had believed he was lying. With an effort I managed to restrain my incredulous laughter.

In the dialogue, Gatsby talks about himself, especially his wealth. However, Nick himself realized that all Gatsby said was a boast. And from Gatsby's revelation, it can be assumed that he wants to be seen as a rich and respectable man. Because the people with wealthiness is such a good thing in that era.

2. Social Criticism of Educational Problems Based

Data 2

Pages 39 (Conversation between Nick and Jordan Baker)

“Who is he?” I demanded.
“Do you know?”
“He’s just a man named Gatsby.”
“Where is he from, I mean? And what does he do?”
“Now you’re started on the subject,” she answered with a wan smile.
*“Well, he told me once he was an Oxford man.” A dim background started to take shape behind him, but at her next remark it faded away. **“However, I don’t believe it.”***
“Why not?”
*“I don’t know,” she insisted, **“I just don’t think he went there.”***

That quote shows the character of Gatsby claim that he is an Oxford man, which means that he was an alumnus of the very famous University of Oxford at that time, and only certain people could study there. However, for some reason people don't believe the words of the Gatsby. So it can be said that an education can also describe social status, because not everyone goes to the same education. People tend to go to education according to their class. Gatsby is no exception, who wants to be known as a respected person for going to a place of education in the upper class.

3. Social Criticism of Cultural Problems

Data 3

Page 25 (Conversation between Nick and Catherine)

I live at West Egg.’
‘Really? 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 Wilhelm's. That's where all his money comes from.'

According to Data 3, it is mentioned that Gatsby held a party. And in this life held a party it means that you are really rich person. The culture of throwing a party also shows that the person wants to be seen honored by the others. It is also supported by the sentences "that's where all his money comes from" which means Gatsby's money is so many.

4. Social Criticism of Moral Issues

Data 4

Pages 108 (Conversation between Tom and Gatsby)

"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 loves me."

"You must be crazy!" exclaimed Tom automatically.

"She never loved 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 anyone except me!"

At the conversation, Gatsby suddenly said that he used to be poor, not born to the rich as he told Nick in the past. And being someone poor who is in love with a rich girl is a mistake according to Gatsby, so he is determined to change his destiny. So, in this situation it is clear that Gatsby is a new money. But it is still unknown how he who was once poor could become so wealthy as he is today. And the idea of people should be married with the people in the same classes are one of the examples of moral issues that even still relevant in this life.

5. Social Criticism of Family

Data 5

Pages 12 (Conversation between Nick and Baker)

"I thought everybody knew."

"I don't." " why."

She said hesitantly "Tom's got some woman in New York."

The context above show the character of Nick and Baker are gossiping someone, that is Tom. And they talked about the hidden relationship of Tom behind his wife, or it can be conclude that Tom is cheating even though he has a lovely wife and children. So, this context can be seen as critical family on the literature that show bad situation. Because when someone already commit in family relationship, they should not looking for someone else that can lead to the breakdown of a family relationship.

How Societal Forces Might Impact Upon Individuals

In the novel "The Great Gatsby" tells the story of a man with dreams and goals, Jay Gatsby, this is the great work of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Gatsby commands the high life in his desire to return to his lost love Daisy Buchanan. Life takes him from poverty to wealth, into the arms of his lover and finally to death. *The Great Gatsby* is an American classic. It is a novel of triumph and tragedy, known for the remarkable way in which Fitzgerald captured a cross-section of American society. The events of the novel take place in the 1920s in West Egg, Long Island.

F. Scott Fitzgerald was another author who attempted to critique society using setting and characterization. In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, he criticized the backwardness of the social idealism

of the status quo in Jazz Age America. In *The Great Gatsby*, two main themes of social criticism are presented: greed and deterioration of moral values. The abundance of greed in *The Great Gatsby* is evident, it is not the greed that is criticized but the steadfast belief and social acceptance of it. The novel is told through the moral reflection of Nick Carraway, a man who criticizes the greedy, reckless, and delusional nature of the story's main characters. Even though he is a bond salesman, a man with no other job than to invent and use the most efficient methods of making money, reiterates Fitzgerald's theme of illusion and reality. The negative effects of greed on society are shown through characterization.

