



NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

**THE REPRESENTATION OF NEW WOMEN
AFTER WORLD WAR I IN FITZGERALD'S THE GREAT
GATSBY**

GOVAND DIYAR BARWARI

MASTER THESIS

NICOSIA
2020

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MASTER THESIS


THESIS SUPERVISOR
Assist. Prof. Dr. ÇELEN DIMİLİLER

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ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL

We as the jury members certify the 'The representation of new women after world war I in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby' prepared by Govand Diyar Barwari defended on 02/07/2020 has been found satisfactory for the award of degree of Master

JURY MEMBERS



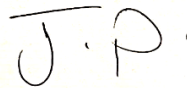
.....APPROVED.....

Approved by: Assist. Prof. Dr. Çelen Dimililer (Supervisor)
Near East University
Graduate School of Social Sciences
Department of English Language and Literature



.....APPROVED.....

Approved by: Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kurt (Head of Jury)
Near East University
Graduate School of Social Sciences
Department of English Language and Literature



.....APPROVED.....

Approved by: Assist. Prof. Dr. Johann Pillai
Near East University
Graduate School of Social Sciences
Department of English Language and Literature

.....

Prof. Dr. MUSTAFA SAGSAM
Graduate school of Social Sciences
Director

DECLARATION

I Govand Diyar Barwari, hereby declare that this dissertation entitled 'The representation of new women after world war I in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby ' has been prepared myself under the guidance and supervision of 'Assist. Prof. Dr. Çelen Dimililer' in partial fulfilment of the Near East University, Graduate School of Social Sciences regulations and does not to the best of my knowledge breach and Law of Copyrights and has been tested for plagiarism and a copy of the result can be found in the Thesis.

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Name Surname: Govand Barwari

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ABSTRACT

THE REPRESENTATION OF NEW WOMEN AFTER WORLD WAR I IN FITZGERALD'S *THE GREAT GATSBY*

This study investigates how women are represented in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. *The Great Gatsby* has been the primary source and the existing literature has constituted the secondary source during the data collection procedures. Thematic analysis of the collected data revealed the themes related to the emergence of new American women. Three main characters who are Jordan Baker, Daisy Buchanan, and Myrtle Wilson are analysed to investigate how the role of new women are represented in *The Great Gatsby*. While Daisy and Myrtle are represented as traditional women that are suppressed by men, Jordan Baker is represented as a new woman (modern) who is free and independent. The contrast between the role of traditional women as represented by Daisy and Myrtle and that of Jordan representing new American women is indicative of the changing role of women in the patriarchal American society. Differing from traditional women, Jordan is not suppressed by men in the society. Women prior to WWI were marginalized and discriminated in the American society. The roles of women changed dramatically after the WWI. For the first time in history, women were given the right to vote and their political representation was considered important. In this era, women in America fought for their rights, freedom and equality. Their social and cultural roles altered for good. *The Great Gatsby* witnesses the emergence of new American women. In this study the theory of feminist by Virginia Woolf has been used to analyze the gender inequality, women oppression, women repression in the patriarchal society. This study examines how the role of new women in society is reflected in *The Great Gatsby* after the WWI.

Keywords: Patriarchy; modern women; traditional women; American society; feminism

ÖZ

THE REPRESENTATION OF NEW WOMEN AFTER WORLD WAR I IN FITZGERALD'S *THE GREAT GATSBY*

Bu çalışma kadınların Fitzgerald'ın *The Great Gatsby* adlı eserinde nasıl temsil edildiğini incelemektedir. Veri toplama prosedürleri sıralamasında *The Great Gatsby* birincil kaynak olmuştur ve mevcut literatür ikincil kaynağı oluşturmuştur. Toplanan verilerin tematik analizi; Yeni Amerikan kadınlarının ortaya çıkmasına ilişkin mevzuları ortaya çıkarmıştır. Jordan Baker, Daisy Buchanan, ve Myrtle Wilson olan üç ana karakter; *The Great Gatsby*'de yeni kadınların rolünün nasıl temsil edildiğini incelemek için analiz edildi. Daisy ve Myrtle erkekler tarafından bastırılan geleneksel kadınlar olarak temsil edilirler, Jordan Baker özgü ve bağımsız olan yeni bir kadın (modern) olarak temsil edilmektedir. Daisy ve Myrtle tarafından temsil edilen geleneksel kadınların rolü ile yeni Amerikan kadınlarını temsil eden Jordan rolü arasındaki tezat, kadınların ataerkil Amerikan toplumunda değişen rolünün bir göstergesidir. Geleneksel kadınlardan farklı olarak Jordan toplumdaki erkekler tarafından bastırılmamaktadır. I. Dünya savaşı öncesi kadınlar Amerikan toplumunda marjinalleştirildi ve ayrımcılığa uğratıldı. I. Dünya savaşı'ndan sonra kadınların rolleri önemli ölçüde değişti. Tarihte ilk kez kadınlara oy kullanma hakkı tanınmış ve siyasi temsilleri önemli görülmüştür. Bu dönemde Amerika'daki kadınlar hakları, özgürlükleri ve eşitlikleri için savaştılar. Sosyal ve kültürel rolleri iyiye doğru değişti. *The Great Gatsby*; yeni Amerikan kadınlarının ortaya çıkışına tanıklık ediyor. Bu çalışmada Virginia Woolf'un feminist teorisi; cinsiyet eşitsizliğini, kadın baskısını ve ataerkil toplumda kadınların engellenmesini analiz etmek için kullanılmıştır. Bu çalışma ; I Dünya savaşı sonrası yeni kadınların toplumdaki rolünün *The Great Gatsby*'de nasıl yansıtıldığını irdelemektedir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Ataerkil, Modern kadınlar, Geleneksel kadınlar, Amerikan toplumu, Feminizm.

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CHAPER 1

Introduction

1.1 Historical Background

This chapter presents a brief introduction to the study. The chapter presents a historical background of the novel, which is the era after World War I. The setting of the novel is directly related with the focus of the study. Therefore, the chapter describes the significance of this era for the research. The chapter also presents the aim of the study, significance of the study, the main argument as well as the limitations of the research.

Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is set in New York in the 1920s. It was a decade of exciting cultural and social changes as World War I ended in 1918. The era was marked by several changes in America as well as for Americans. There was the growth of cities and mass entertainment. There was a rise in entertainment and mass media as well as a revolution in morals and manners. The country's Victorian past was now liberalizing. Hence, gender roles, sexual mores, along with hairstyles and dress codes were also shifting. However, this change was not desirable for many spectators. Therefore, a cultural civil war emerged that involved clashes in changing women's roles and altering racial attitudes.

