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**Reconsidering Gender and the American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald's
The Great Gatsby: A Feminist Intersectional Analysis**

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Dedication

"Praise be to Allah abundantly and with gratitude for the beginning and the end after hardship and toil in the path of dream and knowledge. Here I am today, standing on the threshold of my graduation, proud of my efforts. To you be all the praise, O Allah, for you have enabled me to complete this success and achieve my dream.

With all my love, I dedicate my success and graduation to those who adorned my name with the most beautiful titles, who supported me without limits and gave me without expecting anything in return, to those who taught me that life is a struggle and its weapon is knowledge and wisdom, my support, strength, and refuge after Allah my dear father

Hamza.

And to the one whom Allah placed paradise beneath her feet, whose heart embraced me before her hands, and who eased my hardships with her prayers, to the tender heart and the candle that was the secret of my strength and success in the darkest nights, my beloved mother **Fella lalouani.**

To those who supported me with love in my weakness and removed obstacles from my path, paving the way for me and planting confidence and determination within me, my sister **Hanadi** and my brothers **Akram** and **Eyad.**

And to my dear uncle, who was like a second father to me, who supported me and made him proud of what I have achieved today.

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Abstract

This dissertation explores F. Scott Fitzgerald's *"The Great Gatsby"* through the lens of feminist critique, focusing on three central female characters: Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson. Drawing on feminist literary theory, the analysis examines how these characters navigate the societal constraints and patriarchal structures of the 1920s, offering nuanced perspectives on the elusive American Dream. Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy socialite, symbolizes the limitations placed on women within a male-dominated society. Jordan Baker, a professional golfer and progressive feminist, Myrtle Wilson, a lower social stratum woman, critiques the American Dream's shallow promises and the exploitation of women within a capitalist society. In discussions surrounding "The Great Gatsby," there's a prominent absence of a feminist lens, specifically regarding the portrayal of female characters like Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle. The study reveals that the female characters' distorted traits are products of their era, shaped by societal pressures that prioritize materialism and restrict their agency

Key terms: American Dream, Daisy Buchanan, feminist critique, Jordan Baker Myrtle Wilson, The Great Gatsby

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General introduction

The Great Gatsby, the third novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was published in 1925 by Charles Scribner's Sons. Set in the Jazz Age in New York. The novel is more than just glamorous parties and green light; there is a hidden story that invites us to look through a feminist lens. This research dives into the book to uncover how it reflects the American Dream illusion from a woman's perspective. Researchers have looked at *The Great Gatsby*, but not so much through a feminist lens. This study wants to fill that gap by looking closely at how women are portrayed. People have studied the book's fancy parties and wealth, but not so much about what it says about women.

This research carefully looks at *The Great Gatsby*, focusing on themes and syllables. It is like reading between the lines in the novel there is a hidden story to tell. We believe that, under all the richness and parties, the book is telling a story about women dealing with what society expects from them. The present study seeks to mention that the American Dream in the book is not what it seems, especially when you see it from a woman's point of view, the author aims to analyze the female images in *The Great Gatsby* and the causes of female tragedy from the perspective of feminism in the jazz age. It takes the three main female characters (Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle) as analyzed objects. The core content of this paper is to combine the social background of the Jazz Age and relative feminist theories, to analyze the representative characteristics and distinctive traits of the three main women in the novel Daisy, Jordan, Myrtle.

In organizing this dissertation, Chapter One provides a historical background of the American Dream, beginning with an introduction and a brief overview of the concept. This chapter delves into the early roots of the American Dream, exploring its historical origins and evolution. It also examines how the American Dream has been perceived in different

periods, highlighting the cultural and societal influences that have shaped it over time, before concluding the discussion. The second chapter shifts the focus to feminism as it relates to the American Dream. It starts with an introduction that defines feminism within the context of the American Dream. The chapter then traces the historical development of feminism, exploring how gender intersects with other social identities. It further analyzes feminist perspectives on the American Dream, including various critiques and interpretations, before concluding the interplay between feminism and the American Dream.

The third chapter centers on F. Scott Fitzgerald's *"The Great Gatsby."* After an introduction that provides a brief overview of the novel, a plot summary is presented. The chapter then explores characters and gender dynamics, analyzing the portrayal of male and female characters and how their pursuits align with or challenge the American Dream. Feminist analysis is conducted, applying feminist theories to interpret the novel, including an examination of the female characters and their roles in the male characters, how women are objectified, and the impact of the male gaze. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the novel's critical reception in the context of feminism in the American Dream.

Statement of the Problem

The researchers will be diving into the text and bringing in feminist literary theories to understand how women are portrayed in the story. Despite all the discussions about *The Great Gatsby*, there is a big gap when it comes to looking at it from a feminist angle. People have talked about the parties and the wealth, but not enough about the experiences of female characters like Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle. A deeper understanding of their roles and challenges within the Jazz Age context is missing. The main question of this study:

- How can feminist literary theories enhance the understanding of female characters (Daisy, Jordan and myrtle) in *The Great Gatsby* and their relation to the American Dream?

The main question of this current study raises two main subquestions:

- How does the portrayal of female characters in *The Great Gatsby* align with feminist perspectives?
- In what ways does F. Scott Fitzgerald use the characters in *The Great Gatsby* to comment on societal expectations and challenges faced by individuals, particularly women, in the pursuit of their dreams?

Aims of the Study

This scholarly investigation aims to shed light on the lives of women that F. Scott Fitzgerald fails to describe in *The Great Gatsby*, providing a sophisticated comprehension of their experiences within the framework of the Jazz Age. Although a number of the novel's themes have been studied in previous studies, a feminist interpretation of how women are portrayed is still an important and undiscovered aspect. By exploring the complex stories surrounding female characters and highlighting the difficulties women encountered as well as the impact of patriarchal ideals throughout this time, this study seeks to close this gap. The instrument of research involves close textual analysis of *The Great Gatsby*, employing feminist literary theories to uncover nuances in the portrayal of women. By focusing on qualitative methods, this study aims to capture the richness and complexity of the female experience within the novel.

Objectives of Research

The objectives of this study seek to bring a fresh and feminist perspective to the literary analysis of *The Great Gatsby*, delving into the nuanced portrayal of women in F. Scott Fitzgerald's work. By doing so, the study seeks to enhance our understanding of the novel, injecting depth into prevailing interpretations that predominantly focus on economic and social themes. Beyond the academic realm, the research strives to illuminate the experiences of women during the Jazz Age, uncovering the challenges and oppressions faced by female characters. These insights contribute to a more comprehensive historical narrative, crucial for dispelling persistent gender stereotypes and fostering a more inclusive interpretation of the Jazz Age.

Furthermore, the study is serving as a valuable resource for academics, teachers, and students interested in feminism, literature, and cultural studies. It encourages readers to engage critically with feminist theories and the text, prompting a more thorough examination of gender roles in literature. In this way, the study not only contributes to academic discourse but also initiates a broader cultural conversation around gender representation in literature, emphasizing the importance of challenging and reevaluating established norms and stereotypes.

Research Methodology

In this study, we rely on feminist literary criticism as our primary tool for analysis, using a qualitative research approach. Feminist criticism serves as a compass as we examine how the novel presents its female characters by highlighting how patriarchal norms impact many aspects of women's lives. Our research is primarily concerned with the social, political, psychological, and economic aspects of women's representation in *The Great Gatsby*. We aim to unravel the complexities that exist within the narrative, examining how societal forces shape the experiences of female characters. By doing so, we

aspire to offer a more nuanced understanding of the roles and challenges faced by women in F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic work. The analysis will look at how these elements combine to improve our understanding of the experiences of female characters within the societal framework of the Jazz Age.

The main approach involves an in-depth examination of the novel's text with an emphasis on character development, symbolism, and language. Using feminist perspectives, this method critically interprets the text. The study attempts to reveal hidden narratives, power dynamics, and gender roles within the novel by referencing well-established feminist viewpoints. The study will take an intersectional perspective, looking at how racial and socioeconomic characteristics interact with gender to further shape the lives of female characters. The research will compare the novel's portrayal of women with historical facts, placing the results in the context of the Jazz Age. This step is crucial for understanding the extent to which the narrative reflects or challenges prevailing norms.

Limitations

There could be several obstacles to overcome in the course of this study, which would affect how broadly and universally the results can be applied. First and foremost, the degree to which broader generalizations may be drawn may be limited by the emphasis on a qualitative study methodology. Qualitative research frequently delves deeply into particular cases, offering insightful information but restricting the applicability of findings to a larger population. Due to the subjective nature of qualitative analysis, different researchers can read the feminist parts of the text in different ways, thus resulting in interpretation bias. Furthermore, the study is limited to analyzing *The Great Gatsby* as a single literary work. Even while the novel does a great job of capturing the Jazz Age, the conclusions might not apply to different novels or cultural settings. Furthermore, the

research is conducted in the English language, potentially excluding perspectives and nuances present in translated versions of the novel.

Literature Review

Among the feminist studies of scholars, we can tell that the gender inequality Luo Xiaoyan wrote in “Interpretation from the Perspective of Feminism in *The Great Gatsby*”. This paper, points out that the female characters in the novel were all attached to men, and the author Fitzgerald portrayed women negatively, especially in Daisy's description. Fitzgerald himself believed that women in the novel were passive, and it is “a man's book.” To some degree, the narrator Nick's interpretation of female characters, had the latent sense of male power and misogyny. Secondly, according to the research of Zhang Qin in “Female Values in the “Jazz Age” from Female Characters in *The Great Gatsby*”, Fitzgerald described that although three women came from different social classes and cultures, they all chose to depend on men to realize their American dreams.

In the research of foreign scholars, according to Masoumeh and Naser in their “Representation of Women as the ‘Second Sex’ in *The Great Gatsby*”, in a patriarchal society, men have higher status than women. In the novel, men are given the privileges of control and regulation, and the world belongs to males. In other words, female characters are constructed as what the feminist critic Simone De Beauvoir called “the secondary sex.”

