SEX AND AGGRESSION IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD’S NOVEL

*THE GREAT GATSBY* (1925): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

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SEX AND AGGRESSION IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD’S NOVEL

THE GREAT GATSBY (1925): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

The major problem of this study is what and how causes sex and aggression reflected in The Great Gatsby novel (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald? The objective of this study is, 1) to describe The Great Gatsby novel based on structural elements of novel, and 2) to analyze sex and aggression in The Great Gatsby novel(1925 by F. Scott Fitzgerald based on a Psychoanalytic Criticism. The research is qualitative study. The researcher uses the primary data sources The Great Gatsby novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald and the secondary data sources related the study, such as: website, dictionary, books. The data collection method used by the researcher is reading the novel, taking notes, arranging the data, selecting particular parts of the script, determining the character, classifying the relevant data and browsing on internet. The data analysis method is descriptive qualitative analysis descriptive analysis concerns with structural element of the novel on sex and aggression. The results of the study shows the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis, it can be concluded that there are several moral messages appear in The Great Gatsby novel, the author conveys a moral messages that this novel involve the love and lust sometimes cannot be distinguished from one another. Second, based on psychoanalytic analysis it can be found that in this novel the author illustatees the psychological phenomenon related with causes of sex and aggression.

Keywords: sex and aggression, the Great Gatsby, A psychoanalytic criticism.
A. Introduction

_The Great Gatsby_ is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald. He is a famous American author. This novel follows a cast of living characters in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island of 1922 in the summer. _The Great Gatsby_ first published was by Scribner’s in April 1925, in 193 pages. The Great Gatsby explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval, and excess creating a portrait of Jazz Age or the roaring twenties that has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American dream. Nick Carraway is the narrator of this novel. This novel tells about the love story of Gatsby and Daisy, it is love of the past which is repeating again, where Daisy has a husband that is Tom who also has a mistress or has affair with Myrtle, and Myrtle also has a husband named George Wilson. Gatsby and Daisy have a sexual relationship, in their affair. The story ends in the sad ending, where Gatsby was killed by Wilson then Wilson killed himself.

There are some study causes in _The Great Gatsby_ novel analyzed by students of UMS, most of the researcher analyzed about Materialistic Life Style In F. Scott Fitzgerald’s _The Great Gatsby_ by using a sociological approach (Ismi Kusumaningrum: 2007), she analyzed about the materialistic life style which is appears in the novel. The other researcher analyzed about “love” which is appears in the novel; A Struggle For Happines Hypocrisy Of Romance By Tom Buchanan by using an Individual psychological approach (Restu Widya Rini: 2007), and A Struggle For Love also using an Individual psychological approach (Ririn Fila Safitri: 2008). Both of two researcher above analyzed about the struggle of love and romance which is appears in _The Great Gatsby_ novel. The other study analyzed from students of Sanata Dharma Yogyakarta university; Gatsby Marginalized Character as The Impact of Alienation as Seen Fitzgerald’s _The Great Gatsby_ (Paulus Widiatmoko: 2001) and Character Analysis of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Novel _The Great_
There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel, it tells about big dreaming which failed, true love story, affair cases, wealthy and glamorous life also crime that happened in this novel. First reason is because it is very famous American novel which tells about the true love story and the struggle of love that has so many problem which are interested to discuss, such as affair case of Tom and Mirtle also his wife, Daisy which has affair relationship with her X in the past, Gatsby. She thinks it’s interested case to identify. Second reasons is the causes from the character affair case, sex and aggression. Third reason is the aggression caused from affair relationship of the character. The researcher uses the psychoanalytic criticism theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because the story in this novel slightly raised many sexual events which caused aggression which has a relation with human psychology. Aggression and sex are the two most powerful drives in humans (Freud, 1953) and one of the meaning of psychology of literature is the study of the creative process (Wellek and Warren, 1962:81). By so doing, the researcher gives the title: Sex And Aggression In F. Scott Fitzgerrald’s Novel The Great Gatsby (1925): A Psychoanalytic Criticism

B. Research Method

This study belongs to qualitative method (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005: 3). There are two data sources that are needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data sources from the novel itself, meanwhile the secondary data sources related the study, such as: website, dictionary, some books that support the analysis. Both data are collected through library research (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005: 3).

In collecting the data, the researcher chooses library research. The technique of data collection is done by following steps. Note taking, including the several step: reading the novel, taking notes of the influence information in
both primary and secondary data, arranging the data into several parts based on its classification, selecting particular parts of the script considered important and relevant for analysis, and drawing conclusion.

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies a descriptive analyzes (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005: 3). The researcher analyzes the data based on psychoanalytic criticism. Focus will be paid on the meaning of sex and aggression reflected in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* novel.