The era of 1920 was named as roaring 20s or the Jazz Age. The 1920s was an era of prosperity and dissipation of old cultural norms that suppressed many. Jazz bands, bootleggers, bathtub gin, flappers, marathon dancers, flagpole sitters, and raccoon coats were then popular. Consequently, the younger generation started to

rebel against the conservative and traditional taboos. Consequently, the 1920s was an era of cultural conflicts including liberals and fundamentalists as well as the rising conflicts between natives, immigrants and rural against urban cosmopolitans.

Although Americans did not enter the war until 1917, the economy suffered from a short recession after which the economy boomed and the American age of consumerism began. Americans started to buy radios, cars, and other technological gadgets. New York and Chicago grew at a rapid pace while the construction of skyscrapers was also popular. Huge and big buildings were constructed and the cities were transformed. The whole American society was transforming and finally, the era of the 1920s demonstrated the self-confidence of American society.

However, in this era of progress and development, some of the social groups were still marginalized such as Afro-Americans, women and poor farmers. Despite the marginalization, the roles of women were changing which have been well described in the *The Great Gatsby*. Right after the WWI the role of American women in the society changed dramatically. Traditional American women did not have any jobs but were expected to attend to domestic chores, such as looking after the children, cooking, cleaning and washing up. Men were the ones who earned money. For this reason, traditional women were dependent on their husbands because they were the breadwinners. As men earned money, they held a superior position than women did in the society. Women were expected to be obedient in the patriarchal society. The characterization of these roles during those periods has been perceived and presented in many different views. There is a huge existing literature that discusses the roles of women from traditional to modern societies. Yet, this study explores the role of traditional and modern women in *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald. Because the novel was written after World War I, it describes the changing roles of women in Western societies like America. Blacks in America were particularly living in the suburbs enduring poverty and racist American attitude. Some women enjoyed independence by wearing the latest fashions, however, women were still poorly paid and employed for low-level jobs like cleaners and waitresses (Brown, 2008).

The study adds new knowledge to the existing literature. There are studies that discussed the roles of women, however, to the researcher's knowledge there are very few studies that discussed the role of women after World War I with respect to the great literary novel by Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*. Women's status and role have been changing and evolving specifically after WWI. Thus, this study is important to explain these changing roles from the perspective of an American novelist.

1.1.1 F. Scott Fitzgerald's Life and Works

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was a novelist, essayist, screenwriter, and short-story writer in the history of American literature. He was best known for his novels portraying the flamboyance of the Jazz Age. Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born on September 24, 1896, in St. Paul Minnesota, United States. He was an American short-story writer as well as a novelist. He was famous for his depictions of the Jazz Age (1920's) and his most brilliant work was his novel called *The Great Gatsby* published after World War I in 1925. His father was an unsuccessful aristocrat and his mother was an energetic provincial. For this reason, Fitzgerald thought of himself as an heir of his father's traditions which developed ambivalent American feelings about American life that once seemed to him vulgar and dazzling. He also had an intensely romantic imagination that he called "a heightened sensitivity to the promises of life." He became a prominent figure in the literature during his university life. He became a leading figure in the Triangle Club, a dramatic society where he was elected as one of the leading figures. Although he achieved success and fortune it was temporarily however, he achieved much acclaim after his death. He published four novels, four collections of short stories, and 164 short stories in magazines in his life.

1.1.1.1 Aim of the Study

The aim of the study was to explore the roles of new women, analyse the changing roles of oppressed women within a patriarchal society as well as the impact of

patriarchy on women in society as portrayed in *The Great Gatsby*. In order to fulfill the research aim, this study investigated the rise of new women in the novel by analyzing the evolution of newly emerged women's roles after World War I.

Research Questions:

To be able to reach the aim of the study the following research questions are posed:

1. How are traditional and modern American women represented in *The Great Gatsby*?
2. How is the role of women in the American society discussed in *The Great Gatsby*?
3. How is the emergence of new women's roles represented in *The Great Gatsby*?

1.1.1.1.1 Significance of the Study

This study appeals to the readership of American literature because it shows how the women in the American society were represented in the *The Great Gatsby* to underline how women were represented in the West. The study also shows how the role of women changed in the American society after WWI. It also appeals to the readership of feminist literature since the study shows how the status of women changed in the American society after WWI. The study also shows how women changed their roles and duties in the patriarchal society.

1.1.1.1.1.1 Main Argument

The main argument of this study is that *The Great Gatsby* can be interpreted as a novel which reflects the social change concerning women's roles in the American society in the 1920s, and that this change is reflected in the portrayal of female characters of the book. Specifically, the focus of the study is the changing role of women after the World War I, the emergence of independent American women and the underlying reasons for this change. There has been existing literature that focuses on the role of women, however; there is a lack of studies that focus on the rise of newly emerging women and their changing role after the World War I in America through Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.2 Introduction

This chapter presents the literature in relation to the present study. The chapter describes the historical context of *The Great Gatsby* and the characters of the novel. Lastly, it represents the analysis of the existing studies with respect to the current study.

2.2.2 Historical Background of the 1920s

The 1920s was an age of dramatic social change in America, especially for women. This has been explained well in the novel *The Great Gatsby* in which Fitzgerald termed the era as “Roaring Twenties” when women did not have the rights equal to that of men. However, in 1920, two years after the WWI, women got the right to vote. The right to vote gave women equal status in society as of men. Women prior to this time were degraded and traditionally perceived to stay at home and take care of children. However, after the WWI, their roles dramatically changed. Women started drinking alcohol and smoking. They started dancing a new type of dance called Swing. The dressing of women also changed.

Prior to WWI, women were dressed in long skirts and high-buttoned shoes. They had long hair which was considered as the standard for all women. A few years after WWI, these trends started to change and women started cutting bob instead of keeping long hair. Hence, the old traditions started diminishing as the novel says, the concept of "New Women" emerged in the 1920s (Bode, 1990).

There is no doubt that these women have been criticized by the conservative members of society. Literary works often reflect that these changing roles of women were criticized for bringing social decline and forging ideological conflicts with cultural and social values. The term Jazz Age was coined by Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby*. *The Great Gatsby* presented characters that seem to be larger than life, living the American dream during the roaring 20s known as the Jazz Age. 1920 was an era of increasing freedom for women. Young women were distancing from traditional values and customs. The novel was written in the decade following WWI. Fitzgerald perfectly explained the new era for females in his novel.