CHAPTER ONE

The American Dream Historical Foundations

1.1 Introduction

The American Dream has been a central theme of American literature since the early nineteenth century. The American Dream has subsequently become a tool for depicting the uniqueness of America. According to Cullen, achieving the American Dream entails beginning small and working your way up to greater things; it's similar to investing in a business to increase profits. The ability to accomplish your goals, because opportunities are available to everyone, is typically how people characterize the American Dream. Cullen talks about the good life because he recognizes that everyone is not born with the same privileges. The excellent life explains several elements that dictate your prospects. After reading the other works, I've discovered that most writers present the American Dream as something that has faded or caused grief but has the potential to come back to life (“Jim Cullen and the American Dream - 2081 Words | Bartleby”).

1.2 Depiction of the American Dream

The American Dream is a widely known concept, but no definition can be identified as correct, comprehensive, or precise. Freedom and (opportunity are the most critical aspects of the essay on the American Dream. In this case, freedoms are essential to the idea of achieving goals. It is because these freedoms provide an individual with the space to live freely without any oppression from their peers or the government. Furthermore, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, color, or other social or cultural characteristics that divide society, everyone has the potential to seek pleasure and success when they have equal access to opportunities. Thus, this concept might be defined as a set of beliefs that define the type of world that most people envision they are in a world devoid of barriers to opportunities and with their freedoms preserved. (*American Dream Essay: Structure, Outline, Sample, and Topics*, 2020).

Over time, the phrase “American dream” has come to be associated with upward mobility and enough economic success to lead a comfortable life. Historically, however, the phrase represented the idealism of the great American experiment. When you ask most people worldwide to define the "American dream," almost all of them will mention some combination of the American success story, upward social mobility, or the self-made man (rarely the self-made woman). Maybe will bring up the metaphorical white picket fence-surrounded house, which denotes stability and economic independence; a lot of people will connect the word to the land of opportunity for immigrants. "The idea that every citizen of the United States should have an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination, and initiative" is how the Oxford English Dictionary, no less an authority, describes the American dream (“A Brief History of the American Dream | George W. Bush Presidential Center”).

The American Dream is a complex concept that has evolved, shaped by societal ideals, economic landscapes, and cultural narratives. It encompasses opportunities, upward mobility, self-reliance, and the pursuit of happiness. The concept has become a dynamic cultural movement, influencing literature, art, politics, and societal norms. The Jazz Age and the American Dream influenced the nation's ethos, resulting in social change and economic prosperity. The American Dream offers both advantages and disadvantages, inspiring innovation, ambition, and social mobility, but also faces challenges and ethical dilemmas. F. Scott Fitzgerald has to be associated with the concept of the American dream more than any other writer of the 20th century. The American dream has been for Fitzgerald what the theme of the separate piece has been for Ernest Hemingway, the focal point or building block for much, if not all, of his work. However, Fitzgerald's unique expression of the American dream lacks optimism and a sense of fulfillment, as evidenced

by the expressions of his predecessors (“Gatsby: False Prophet of the American Dream on JSTOR”).

1.3 The American Dream: Pillars and Periods

The concept of the American Dream has been a widely influential motivation that pushed forward American society and all its accomplishments, both as individuals and as a society as a whole. The Evolution of the American Dream: Concerning its three dimensions, information is Continuously Changing over time, encompassing dreams of land and a fresh start during the colonial era, political and religious freedom during the Revolutionary War, self-reliance on the frontier, and building up a very large capital as a self-made industrialist in the nineteenth century. It was enjoying the good life by the early 20th century, but during the Great Depression, It suddenly stopped focusing on attempts at having a better quality of life and turned towards stability and ensuring that the certainty of a ‘middle-class’ one is achieved (Clark and Skandalaris).

1.3.1 The Origins of the American Dream

It's well known that the historian and writer James Truslow Adams coined the phrase "American Dream." Adams published *The Epic of America* in 1931, as the country was going through the Great Depression. In it, he described "a land in which life should be better, richer, and fuller for everyone Provides opportunity for everyone based on aptitude or accomplishment, irrespective of fortunate circumstances surrounding birth or status." Adams' vision of America is a country that can lift all people and change their status for the better, becoming happy and receiving a better quality of life. The main principle of this book is that success and living the American dream are possible for anyone who wants it regardless of the circumstances into which they were born. Originally, the American Dream only offered the opportunity for individuals to rise through hard work and creativity

in a nation. In search of land and other freedoms, including the right to practice their religion, immigrants left the deeply rooted class limitations of their native countries and came to the United States(Search).

The concept of the “American Dream” has become a part of American culture. It is a phrase that has been used for nearly a century to encapsulate the aspirations, hopes, and beliefs that drive people to seek a better, richer, and happier life in the United States. The term “American Dream” has an intriguing history, and it’s fascinating to explore its origins and how it has evolved. The explanation given by David Leonhardt in his book "Ours was the Shining Future: The Story of the American Dream" offers insightful information on the origins of this lasting idea. (Postelwait and Postelwait).

1.3.2 Evolution of the American Dream

Americans have historically prized opportunity, prosperity, and success. These ideas form the basis of the national ethos, known as the "American Dream"—a word that represents the pursuit of pleasure and ongoing efforts to create a society that is freer and in which future generations will generally be wealthier than their predecessors. Despite the horrific obstacles that have been overcome throughout history, American history demonstrates that this ambition has been and is still successful. Analyzing the living conditions of previous generations of Americans offers a new outlook on where they are, where they have gone, and where they may go. America's future is full of boundless opportunities if they maintain their appreciation of the free exchange of ideas and an entrepreneurial spirit (Bowers).

Everyone has ambitions of one day becoming financially independent, purchasing their first home, being their boss, or starting a family. This is why the notion of pursuing the "American Dream" has been one of the country's most well-known, revolutionary, and

influential catchphrases for almost 90 years. In his book *The Epic of America*, renowned historian and author James Truslow Adams wrote about "the American dream that dream of a land in which life should be better, richer, and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement." Although the phrase has since grown and expanded to mean many different things to many different people, its rise to popularity began in 1931. Continue reading for a more detailed examination of the American Dream across time (Glantz).

The American Dream in the 1930s; it wasn't fancy to stand in large queues for the latest iPhone as soon as it was out on the market or being approved for the latest credit card with more perks. Adams went on to clarify, saying, "It is a dream of a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable and recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position." In other words, it is not just a dream of high salaries and fancy cars (Glantz, 2018). In the 1940s, the term started becoming more common to use and to hear. It appeared in advertisements for intellectual products and services such as plays, books, and articles (Glantz). The American Dream persisted after World War II as a concept that emphasized equality and freedom over material possessions and money.

The iconic statement was also said by Martin Luther King Jr. in his 1963 "I Have a Dream" address, when he described his vision as being "deeply rooted in the American dream" "The introduction of the G.I. Bill in 1944, which assisted millions of veterans in purchasing houses and pursuing higher education, was one of the changes that marked the beginning of the American dream's transition into a materialistic sphere. TV series like *Leave It to Beaver* and *I Love Lucy* started promoting suburban living and materialism more than ever as veterans started to gain from those chances. By the time the 1970s and 1980s arrived, home builders were using the "American Dream" widely in their

commercials to link the concept of purchasing or building a home to the ideal of the nation and what it meant to be a good citizen, Once the 1990s hit, technology began to influence the American dream heavily. People started craving their own personal computers, cell phones, televisions (for each room), and video games. By the 2000s, this started to take a turn, especially during the first half of the decade, later in the 2000s, with the crash of the economy, the American dream shifted towards the idea of financial security vs. gaining more things (Glantz).

The American Dream has become more complicated as a result of the rise of modern technologies and the collapse of the property market. The American Dream has evolved in two major ways, according to personal finance writer and Florida licensed attorney Miguel Suro it is now more difficult to realize and has distinct objectives. According to Suro, "technology and the round-the-clock work culture it has created seem to be the main culprit here." "Most young professionals nowadays, or at least those we know, have to be "on call" into the night and on weekends, and must very often work overtime, to have a similar quality of life (to the one their parents had "). Fueled apprentice Alvin Garcia claims that the ideal now centers around innovation, inclusivity, and opportunity. Garcia claims that Silicon Valley is a fantastic illustration of the modern American dream. "This dream aims to use technology to solve complex problems instead of just keeping things moving, as it did in the industrial age." (Glantz).

1.3.3 Modern American Dream

The American Dream has remained a long-time model of prosperity for both Americans and people of other nations. "The charm of anticipated success" has brought millions of immigrants to America, looking for equal opportunity and a better life. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech referenced the concept of the American dream by

stating: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'" Since the early 1960s, as much as the reality had simmered and as much as Dr. King had prayed and prophesied, African Americans never got the official chance to touch the truth of the American dream because they were still not considered equal to white men and women. (Barone, 2020).

The idea of the "American Dream" is still prevalent both domestically and internationally. Americans never stop dreaming of their version of the American Dream, whether it brings them happiness or sorrow. While some have suggested that it does, others are still optimistic about how the modern American Dream is progressing. In actuality, Hillary Clinton outlined her American Dream Plan in 2008 while running for president. This plan included retirement, education, house ownership, and kid health insurance. Obama continued to enact the Affordable Care Act, extending every American's access to healthcare. For many, the American Dream appeared to have come to an end as a result of the Great Recession of 2008, which increased income disparity in the country. The recession, in actuality, did nothing except harm the materialistic Dream. The fundamental principles of our founding fathers are being restored by the New American Dream. "...a focus on more of what matters, such as creating a meaningful life, contributing to community and society, valuing nature, and spending time with family and friends," is what the Center for a New American Dream envisions.