1. Gatsby

Gatsby was a young man who was born poor, but he believed that he had a better destiny than he was in at that time. Therefore, Gatsby ran away leaving his parents behind and abandoned his true identity as a poor and uneducated boy. When his destiny was a little better, he fell in love with a beautiful rich girl. Gatsby, who is now a soldier, falls in love with Daisy when she rests at her home. However, Gatsby has a sense of worry because his social status is different from Daisy's. And also, the people around the woman he loves are people who have a high social status, so inevitably Gatsby has to change his destiny even better. Gatsby also tries to get rich so that he deserves to be side by side with Daisy. Gatsby visualizes Daisy as an important part to achieve his American dream more than something else. As he attempts to change his destiny, he is betrayed by someone and it makes him justify all means to become a rich man. He wanted his wealth to please Daisy. But he can't marry to Daisy, instead Daisy married another guy that is Tom. Then, even after Gatsby became rich but in an illegal way, he boasted that he was never able to truly be like Tom and Daisy that is an *old money* (old money refers to inherited wealth, which has been around for several generations). He thought that his parties that he made and money have changed him and made him a part of something that he could never be a part of. So, when Gatsby is killed by someone that is Wilson, it is finalized that Gatsby was unable to climb the social ladder.

So, Gatsby is classified as the person with no money social status, yet he tried hard to raise his social class so that he can become a person with new money status. The reason Gatsby try so hard to change his social status is because the society in that era forces him to get the high status. The society only respected rich people and honored people. That make Gatsby craving to be a rich person too. The way Gatsby act through his character is called American Dream. American Dream is "the dream of a country where everyone's life should be better, richer, and more fulfilling, with opportunities for each according to ability or achievement. It is a dream of social order in which every man and every woman will be able to achieve their full potential and be accepted for who they are, regardless of the fortunate circumstances of their birth or position, rather than just a dream of automobiles and high salaries."

2. Daisy

Daisy is a girl that loved by Gatsby. She is beautiful and described as a socialite woman. Daisy classified as the old money because she described as a girl with a luxurious residence, expensive clothes, and an upscale lifestyle. Her life has been filled with wealth since she was born.

As the researchers said that Daisy is loved by Gatsby, and she love Gatsby too. But in the story Daisy did not marry to Gatsby. She married Tom because he is rich, she wants a secure, and luxurious lifestyle to keep her social status as the old money. Daisy would never end up with Gatsby even though she loved him because he couldn't be the rich man that she truly wanted. And her character in the novel shows that she can protect her pure love for Gatsby Because it would lower his social class if he did that. Because her husband will definitely leave her. Instead, Daisy prefers to maintain her social status even though her true love disappears. The author portrays Daisy's character as an upper-class woman who does anything as long as it does not reduce her social status, including sacrificing her loved ones.

And, there is no doubt that Daisy was a symbol of "beautiful but terrifying." Her beauty became worthless when she submitted to her wealth and renounced herself [18]. She enjoyed and fought for her true love for Gatsby, but in the end, like most people, she chose her love. Years later she was still moved by that love and her dream, but her life experience did not dare to enjoy it again.

In conclusion Daisy's personality has been mixed with high social people who easily sacrifice things to maintain their self-esteem.

3. Tom Buchanan

Tom is Daisy Buchanan's husband who is having an affair with another girl. Tom is a hard-headed man who strives to look better than everyone. He has a competitive personality because he is a professional athlete. From that point on, he gained a reputation as an individual of old money status and who likes to dominate. In here the writer describe Tom's character as an old money man who can get enough for all of the things that he already gets. Like in the story, he already married to Daisy which has same social status with him and quiet pretty and elegant. But Tom cheating with another girl namely Myrtle. It is showing his character that he is greedy men because he realizes that he is an old money. So, he can get anything that he wants specially to get a woman.

