

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

F. Scott Fitzgerald is a great writer. He has several works that makes him known as a popular novelist. His first novel is *This Side of Paradise* (1920). Then he writes the next novels such as *The Beautiful and Damned* (1922) and *The Great Gatsby* (1925). Fitzgerald's novels tell about his life.

The Beautiful and Damned is a famous novel. This novel is the second Fitzgerald's works of autobiographies. It is written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1922. In 1922, it was published for the first time by Scribner's. Then, it is published by The Pennsylvania State University in 2009. It consists of 327 pages. It is romantic satire. Fitzgerald uses a man as major character, named Anthony Patch. Anthony is an American boy. He is handsome, young and inheritance million dollars want to be.

The story begins with the life of Anthony Patch. Anthony is a grandchild of millionaire man, Adam Patch. Anthony has comfortable existence. In his twenty's years old he moves to New York. He waits for his grandfather to die so that he can inherit several million dollars.

In New York he meets a girl, Gloria Gilbert. She is a beautiful young lady. He falls in love with her. After needs time, they are married. They are a happily couple at the early year of their marriage.

Gloria joins in the waiting for the inheritance. She is taking Anthony's world for her own, and they both take life as it comes. The finality of their destination is clear long before the end is reached.

Their expectation could not rest on weaker foundations. In a highly dramatic scene, Adam Patch, the old millionaire, who is a prohibitionist and a supporter of a Victorian moral code, visits them at the climax of a drunken party. The blow proves fatal for him and for the hopes of Anthony and Gloria as well, because they are disinherited.

The similar character traits belonged to Anthony and Gloria, and then it leads them to their fall. At the end of the story they finally get what they want from the inheritance; however, it is too late since Anthony is insane already. Anthony's and Gloria's downfall are because of their character traits.

In other hands, the public response is important to know how popular the work is. Many people say that Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* is favorite novel of all time. They believe that it is an excellent companion books based on theme. It also offers the most pertinent moral lesson for the reader. One of them, Starry, agrees with that. Some other readers say it is classic theme.

Steve and Marigold dislike the novel Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*. The characters are unattractive. The major character, Anthony Patch, is predictable character. He is annoying character. It also needs more time to read because of hundred pages so that it is boring.

Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* is a famous autobiographical novel. Autobiographical novel is a novel within which use the facts or based on true story. The novel *The Beautiful and Damned* does not win an award. There is an F. Scott Fitzgerald Award given annually by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference in Rockville, MD. It is a lifetime Achievement Award.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* is an interesting novel. It can be seen from the way he is combining the structural elements becomes a whole as a novel in order to help the reader to understand through those structural elements. The structural element includes the character and characterization, theme, plot, setting and style.

This novel consists of two major characters and fifteen minor characters. The major character has good characterization so that the reader is able to feel what the major character did. The minor characters support major characters so that the novel looks alive.

Anthony Patch and Gloria are persons who are really annoying. The writer feels the real Anthony by reading the novel. It looks like a disgusting couple ever heard.

The novel, *The Beautiful and Damned*, also uses progressive plot (straight plot). Each event causes the next event, so that it arranges orderly. The theme is about morality, meditation of love, money and decadence. It is how people live without knowing the meaning of truly happiness.

Fitzgerald takes the setting almost in United States to support the novel. It relates with the two settings that complete the theme. It is setting of place which is New York City and environs, and the vicinity of a military training camp in South Carolina. The setting of time is 1920s. In this year, United States enters to the Depression Era.

The language style in this novel also supports the intended idea and aim of the narrator. The text and the dialogues that the narrator has organized use the simple, comprehensible, vigorous and straightforward English. It makes its reader understand social background of this novel.

The Beautiful and Damned is an autobiography of F. Scott Fitzgerald's life. This is the second from three autobiographies. The reader can follow how the life of F. Scott Fitzgerald's seeing from his autobiography's novels. The reader is also introduced the history of society of United States in 1920s.

In the novel of *The Beautiful and Damned*, we can see social mobility condition which happens to the main character. Based on the fact, the writer tries to break down the problem in Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* by using Socio-cultural approach. In this study, the writer encourages herself to give a title "***Moral Decadence in Fitzgerald's The Beautiful and Damned(1922): A Socio-cultural Perspective***"

B. Literature Review

The novel, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* is a popular literary work. The theme brought makes the people are interested to know it. It is full of moral lesson so that it is popular work.