Even though all Americans share the same language, political system, and moral standards, the country's power tends to increase as its population becomes more diverse. The United States has a competitive edge due to its diversified population, which encourages innovation and provides corporations with accessible markets to test new goods. (Fettke).

1.4 The Characteristics of the American Dream

Over time, the American Dream evolves continuously. The American Dream, as envisioned by the Founding Fathers, was limited to freedom and independence. The people aspired to always aim for excellence. The goal for America was to become a role model for other nations. In comparison to China or the United Kingdom, the United States of America may not be the strongest nation today. Still, America is regarded as having a significant effect. This leads to a lot of beliefs about the American Dream changing. The previous American Dream has been altered by the concepts of fame, fortune, and happiness. The new American Dream now centers on achieving riches and personal emphasis. In the present generation, so many people desire to live lavish lives and also acquire immense amounts of riches (“Characteristics of the American Dream - 1360 Words | Cram”).

1.4.1 Opportunity in the American Dream

The freedom to pursue pleasure is the sole thing that the Constitution protects. To quote Benjamin Franklin, "You have to catch it yourself" is the guiding principle of America. This exemplifies the idea of the "American dream" and the special chances that come with being an American. Because Americans enjoy unrivaled independence and liberty across the world, the nation is sometimes referred to as the "beacon of freedom" when speaking about the vast number of immigrants who arrive or aspire to come to the United States in search of a better life. One may share their opinions about America and demonstrate their pride in being an American by seizing these possibilities. In other words, one can express his or her American Creed by exercising the ability to pursue the opportunities that exist in America that give the possibility to achieve success if one is dedicated enough. The education system, which gives people the tools to advance in

society and find wealth in life, is one of the best chances available to Americans. The educational system encourages hard work in each candidate and gives everyone an equal opportunity to succeed. America's capitalistic economic structure, which allows everyone to succeed regardless of background, is one of the country's greatest assets, aside from education. This is demonstrated by the 3.6% unemployment rate, which is the lowest since 1969 (Long). This high employment rate demonstrates how nearly all Americans are capable of success in some capacity and have the ability to provide for their families ("The American Opportunity - American Creed")

1.4.2 Freedom and the American Dream

In the United States, Americans stand for and work toward both freedom and the American Dream. Though it is not present in every individual's life, it holds a highly important position in most of the lives of Americans. Frequently respond that the achievement of riches and prosperity through hard work and success is the definition or explanation of the "American Dream." ("The Impact of Freedom and the American Dream - 1028 Words | Bartleby"). The ability to fulfill goals and find happiness is the American dream. Moreover, the American dream is founded on freedom. This is the capacity to make choices and achieve goals. For foreigners, America represents a fresh start and a doorway to a new life. The American dream has been realized by millions of people, but they are not aware of it. On the other hand, Americans no longer consider themselves to be free. Therefore, there is a bad connotation associated with it. People risk their lives every day to ensure that every American has the right to freedom, yet they still complain. The writers of this article provide the following summary of the concept of freedom: "We feel so little freedom that we twist and turn to search for another choice with some positive characteristics when we face decisions involving alternatives we see as negatives" (Jellison and Harvey 49). Possessing an opinion, opportunity, enjoyment, and security are all made

possible by freedom. People who misuse their rights have restricted freedom. Notably, America is making every effort to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities (“American Dream and Freedom - 717 Words | Internet Public Library”).

1.4.3 Individualism in the American Dream

Individualism places a strong emphasis on a person's autonomy and capacity for self-actualization, often at the expense of the group. It is regarded as one of the most significant social influences of the modern era, particularly in the cultures of America and Europe. Individualism is a phrase that may be used in a variety of disciplines, including politics, sociology, economics, philosophy, and religion (“Individualism: Definition & Political Science | StudySmarter”).

On the other hand, Individualism is a cultural view that is extremely prevalent in American culture. Individualism is a moral attitude and ideology that emphasizes the value of the individual. The American Dream is a type of individualism that focuses on both personal achievement and success. However, individualism is a theme that does not necessarily mean that only the personal self is valuable. Serving others and your interests is possible through faith and using a form of individualism. A balance with individualism is needed. You should always try to improve yourself, and this is possible by helping others. When someone helps others, he also helps himself. Individualism is a misunderstanding of selfishness in today's society. However, through individualism, innovation, creativity, and growth are possible (“Individualism in the American Dream | Ipl.org”).

The American Dream is a fundamental concept of individualism, promoting personal freedom, self-reliance, and goal pursuit. This ideology has driven innovation and personal achievement but also highlights the challenge of balancing ambition with social

responsibility. The emphasis on individualism highlights the strengths and complexities of striving for success in a society that values autonomy and meritocracy.

1.5 The American Dream as a Cultural Movement

Knowing the cultural background of the American Dream is the best approach to comprehending America. The dream is not only a potent idea or philosophy; rather, it is an integral part of it. Who people are, what actions are taken, and the reasons behind those actions are part of daily existence. No other myth or concept has the same impact on human lives, both individually and collectively. Samuel provides readers with a field guide to the growth of the national identity over the past eight decades by tracing the history of the phrase in popular culture. When Samuel narrates the tale in chronological order, it becomes clear that mythology has undergone six significant periods since the term was first used in 1931. (Raskay, 2018). Humans have battled for a sense of identity and a craving for belonging throughout recorded history. Every culture, location, and time has a natural need, and many people discovered their identity in America.

America has always been a nation of opportunity and aspirations, a ray of hope for people who have nothing else in life. Although some arrived seeking only a new beginning, the early settlers found a refuge for religious freedom in this place. Throughout Colonial America, these many groupings of people—each pursuing their interpretation of liberty—moved toward unification. Benjamin Franklin, who is frequently referred to as "The First American," was one of the first to describe what it means to be an "American». He paved the way for the American Dream and came to represent the spirit of the country. His tale of rags to riches offered these new Americans a relevant example of how they, too, might achieve success in America that they had never believed was possible elsewhere (*The "American Dream,"* 2014). The American Revolution brought about a

cultural revolution, as the birth of the United States brought a new sense of pride and country. Americans had long considered themselves part of Britain, but the idea of being not only British but American built resilience.

This resilience allowed them to transcend social stratification without the mass media technology that exists today. The American Dream, Defined as the conviction that individuals can achieve their unique vision of success in a society where upward mobility is achievable, the modern American Dream has persisted and flourished In the 20s, American culture was characterized by surplus, glamour, and luxury, with radio, music, and sports providing access to news, entertainment, jazz, and film on a national scale. This created a national culture and American identity, with the same technologies and luxuries that provided continuity in the 20s. This identity persisted as Americans aimed to emphasize the aspects untouched by the Depression and assert powerful control over their emotion. In the 1930s, economic hardship brought people together into a common identity and a sense of community, adding a deeper layer to the notion of the American Dream. Americans experienced both highs and lows, creating a mutual understanding of how the other half lived.

The political sphere of the time allowed for the cultural phenomenon of the 20s and 30s, giving birth to the modern American Dream. The laissez-faire practices and direct implementation of government programs and opportunities allowed for the cultural phenomenon of the 20s and 30s. The Roaring Twenties and Great Depression eras left irreplaceable cultural legacies for Americans. Until the 20th century, the country was divided by class, race, ethnicity, and gender, making the American Dream difficult for many. The economic state and political practices of the Roaring 20s allowed for the expansion of the American Dream, creating a mutual identity and allowing immigrants to achieve freedom and a better life. This sense of hope and sturdiness spread like wildfire,

bringing Americans into a state of security as one body and spirit. The Great Depression deepened the significance of the American dream, serving as the ultimate trial of resilience and character for Americans. The richness of culture during the turbulent 1930s offered both a refuge from the despair of the era and a defiance against it. The identity created by Americans in the 20s would not be extinguished but would thrive and create an unyielding American dream. The extremes of these two decades have made the United States and its people the same as they are today (“The ‘American Dream’”).

1.6 The Jazz Age's Influence on the American Dream

The depiction of the American Dream in "*The Great Gatsby*" during the Jazz Age reflects a shift from traditional values of hard work and honest success towards consumerism, lavish indulgence, and social disregard. Fitzgerald provides a critical analysis of the American Dream, highlighting its degeneration into meaningless consumerism, strained interpersonal bonds, and unrealized aspirations (Rocket, 2024). During the Roaring Twenties, an economic boom and a broad increase in living standards occurred in America, leading to the Jazz Age. African American culture served as the inspiration for the new dance and music forms of the Jazz Age. This marked a shift in American culture that the general public both embraced and replicated. Jazz music was popular across the nation, although it was centered in big cities like Chicago and New York. This African American creative and self-expression medium transcended racial boundaries and became a vital component of white middle-class youth culture. For American kids, this is one of the most progressive eras. It witnessed the emergence of lavish parties, intermarriage, and dancing, which transformed American youth culture (*The Jazz Age: Timeline, Facts & Importance* / StudySmarter, n.d.).

During the Jazz Age of the 1920s, the American Dream was formed by upper-class society. It was a dream of money, wealth, prosperity, the need to get rich quickly, and the happiness that should come as a result of a booming economy. The American Dream was based purely on materialistic things. The novel *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, depicts the obsession one man had toward his "American Dream," his aspiration to fulfill it, the limitations America set on his dreams, and the disappointment of losing his dream (*The Jazz Age and the American Dream Essays*, n.d.).

1.7 Advantages and Disadvantages of the American Dream

The American Dream is a circumstance for every person in America to believe in what they can do for themselves and take advantage of every opportunity that gives them the chance to live in the country. That advantage will lead to the fact that life only depends on how the world has gone on and on how the citizens of America react to it. Every person in America has a different perspective on life, to the point where they will look for a solution on how they will approach their dream of living comfortably. The American Dream is a dream that makes people experience challenges in life due to the diversified circumstances present in the country. America is so-called "the land of opportunity," which makes the country a whole (Barone).