**C. Research Finding and Discussion**

The researcher presents an analysis of causes sex and aggression in *The Great Gatsby* novel (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The researcher analyzes the personality condition in this novel reflected by every events created by the characters. In this research, the researcher divided sex and aggression issue in *The Great Gatsby* novel viewed from psychoanalytic and discussion into for parts there are the characteristic, causes, effect and the objective.

The characteristic of sex appears in the novel is yearning. Yearning will appear in human when they do not see each other for a long time. The sex inducement appears between Daisy and Gatsby, where after long time they do not see each other, in a certain place both have meet and they feels excited. Then Daisy tries to seduce Gatsby about romantic word that can create sexual activity.

They arrived at twilight and as we strolled out among the sparkling hundreds Daisy’s voice was playing murmurous tricks in her throat. ‘These things excite me SO,’ she whispered. ‘If you want to kiss me any time during the evening, Nick, just let me know and I’ll be glad to arrange it for you. Just mention my name. Or present a green card. I’m giving out green——’ (P.112).

The causes of sex can influence human’s mind and also human activity. In the novel, Gatsby really influence with their relationship after she gets a lot of intimate relationship with Daisy in the past. When he meets with Nick, he tries to tell everything about the women she loved in the past, name
Daisy. He loves her so much, and he really wants to meet her again. But he knows that she gets married with Tom, so, he asks Nick to arrange their meeting on private.

There are some causes appears when people involve in sex. Sex and aggression usually happen when people involve in a certain love or an affair. People will get sex naturally when their drives also include such things as thirst, hunger, and pain avoidance. The energy created by the life instincts is known as libido. According to Freud, sex drive is the most important motivating force. In fact, Freud felt it was the primary motivating force not only for adults but for children and even infants. This condition is appears on the novel where the major character involved in sex with stranger, this is called by him as a short sex. It can be seen from below quotation.

> When they met again two days later it was Gatsby who was breathless, who was somehow betrayed. Her porch was bright with the bought luxury of star-shine; the wicker of the settee squeaked fashionably as she turned toward him and he kissed her curious and lovely mouth. She had caught a cold and it made her voice huskier and more charming than ever and Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor. (P.160).

The above quotation shows that, Nick Caraway has involved in an affair with the woman who lived in Jersey City and worked in the accounting department. But his affair does not take long because the girl’s brother began throwing mean in his direction. Means that the girl’s brother really does not like Nick very much. So, that’s why Nick calls it as a short affair. This short affair usually creates by the temporary rising of libido. This short affair usually involves sex and sometimes also aggression.

The objective of sexual activity within human is to get a pleasure and fulfill the passion inside. Beside that, sex also has a purpose that is to get a good and serious relationship for couple. In the novel, sexual activity did by Gatsby and Daisy is not only to get their passion but for Gatsby and Daisy, their purposes are to get a good relationship. Firstly, Gatsby and Daisy does
not realize that their affair will be happening so fast and uncontrolled. In the end, Tom as Daisy’s husband knows their affair, and he tries to make a bad news about Gatsby.

In a certain situation, there is accident happen in the city, and Tom makes a bad news about the accident and he blames Tom for the accident. The women as the victim die because of that accident, then; her husband tries to find Gatsby and killed him. The above story tells that the purposes of Gatsby and Daisy supposes they get a better relationship through an affair did not succeed. Gatsby dies in the hand of stranger because of Daisy’s husband who gets jealous.

The characteristic of aggression is usually comes in a negative way. Usually people who get an aggression, they will involve an uncontrolled action, such as fighting, smashing and sometimes running. While in the novel there are some characteristic of aggression, it can be seen on below quotation and explanation.

“Self control!’ repeated Tom incredulously. ‘I suppose the latest thing is to sit back and let Mr. Nobody from Nowhere make love to your wife. Well, if that’s the idea you can count me out…. Nowadays people begin by sneering at family life and family institutions and next they’ll throw everything overboard and have intermarriage between black and white’ (P.1138).

‘I know I’m not very popular. I don’t give big parties. I suppose you’ve got to make your house into a pigsty in order to have any friends—in the modern world.’

The affair between Daisy and Gatsby has been known by Tom. This makes him very angry and he tries to tell Daisy (his wife) about his angry. The aggression appears when both Tom and Gatsby meet each other. The angry explode on Tom side; he pushes Gatsby with a lot of rude words.

