

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Materialism is a doctrine that material success and progress are the highest values in life. The phenomenon of materialism becomes one of the subjects of attention in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel entitled *The Great Gatsby*. This novel is chosen to be analyzed since it focuses on the materialistic behavior of the American upper classes during the roaring twenties, which live wildly and carelessly in the suburbs, enjoying their wealth and escaping from the troubles of those who are socially below them. *The Great Gatsby* also portrays the influence of materialism towards Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan's characters development.

The writer applies some theories namely; theory of Character, theory of Character Development, theory of Marxism in general, and theory of Materialism. There are three approaches used to conduct this research. The first approach is sociological approach which discusses about the problem that happens in society. The second approach is psychological approach which analyzes the motive an individual's overt action. The last approach is Marxist approach which deals with the class constructs demonstrated in the literature.

There are two problems found out in *The Great Gatsby* dealing with materialism. The first problem is the way materialism portrayed in this novel towards the two main characters, Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan. The second is about the characters development dealing with materialism since it can be seen from the characters' life.

The first problem is about the way materialism portrayed in *The Great Gatsby* through the main characters namely Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan. Both characters portrait the materialism in two ways which are emphasize possession and money for personal happiness and the pursuit of American Dream. It deals with all the wealth that they have and their efforts in order to pursue their American Dream. Jay Gatsby's wealth is shown through the expensive things that he has such as a Rolls Royce, a lavish mansion with extravagant parties every weekend. While, Jay Gatsby's way to pursue his American Dream is to win Daisy back. He wants to be with Daisy again so he works hard in order to show Daisy that he is in same class social as her. His lavish party is also his way to make Daisy aware of his presence. Meanwhile, Daisy Buchanan's wealth is seen from her lifestyle after married to Tom Buchanan. Daisy owns a splendor and elegance home in East Egg. Her husband also provides her all of luxury activity like playing polo with the old money people. Daisy's choice to marry Tom Buchanan is categorized as her way to pursue her American Dream because her only dream is to be financially secured.

The second problem is dealing with the influence of materialism towards Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan's characters development. Blind pursuit of materialism brings serious negative effects on both main characters. It makes their desires become unattainable and their efforts directed towards a negative outcome. Jay Gatsby, who comes from a poor family, wants to do anything to make himself in a higher position. It leads him to many illegal activities such as bootlegger and selling illegal drugs. At the moment he succeeded to gain his wealth, Gatsby suddenly being so ambitious

than before and being spendthrift that he throws his money on useless things. Besides, Daisy Buchanan decides to leave Gatsby and marries someone else in order to fulfill her security. Her decision to leave Gatsby also categorized as the influence of materialism. All she wants is being financially secured so she marries Tom Buchanan instead of waiting for Gatsby from military. After she gets what she wants, Daisy becomes careless that she does not care to others as long as she gets what makes her secure. She does not care with the fact that Tom has an affair with another woman. She does not ask to divorce because she needs Tom to make her secure. Daisy also becomes a shallow person who sees nothing except money and material luxury.

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