The Great Gatsby, in spite of many differences among the female characters, portrays Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson as versions of the new women of roaring twenties. Obviously, these new type of women are not held in high esteem by Fitzgerald. However, Fitzgerald presents very contrasting roles of women in his novel, creating several distinct challenges to both traditional women and Flappers.

Jordan Baker represents the new woman of the roaring twenties, characterized as erogenous. Baker is oddly desirable for Nick (the narrator). Baker is seen as the symbol for the Flappers. Baker is arrogant, irresponsible, and often unemotional. For this reason, she is criticized by Fitzgerald in the novel. However, the traditional roles of women are also criticized in *The Great Gatsby*. Daisy is criticized as a damsel in the distress and a desirable object among men. She abandons love and Gatsby by marrying Tom, a wealthy man who is capable of supporting her financially. However, Fitzgerald shows that Daisy demonstrated some Flapper characteristics like detachment and irresponsibility in her way of treating her daughter. Her actions are irresponsible and is different from traditional women who are supposed to be excellent mothers. Therefore, she is seen as a woman who is in the transition between old and new values.

Prior to the Jazz Age, women cared much about their husbands and children and their main role was to live for their family and sacrifice themselves without complaint. However, the novel described these changing roles as women started to live for themselves. The women in the novel care about their status in society and are more careless and unfaithful towards their families. This type of woman is described by Fitzgerald through the role of Myrtle as she cheats on Wilson with Tom. In this respect, Myrtle differs from traditional American women who are expected to be devoted to their husbands.

2.2.2.2 The Flapper

Flappers were a generation of young western women of the 1920s. These were categorized as those wearing short skirts, having bob haircut, and listening to Jazz. Flappers were seen as women wearing dark makeup, drinking alcohol, and smoking cigarettes. In the slang language, flappers were either referred to as mid-teenage or young prostitutes. The term flapper first appeared in the Great Britain after World War I. It was there used to describe young girls, still somewhat awkward in the movement who had not yet entered womanhood. Authors such as Fitzgerald and artists such as John Held first introduced the term to the U.S., half reflecting and half creating the image and style of the flapper. Fitzgerald described the ideal flapper as "lovely, expensive, and about nineteen" and emphasized that flapper image by drawing young girls wearing unbuckled galoshes that would make a "flapping" noise when walking.

Many have tried to define flappers. In William and Mary Morris' *Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins*, they state, "In America, a *flapper* has always been a giddy, attractive and slightly unconventional young thing who, in Mencken's words, 'was a somewhat foolish girl, full of wild surmises and inclined to revolt against the precepts and admonitions of her elders.' Flappers had both an image and an attitude. The Flappers' image consisted of drastic - to some, shocking - changes in women's clothing and hair". Nearly every article of clothing was trimmed down and lightened in order to make movement easier, which contrasts with the tight and long-skirted

attire of the traditional American women whose only concern is to look beautiful for their husbands.

2.2.2.2 Review of Related Studies

Affroni (2013) analysed the issues of women's oppression in *The Great Gatsby*. He showed discrimination against women in a patriarchal society. The study analysed how women have been discriminated against and how their rights are denied. The researcher used feminism theory to analyse and describe the oppression against women. The author identified Daisy Buchanan and Myrtle Wilson as two main characters that are oppressed by the traditional values and beliefs of the society. In comparison, Tom Buchanan is seen as the main subject of oppression. Tom's actions and appearance throughout the novel demonstrate patriarchal domination. On the other hand, Jordan Baker in *The Great Gatsby* is seen as a female who has been able to get herself out of this oppression and suffering. Her actions signify transcendences among women.

Kartaly (2016) in his study titled 'Hearing Daisy's Voice in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*: A Powerful "Beautiful Little Fool"' explains the role of women in the 20th century. There were many ups and downs in the way. Kartaly (2016) highlights the work of Fitzgerald's '*The Great Gatsby*' where Daisy was being ruled by Tom. Daisy confesses the fact that women have one best thing to do that is becoming a beautiful fool. If they become successful in becoming one, they don't feel the negativity around them. They feel fine being tortured and ignored in society.

On the other hand, if women started becoming demanding about their rights and roles as strong individuals, they would have to fight a lot for themselves. Women are better off staying beautiful fools according to women like Daisy. Kartaly (2016) portrays a different angle of Daisy's personality. According to Kartaly (2016), Daisy had always been strong and brave. She had the most powerful tool that is of 'words and voice'. She made use of her voice to let the listeners know her sufferings and power. There was no materialistic tool but her words that made her stand out in the society. The researcher further describes the manipulative nature of Daisy as she

has been showing another side of women to this world. She is strong but giving readers a different impression of women (Kartaly, 2016).

Additionally, Himawan Agung Rida Pambudi, Barnabas Sembiring, and Indah Damayanti (2018) conducted a study titled 'The Portrayal of Women in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Its Relationship to Indonesian Women on Education'. The study is based on women's role and value in society. According to the study, a woman's character has many points to get highlighted. There needs to be some serious study done to make those characteristics shine brighter and become prominent. The characteristics of three major women are being discussed in the study. Women's roles, attitudes, language, and behaviors were always being studied in depth. Unfortunately, no serious actions were being taken by anyone to support women in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The portrayal of women in *The Great Gatsby* refers to the 20th century that is quite a prominent age for women as they had to struggle and make an extra effort to get their voice noticed during this age. The researchers end up putting forward the prominent characteristics of three prominent female characters that are Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson. Daisy was observed to be negative and worldly. She had a pessimistic way of describing women from her era. Myrtle was also found to be holding the characteristics of materialism as she had an affair with Tom Buchanan who is very wealthy. Jordan Barker is noticed as a masculine and worried person. Her past relationships and failure made her worried and stressed out all the time. A woman's life experiences make her optimist or pessimist about life (Himawan Agung Rida Pambudi et al., 2018).