1.7.1 Advantages of the American Dream

The American Dream has been a means for progress and the cultivation of unity. The United States independence from Britain was largely facilitated by the concept of the "American Dream". The Declaration of Independence had an underlying concept, the "American Dream," which is associated with the freedom of the American people (Jefferson 377). In the eighteenth century, the dream also played a role in the fight against slavery. The abolitionists utilized the American Dream to support the liberation of the

slaves because it declared that equality and freedom were essential for all Americans. To bring the divided populace together and remind them that they were all fighting for the same values, President Lincoln referred to the American Dream. Many have been motivated to fight for their rights and advance equality in society by the American Dream. Martin Luther King, who battled for the ideal of equality, is the greatest example of this. King thought that everyone in the US ought to be entitled to the same chances and privileges as those stated in the Declaration of Independence (*The American Dream: Negative and Positive Aspects - 1361 Words / Essay Example*, n.d.).

Aiming for the American dream is something that many, mostly immigrants, do. The Americas are viewed by people worldwide as a magical or unbounded opportunity-filled region that everyone aspires to visit. "Getting ahead" (the right to fail, William Zinsser) is the American ideal. The liberties granted to you upon becoming an American, along with the freedom to work and make money, are what enable the American dream in contemporary culture.

The American Dream is attainable for those who put in the necessary effort and are capable of realizing it. However, as realistic terms are now the main focus, they might not be available to everyone. It is still attainable because, with enough effort, Realizing the American dream of financial security, owning a home, independence, and pursuing any other goal associated with being an American is achievable through hard work and determination. With sufficient effort and a strong desire, achieving anything is possible. The American dream remains unattainable. If you don't put in the effort to work hard and succeed everyone can realize the American Dream because everyone can attain the American Dream of financial security, independence, a house, or employment with enough effort. "I think we can give our middle-class relief and provide working families with a road to opportunities," stated Barack Obama in a 2004 keynote speech. This exemplifies

the idea that everyone may be allowed to thrive and enjoy the privileges that come with being an American. As they did in the early years of the nation, success and failure are once again evolving into unique visions rather than strict classifications. Perhaps rediscovering the value placed on each person's freedom to achieve success on their terms and experience failure along the way as frequently as needed ("Benefits of the American Dream - 749 Words | Bartleby").

1.7.2 Disadvantages of the American Dream

The American dream encourages individualism and indifference to the poorer members of society. Ideals promote an atmosphere of personal achievement through hard work. The dream blames the "nation's losers" for their problems because it asserts that everyone has equal opportunities and can succeed if they work hard. Proponents of this dream believe that anyone can succeed if they transform themselves and use their talents in this land of opportunity. Assuming that everyone has an equal chance to succeed, all people are expected to succeed if they try. Such a view ignores the lack of opportunity that people from poor backgrounds often face. Because the failure is blamed on the individual and not on the existing system, the government and other members of the community are reluctant to do anything to improve the situation. People only care about their well-being, thus creating a society that does not care about the less fortunate. The ideals of the American Dream mistakenly equate financial prosperity with happiness. The American Dream is based on the idea of creating a more successful life by working and earning more money. It suggests that when a person achieves success, economic growth, and social mobility, he experiences happiness and satisfaction. The dream requires materialism above all, and it can be harmful to society. The American Dream has become a nightmare in reality because compassion for people has disappeared as more and more people are interested in making more money. The American Dream has been used to justify the

dubious actions of individuals who seek to achieve goals or objectives that conform to the ideals of the Dream. The dream is not a well-defined concept and has been stretched and adapted to suit all kinds of people and historical circumstances (“The American Dream: Negative and Positive Aspects - 1361 Words | Essay Example”). Also, the American dream did not give women their rights once women arrived in the US, they often remained under the radar, working undesirable domestic jobs such as cleaning. Male family members or employers can exploit and abuse these women, keeping them isolated from society and exposing them to issues like domestic abuse and sex trafficking. The lack of access to helplines and knowledge that their situation is fixable makes it nearly impossible for repressed women to escape (Dale).

1.8 Conclusion

The American Dream has been a dynamic concept that reflects the values and aspirations of the nation. It has evolved through different periods, influenced cultural movements like the Jazz Age, and brought both opportunities and challenges to American society. The American Dream remains a powerful and enduring ideal that continues to shape the ambitions of individuals across the United States. However, its interpretation and realization vary widely depending on historical context, cultural influences, and individual experiences. While the American Dream holds the promise of prosperity, freedom, and opportunity, it also prompts critical reflection on its advantages and disadvantages, challenging us to strive for a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals can pursue their dreams and aspirations. Feminism aims to ensure that the American Dream is inclusive and attainable for everyone, regardless of gender. By challenging systemic inequalities and advocating for women's rights, feminism seeks to remove barriers that have historically excluded women from fully realizing the promise of the American Dream.

CHAPTER TWO

(Feminism and the American Dream)

2.1 Introduction

The term feminism refers to a broad spectrum of political movements, philosophies, and social movements that are united in their quest to define, create, and realize gender equality in politics, economy, the individual, and society. The fundamental goal of feminism is to provide chances for women to have equal access to resources that are ordinarily freely available to males, as well as equality and justice for women in all spheres of life. Feminism encompasses a wide range of topics, including the history of women's oppression and strategies for overcoming the "anxiety of authorship" by creating their literary canon (Raina).

Three waves may be distinguished in the history of feminism, according to Maggie Humm and Rebecca Walker. The nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw the first feminist wave, which was followed by the 1960s and 1970s and the 1990s to the present. These feminist movements gave rise to feminist philosophy. It may be seen in many academic fields, including feminist literary criticism, feminist history, and feminist geography.

The American Dream and feminism have been linked for many years, with the fight for women's rights serving as a mirror and driving force for the values at the core of the American Dream. The historic advancement of feminism reveals a legend of durability, rebellion, and development, from the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 to modern-day waves of feminism in the 21st century. Feminism seeks to break down obstacles that impede the goals of equal rights and empowerment for women. Thus, the place of women in the American Dream is not limited by their engagement only; they signify firmness and determination. From the initial inhabitants to the modern-day CEOs, women are building their own American Dreams, testing conventions and redefining opportunities. Through analyzing the American Dream for women using the concept of feminism one can

understand the impact of cumulative activity and social adjustment. In Western civilization, feminism has changed the prevalent viewpoints in a variety of fields, from law to culture. Women's rights (including the right to vote, contracts, and property), women's autonomy and bodily integrity, the right to an abortion, and reproductive rights (such as access to contraception and high-quality prenatal care) have all been championed by feminist activists. They have also fought for the protection of women and girls from sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and rape, as well as for workplace rights. Such as equal pay, maternity leave, and against misogyny and other gender-based discrimination against women (“History and Theory of Feminism”).

2.2 Historical Development of Feminism

Women have faced discrimination and underrepresentation in society throughout history. To offer women an equal voice, the feminist movement's successive waves have worked to rectify this by improving the living conditions of women and advancing them into positions of power. Due to their connections to other social justice movements, such as civil rights, the four waves of feminism are intricate (Sun). Feminism is defined as the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of equality of the sexes and like any other social movement that has spanned over centuries and continents. Although it is hardly possible to describe all the important aspects in detail, we are going to outline several important moments and movements that have contributed to the development of Feminism.

2.2.1 The Feminist Movement

The term "feminist movement" describes several social and political movements that have affected and still affect women's status in society and quality of life.

Reproductive rights, the right to vote, domestic abuse, the pay gap, parental leave, the security of necessities, and other issues have all been addressed by the movement and are

still being addressed. Creating additional freedoms and equal opportunities for women are among the main objectives of the feminist movement. Over time, the feminist movement's goals have changed. Nonetheless, feminists have pursued social and legal reform to put an end to violence and discrimination across all four phases. As more women have taken on prominent roles of authority in politics, the media, and industry, the feminist movement has become more powerful (Sun).

2.2.2The Second Wave of the Feminist Movement

The second wave of the feminist movement began in the 1960s and lasted a little over 20 years. The earlier days of this wave dealt with civil rights. Black men in the United States continued to face intense systemic discrimination, and black women suffered unequally. They were sexually assaulted on public buses, eventually making the Montgomery Bus Boycott a landmark in the civil rights and feminist movements. Feminists also started to challenge cultural icons like the Miss America pageant. They challenged ideologies and events that made women objects of desire and held them to unrealistic beauty standards. Activists demonstrated against the play in 1968 and 1969, arguing that patriarchy devalues women, shapes their identities, and keeps them compliant (Sun).

During a decade marked by progressive movements like the Sexual Revolution and Second-Wave Feminism, *The Great Gatsby* was made. The fight for reproductive rights and job equality by women of all classes and races was exemplified by Second Wave Feminism, which provided an ideological foundation for gender issues. During the Sexual Revolution, women challenged sexual norms and explored their bodies to find their place in society and to combat sexism. Even though Second-wave feminists were well-known in society, a large portion of their mission was unsuccessful. In contrast, as society grew more

pessimistic, the 1970s experienced a nostalgic craze, an attempt to recapture the charm of the past. (“Jack Clayton’s the Great Gatsby and Second Wave Feminism | 123 Help Me. In essence, the second wave of feminism in the United States emerged alongside criticisms of the American Dream, emphasizing the role of societal norms and expectations in shaping women's opportunities. It supported an ideal of achievement and fulfillment.