There is no serious study in *The Beautiful and Damned* conducted by university students at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, Sanata Dharma University and Sebelas Maret University. It is the reason of the writer to analyze this amazing novel, *The Beautiful and Damned*.

The writer tries to find the reseachers of *The Beautiful and Damned* by browsing. She finds some people ever did it. They are: Siddhartha Deb, Josh Osborne, Sergio Perosa, Tanuki and Mike Everleth.

Siddhartha Deb (2011) is a journalist of newspaper in India. He writes about the roaring condition in America in early of twentieth century and Indian in twenty-one. Life in today's India is said to be about new confidence and prosperity, but Deb suggests that the country's heartbeat races from anxiety as well as excitement. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/18/books/review/the-beautiful-and-the-damned-by-siddhartha-deb-book-review.html?pagewanted=all>)

Part of the anxiety is linked to physical dislocation, as with the itinerant steelworkers Deb visits-laborers who, in the quest for employment, have had to wrench themselves repeatedly from their homes in rural India. Josh Osborne (2011) has almost similar opinion with Deb.

Osborne analyzes that Fitzgerald *The Beautiful and Damned* is only giving portraying the condition of Twentieth Century. He brings New York City at the beginning of the Twentieth Century to life with his descriptions of the decadent, swinging nightlife enjoyed by the uber-wealthy on one hand and the relative squalor endured by those not quite so fortunate. Seeing the habitat of Anthony and Gloria change over the course of the novel while their outlook remained static was quite interesting.

Sergio Perosa (2011) analyzes that it is a transitional novel. It lays half-way between a youthful success and the achievement of maturity. This idea of a motivated failure of the protagonists was in the Fitzgerald's mind since the very first conception of the new novel, even if he was thinking at the time of giving a new portrait of the young aesthete.

Sergio Perosa has similar opinion with Tanuki (2012). Both concern to the theme brought within the novel. Tanuki said that Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* is a truly harrowing portrait of two people who start their adult lives provisionally rich and go downhill from there, sinking into a morass of genteel poverty, idleness, and alcoholism. It's actually a very simple, almost archetypal book. It is about the fall, or one of them, and it has the power that such a primal theme can marshal.

Mike Everleth (2012) has different opinion among people above. He said that the novel, *The Beautiful and Damned*, is about the portrait of upper class in early twentieth century. People can do everything they want because of money. (<http://listentogenius.com/author.php/249>)

Here, the writer concerns with the socio-cultural happened in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*. She uses a Socio-Cultural perspective to analyze the novel.

C. Problem Statement

The main problem that is analyzed in this study is: "How is moral decadence reflected in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study of the study is how moral decadence occurred in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*. especially viewed by Socio-Culture. The researcher uses Socio-culture to analyze the novel because this approach is suitable to draw the major condition during the period within the novel.

E. Objectives of the Study

This thesis aims to analyze the novel in terms of its structural element based on Sociological perspective.

F. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit:

It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge particularly in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*.

2. Practical Benefit:

It gives deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researcher in analyzing this novel in to different perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This research applies qualitative research.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

Data in this research is text consisting of words, phrases, and sentences.

Data sources in this research are:

- a. Primary data source is novel of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*.
- b. The secondary data are taken from some reference and material related to the study whether by picking up from books and internet.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

Data collection is done through documentations or library research. The steps to gain the data are as follows:

- a. Reading novels rapidly
- b. Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data in to several based on its classification
- d. Developing of data provided

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this study, the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis through Sociological Approach.

5. Object of the Study

In this study, object of the study is novel *The Beautiful and Damned* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

H. Paper Organization

This thesis is divided into six chapters. First is introduction that covers the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, research limitation, objectives of the study, benefit if the study and research method.

The second chapter delivers Socio-Cultural approach containing Socio-Cultural Literary Critics, especially the notion, the major principle of Socio-Cultural and Theoretical application. The third chapter includes the social background of United State Society in 1920s. The fourth chapter covers the structural analysis and Socio-Cultural analysis of the novel, by describing character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, style also the theme. The fifth chapter analyzes the novel by employing the concept of major principle of Socio-Cultural Approach. Then it exposes the discussion of the structural elements and Socio-Cultural analysis. The sixth chapter draws of conclusion and suggestion.