LOVE AND BELONGINGNESS NEED REFLECTED IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD’S THE GREAT GATSBY (1925) NOVEL: A HUMANISTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to show the needs of love and belongingness in The Great Gatsby novel by using humanistic perspective. It is done by establishing objective, analyzing the novel based on it is structural elements and analyzing the novel based on humanistic analysis. This research is descriptive qualitative research. The object of the study is F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby (1925) novel published in 1925 by the Charles Scribner's Sons publisher. The data sources are divided into two namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data source is The Great Gatsby novel and the secondary data sources are other materials taken from books, journal, and internet related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The study comes to the following conclusion. based on humanistic analysis, Fitzgerald illustrates the need of love and belongingness affect and change the main character of the novel.

Keyword: Humanistic, love and belongingness, The Great Gatsby

A. Introduction

Every human must fulfill his needs to maintain his life. In order to live properly humans have to fulfill not only physical needs but also psychological needs. The physical need consists of the need to get food, drink, place, safety, healthy, etc. The psychological need consists of the needs to get happiness, affection, love, self-esteem, etc. Human being is a ‘whole person’, who not only has physic and cognition, but more importantly has feeling and emotion (Maslow, Feist, 1985:403).
Love is one of the psychological needs that every human must fulfill; love hunger is deficiency disease. Love involves a healthy, loving relationship between two people, includes mutual trust (Maslow in Globe, 1970:55). When love is not achieved, it can make someone become sick. It is not only their physical but also their soul.

*The Great Gatsby* is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922. There are some reasons why the writer is interested to analyze this novel. The first reason *The Great Gatsby* is reflection of life and its problems that usually happen in the real life. Character and characterization of *The Great Gatsby* is very interesting. The last the main issue of the need of love and belongingness is reflected very well in this novel. *The Great Gatsby* is the reflection of life and its problems usually happen in the real life such as love at the first sight, the struggle of man to get his dream come true, a man who sacrifices himself defend his lover, etc. From the problems written in this novel, there are many moral values that the readers can take to be practiced in the real life such as when you have a dream you have to give all of you to achieve your dream, to defend your love whatever she do is good or bad just because she is more precious than anything.

The second reason is the character and the characterization of *The Great Gatsby* are very interesting because it those have round characterization which consists of various characteristics both good and bad that make the story not monotonous, for example Nick is handsome, caring, honest, responsible and fair minded; he helps another people (Fitzgerald, 1925: 83-98). But he is also a very sensitive man (Fitzgerald, 1925:61).

The last reason is the value of the need of love and belongingness which becomes the main issue reflected well in this novel. Value of the need of love and
belongingness is reflected in some situations, for example supportiveness that is when Gatsby talks to nick “I can’t describe to you how surprised I was to find out I loved her, old sport. I even hoped for a while that she’d throw me over, but she didn’t, because she was in love with me too” (Fitzgerald, 1925: 160)

From the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the need of love and belongingness in The Great Gatsby novel. The novel will be analyzed by using humanistic theory. So, the writer entitled this research Love and Belongingness in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby Novel (1925): Humanistic Approach.

B. Research Method

Type of the study that the researcher uses to make this research is descriptive qualitative research with purposes to analyze novel using humanistic psychological approach. The steps of conducting the research are (a) determining the type of the study, (b) determining the object of the study, (c) determining the data sources, (d) determining the technique of data collection, (e) determining the technique for data analysis.

The object of the study is *The Great Gatsby* novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1925 and has been published by Scribner’s in 2006. It is analyzed by using Humanistic perspective.

The data of this research is divided into two kinds, there are: Primary data sources and Secondary data sources. Primary data sources in this research consist of data collected from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* (1925) in English and Indonesia version. The secondary data are the supporting data taken from some references such as books, article, and internet which is containing information related to the research.

The technique of data collection in this research as follows: reading the drama repeatedly, taking notes of important in primary and secondary data,
arranging the related data based on its classification, analyzing the data based on humanistic perspective, and drawing the conclusion of the analysis.