Hendrarti (2016) showed the world of patriarchy with his study titled 'Analysis on the Issue of Women Oppression in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*'. Hendrarti (2016) criticized the patriarchal system which gives men power over women. A patriarchal social system had strong and confident men because of their power. The study further presents the gender discrimination from the 20th century that was all over society and very few people having enough courage to raise their voices

against it. The study adopts the feminism theory in the process to efficiently evaluate and judge the portrayal of women in *The Great Gatsby*. Hendrarti (2016) argues that Daisy Buchanan and Myrtle Wilson were the most oppressed. Both women felt oppressed because of the same domineering man that is Tom Buchanan. He was powerful and showed his power over women. Daisy was Tom's wife whereas Myrtle was Tom's girlfriend. Tom used to beating the ladies and treating them with disrespect. Another character of Jordan Baker was found to be stronger when compared to Daisy and Myrtle as she freed herself from the world of oppression (Hendrarti, 2016).

Moreover, Samkanashvili (2013) in his study titled 'The Role of Women in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald' explains women's role emerging out to be different after World War I. Before this time, women were more composed and oppressed. Most of them were housewives and devoted only to do the households. However, the war changed the image of women. They were forced to make an effort in the outside world where they would be able to earn in several ways. Women took lessons and inspirations from *The Great Gatsby*. They got to know a new version of the feminine world that was not based on looking after the house and children. Women got a chance to build up their morals and personalities that could make an effort to get a new position in society. Women got a right to cast a vote that means they get a position to choose their ruler. Dancing, smoking, and drinking alcohol became common practice for the new and modernized era of women (Samkanashvili, 2013).

Gülter (2016) analysed the after-effects of war in his study 'The Great War Reflections on F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*'. World War I changed the mindsets and lives of many individuals. There were many prominent cultural and societal changes being observed after the war. People started to think differently that made their actions outstand their previously suppressed personalities. People got to believe in peace, prosperity and freedom. People became strong and felt powerful in their personalities. However, it was more useful for the upper-class bodies that have been dominating the world for a long time. Women were finding

ways to raise their voices against the dominating culture. The lower and upper classes became more of a difference. The conflicts made lower class people serve the upper-class ones with dignity and respect. There was no balance between classes. Everyone was looking for power, dominance and superiority over others (Gülter, 2016).

Basu-Zharku (2011) proposed that two different worlds are being shown to the readers in *The Great Gatsby*. One was the real world whereas the other was fantasy. The real world showed challenges and difficulties being faced by people to survive in this world without saying anything against the powerful authorities. The real world consisted of a powerful authority that dominated the culture and society. It consisted of violence and rudeness from males towards the feminine part of society. The other side of the world was about the fantasy that consisted of music, dances, and soft nights. Women were being taken as a source of entertainment and fun that would light up their world with their beauty and charms. However, the concept changed after World War I. Women were forced to work and earn money for their survival. Before the war, they only had to look after their children, homes, and do chores for the family (Basu-Zharku, 2011).

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.3 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology used to conduct the research. The chapter represents the research rationale and research design of the study. The researcher analysed the role of women in *The Great Gatsby* through a feminist perspective. Feminism theory is most suitable to explain the rise of new women in the novel. Feminism theory is also suitable to analyse how women are represented in *The Great Gatsby*. It also explains how their roles are discussed in the novel within the era dramatic social change and how these women's roles have changed within the patriarchal American Society.

3.3.3 Research Rationale

There are various viewpoints to discuss and interpret *The Great Gatsby*. There are contrasting perspectives given in the novel that are important in literature and language studies. However, the role of women is one of the prominent themes to be discussed in the present study. The role of women can also be interpreted from various perspectives like the feminist approach and even within the feminist perspective, there are different viewpoints regarding women's suffrage and women's independence, women's status in society as well as their role after WWI. However, this study will look into the role of newly emerging women in *The Great Gatsby*.

This study highlights the gender concepts like feminism and masculinity. The study focuses on women suffering specifically after World War I. The study also describes

the changing roles of women as their voting rights were recognized and their changing roles in industry and trade. *The Great Gatsby* is one of the prominent novels that discussed the above themes by portraying some characters like Jordan whose character revolves around a modern woman who just had an aunt as a relative. She is a strict and an independent woman who is a golfer by profession. From her childhood she was not dependent on men. In comparison, Daisy reflects a dumb girl who keeps fluttering, babbling, and giggling. Both of them spend their childhood together. Jordan is a sportive and masculine woman who possesses an erect carriage. She is a slender and small-breasted girl who calls herself a flapper (Haarsma, 2018).

3.3.3.3 Design of the Study

The study used a qualitative research design. The researcher employed a qualitative research design for this study to interpret and describe the characters and dialogues and speeches of these characters in *The Great Gatsby*. The researcher employed a content analysis approach to describe and discuss the role of women and the emergence of new women represented by Jordan. The qualitative research design was preferred in this study because it focuses on qualitative information rather than quantitative. Such a research design helps in analyzing the novel to acknowledge the aim of this study. McMillan and Schumacher (1993) described qualitative research as “primarily an inductive process of organizing data into categories” that helps in identifying the patterns as well as the relationship between the categorized themes.

3.3.3.3.3 Content Analysis

The research followed content analysis to develop findings and results of the study. Content analysis is a qualitative research technique that is based on analyzing content to develop themes and categorize texts based on these the memes. The researcher analyzed the data and developed into several themes based on the literature and the primary document that is novel ‘The Great Gatsby’ to represent findings and discussions. Content Analysis is the most suitable design for this

qualitative study because the researcher analyzed the representation of women in the famous novel of 1920s 'The Great Gatsby' in terms of American society.

3.3.3.3.3 Feminist Theory

Theory of feminism is adopted in this study while analyzing the role of new women and the rise of newly emerging women in *The Great Gatsby*. Theory of feminism poses the equality of the sexes. The study focused on the impact of patriarchal society on shaping the roles of women and contributing to the emergence of the new type of American women. Despite the fact that the roles of women changed after WWI, the novel depicts how patriarchal system is embedded in the society that indirectly controls women and shape their roles in the society. The feminism theory focuses on representing gender inequality, oppression and stereotyping about women that is embedded in patriarchal societies.

Feminist theory talks about gender and power and gender and equality in the society. It refers to the number of social and political movements as well as ideologies that propose gender and equality. The propose gender and equality in terms of political, economic, personal, and sociological equality of male and female in the society. They offer freedom and justice for women in the society. Feminist theory offers equal status of women with men if not above men.

