

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter one is introduction that contains of six points. They are background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, and the last is organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

The Great Gatsby is one of the great novels in the twentieth century by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in New York in the beginning twentieth century, this novel was a long-lasting influence in the literary works, and success as center of the literary history. According to the American history, the first urban society happened in the beginning twentieth century. America has developed in many aspects, such as the social, economic welfare, consumerism, and modernism (Hernandez 7). Therefore, America is a symbol of opportunity for many people.

Fitzgerald wrote *The Great Gatsby* at the same time on the Jazz Age, and made this novel had portrayed young, glamorous, rich class based on money, success, and happiness (Lucic 69). According to Fitzgerald, the Jazz Age is an age of miracles, age of art, age of excess, and age of satire (Echoes of the Jazz Age). Fitzgerald was one of the authors at that time who is famous with his depiction of the decade. The refore, he is closely associated with these ages. *The Great Gatsby* essentially portrayed the culture and social-historical of America at that time.

In *The Great Gatsby* era, America is well known as the place that gives everybody abundant change to fulfill their dreams (Ghiotto and Wijanarka 55). As we have known, America is a big country which has a long history of civilization. America began to establish their identity and the newness culture to explore the revolution period. America officially declared its independence from Britain during the revolutionary war and guaranteed inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

Therefore, many people from other countries moved to America, and they became immigrants. They also hope to achieve their dream to get success. Their hope is a dream that they have to make it real. By borrowing a statement from Salin point out that, America deals with enthusiasm for progress (Reed 2). Therefore, they came to America that is believed to be a dreamland. Moreover, they believed that to achieve their success they can change their life to be better as like as they want.

The first history and development of the American Dream itself started when New England was initially settled by the puritans in the middle 17s. They are dream success for their welfare in the future as entrenched in American citizen (Bouti 3). On the other hand, being free as puritan and to be individualism, mean that they achieved their dream. It is because freedom means to pursue whatever they want or wish for (Hocensky 3). They viewed America is a dreamland for everyone. Therefore, as a symbol the land of opportunities, America had several values like as individualism, hard work, and material wealth. These values are like spirit of life, and they commonly called the American Dream.

American Dream is not defined in lineage or some form of a shared history, the American Dream is shaped and defined by collective values such as individualism, self-reliant, and believe in the promise that through hard work and perseverance, life can be different and better (Izaguirre 1). The most famous reference of American Dream is *The Epic of America* by James Truslow Adams, he defined that American Dream is the dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement (Linberg 5). In literary history, the American Dream is a national ethos of America that was the pursuit of happiness, great wealth and success. On the other hand, Jim Cullen states the American Dream is not about wealth or material things, but a quest for personal fulfillment and a vision for self - actualize. In general, the spirit of the American Dream is important for them who want to get their dream as a golden key in the new world.

The portrayal of the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby* can be seen in the general theme of the novel. Francis Scoot Fitzgerald was one of the famous authors after T. S Elliot, who gave the sense of American literature in his work. Fitzgerald had adapted Eliot's sense of the contemporary landscape to an American setting (Bruccoli). Therefore, he gave of social criticism that portrayal of American society during the twenties century in America. Fitzgerald underlines his novel in historical and cultural perspective criticized by American society in the trends of Jazz Age and American Dream.

Lucic states *The Great Gatsby* showed of American literature in the period of the society in the twenties century (74). As an ethos and idealistic of the nation in the twenties century, the spirit of the American Dream became synonymous with money and success. However these idealistic had been changed into the quest for fame and fortune. Moreover, social class and status are important in the society of America at that time.

Callahan says that the contradiction of Fitzgerald's novel was based on his own experienced. Then he put into fiction and rise implication of the American Dream for individual life (Callahan 374). Therefore, in *The Great Gatsby* novel, Based on the own experiences of the author, the status social and material things have a sense of importance in the novel.

The basis of the American Dream can be observed in the through several main characters, they are Jay Gatsby, Daisy Buchanan, Myrtle Wilson, and Tom Buchanan. These main characters come from different background, but they have same Dream. Jay Gatsby is a soldier before he got succeed and change his life as a fabulous wealthy man. The only dream after he got a material success is to get back his love. Therefore, his material wealth is one of his ways to get back Daisy to him. However Daisy as a new woman in the Roaring Twenty Century and Jazz Age, she follows the ages as glamour and famous in that eras. To kept her status social in the upper class, she willing marriage with Tom Buchanan, that she did not love before. However, as time goes by Daisy enjoyed of her marriage, due to Tom fulfill anything she wants. Tom Buchanan itself is a man from aristocrat family who always never enough to be

happy with his own. He always comes out and spent his money. To seek his pleasure, Tom Buchanan make affair with Myrtle Wilson. Myrtle lives in the Valley of Ashes, she is a wife of the garage's owner. She was aspired to go out from her poor society and to be a part of an upper class society. Therefore, to achieve her dream she make affair with Tom Buchanan. *The Great Gatsby* has really portrayed that the American Dream is important to their life.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background of the study above, the problem formulation of this study can be represented as follows:

1. What were the American Dreams in the beginning of the twentieth century in *The Great Gatsby* novel?
2. How was the portrayal of main characters in pursuing the American Dream, based on Adler's individual psychology principles in *The Great Gatsby* novel?

C. Limitation of the Study

Based on the limitation of the study, this study discussed the portrayal of the American Dream in the main characters of *The Great Gatsby* novel. *The Great Gatsby* is an undisputed classic American literature, and it is one of the great novels of the twentieth century. The limitation of the study concerns with the main characters of *The Great Gatsby* Novel that portrayed to achieve their dreams as the

American Dream. They are Jay Gatsby, Daisy Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, and Myrtle Wilson.

D. Objective of The Study

There are two objective of this study as follows:

1. To explain the American Dream in the beginning of the twenties century in *The Great Gatsby* novel.
2. To analyze the portrayal of the main characters in pursuing the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby* novel.

E. Significances of The Study

In this significances of the study, this study is expectedly useful for the readers mainly Literature students, who are attracted in the American study and American history especially the American Dream at the beginning of the twenties century. This study also can be a source of information and further research relating the American society, and the American Dream as the identity of the nation for seeking their dream.

F. Outline of the Study

In order to give explanation about the study to the reader, this study presents a systematic organization as follows:

The first chapter consists of introductions in which the study gives a description of the background of the study, problem formulation, limitations of the study, objective of the study, significances of the study and outline of the study.

The second chapter consists of a review of related literature, including a synopsis of the novel and the discussion of some related theories such as the American Dream and the characteristics and individual psychology through the main characters in pursuing the American Dream.

The third chapter explains the research methodology used in this final project. It consists of several subchapters including type of research, data organizing covering data collecting method and type of the data, and analyzing the data.

The fourth chapter is finding and discussion that contains of two sub-chapters. They are the American Dream and the characteristics in the beginning twentieth century in the novel and the portrayal of the man characters in pursuing the American Dream based on individual psychology in *The Great Gatsby* novel.

The five chapters cover two subchapters, the conclusion and suggestion of the study. The conclusion highlights the results from chapter four while suggestion employs the notes from the author about the obstacles and advice related to the writing process.