The researcher uses descriptive analysis to analyze the data. Descriptive analysis concerns with the structural elements of the novel and humanistic psychological approach which describe and correlate them.

C. Research Findings and Discussion

The researcher gets some research findings in analyzing The Great Gatsby novel. Each finding has some cases to be discussed. After the findings have examined, all of the components will get back together in a schematic manner in the discussion.

1. Physiological needs

The description of the physiological needs which happened to Gatsby is not crucial at the very beginning of the story. He does not have problem to fulfill his basic needs. He can get food and water easily. He has a big mansion as his shelter. He lives with a lot of butler who serves whatever he wanted. Although he is still single but he very enjoys about his life. It is described on the quote:

The one on my right was a colossal affair by any standard – it was a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy, with a tower on one side, spanning new under a thin beard of raw ivy, and a marble swimming pool and more than forty acres of lawn and garden. It was Gatsby’s mansion (Fitzgerald, 1925:8).

Gatsby is busy man. He does not have free time for himself. He always answers phone calling from his colleagues from different city.

Almost at the moment when Mr. Gatsby identified himself a butler hurried toward him with the information that Chicago was calling him on the wire. He excused himself with a small bow that included each of us in turn (Fitzgerald, 1925:53).
2. Safety needs

These needs include needs for security, protection, law, structure, and freedom from anxiety, fear, illness, and danger. If the save condition is not fulfilled, it causes worries and unsafe feeling. The young Gatsby cannot fulfill his safety needs because he is a poor guy. He has to work to fulfill his needs.

For over a year he had been beating his way along the south shore of Lake Superior as a calm digger and a salmon fisher or in any other capacity that brought him food and his bed (Fitzgerald, 1925:105).

Then he meets Dan Cody, a billionaire who his life is rescued by Gatsby. After that accident Cody employed him. When Gatsby becomes Cody’s right hand, he never feels afraid and anxious about his life. Cody gives everything to Gatsby because he becomes best friend to him. But when Cody died, Ella Kaye ruins Gatsby’s perfect life.

James Gatz—that was really, or at least legally, his name. He had changed it at the age of seventeen and at the specific moment that witnessed the beginning of his career—when he saw Dan Cody’s yacht drop anchor over the most insidious flat on Lake Superior. It was James Gatz who had been loafing along the beach that afternoon in a torn green jersey and a pair of canvas pants, but it was already Jay Gatsby who borrowed a row-boat, pulled out to the TUOLOMEE and informed Cody that a wind might catch him and break him up in half an hour. (Fitzgerald, 1925: 104-105)

And it was from Cody that he inherited money—a legacy of twenty-five thousand dollars. He didn’t get it. He never understood
the legal device that was used against him but what remained of the millions went intact to Ella Kaye. He was left with his singularly appropriate education; the vague contour of Jay Gatsby had filed out to the substantiality of a man. (Fitzgerald, 1925: 108)

Mature Gatsby is different. Mature Gatsby is different. Mature Gatsby is a billionaire. He has nothing to be afraid for. Because of his wealth, everyone in this town has respected him. He has a lot of business colleagues and one of them is commissioner. Commissioner gives him a card that can make him slipped out from police.

‘All right, old sport,’ called Gatsby. We slowed down.
Taking white card from his wallet he waved it before it before the man’s eye
‘Right you are,’ agreed the police man, tipping his cap.’Know your next time, Mr. Gatsby. Excuse ME!’
‘What was that?’ I inquired. ‘The picture of Oxford?’
‘I was able to do the commissionaire a favor once, and he sends me a Christmas card every year.’ (Fitzgerald, 1925:74)

He also has Meyer Wolfsheim who takes care of him. When Gatsby broke after World War I, Wolfsheim raised him up. Wolfsheim fulfills all of Gatsby safety needs. Gatsby does not have to be afraid about being poor and another threatens. Wolfsheim has the power and the connection to get rid of the matter that becomes obstacle toward Gatsby