2.3 Defining Feminism in the Context of the American Dream

In the early years of the country, Women were largely excluded from the traditional American dream of breaking new ground, achieving swift success, and establishing a new, prosperous identity. Men would take the lead in building the United States, claiming property, forming a legal system, and declaring their independence. Women certainly supported these ideals, working alongside their husbands, brothers, and sons to advance the progress of a new nation. However, their hardworking nature did not give them a chance to decide where America was going to progress next. Because the opinions of women were not taken into consideration professionally, socially, or politically, women had to fight to be heard and seen. As men left their homes to fight in the American Revolution, many women had the chance to help build the country. Women took care of household chores, managed family enterprises, and generated money to sustain the republic. John Adams, who was a member of the Continental Congress at the time, was encouraged to acknowledge this newfound independence by Abigail Adams. In 1776, when the colonists broke away from Britain, Abigail wrote John a letter asking him to "remember the ladies" as he and the other legislators drafted a new set of laws (“The American Feminist Dream | Encyclopedia.com”).

2.4 The aspiration for the American Dream among women during the 1920s

The American Dream typically involves achieving one's goals through hard work and integrity, leading to financial stability and personal fulfillment. The 1920s are often seen as the epitome of this ideal, thanks to significant social progress, technological innovations, and the increased affordability of goods. This decade, known as the Roaring Twenties, is remembered for its economic prosperity, lifestyle transformations, and the pursuit of the American Dream.

During this time, women made substantial advances in both societal perception and opportunities. Many women, known as Flappers, adopted new fashions such as bobbed haircuts and shorter, tighter clothing. They also embraced more liberal attitudes towards drinking, smoking, and socializing. While not all women participated in these behaviors, the Flapper image symbolized a break from Victorian values. Women increasingly entered the workforce, taking on roles in diverse fields from banking to medicine, reflecting the era's broader changes ("The Roaring Twenties")("The American Dream in the 1920 - 1011 Words | Bartleby"). The emerging image of flappers depicted them as independent young women who frequented jazz clubs, particularly in places like Harlem, which were considered scandalous at the time. Jazz music, which originated in the African American communities of New Orleans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, surged in popularity during the 1920s in cities such as Chicago and New York. Like the flappers, jazz began to develop a reputation for being immoral. Many older generations saw it as a threat to traditional cultural values and a promoter of the new decadent lifestyle of the Roaring Twenties. Ruth Gillettes, a singer from the 1920s, had a song titled "Oh Say! Can I See You Tonight?" that reflected the changing behaviors of young women during that era. Before the 1920s, it was unheard of for a woman to call a man to suggest a date. However, during the Roaring Twenties, many young women took a more proactive role in relationships, often asking boys out or visiting their homes. While flappers were often

viewed as a threat to conventional society at the time, they are now celebrated as cultural heroines. The flapper remains an iconic symbol of youth and women's liberation in the 20th century(Students of History).

2.5 The Role of Women in the American Dream

The National Women Suffrage Association was created by suffragists such as Elizabeth Candy Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, who worked to increase public awareness of women's suffrage. By 1917, the group had more than two million members. Women were led by Alice Paul in a demonstration of gender equality. However, she was arrested while serving her sentence. Women were now able to vote thanks to the 19th Amendment, but many of their American dreams had not yet come true. Women replaced males in labor during World War II, adding 10% more women to the overall workforce. Rosie the Riveter came to represent women in "masculine" occupations and inspired other sectors for women to work in. President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Wage Act into law to guarantee wage parity for men and women employed in the same position. Despite its flaws, the legislation demonstrated that people were open to change. Although women and men are now more equal, they are still not at full equality. Women's rights gained optimism in 2020 when Kamala Harris, the first female vice president, was elected, symbolizing the achievement of their American Dream (Channing).

2.6 Feminist Perspective of the American Dream

Feminist critics argue that the American Dream masks the domination of women by men. They argue that women immigrants were often the cheapest labor in the early 20th century and suffered from a lack of minimum wage legislation. Apartheid and de facto segregation in the South and North kept people of color from bettering their lives for over half of the American Dream's existence. Nancy F. Cott highlights that women have had

uneven attempts at achieving their personal goals in the American experiment, often confused with similar movements by marginal male groups or as part of white male reform movements(“The Routledge Handbook on the American Dream | Volume 2 | Robert C. Ha”).

The feminist perspective of the American Dream is multifaceted and varies depending on the specific lens through which it is viewed. Here are some key points that feminists might consider when examining the American Dream:

2.6.1 Gender Issue and the American Dream

In light of the nation’s present circumstances, there is considerable debate about the continued relevance of the American ideal. The days of mass immigration, when millions of people came to the US seeking a better life, are long gone. While those at the top continue to flourish, many Americans today struggle just to make ends meet. This is especially true for women, who continue to face inequity and prejudice while having greater freedom than in the past. Systematic discrimination places racial minorities at a disadvantage as well, making it harder for them to get employment and move up the economic ladder. Furthermore, many people—regardless of gender or race—are unable to attain a middle-class lifestyle or higher due to the wealth divide. Due to economic, racial, and gender inequalities, Americans are still unable to realize the American Dream. The continuation of gender inequality renders many Americans unable to live the American dream. Women, despite many advances in the last several decades, are still subject to discrimination, especially in the job market and workplace. There is still a substantial wage and general economic gap between men and women, which has jeopardized the possibility of women and female-headed households achieving the American dream in their lifetimes (“Gender Inequality in the American Dream - 1351 Words | Bartleby”).

2.6.2 Intersectionality in the American Dream

Americans often believe in their freedom, the American Dream, and the attainable status of race, gender, and class. However, these factors often determine their fate in the US, particularly in education and the legal system. The intersectionality of these issues plays a significant role in determining life opportunities, particularly for marginalized groups like women and minorities. This belief in the American Dream and social class can lead to stereotype threat, poorer performance in the classroom, and overestimation of students' abilities by teachers([CSL STYLE ERROR: reference with no printed form.]).

Feminists also highlight the intersectional nature of American Dream narratives. How gender intersects with other aspects of identity results in added layers of difficulty for women of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, and others. Intersecting identities impact their ability to achieve success or upward mobility through the American Dream, as well as the resources they have available to take advantage of those opportunities.

2.7 The Impacts of Women in the Roaring Twenties

Women became more mobile as a result of being able to work and attend school. The corset restricted women's movement at this time, which led to a sharp fall in corset manufacturing. Less corset wear made women's figures more straight and boyish. The free-spirited women of this era, known as Flappers, symbolized the revolutionary shift in women's fashion. They would wear gowns that hung over their knees and ankles, bearing their arms and exposing more legs. In addition, they would forgo wearing long hair in favor of a bob haircut, which stands for liberty and self-determination. During this period, women started to drink, smoke, and engage in more sexual activities due to their doubts about conventional norms. Jazz also gained popularity in the 1920s, encouraging women to dance and adopting more showy and passionate dancing routines.

To achieve equality among males in the 1920s, they had to have a figure of men (“Women: The Impacts of the Roaring Twenties - 840 Words | Bartleby”). In the Roaring Twenties, women significantly shaped American society, aligning their aspirations with the American Dream. Economically, their increased workforce presence challenged traditional gender roles, while culturally, the "New Woman" archetype symbolized freedom and self-expression. Politically, women's suffrage empowered them for civic life and economic agency.

2.8 Women's Suffrage Movement and its ties to The American Dream

The US women's suffrage movement, often seen as a national struggle, was deeply international from the start. Suffragists from the US and other parts of the world collaborated across national borders, sharing strategies and ideas. They drew inspiration from the American Revolution, the French, Haitian, Mexican, and Russian Revolutions, and other revolutionary movements. Many were immigrants, while others capitalized on the Spanish-American War and the First World War to highlight the contradictions between the US's growing global power and its denial of women's rights. These complex international connections and strategies reverberated in later movements and are instructive today (Marino). The struggle to provide women with the right to vote in the US lasted decades and was known as the women's suffrage movement. It took reformers and activists over a century to secure that right, and the battle was not without its challenges. Disagreements over tactics often put the entire cause at risk of falling apart. However, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was eventually approved on August 18, 1920, giving all American women the right to vote and stating for the first time that they should have all the same rights and obligations as men as citizens (History.com Editors).

2.9 Achievements of Feminism in Advancing the American Dream for Women

Feminism has played a significant role in advancing the American Dream for women by advocating for gender equality and challenging societal norms and structures that have historically oppressed women. Here are some key achievements of feminism in this regard:

2.9.1 Political Rights of Women

The feminist movement fought for and won women's suffrage, ultimately leading to the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. This was a monumental achievement that empowered women to participate in the democratic process and have a say in shaping the country's future.

Dimension of an international movement with international women's non-governmental organizations that advocated political equality for their reasons these bodies praised the League of Nations as a forum for pressure on individual governments. However, the League Congress Committee rejected most of their demands, perhaps fearing that the Organization would once again become an arena of feminist struggle. However, they agreed to the request, including an article in the convention guaranteeing women equal access to positions in the league. Women's organizations later used this article to their advantage and managed to get some intuitive positions for members of their gender. These women, in turn, became successful (Daw308).

2.9.2 Healthcare Rights:

It is imperative to ensure that women have the same lifetime access to optimal health standards that men do. Many health issues that affect men also impact women; however, because of societal constructions of gender and heredity, women may experience some health issues differently than men. Social realities that negatively affect women's health include economic dependency and poverty, violence, and discrimination against

women based on their gender, and restricted autonomy in making decisions about one's life, particularly those related to sexual and reproductive health. A productive and meaningful life with dignity depends on being in good health, and women's independence and empowerment are fundamentally based on their ability to manage all facets of their health, including their fertility (*WMA - the World Medical Association-Women and Health*).