Through our study we are depending on Virginia Woolf's Feminist theory, which focuses on social roles, experiences, chores, and interest of men and women. Her theory focuses on analyzing the gender inequality, women oppression, women repression in the patriarchal society, which mostly concerns the rights of Woman, and reveals it throughout her writings; fictional and nonfictional ones. For example, in Woolf's essay 'A Room of One's Own', she examines the exception of women from educational institutions and the relations between this exclusion and the unequal distribution of wealth. Feminism's main focus is to eliminate sexism from the society and allow women and men to be shoulder to shoulder. The basic idea of this work is therefore that women have just as much potential and intellect as man have. In the essay, Virginia argues that the aim of an essay was to give pleasure

and not trying to inform or persuade the reader, and was an aim for women to write fiction, as shown in the quotation below:

“A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write a fiction.”

She explores a language suitable for women that has never been used before. Women mustn't write like men, neither in theme nor in form. Time and experimentation is needed as well as tradition and reading works written by other women. She exhorts women to “think back through our mother's and to express experience as a women”. A women's writing is always feminine, the only difficulty lies in defining what we mean by feminine. (Alimam,R,2010)

Feminist philosophy emerged in 1970s and with the time it went across into many movements. Feminism is huge term that has many meanings and different uses. Some refer the term to historical political movements and some refer the term to the justice and equality of women against men. The old and traditional beliefs do not allow women to step out of home and be equal to men. Women have traditionally been below men, they did not have right to education, freedom, right to speech, right to work as they want and they have been considered weak and fragile as compared to men. Women have been marginalized members of the study. They have been devoted to home and families. They cannot live their life as they want because they are not and are economically dependent on men.

During 1920s women in America experienced many changes. Their roles were redefined and women were given right to vote. This was an era of drastic changes. Women changed their way of living, their choices, their preferences, their status, their dependency, their status in the society and many other things changed. Women changing roles lead to feminist movements. For this reason, feminist theory is chosen to govern this study in interpreting the findings and the results.

CHAPTER 4

TRADITIONAL WOMAN IN *THE GREAT GATSBY*

4.4 Introduction

Women prior to this time were degraded and traditionally perceived to stay at home and take care of children. Prior to WWI, women were dressed in long skirts and high-buttoned shoes. They had long hair which was considered as the standard for all women. Before WWI, women were not allowed to compete with men. Traditional women were conceptualized as one keeping the values and traditional characteristics. They were below men and were supposed to act in a certain way within a patriarchal society. Traditional women were not allowed to dress as they liked, they were not supposed to go out from their home, and they were not allowed to vote. They were marginalized and discriminated against. They were not as respected as that of men in society. They had low or no social status in society. Old women were born to take care of their children and families.

4.4.4 Traditional Women

Women prior to 1920s and even some women after the evolution of women rights still did not come out of this social norm and system where women are suppressed and they beautify themselves to get the attention of their husbands. They were neglected by their families and even if women beautify themselves, they did for their husbands as shown from a quotation below:

‘I almost made a mistake, too,’ she declared vigorously. ‘I almost married a little kyke who’d been after me for years. I knew he was below me. Everybody kept saying to me: ‘Lucille, that man’s

way below you!' But if I hadn't met Chester, he'd of got me sure.'
(2004; 38)

The above quotation is of Catherine, the wife of Kyke. She was proposed by someone else before marrying Chester McKee but she refused because he was poor and lower in social status. But she married Chester because of his class and wealth. Similarly, women were source of oppression for other women. Women did not realize that they have been repressing their own gender.

The analysis of *The Great Gatsby* further develops the following themes. Three characters were fundamental to the novel that is best described by the following themes. Jordan Baker can be best described as a new and independent woman. She was free and bold. Daisy Buchanan can be described as a transition between old and new women who were oppressed despite the fundamental social changes that gave rights to women. Daisy's character in the novel is interesting. She is beaten up by her husband Tom and at the same time, she is careless and irresponsible as she cheats on Tom with Gatsby. Lastly, Myrtle Wilson is a lower class beautiful woman who is in search of social status that she found with Tom. Tom sees Myrtle as a sex toy whereas, Myrtle sees Tom as someone who can bring her luxury gifts (Rea, 2000).

The findings of the present study are supported by Basu-Zharku (2011) who proposed two aspects being shown in *The Great Gatsby*. Basu-Zharku (2011) argues that two different worlds are being shown to the audience in *The Great Gatsby*. One is the real world whereas the other is about fantasy. The real world consisted of a powerful authority that dominated women, culture and society. It consisted of violence and rudeness from males towards women. The other side of the world was about the fantasy that consisted of music, dances, and soft nights (Yellis, 2002).

4.4.4.4 Traditional Women and Oppression

The analysis of *The Great Gatsby* shows that women's oppression is one of the important issues that Fitzgerald depicted in the novel. The plot illustrates that women

are treated unfairly within a patriarchal society. In the novel, the East Egg, which is a place of the story, is represented as the fraction of the patriarchal society. The people of East Egg believe that men are born to dominate all spheres of life thus; they have a higher priority as compared to women. Men in the East Egg are responsible for earning and women are represented as jobless and confined at home. This concept assumed by men applies the idea that women are not capable of doing things that men can do. Therefore, they believe that men are not only physically but also intellectually more capable than women (McGovern, 2004).

Thus, women in such a system are indirectly oppressed. They believe that they are benefiting from the system but actually, this comfort is making women dependent on their husbands. Therefore, the individual ideas, decisions, and wishes of these women are ultimately rejected and considered as invaluable. It also restricts these women from realizing their actual true potential as individual human beings that can also lead their own life. Hence, they are trapped by the comfort they get from their families and husbands.

This is a type of oppression that is depicted by several female characters (except Jordan Baker) of the novel. The female characters became much more dependent on their husband because they are confined to housekeeping jobs. Thus, the idea to find a financially stronger man is developed within the mind of these women. There is a mindset of finding someone strong enough to support women throughout life disabling these women from realizing their real potential. Society perceives these women as weak and incapable of doing a job that could earn them living. This perception later develops a form of oppression. In *The Great Gatsby*, it is depicted that the society averts women from asserting their individual rights as most female characters of the story are jobless. In return of the pleasure given by their husbands, these women are ready to sacrifice everything as shown in the quotation from the novel below:

‘I almost made a mistake, too,’ she declared vigorously. ‘I almost married a little Kyke who’d been after me for years. I know he was below me. Everybody kept saying to me:

‘Lucille, that man’s way below you!’ But if I hadn’t met
Chester, he’d of got me sure (2004:38).

The above quotation from the novel is about Catherine, it also signifies how patriarchal society is corrupting the minds of women. Consequently, it also points to the idea that women are equally responsible for oppressing themselves.