Besides that, his character described as a competitive person. As an old money did not like person with the status new money like Gatsby. Tom thinks that people with new money could never see as truly rich person. That is why Tom being skeptical about the Gatsby's wealth. His old money status makes him become a personality that looks down on and underestimates the status of others.

4. Nick Carraway

Nick is a Daisy Buchanan's cousin who is graduated from a Yale University. The story is viewed from his side. Nick is a simple guy and does not have a life of luxury as in the Long Island community in general. But Nick is also an old money person, like Daisy and Tom. Even though Nick also has old money status but his lifestyle is not like the other, he is neutral and honest people. The author described his personality as a simple man who just want to enjoy his life, without meddling in other people's affairs. He keeps a secret from the other people like Gatsby and Tom without even judge him. That is why Nick is such a different person with old money status because his status does not spoil on his personality.

DISKUSI

The Great Gatsby is a classic work of American fiction. It is a novel of triumph and tragedy, known for the remarkable way in which Fitzgerald captured a cross-section of American society. This gives us insight into the true nature of people, their selfishness is influenced by their social status. Everyone in this life is for themselves. Emotions like love are outdated, all they care about is money and status and everyone has become materialistic and everything is important to them, not feelings and emotions. They do not care if anyone gets hurt or not, as long as they are happy and everything is okay. The rich treat the poor as pawns and don't care about the collateral damage they inflict on them. And the poor have to resort to violence and illegal means to integrate into society. *The Great Gatsby* presents a harsh picture of the world he sees around him. The 1920s marked a period of strong post-war economic growth and Fitzgerald captured the social frenzy well. Although Fitzgerald had no way of predicting the stock market crash of 1929, the world he presented in *The Great Gatsby* was clearly headed for disaster. They have adopted biased worldviews, falsely believing that their survival lies in stratification and reinforcing social boundaries. They place false faith in superficial external means (such as money and materialism), while neglecting to cultivate compassion and sensitivity, in fact, separating their people from animals.

Based on the finding above it can be discuss that the novel *The Great Gatsby* is contain social criticism based on the theory by Karl Marx. It is same with the result of previous study. But, the types of social criticism are different. Besides that, in this present study also found the society that influenced the personalities of the main character. Then based on their personalities it can be classifies their class or social stratification of the main characters.

KESIMPULAN

Based on the results or discoveries about the sociological criticism of the novel *The Great Gatsby* in this research, it is shows that social conditions in society can affect a person's behaviour.

And the types of social criticism are based on the condition like political, educational, technology etc. The social criticism that has been found in this study re social criticism of economic, educational, cultural, moral issues and family based on the theory by Karl Marx. Besides that, the society condition can influence the personalities of the person to behave. That is why society is really important in the human life. In this story gives us the insight of the true nature of people of how selfish they are because the influence of society. It is proven how the society can forces every individual through their attitude, whether it is good or bad. Then, in this study the writer found the main character's personality influenced by the society around them. Society can make the way someone should behave. And based on the theory it can be classified the main characters of novel *The Great Gatsby* are divided into some class. They are Gatsby as No-Money, then Daisy, Tom and Nick are Old-Money.

Besides that, the surrounding social status is a high social status that proven by the flapper lifestyle only in high class social environment such as Gatsby's party, Long Island, and New York City, it affects the figure of Gatsby in acting and running life. But, in fact, Gatsby actually just wanted to reflect on his dreams, his American dreams. As a prophet of the American dream, Gatsby fails-miserably-a victim of his own warped idealism and false set of values. The American dream is not to be a reality, in that it no longer exists, except in the minds of men like Gatsby, whom it destroys in their espousal and relentless pursuit of it. The American dream is, in reality, a nightmare. It is also affecting the other character such as Daisy, and Tom. So, it is the society around us that makes and views it badly, even though it is society itself that is the cause of all the damage which forces the person. A societal view or the construction of knowledge made by the society around us can influence us in behaviour, even we are required to be able to fuse and conform to the views of our society. Whereas if we want to be accepted in society, we can be ourselves and do not always have to follow their views.

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