2.10 Feminist Reception of The Great Gatsby in Regard of the American Dream

The feminist critique of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "*The Great Gatsby*" critiques the portrayal of the American Dream through female characters in the 1920s. The narrative highlights the limited opportunities and roles women faced, often highlighting the patriarchal forces that restricted their independence. Feminist criticism explores how literature addresses gender issues and the oppression of women due to patriarchy. It highlights how patriarchal ideology influences our thoughts, speech, and worldview. *The Great Gatsby*, a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, demonstrates how the novel both supports and challenges patriarchal assumptions. The novel portrays America in the 1920s, where women had no freedom before the war and were confined to male ideals. However, women began to enjoy smoking, drinking, and participating in nightlife, often with men. The novel also depicts the emergence of a "New Woman" in the 1920s, which sparked a negative reaction from members of conservative society who believed that rejecting traditional roles would lead to family destruction and societal decline. By presenting a range of characters who respond to the New Woman figure, the novel highlights the challenges women face in defying patriarchal norms. The novel features numerous minor female characters who are portrayed as incarnations of the New Woman, a negative character type. These characters are shallow, revolting, exhibitionist, and deceitful, often exhibiting discomfort with the New Woman. The women in the text are victims of social and cultural norms that they

cannot change, demonstrating the influence of culture on individuals' lives. The novel attempts to redefine society and culture through gender relations, with the women actively trying to change social norms through their attitudes and actions. However, patriarchy is deeply internalized in these characters, highlighting the powerful and often devastating impact of this ideology. The novel's discomfort with the New Woman is evident through these characterizations(Hyun).

2.11 Conclusion

Tracing the historical development of feminism and the feminist movement from its early days to its current iteration shows that women have continuously fought for their rights and representation within the American Dream. The first wave laid the groundwork by standing up for suffrage and basic rights, challenging the notion that the American dream was only attainable by men. The second wave further broke down social barriers, addressing issues such as reproductive rights and equality in the workplace. The third wave, emphasizing intersectionality, highlighted the diverse experiences of women and the need for inclusion in feminist discourse. In all these movements, defining feminism in the context of the American dream was a central theme. This includes not only the pursuit of individual success and fulfillment but also collective empowerment and social justice. Women played a crucial role in shaping the American Dream by challenging traditional gender roles and expanding opportunities for future generations. The influence of women in pivotal periods like the Roaring Twenties cannot be overstated. Women's suffrage in particular was deeply intertwined with the American Dream as women sought political agency to fully participate in society and realize their aspirations. Their achievements in advancing women's rights had a lasting impact on women's realization of the American Dream, paving the way for greater equality and opportunity. Even in literature such as *The Great Gatsby*, gender dynamics and the American Dream are closely intertwined. The

reception of this classic novel reflects evolving perspectives on gender roles and social expectations, prompting a critical examination of the intersections of privilege, ambition, and identity. Finally, the feminist movement helped challenge and transform American ideals. A dream that makes it more inclusive and equal for all genders. Continuing to strive for progress and equality, it's important to recognize the integral role of feminism in shaping the past, present, and future of the American Dream.

CHAPTER THREE

Women Portrayal in Light of the American Dream in the Great Gatsby

3.1 Introduction

Literature to Life adapts F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic work as the newest title in their Signature Performance series. *The Great Gatsby* takes place on Long Island and New York City in the early twentieth century, at the height of the Jazz Age and the Prohibition Era. The novel touches on the treatment of different social classes, “old money” versus “new money” ideology, gender, race, environmentalism, and the price of the American Dream.

Charles Scribner's Sons released F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* in 1925. The plot, which is set in Jazz Age New York, centers on self-made billionaire Jay Gatsby and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a rich young woman he once fell in love with.

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, was not a commercial success when it was originally published but is today regarded as a masterpiece of American fiction and is sometimes referred to as the Great American Novel (Martinez).

Fitzgerald's portrayal of women in the novel reflects societal norms and expectations of the time, with characters like Daisy Buchanan and Jordan Baker representing a variety of positions. These characters challenge traditional ideals of femininity, asserting their independence and agency in a male-dominated world. The novel also explores themes of power, identity, and the pursuit of autonomy, highlighting the limitations placed on women during the Jazz Age. The novel also exposes the objectification of women, questioning the morality of a society built on superficiality and exploitation. The narrative centers on Nick Caraway, a World War I soldier from the Midwest who, during the Roaring Twenties, relocates to New York City in quest of work. Nick's enigmatic billionaire neighbor Jay Gatsby, along with his cousin Daisy and her husband Tom Buchanan, quickly draw him into the world of the wealthy and powerful. *The Great Gatsby*, widely regarded as one of the greatest American novels explores the privileges and perils that each character faces when pursuing their own "green light" (“The Great Gatsby” 21-22).

3.2 Brief Overview of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *the Great Gatsby*

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born on September 24, 1896, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Fitzgerald's parents' pride in his father's lineage is evident in his given name. Edward, his father, was a Maryland native who was committed to the ideals of the Old South. Fitzgerald's mother, Mary (Mollie) McQuillan, was from an Irish immigrant family that made a good living in St. Paul as a wholesale grocery store owner. They were both followers of Catholicism (University of South Carolina).

Fitzgerald was the one who first used the phrase "Jazz Age" to describe what is now more often called the Roaring Twenties. Jazz is an American musical genre distinguished by a vibrant and intricate fusion of rhythms and tones. Similar complicated emotions and concepts that mirror the turbulent times are portrayed in *The Great Gatsby*. Following the terrifying experience of World War I Americans were enjoying the fruits of a growing economy and a renewed spirit of possibility; However, Fitzgerald emphasizes the darker side of the Roaring Twenties in *The Great Gatsby*—its pervasive corruption and its hopeless, vacuous decadence(Lit Charts).

The Great Gatsby is set against the backdrop of the Roaring Twenties, a time of economic prosperity and cultural change in the United States. Through the character of Jay Gatsby, Fitzgerald dives into the complexities of the American dream and describes the pursuit of wealth, status, and love amid the decadence and excess of the Jazz Age. At the heart of the story is the obsessive love of Gatsby.

3.3 Plot summary

In 1922, Nick Carraway moved to New York to study the bond business. He rents a house in West Egg, a wealthy but unfashionable area, and lives next door to Jay Gatsby, a mysterious man who lives in a Gothic mansion. Nick's cousin, Daisy Buchanan, introduces

him to Jordan Baker, a beautiful woman with whom Nick begins a romantic relationship. Gatsby tells Nick that he knew Daisy in 1917 and is deeply in love with her. Gatsby's extravagant lifestyle and wild parties are an attempt to impress Daisy. Nick invites Daisy to his house, and they reestablish their connection. Tom becomes suspicious of his wife's relationship with Gatsby, and he confronts him in New York City. Tom accuses Gatsby of being a criminal and accuses Daisy of being infidelity. Daisy realizes her allegiance is to Tom, and Tom sends her back to East Egg with Gatsby. As they drive through the valley of ashes, they discover Gatsby's car has struck and killed Myrtle, Tom's lover. Tom tells Myrtle's husband, George, that Gatsby was the driver of the car, and George shoots Gatsby dead. Nick stages a funeral for Gatsby, ends his relationship with Jordan, and moves back to the Midwest to escape the disgust he feels for the people surrounding Gatsby's life and the moral decay of life among the wealthy on the East Coast (SparkNotes).

3.4 The Great Gatsby and the American Dream

The American Dream is the hope that anyone can earn success if they work hard enough. In "*The Great Gatsby*," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the whole premise of the book lies in the framework of wealth and the ideal of the American Dream. Old money and new money are contrasted in the setting of the book: Long Island, New York. "Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther. . . . And then one fine morning--

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past"

in this quote the most meaningful. It focuses on the role of the past in the dreams of the future. It is a metaphor for Gatsby, his struggle, and the American dream. Gatsby was a man who was forever moving forward but focused entirely on the past. He was an idealistic dreamer who reinvented himself, and achieved financial prosperity and social

success, but fell short of his overall goal - Daisy's love. He chased after illusions and ignored reality and it eventually destroyed him ("Chapter Quote"). *The Great Gatsby* deeply presents the ideals of the American Dream through the interplay of its wealth and characters. The American Dream and its original status as a symbol of success and hope for a better life have been blurred into a symbol of wealth. The ideal, that dream, was thoroughly corrupted. The character of Gatsby symbolizes the corrupted dream: his wealth is the solution to his problems, and his undying love for Daisy. Despite his hard work, his corruption and materialism triumph over hard work and honesty. These ideals are also seen in the various characters of the book as failed creatures of the American Dream (Solanki).

3.5 The Representation of Women in The Great Gatsby

Since the dawn of civilization, women and men have been categorized differently. Women have always been viewed as the "weak sex," someone who should be subservient to males. This has changed, and there is now relative equality between the sexes. However, it is astonishing that prejudice against women has persisted in this century even though the image of women has just recently begun to alter dramatically in the previous 100 years. Even though women had just gained rights like the ability to vote in the 1920s, society in the 1930s still had highly outdated views of them. The majority of males still believed that women should only be at home raising children and not participate in politics, the voting process, or any other special activities ("The Portrayal of Women in the Great Gatsby Essay - 1053 Words | Bartleby").

During the 1920s, women's societal roles underwent significant transformations, a theme explored in *"The Great Gatsby"*. «Fitzgerald shows this in *The Great Gatsby* by the characters: Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle. The morals and images of the woman changed. During this period, females began to go against the "norms" of society. The patriarchal culture in which the female characters reside often oppresses them. Women are portrayed

in the book as little more than objects with no agency or autonomy. They also have to live with the expectations and limitations of a culture that is controlled by men. Gender norms hold great significance, as male characters perceive opportunities to their benefit or as a means of establishing their authority and reputation. The ladies in the book are expected to adhere to traditional gender roles even in the face of cultural shifts during the period, such as the rise of the flapper lifestyle and the women's suffrage campaign (“How Are Women Portrayed in the Great Gatsby | Ipl.org”).