The novel also depicts that women also become a form of oppression for other women. Women do not actually realize but this is a fact that they are oppressing their own gender as the quotation below shows:

‘You see?’ cried Catherine triumphantly. She lowered her voice again.
‘It’s really his wife that’s keeping them apart. She’s a Catholic and they don’t believe in divorce.’ Daisy is not a Catholic and I was a little shocked at the elaborateness of the lie.’ (2004: 37)

The above quotation represents Catherine oppressing Daisy indirectly without even realizing. In this way, women also take part in oppressing other women. Catherine tells Nick about Daisy’s issues without realizing that her speech may have bad consequences for Daisy in a way that society will view Daisy as the issue implies.

4.4.4.4 Myrtle Wilson - Beautiful Fool

Myrtle Wilson is one of the main characters in *The Great Gatsby*. She was a middle-aged woman with a good appearance as described in the novel. She is depicted as the female character that has been greatly influenced by the false beliefs of the system. Myrtle values wealth and status because she is shown as a lower-class woman who married a poor garage owner. She is in search of wealth to improve her status. She finds Tom, who buys her lavish gifts but at the same time oppresses her and physically and sexually abuses her. She also cheats on her husband to get more possessions that her husband George could not give her. She betrays him for Tom. She regrets marrying George as shown in the quotation below:

‘I married him because I thought he was a gentleman,’
she said finally. ‘I thought he knew something about breeding. But he wasn’t fit to lick my shoe.’ (2004:38)

‘The only CRAZY I was when I married him. I know right away I made a mistake. He borrowed somebody’s best suit to get married in and never even told me about it, and the man came after it one day when he was out. She looked around to see who was listening: ‘Oh, is that your suit?’ I said. ‘This is the first I ever heard about it.’ But I gave it to him and then I lay down and cried to beat the band all afternoon.’ (2004:39)

Her obsession with the wealth of Tom indirectly enables Tom to control and later oppress her. She cannot come out of her obsession and Tom also takes benefits from her desire to get more possessions. Hence, Tom is an ultimate oppressor depicted by Fitzgerald in ‘*The Great Gatsby*’.

4.4.4.4.4 Tom Buchanan – The Oppressor

The power and dominance of the patriarchal system are depicted through the character Tom Buchanan in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Tom in *The Great Gatsby* represents a common man within a patriarchal system. He is dominant towards other characters. His actions and thoughts throughout the novel demonstrate superiority and dominance. He is described in the first chapter of the novel as:

“...Two shining, arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward. Not even the effeminate swank of his riding clothes could hide the enormous power of that body—he seemed to fill those glistening boots until he strained the top lacing and you could see a great pack of muscle shifting when his shoulder moved under his thin coat. It was a body capable of enormous leverage—a cruel body.” (2004:9)

Also this quotation shows for us the mind of patriarchal society and how Tom is illustrating the exact reflect of thinking and behaving the dominance of male in society as shown below:

“They ought not to let her run around the country this way” (2004:14)

His description points to the perfect idea of masculinity and sturdy physical embodiment. However, Tom is the only male character whose features belong to the men in the patriarchal system. Hence, Tom is the antagonist as well as the main subject of patriarchy in the novel. Tom not only depicts typical men of the patriarchal system through his features but also actions. He physically abuses women (Daisy, his wife, and Myrtle, whom he had, physical relationship with) which can be observed below:

‘Daisy! Daisy! Daisy!’ shouted Mrs. Wilson. ‘I’ll say it whenever I want to! Daisy! Dai---’ Making a short deft movement Tom Buchanan broke her nose with an open hand. Then there were bloody towels upon the bathroom floor, and women’s voices scolding and high over the confusion a long broken wail of pain’ (2004:41)

The above quotation from the novel shows that Tom completely dominated Myrtle. He physically abused her when she tried to mock Daisy. Tom punched Myrtle because he was displeased by her gestures that show how dominating he is over the female characters, namely Daisy and Myrtle who represent traditional women of the novel. Tom’s actions demonstrate that all rules and regulations are governed by males of society, not females. Under such precepts traditional women had no option but obey their oppressors.

Tom’s more notable actions are those that show his control over his wife Daisy. He made Daisy obedient to him despite her feelings for Gatsby (her lover). This obedience is a result of fear inculcated to Daisy by Tom. Although Tom had a secret extra-marital affair with Myrtle, he is still able to control his wife’s feelings as per his rules. He shows his dominance not just by physical power but also by the material.

He is rich and tries to claim his marriage through his money. He believes that he can buy Daisy's will because he is able to provide her with all her needs as shown below:

‘He came down with a hundred people in four private cars and hired a whole floor of the Seelbach Hotel, and the day before the wedding he gave her a string of pearls valued at three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.’ (2004:82)

The quotation above illustrates Tom proposing Daisy using his money and wealth. Tom not only dominated female characters of the novel but also male characters through his wealth. He dominated George Wilson (Myrtle's husband) because he is poorer than Tom. He bullied George not only by having a secret relationship with his wife but also repeatedly deceiving him by delaying his request to bring him in a desperate condition in order to secure his relationship with Myrtle. He was deceiving him by telling him that he will sell his car that could earn George's profit by selling back. Tom's actions continuously show his dominance and exploitation of others for his own benefit.

The findings of this study are in line with the existing study conducted by Hendrarti (2016) who highlighted the patriarchal system in *The Great Gatsby*. Being a man and a wealthy one Tom has a desirable position in the society. He is powerful and he exerts his power over his women. The patriarchal system makes way to such men as Tom and holds him in a high esteem.