‘My memory goes back to when I first met him,’ he said. ‘A young major just out of the army and covered over with medals he got in the war. He was so hard up he had to keep on wearing his uniform because he couldn’t buy some regular clothes.
‘I raised him up out of nothing, right out of the gutter. I saw right away he was a fine appearing, gentlemanly young man, and when he told me he was an Oggsford I knew I could use him good. I got him to join up in the American Legion and he used to stand high there. (Fitzgerald, 1925:182)

3. Love and belongingness

Belongingness and love need is the needs to affiliate with others, be accepted and give and receive attention. At this level, people seeks love from different gender, love between boy and girl or men and women. People also seek love in friendship and relation. People also want to build relation in their family, towards their mother, father, brother, sister, uncle, and others.

The young Gatsby has his love and belongingness need fulfilled even he comes from the poor family. His parent really loves him but Gatsby has a bigger picture about himself of being ‘a son of god’ so he runs away from his home and becomes a calm digger and a salmon fisher.

For over a year he had been beating his way along the south shore of Lake Superior as a calm digger and a salmon fisher or in any other capacity that brought him food and his bed (Fitzgerald, 1925:105).

In the middle of the World War I, he met Daisy, the first girl that he falls in love with. He knew that he cannot approach Daisy because he is a poor guy and Daisy is rich women. But thanks to his uniform it covers all about his true identity. So, he makes up his mind and tries to approach her.

Gatsby realizes that Daisy is his love. He just cannot throw away his feeling about Daisy because his feeling is overthrown his logic.

I can’t describe to you how surprised I was to find out I loved her, old sport. I even hoped for a while that she’d throw me over, but she didn’t, because she was in love with me too. She thought i knew a lot because I knew
different things from her….. Well, there I was, way off my ambitions (Fitzgerald, 1925: 160)

He thinks that Daisy loves him but Daisy loves him because she does not know the truth that Gatsby is a poor man. Gatsby wants her to wait for him but in the end, she ends up marrying Tom Buchanan because Tom is a rich man.

That force took shape in the middle of spring with the arrival of Tom Buchanan. There was a wholesome bulkiness about his person and his position and Daisy was flattered. Doubtless, there was a certain struggle and a certain relief (Fitzgerald, 1925:162).

His love to Daisy never fades and becomes stronger every single minute. Even Daisy has married to Tom; Gatsby is still in love with Daisy. His love motivated him to become a millionaire and have a same stratum as Tom and Daisy. (Fitzgerald, 1925:159)

Then Gatsby meets Nick Carraway, Daisy cousin. He asks Nick to rearrange the meeting for him and Daisy.

‘I talked with Miss Baker,’ I said after a moment. ‘I’m going to call up Daisy tomorrow and invite her over here to tea.’
‘Oh, that’s all right,’ he said carelessly. ‘I don’t want to put you to any trouble.’
‘What day would suit you?’
‘What day would suit YOU?’ he corrected me quickly. ‘I don’t want to put you to any trouble, you see.’
‘How about the day after tomorrow?’ He considered for a moment. Then, with reluctant:
‘I want to get the grass cut,’ he said. (Fitzgerald, 1925:88)

After that, they become closer. Daisy often visits Gatsby mansion and does affair with Gatsby. He fires a half of his servant to prevent this event not to spread out on the public.

Next day Gatsby called me on the phone.
'Going away?' I inquired.
'I hear you fired all your servants.'
'I wanted somebody who wouldn’t gossip. Daisy comes over quite often – in the afternoon.'
So the whole caravansary had fallen in like a card house at the disapproval in her eyes.
'They’re some people Wolfsheim wanted to do something for. They’re all brothers and sisters. They used to run small hotel.'
'I see.'

In the end it is then revealed why Gatsby buys a mansion across the bay and throws an extravagant party every Saturday. It is just only to get Daisy attention.

'It was a strange coincidence,' I said.
'But it wasn’t a coincidence at all.'
'Why not?'
'Gatsby bought that house so that Daisy would be just across the bay.