3.6 An Analysis of the main Female Characters in the novel from a Feminist Perspective

The exploration of feminism in this novel is not adequate, and the analysis of the female characters is still somewhat lacking. In this chapter, an exploration of feminism in "*The Great Gatsby*" is conducted, with an analysis of the three female characters. Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle from a feminist perspective show that the female characters in the novel are distorted and victimized by patriarchy (Yuqing and Jianling). Analyzing the main female characters in a novel from a feminist perspective involves examining their portrayal, agency, relationships, and how they navigate societal expectations. A breakdown of some of the main female characters and their significance from a feminist perspective

3.6.1 Analysis of Daisy

Daisy, born into an upper-class society, dislikes the vanity, deception, and coldness of the upper class. She chooses Gatsby as her pursuer due to his kindness and honesty. He keeps his origins hidden from Daisy's viewpoint. When they planned to marry, Gatsby was sent abroad by the army, and Daisy was arranged to marry Tom, the son of a wealthy family in the upper class. Gatsby was unable to fulfill his promise to Daisy, and she had no right to choose her happiness at that time. The break-up between Daisy and Gatsby was

inevitable, reflecting the female values of the "Jazz Age" and marking the end of Daisy's dream age. Daisy eventually chose Tom, transforming from a naive girl into an apathetic, selfish materialist in upper-class society. After marriage, Daisy finds Tom unfaithful to their marriage and decides to move to win him back. When they gave birth to their baby, Tom was gone, leaving Daisy feeling abandoned and wishing for a "beautiful little fool."

As Daisy despaired of her marriage and life, Gatsby came back and entered the bootlegging trade, pursuing Daisy again. However, when she saw Gatsby's piles of expensive silk shirts, she began to cry, expressing her material desire completely. Gatsby's sudden reappearance brought Daisy a surprising dream, but Tom was her reality. Despite her hesitation to escape reality and pursue her dream, she finally compromised with Tom, to whom she truly belonged. Daisy was a symbol of "beautiful but horrible," as she submitted to wealth and gave up herself, making her beauty worthless. She enjoyed true love with Gatsby and fought for it, but ultimately chose Tom, like most people. Although she was still moved by the love and dream years later, her life experience enabled her to have no courage to enjoy it again (Yuqing and Jianling).

3.6.2 The Portrayal of Males about Daisy Buchanan

In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald depicts women in a highly negative manner. He conveys the idea that women's worth is tied solely to their physical appearance, reducing them to mere sex symbols rather than individuals with intellect. Women are treated as objects, and the male characters in the novel use, abuse, and discard them. Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle are prime examples of this poor treatment. Among them, Daisy suffers the most at the hands of male characters. She is objectified, cheated on by her husband, and likely physically abused by him, as evidenced by his treatment of Myrtle. When Daisy reunites with Gatsby, he remarks, "It excited him too that many men had already loved Daisy-- it increased her value in his eyes" (Fitzgerald 156), highlighting how

men objectify her. Daisy epitomizes a negative female stereotype: she is portrayed as pure, pretty, and proper, yet lacks a real personality. She is a stereotypically bad driver, reflecting the era's gender biases. Men overlook her intellect, valuing her only while they find her appearance appealing. Once they deem her uninteresting, they abandon her for someone else. Even Nick, who is portrayed as pure and honest, eventually loses interest in her ("How Is Daisy Portrayed in the Great Gatsby | Ipl.org").

3.6.3 Analysis of Jordan

Jordan Baker was a renowned golf champion and a close friend of Daisy, who had a brief and unfulfilling relationship with Nick. This distinctive female character possessed unique traits. To Nick, Jordan initially appeared as a beautiful, lovely, and mysterious woman. However, he was also struck by her cool demeanor, arrogance, and cynicism, which seemed inconsistent with her age and career. As the novel's plot progresses, the hidden flaws behind Jordan's "tired and proud face" are gradually revealed, exposing a twisted personality beneath her charming exterior.

Fairness and integrity are fundamental principles for athletes and everyone in general, but for Jordan, these values were irrelevant. Instead, she relied on deceit to fulfill her strong desire for success and to navigate unfavorable situations. During her first major golf tournament, there were rumors that she bent the rules in the semi-final round, but the controversy eventually faded. Nick believed that Jordan had been dishonest from a young age, considering her "incurably dishonest." Jordan's philosophy is evident in her comment to Nick about Daisy's past: "It's a great advantage not to drink among hard-drinking people" (Fitzgerald, 2006, p. 84). This strategy allowed her to remain clear-headed and exploit the weaknesses of drunken men, enabling her to engage in deceitful actions. Thus, behind her proud facade as a golf champion lay a corrupt and dishonest soul. Moreover, Jordan's indifference, selfishness, and irresponsibility were evident in her daily life. When

recalling her past, Jordan said she was walking "half on the sidewalks and half on the lawns," symbolizing her misguided path in life. She not only trampled on the lawns but also on the honesty and goodness that a person should uphold (Yuqing and Jianling).

3.6.4 The Portrayal of Males in Relation to Jordan Baker

Jordan Baker is a fascinating character known for her independence, confidence, and somewhat enigmatic nature. About Jordan, the portrayal of males can vary, as they interact with her in different ways throughout the novel. In *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carraway and Jordan Baker's portrayals of Jordan and Nick are complex and multi-faceted. Nick initially finds Jordan's character attractive, but later realizes her flaws and over-extends the truth. This highlights the complexity of their relationship, involving love, departure, and awkward moments.

Nick struggles to understand his feelings for Jordan and the moral dilemmas they lead to. The characters can be seen as symbols of good and evil in humanity and the essence of complex interaction in a society with money, privilege, and pretense. She and Jay Gatsby have what can be considered a fake relationship that is based more on lies and enticement. He has a magnetic personality and an extravagant lifestyle; however, she still reigns in her affection for him. The relationship between Paul and Allison therefore seems more like infatuation since it lacks the love aspect that would make them genuinely care for each other (TYCHR).

3.6.5 Analysis of Myrtle

Myrtle, a white immigrant woman living in the lower class, had a dream of living a luxurious life in the upper class like a noblewoman. She depended on Tom, she believed he would improve her social status and realize her dream. However, Tom played with her feelings, leading to her tragic death. Myrtle was full of curiosity and desire for the upper

class, but she only showed her superficial knowledge of it through movies and tabloids. She spent money on various stores, buying trivial items like dog collars and ashtrays, and changing her clothes to fit into the upper class. This change affected her character, where she went from being full of life to becoming a pompous lady. Like Daisy and Jordan, Myrtle was determined to marry a nobleman to realize her dream. However, she had difficulty in that particular period finding a person who would not betray her and who was capable of being truthful to her. Initially, she married Wilson downwards, however, she didn't find him suitable for the activity of licking her shoes soon. When she met Tom, she became fascinated with him and decided that he was a nobleman who could save her from misfortune.

Myrtle was enthusiastic about buying a dog, as tabloids told her that a noble lady would not walk alone and must be accompanied by a dog. However, Tom ignored her and even threw money at her to buy more dogs without respect. Myrtle forgot her low class and the gap between herself and the rich, giving up the cultural foundation of her existence and abandoning traditional women's good, loyal qualities. When she mentions Daisy's name, Tom breaks her nose, destroying her dream. The cage of patriarchy was indestructible, and Myrtle's relationship with Tom ultimately drove her to death. These women for example Myrtle lost the chances of being able to have their dreams come true, becoming the accessory of men and victims of material society and patriarchal culture (Yuqing and Jianling).

3.6.6 The Portrayal of Males about Myrtle Wilson

Myrtle and Tom have different attitudes towards their affair. Myrtle sees it as a romantic escape, while Tom sees it as just another affair. They both have physical chemistry and attraction to each other. Tom's first meeting with Myrtle was on a train, and she describes it as the beginning of a love story. However, in reality, it is creepy. Tom's

bad treatment of Myrtle reminds him of his brutality and the fact that Myrtle is just another affair. Tom's bad treatment of Myrtle reminds him of his brutality and the fact that he would never leave Daisy for her. As they drove away, Tom felt panic, as his wife and mistress were slipping away from his control. Chapter two provides insight into Myrtle's character and how she sees her affair with Tom. However, it is not clear about Tom's motivations until later on. In Chapter Seven, Tom panics when he finds out George knows about his wife's affair. It can be concluded that control is incredibly important to Tom, including control of his wife, mistress, and society more generally.

Myrtle also has her share of suffering, as she cried like a baby when she gave up her flat and saw a box of dog biscuits sitting on the sideboard. Despite Tom's behavior throughout the novel, at the very end, Nick leaves with an image of Tom confessing to crying over Myrtle, complicating the reader's desire to see Tom as a straightforward villain (Pambudi).

3.6.7 Further Feminist Insights in the Novel

Examining F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* from a feminist lens reveals a nuanced portrayal that both reinforces and contests the conventions of a patriarchal society. Through a critical feminist analysis, it becomes evident that the characters, both men and women, are influenced by the rigid social and cultural norms prevalent in the 1920s. Despite this, certain characters, particularly the women, endeavor to challenge and redefine these norms. For instance, Jordan defies societal expectations of femininity, while Daisy and Myrtle, though adhering to more conventional roles, and engage in extramarital affairs, indicating a willingness to challenge traditional gender dynamics. The female characters in the novel adopt various approaches to feminism, embodying different narrative perspectives during a period of burgeoning feminist discourse. Fitzgerald employs contrasting female characters like Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle to juxtapose divergent aspects of feminist ideology, each representing distinct manifestations of feminism. They

collectively challenge the traditional roles of women prevalent before World War I, increasing independence and pointing to perspectives of more personal control. In the liberated atmosphere of the 1920s, women began to assert themselves more openly, engaging in behaviors traditionally associated with men, as exemplified by the characters' penchant for drinking and smoking. Jordan epitomizes a direct expression of feminism, exhibiting traits typically associated with masculinity and asserting dominance in situations where compliance is expected. However, it's important to note that Jordan, like other women of her time, faces constraints imposed by societal standards, underscoring the complexities of navigating gender expectations in the 1920s ("Theme of Feminism in the Great Gatsby - 1162 Words | Bartleby").