4.4.4.4.4.4 Daisy Buchanan – An Oppressed Woman

Daisy Buchanan is one of the main and most oppressed characters in the novel. She is Tom Buchanan's wife and Gatsby's ex-lover. Her features are described as perfect feminine, which is beautiful and innocent. Daisy is not only oppressed by Tom but also by the patriarchal system itself. Daisy was forced to accept the system even if she was not willing to. Daisy and Gatsby were deeply in love, however, Daisy rejected him and married Tom because he was richer than Gatsby. The patriarchal system is embedded in a way where women have to find strong support themselves to survive in the society. Daisy was in tears just before her wedding ceremony

because marrying Tom was against her will. However, Tom was the most eligible man to get married. It was the demand of system that was in conflict with her as shown in the quotation below:

‘Here, dearis.’ She groped around in a wastebasket she had with her on the bed and pulled out the string of pearls. ‘Take ‘em downstairs and give ‘em back to whoever they belong to. Tell ‘em all Daisy’s change’ her mine. Say Daisy’s change’ her mine!’.’ She began to cry—she cried and cried. (2004:82)

The above quotation from the novel shows that Daisy was not happy when she married Tom although he was richer than Gatsby. The patriarchal system indirectly compelled her to marry Tom because she saw him as someone strong enough to take her. She was not free from the system and not independent enough to take a stand for herself. Later, she is controlled by Tom and was unable to develop her own potential or personhood as an individual. However, Daisy was aware of the oppression unlike Myrtle, who was not aware of being oppressed throughout the story as shown in the quotation below:

‘Oh, yes.’ She looked at me absently. ‘Listen, Nick; let me tell you what I said when she was born. Would you like to hear?’ ‘very much’ ‘It’ll show you how I’ve gotten to feel about— things. Well, she was less than an hour old and Tom was God knows where. I woke up out of the ether with an utterly abandoned feeling and asked the nurse right away if it was a boy or a girl, and so I turned my head away and wept. ‘All right.’ I said, ‘I’m glad it’s a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.’ (2004:16)

The above quotation is self-explanatory. It clearly shows that Daisy was aware of the oppression she faced as a woman. Daisy was not happy when the daughter was born to her because she knew the oppression of women in the society she lived in.

The above quotation shows her fear of her daughter. She does not want her daughter to lead the same life as her.

The findings of this study are supported by Affroni (2013) who analysed the issues of women's oppression in *The Great Gatsby*. He showed discrimination against women in a patriarchal society. The study analysed how women have been discriminated against and how their rights are denied. The findings of the present study are also supported by Kartaly (2016) who conducted the study, 'Hearing Daisy's Voice in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*: A Powerful "Beautiful Little Fool"'. The researcher explains the role of women in the 20th century. There were many ups and downs in the way. Kartaly highlights the work of Fitzgerald's '*The Great Gatsby*' where Daisy was being ruled by Tom (Noble, 2011).

CHAPTER 5

MODERN WOMAN AND INDEPENDENCE IN *THE GREAT GATSBY*

5.5 Introduction

However, in 1920, two years after the WWI, women got the right to vote. The right to vote gave women equal status in society as of men. The decade of 1920 was an age of dramatic social change in America, especially for American women. This has been explained well in the novel *The Great Gatsby* in which Fitzgerald termed the era as “Roaring Twenties” when women did not have the rights equal to that of men. The concept of “New Women” emerged after WWI when women got social recognition and equal status in a patriarchal society. New women were independent and free. The dressing of women also changed. A few years after WWI, these trends started to change and women started cutting bob instead of keeping long hair. They were modern and careless. They did not have a responsibility for their families. They only cared about themselves. New women were rebellious and denied most of the old conservative traditions and values. They presented a whole new idea of women in a patriarchal society. Hence, the old traditions started diminishing and the concept of "New Women" emerged in the 1920s. New Women started drinking alcohol and smoking. They started dancing a new type of dance called Swing. They were bold and audacious (Bode, 1990).

5.5.5 Modern Woman

These women have been criticized by the conservative members of society. Literary works often reflect that these changing roles of women were criticized for bringing social decline and forging ideological conflicts with cultural and social values. The

term Jazz Age was coined by Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby*. *The Great Gatsby* presented characters living the American dream during the roaring 20's known as the Jazz Age. 1920 was an era of increasing freedom for women. Young women were distancing from traditional values and customs. Flappers were a generation of young western women of the 1920s that represented "New Women". These were categorized as those wearing short skirts, having bob haircut, and listening to Jazz. Flappers "New Women" were seen as women wearing dark makeup, drinking alcohol, and smoking cigarettes. Authors Fitzgerald and artists such as John Held first used the term. Fitzgerald described the ideal flapper as "lovely, expensive, and about nineteen." Held accentuated the flapper image by drawing young girls wearing unbuckled galoshes that would make a "flapping" noise when walking.

Women after World War I were allowed to get educated and choose the profession of their own choice. They were given an opportunity to take part in jobs that men have always been doing. However, after WWI, the roles of women were redefined. Women were able to join the positions that are vacated by men fighting in the war. They were given a chance to prove their skills, abilities, and to fulfill their aim. New jobs were also created for women and they were mainly responsible for conducting and dealing with most economic activities. Women's college was also rebuilt with the establishment of an organization that supported the employment opportunities and expanded the professions for women. Women after the war were given a chance to be a prominent part of society. They were given a chance to move ahead shoulder to shoulder with men. At the same time, it was also foreseen that Nazism would direct this emerging and newly defined roles of women to the old and traditional roles where women are supposed to act as housewives and mothers rather than successful professionals or competitors of men (Makowsky, 2011).

World War I was one of the turning points in the life of women that lived misery and discrimination. WWI provided them with an opportunity to prove their abilities and skills. War helped women to revise their roles and status in society. However, Woolf, a feminist argues that war is a consequence of men's aggression that leads to

violence and disruption. The war fostered opportunities for women and helped them to get education and training. Establishment of organizations for providing women with employment opportunities and expanding their access to education and other vocational programs assisted with Woolf's dream of getting an equal status for women. Education and employment are fundamental to the development of women and the development of society. Hence, they can only contribute effectively to society if society gives them a chance to do so.

5.5.5.5 Jordan Baker

Jordan Baker is Daisy's friend and a woman with whom Daisy's cousin Nick (narrator of the story) gets romantically involved. She is represented as one of the "new women" of the 1920s. Jordan was a competitive golfer. She was a boyish, cynical, and self-centered woman. She was the only female character depicted in the novel who successfully managed to free herself from the oppression. Jordan was a woman who managed to show her transcendence in the midst of the patriarchal society (Lehman, 2013).