............
I think he half expected her to wander into one of his parties, some night.’ Went on Jordan, ’but she never did.’ (Fitzgerald, 1925: 84-85)

4. Discussion

After analyzing F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby (1925) novel by correlating the underlying theory, the structural analysis of the novel and its discussion, and the humanistic psychological need, the next step is completing this research by relating the entire element to one another and putting them back into unity. By using humanistic psychological theory by Maslow to analyze The Great Gatsby (1925) novel the researcher understand about the psychological needs, safety needs, and belongingness and love needs which reflected on the main characters in the story.

The psychological need is the need to get oxygen, water, food, shelter, activity and rest. The main character of this novel is Jay Gatsby or James Gatz. In the beginning of the novel he does not have problem to fulfill his physiological need. He can get food and water easily. He has a big mansion as his shelter. He
lives with a lot of butler who serves whatever he wanted. Although he is still single but he very enjoys about his life.

The second need is the safety needs. These needs include needs for security, protection, law, structure, and freedom from anxiety, fear, illness, and danger. The young Gatsby cannot fulfill his safety needs because he is poor guy. He has to work to fulfill his needs. He has to become a calm digger and salmon fisher to fulfill his needs. Because his poorness, he cannot get security, protection, structure, and always feels anxiety and fear he cannot fulfill his needs.

But it was different when Gatsby became mature. Mature Gatsby became a millionaire because his illegal business that he did with Meyer Wolfsheim. He has nothing to be afraid for. Everyone in his town has respected him. He has a lot of business colleagues from his business. His colleague came from different stratum and one of them is commissioner. In the past Gatsby does Commissioner favor and as a gift Commissioner gives him a card every Christmas that can make him easily slipped out from police problem.

The third need is love and belongingness needs. This need is the needs to affiliate with the other, be accepted and give and receive attention. In this need, people always seek love in friendship and relation. People also want to build relation in their family, towards their mother, father, brother, sister, uncle, and others.

The young Gatsby has his love and belongingness fulfill from his family love. Even he comes from his unsuccessful and poor farmer. His parents really love him. But he has to run away from his family because he has a bigger picture of him become ‘Son of God’ a successful man.

In the middle of World War I. He came to Daisy mansion with other soldier from camp Taylor. Gatsby fell in love at the first when he sees Daisy. He wants to approach but he knows the fact, there is a gap that separates him to Daisy. He is a poor guy and Daisy is rich woman. But thanks to his uniform it cover all about his true identity and then he makes up his mind and tries to approach her.
In the couple of day, Gatsby realizes that Daisy is his true love. He just cannot throw away his feeling toward Daisy because his feeling overthrown his logic. He cannot describe his love toward Daisy. He hopes that she will throw him over but she did not. Gatsby thinks that she was in love with Gatsby too. But in the end Daisy ends up married to a rich man Tom Buchanan because of the force of her family.

Gatsby knows that Daisy was married with Tom Buchanan but his loves toward Daisy never fade and become stronger every single minute. His love motivated him to become a millionaire and have same stratum as Tom and Daisy.

When Gatsby meets Nick Carraways, Daisy’s cousin. He asks Jordan baker, Daisy’s best friend to arrange meeting with Nick help. Gatsby ask Nick because he wants Daisy feels comfortable about this meeting. From that meeting their bonds have reconnected again. This affair becomes more intense and Daisy often visits Gatsby. Gatsby fired a half of his servant to prevent this affair not spread out to public.

It is revealed then in the novel, the reason behind why Gatsby buys the mansion across Daisy mansion and he throws extravagant party every Saturday. He does those things just to get Daisy attention. He does that to fulfill his love and belongingness need.

D. Conclusion

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in the previous chapter, the writer draws some conclusion after analyzing the major character on The Great Gatsby novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Based on humanistic psychological analysis, it can be concluded that in this novel, the author illustrates the needs of love and belongingness is important than the other needs. When the needs of love and belongingness of someone cannot be fulfilled, he will do everything to achieve it.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