Tom tries to convince Gatsby that Daisy does not love him anymore. But, Daisy can not lies to herself, she confuse what kind of decision that she has to make. Tom suddenly yelling at her and pushes her to says that she does not love Gatsby. ‘Daisy, that’s all over now,’ he said earnestly. ‘It doesn’t matter any more. Just tell him the truth—that you never loved him—and it’s
all wiped out forever.’ Bud Daisy just quite, and She hesitated. Her eyes fell on Jordan and Nick with a sort of appeal, as though she realizes at last what she is doing and as though she has never, all along, intend doing anything at all. But it is done now. It is too late.

The causes of aggression sometimes coming as an impact of complication and conflict on human. In the novel, there are several causes of aggression where in a certain situation. Tom knows that his wife making an affair with Gatsby, then he meets with Gatsby in a party. Then the complication and conflict between both of them appears.

Tom drove slowly until we were beyond the bend—the nhis foot came down hard and the coupé raced along through the night. In a little while I heard a low husky sob and saw that the tears were overflowing down his face. ‘The God Damn coward!’ he whimpered. ‘He didn’t even stop his car.’ (p.151)

The above conflict and complication is the causes of aggression. Tom knows that Gatsby is the root of his family problem, and then he decides to challenge him to fight. Tom hits Gatsby on the face and Nick tries to separate them and take Gatsby away from Tom.

The effect of aggression is also appears in a negative side, where people who has the final result with aggression, sometimes will have a bad image. People will think that the people with a large aggression, they can not live in a social life. in the novel, there are no specific explanation about the character that always involve in aggression. The both character Gatsby and Tom is an individual person, they only make a relationship with a small people. So, sometimes they are far from conflict and aggression.

The objective of aggression for human is only to fulfill their passion in a bad way. Psychologically, human after they finish their action with aggression, they fill satisfied. In the novel there are no satisfied coming from Tom and Gatsby because both never reach their wants. On the final story, Tom continues his aggression through somebody else. He wants to get rid of Gatsby because of his hate. Finally, he asks other person to kill Gatsby.
Discussion

*The Great Gatsby* novel tells about the friendship, betray, love, hate, within social life. The main issue of the novel, however, encompasses a much larger, less romantic scope. Though all of its action takes place over a mere few months during the summer of 1922 and is set in a circumscribed geographical area in the vicinity of Long Island, New York, *The Great Gatsby* is a highly symbolic meditation on 1920s America as a whole, in particular the disintegration of the American dream in an era of unprecedented prosperity and material excess.

According to study in the laws present within works of literature, it can be concluded that in this novel the author illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual behavior structure of id study to sex and aggression. The causes of sex and aggression within the novel appears when Daisy and Gatsby for a long time does not meet each other in a certain place both have meet and they feels excited. Gatsby does not want if their love rises again after they meet. But, he wrong, after they both meet and after they both did something with pleasure, everything goes wrong. Daisy really falls in love with Gatsby and so did Gatsby. The affair appears, Daisy always meet Gatsby and make sex. Kissing with passion based on pleasure can raise their libido then sexual activity can not be avoided.

While the aggression also appears when Tom and Gatsby meet each other, where in the middle of conflict, Tom tries to convince Gatsby that Daisy does not love him anymore. But, Daisy can not lies to herself, she confuse what kind of decision that she has to make. Tom suddenly yelling at her and pushes her to says that she does not love Gatsby. ‘Daisy, that’s all over now,’ he said earnestly. ‘It doesn’t matter any more. Just tell him the truth—that you never loved him—and it’s all wiped out forever.’. But Daisy just quite, and She hesitated. Her eyes fell on Jordan and Nick with a sort of appeal, as though she realizes at last what she is doing and as though she has never, all along, intend doing anything at all. But it is done now. It is too late.
D. Conclusion

First, based on the structural analysis, it can be concluded that in *The Great Gatsby* novel the author send a moral messages that “love and lust sometimes can not be distinguished from one another”. In order to deliver the message, the author creates the different characters which is consists of major and minor characters. Each character has their own specialities and appropriated with the setting of the novel. The setting is in America, there are Louisville, West Egg, East Egg, New York and Lake Superior which is famous city in America, and the story set time int the summer of 1922. The author tries to combine all different character into the whole exposition plot on the Great Gatsby Novel. By using those characters, the author also tries to make a great unpredictable conflict, where final the major character Gatsby finally dead, and the minor character where he rarely appears on the story also dies after kill Gatsby.

Second based on psychoanalytic analysis it can be concluded that in this novel the author illustrates the psychological phenomenon in which of human’s life is dominated by the id that leads to sex and aggression, where the causes of sex can influence human’s mind and also human activity, it is appears the characters are intended at a long time they does not meet each other then they meet again and they feels excited. Then create a sexual activity. While the causes of aggression appears in a negative side, where people who has the final result with aggression, sometimes will have bad image. The aggression in this novel appears as the effect of jealously and the emotional factors of the characters.
Bibliography