The quotation below describes Jordan Baker's first appearance in the beginning that signifies her personality:

“The younger of the two was a stranger to me. She was extended full length at her end of the divan, completely motionless and with her chin raised a little as if she were balancing something on it which was quite likely to fall. If she saw me out of the corner of her eyes she gave no hint of it—indeed, I was almost surprised into murmuring an apology for having disturbed her by coming in” (2004:11)

Jordan's career as a competitive golfer indicates that she is able to develop her potential as an individual human being rather than a man or woman. Jordan had different figure as compared to other female characters that gave her an expression of being strong like men. The quotation below shows how she was impressive for others:

“I looked at Miss Baker wondering what it was she ‘got done.’ I enjoyed looking at her. She was a slender, small breasted girl, with an erect carriage which she accentuated by throwing her body backward at the shoulders like a young cadet. Her grey sun-strained eyes looked back at me with polite reciprocal curiosity out of a wan, charming discontented face. It occurred to me now that I had seen her, or a picture of her, somewhere before.” (2004:13-14)

Jordan was a big achiever, she was not just strong enough and independent but she also played Golf that she competed against men. The quotation from the novel below is the evidence:

‘Jordan’s going to play in the tournament tomorrow,’ explained Daisy, ‘over at Westchester’. (2004:21)

...At first, I was flattered to go places with her because she was a golf champion and everyone knew her name. (2004:63)

A common precept in the society posed that sports could only be done by men because it requires great physical strength that only men have not women. However, Fitzgerald shows that Jordan is proving to their false belief. The potential success of Jordan indicates that women are also capable of achievements that are regarded by society as obtainable only by men. She was able to gain the acknowledgment by the society by setting herself free from the patriarchal system, where women are an object with confined existence to serve their children and husband in the house.

It is explicated in *The Great Gatsby* that Jordan used to live with her aunt which means there is a lack of man's figure in her life that may have influenced her attitude and mindset towards society. Jordan had an idea that men and women are the same human beings thus; there are no hierarchical positions between men and women. She believed that men and women are equal therefore; there must not be patriarchal rules to be imposed. She believed that both men and women must have equal rights

in attaining these opportunities (Kerr, 1996). The following quotation offers deep insights into Jordan's personality:

"....and suddenly I remembered the story about her that had eluded me that night at Daisy's. At her first big golf tournament, there was a row that nearly reached the newspaper—a suggestion that she had moved her ball from a bad lie in the semi-final round. The thing approached the proportions of a scandal— then died away. A caddy retracted his statement and the only other witness admitted that he might have been mistaken. The incident and the name had remained together in my mind."(2004:49)

Jordan Baker instinctively avoided clever shrewd men and now I said that this was because she felt safer on a plane where any divergence from a code would be thought impossible. She was incurably dishonest. She wasn't able to endure being at disadvantage, and given this unwillingness, I suppose she had begun dealing in subterfuge when she was very young in order to keep that cool, insolent smile turned to the world and yet satisfy the demands of her hard jaunty body.

The below quotation also shows her careless attitude toward the way she drives car:

"You're a rotten driver," I protested. "Either you ought to be more careful or you oughtn't to drive at all."

"I am careful."

"No, you're not."

"Well, other people are," she said lightly.

"What's that got to do with it?"

"They'll keep out of my way," she insisted. "It takes two to make an accident."

"Suppose you met somebody just as careless as yourself."

"I hope I never will," she answered. "I hate careless people. That's

why I like you."(2004:49)

The above quotations from the novel shows that the character of Jordan is quite different from the other two female characters Daisy and Myrtle, as she did not involve in a marital relationship. Similarly, she also managed to act like men through her behavior. In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald described the social conditions or situations where people are ready to act in any way to achieve power and domination. This trait is seen more often among male members of the society that are manipulative by nature. Jordan also managed to manipulate the game so that she could win the tournament. These are all male traits that are depicted within a female character in the story. Hence, Fitzgerald shows that Jordan puts herself on the same level as men in society. It is also interesting to note that unlike traditional women, Jordan does not believe that she needs a wealthy man to depend on. Thus, Jordan represents the independent woman in the 1920s as depicted by Fitzgerald (Donaldson, 2001; Eble, 2000).

The findings of the present study are supported by Gültür (2016) who analyzed the after-effects of WWI in his study 'The Great War Reflections on F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*'. World War I changed the mindsets and lives of many individuals. There were many prominent cultural and societal changes being observed after the war. People started to think differently that made their actions outstand their previously suppressed personalities. People got to believe in peace, prosperity, and freedom. Similarly, the results of the present study are also in line with Samkanashvili (2013).

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

6.6 Introduction

In this study, it is analysed how women are represented in the novel *The Great Gatsby*. The researcher focused on collecting data from the novel as a primary source and from the existing literature as a secondary source. The researcher analyzed this data through thematic analysis and themes were designed according to the collected data. The researcher found that three main characters in the novel are fundamental to analyze how women are represented in *The Great Gatsby*; Jordan Baker, Daisy Buchanan, and Myrtle Wilson.

6.6.6 Conclusion

The Great Gatsby was written in 1919, the era after the World War I. 1920s was a period of dramatic changes in America and the representation of women in the society also changed. Similarly, the roles of women also changed in this period. Hence, the novel is a kind of comparison between traditional women known as “Old Women” and the modern known as “New Women” through the characters like Daisy and Myrtle as traditional women and Jordan as a new woman.

Daisy and Myrtle are represented as held by old and conservative traditions that still bind women to home and as dependent on men for social and financial security. Daisy as a wife and Myrtle as a girlfriend is represented as under the control of Tom Buchanan, a dominant man in the patriarchal society that suppressed women. Despite the changing roles of women in the society, Daisy and Myrtle were still

suppressed by Tom. Daisy was suppressed because she married him as she saw him as someone strong enough to carry her. Myrtle was in a relationship with Tom despite Tom's abusing her physically. She was interested in expensive gifts and high class society that Tom gave her.

Opposite of Daisy and Myrtle, is Jordan Baker. She is represented as one of the "Modern women" of the 1920s. Jordan was a competitive golfer. She was a boyish, cynical, and self-centered woman. She was the only female character depicted in the novel who successfully managed to free herself from the oppression. Jordan was a woman who managed to show her transcendence in the midst of the patriarchal society. Jordan's career as a competitive golfer indicates that she is able to develop her potential as an individual human being rather than a man or woman.

Jordan was quite different from the other two female characters Daisy and Myrtle, as she did not involve in a marital relationship. Similarly, she also managed to act like men through her behavior. In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald described the social conditions or situations where people are ready to act in any way to achieve power and domination. This trait is seen more often among male members of the society that are manipulative by nature. Jordan also managed to manipulate the game so that she could win the tournament. These are all male traits that are depicted within a female character in the story. Hence, Fitzgerald shows that Jordan puts herself on the same level as men in society. Hence, unlike traditional women, Jordan does not believe that she needs a wealthy man to depend on. Thus, Jordan is a free woman in the 1920s as depicted by Fitzgerald.

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