3.7 Feminist Critique of the Female Characters Daisy, Jordan, Myrtle

The female characters Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson are pivotal in depicting the societal norms and gender dynamics of the 1920s. A feminist critique of these characters reveals the constraints and roles imposed on women during this era, highlighting themes of power, autonomy, and identity.

3.7.1 Daisy Buchanan a Symbol of the American Dream

At the start, Daisy Buchanan entrances with her beauty, charm, innocence, and superficiality, luring Nick and others with her captivating voice. As the story progresses, she skillfully manipulates the desires of men, including Gatsby and Tom. However, Nick eventually sees through her facade, recognizing her as morally indifferent. He exposes her manipulation and the profound impact it has on the lives of those affected. Daisy's wealth serves as a symbol of the underlying issues within American society, reflecting the decay depicted in both East and West Egg. Like the enticing promise of the American Dream, Daisy's allure hides a moral decay underneath, as Fitzgerald highlights the corruption

within both Daisy and the society she embodies. By the novel's conclusion, Daisy's true lack of morality becomes evident as she destroys the lives of those around her. Her actions, such as causing Myrtle's death and refusing to take responsibility, ultimately lead to Gatsby's demise at the hands of Wilson. Despite being accountable for these tragedies, she opts for a comfortable life with Tom. Nick exposes Daisy's carelessness, labeling both her and Tom as "careless people" who wreak havoc and then retreat into their wealth. This reveals the emptiness behind their affluent facade. Gatsby previously helped Nick understand the allure of Daisy's voice, which he likened to the sound of money, highlighting the superficiality of her appeal. Nick realizes that Daisy embodies the shallow pursuit of wealth and status, devoid of genuine affection or substance. Daisy represents the flawed ideal of the American Dream, wherein the relentless pursuit of wealth breeds greed and selfishness. Gatsby's infatuation with Daisy mirrors this misguided pursuit, ultimately revealing the dark underbelly of the American Dream and the shallow allure of wealth and status (Gainsboro).

3.7.2 Myrtle Wilson: The Aspirant and Victim of the American Dream

In "*The Great Gatsby*," Myrtle Wilson serves as a representation of the elusive American Dream, embodying the aspirations of the lower class for wealth and social prominence. Her character reflects the desire for upward mobility, particularly through her relationship with Tom Buchanan. In contrast to other female characters in the novel, Myrtle embodies a raw desire for more without considering the moral implications or potential fallout. Her character serves as a symbol of illusion versus reality, someone who chases after superficial dreams at all costs but fails to find true happiness or fulfillment. Myrtle's role in *The Great Gatsby* can be seen through multiple lenses: she serves as a symbol of unfulfilled desires within the American Dream, she highlights societal

inequalities between classes, and she plays a part in bringing about the tragic ending of the story (TYCHR).

3.7.3 Jordan Baker's Embodiment of the American Dream

In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *"The Great Gatsby,"* Jordan Baker epitomizes a unique representation of the American Dream. Unlike other characters who pursue wealth and social status through hard work and determination Jordan Baker, a wealthy and thin golf player, is unhappy with her life and is dishonest. She believes that her success is fickle and can leave at any moment because it was not built on hard work towards The American Dream (the ultimate). Jordan's version of the dream is characterized by her charm, independence, and social mobility within the elite circles of East Egg. In *The Great Gatsby*, Jordan Baker is a representation of the modern American lady, complete with inconsistencies and dualities. The flappers of the 1920s provides an example of how she is both a socialite and a professional athlete. She is engaged to a man she doesn't appear to care about after the novel, but she is also expected to be married ([CSL STYLE ERROR: reference with no printed form.]).

3.9 The American Dream and Female Objectification in the Novel

In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the central theme of the American Dream is depicted through the emphasis on material possessions and the objectification of women. The portrayal of society is characterized by ostentatious displays, suggesting that guests at Gatsby's parties were primarily interested in his wealth. Each attendee symbolized the aspiration to attain this lifestyle. By attending Gatsby's gatherings, they vicariously lived out their American Dream through him, often without truly knowing him. Women play a significant role in the novel; their fates are often dictated by their relationships with men. Due to their devaluation in society, women lacked the same

opportunities as men. Furthermore, their interpretation of the American Dream differed; while desiring wealth, they were also subject to objectification. Even Gatsby, who loved Daisy, elevated her status because of her affluence, viewing her as another possession to acquire. This underscores the perception that the male American Dream revolved around wealth and possessions, including women. Though Gatsby appears to be one of the few men who respects women, his love for Daisy is intertwined with her societal status. This is evident when Gatsby discusses Daisy's allure to other men, indicating that her value increased in his eyes due to her wealth. The emphasis on Daisy's material possessions rather than her intrinsic qualities reflects Gatsby's prioritization of her status. Additionally, Gatsby's remark about Daisy's voice being "full of money" underscores his attraction to her wealth, further cementing their social alignment. Gatsby and other men of his social stratum view women as objects for amusement, focusing more on their financial status than their personal qualities ("Objectification of Women in the Great Gatsby by F. Scott... | Ipl.org").

3.10 Conclusion

"The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a narrative that explores themes of the American Dream, women's representation, and feminism in 1920s America. The story revolves around Jay Gatsby, a character who pursues success, reflecting the nation's aspirations. Fitzgerald's critique extends beyond materialism, delving into gender dynamics and the representation of women in a rapidly changing society. The novel features characters like Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson, who represent the complexities of female agency and the constraints imposed by societal norms. Daisy represents wealth and privilege, while Jordan represents independence and self-assurance. Myrtle Wilson serves as a tragic reminder of the consequences of objectification, who sees her as an object to be used and discarded by those who want to use her for their purposes.

However, elements of postfeminist analysis can also be observed in the show through the subversion of male power about female characters and their active engagement in the fight against male domination.

General Conclusion

F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel 'The Great Gatsby', published in 1925, is set in the Jazz Age of New York and is famous for its portrayal of glamorous parties and the iconic green light. However, beneath this surface lies a deeper narrative that invites examination through a feminist lens. This study delves into how the novel reflects the illusion of the American Dream from a woman's perspective, aiming to fill a gap in the existing literature by focusing on the portrayal of female characters. By analyzing the experiences and societal expectations of the three main female characters Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle within the context of the Jazz Age and feminist theories, the research reveals a hidden story about women's struggles and tragedies.

.The Great Gatsby vividly represents the society of the Jazz Age, in which the female characters are the representative of "new women", as well as the representative deeply influenced by the times. Fitzgerald's description of female images in this novel is pessimistic. Daisy was apathetic, Jordan was dishonest, Myrtle was affected, and they were all symbols of money worship and selfishness. Many readers only have a direct impression that the three main female characters in the novel are profligate and degenerate, so they are not recognized by the public. Through the feminist analysis and the interpretation of the female characters in the novel from the background of the times and in combination with feminism, we can find that their distorted character is due to the Jazz Age and the patriarchal society they lived in, which advocate money and power, and have a new and deeper understanding of them. Fitzgerald's portrayal of Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle in "The Great Gatsby" reflects a pessimistic view, depicting them as symbols of money worship and selfishness influenced by the Jazz Age and patriarchal society. The study reveals that the female characters' distorted traits are products of their era, shaped by societal pressures that emphasize materialism and restrict their agency. Myrtle Wilson, Jordan Baker, and

Daisy Buchanan try not to follow the standards of the society but all of them do meet tragic ends and their stories underline the role of women in the American society in the storyline.

They were all the products of this era. No matter how they struggle and resist, they will achieve nothing eventually. Considering the pressure of patriarchal cultural ideology and social environment, think of them as sacrificial lambs and victims. In addition, the same can be said of today. Despite the social progress, the past age of times, and the great changes in the living conditions, women need to struggle hard and overcome numerous obstacles, if they want to achieve equality with men. Women still face obstacles to achieving equality. Examining these characters through a feminist lens highlights the enduring relevance of their struggles and the necessity of reviewing literature to understand female experiences.

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[8080/2021.11.003](https://doi.org/10.17265/1539-8080/2021.11.003)

ملخص

تستكشف هذه الأطروحة رواية "غاتسبي العظيم" لفرانسيس سكوت فيتزجيرالد من خلال عدسة النقد النسوي، مع التركيز على ثلاث شخصيات نسائية رئيسية: ديزي بوكانان، جوردان بيكر، وميرتل ويلسون. مستندة إلى نظرية الأدب النسوي، تحلل الدراسة كيفية تعامل هذه الشخصيات مع القيود الاجتماعية والهياكل الأبوية في العشرينات، مقدمةً رؤى دقيقة حول الحلم الأمريكي المراوغ. ترمز ديزي بوكانان، الاجتماعية الثرية، إلى القيود المفروضة على النساء داخل مجتمع يهيمن عليه الذكور. تمثل جوردان بيكر، لاعبة الجولف المحترفة والنسوية التقدمية، صورة متناقضة للأنوثة ولكنها تعكس أيضاً القيود المفروضة على النساء اللاتي يتحدن المعايير الاجتماعية. تنتقد ميرتل ويلسون، المرأة من الطبقة الاجتماعية الدنيا، الوعود السطحية للحلم الأمريكي واستغلال النساء داخل المجتمع الرأسمالي. يسلط هذا التفسير النسوي لرواية "غاتسبي العظيم" الضوء على تعقيدات التفسير النسوي لكيفية تصوير النساء، وهو ما يزال مهماً وغير مكتشف في السعي لتحقيق الحلم الأمريكي. ترمز الاجتماعية إلى القيود المفروضة على النساء داخل مجتمع يهيمن عليه الذكور، وهو ما يزال مهماً وغير مكتشف في السعي لتحقيق الحلم الأمريكي

المصطلحات الرئيسية: "غاتسبي العظيم"، "النقد النسوي"، "ديزي بوكانان"، "جوردان بيكر"، "ميرتل ويلسون"، "الحلم الأمريكي"

