

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This study entitled *The American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby* talks about the American Dream that appears in 1920s that many of corruption. The objective of the study is to describe the dreams, the ways reaching of the dreams, and the corruption that happens related to the dreams. Further, the library research including internet browsing is used to form the conceptual data manipulated to find the relevant data in this novel. The data corpus of this thesis consists of words, clauses, phrases and further discourse related to analyze topic. In this research the philosophical approach is used to analyze the data deductively.

The first analysis is to describe the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*. There are four major characters in *The Great Gatsby* that presents best the American Dream. The first is Jay Gatsby as a central character and the best example of American Dream. Gatsby's dream is getting a lot of money and reaching the happiness since he is tired for being a poor person. The second is Daisy Buchanan. Daisy's dream is money. For Daisy, money is not for searching the happiness, but for keeping prestige and establishment. The third is Tom Buchanan. Tom's dream is using his wealth for hedonistic life. The last is Myrtle Wilson. Myrtle's dream is reaching money for hedonistic life too. Myrtle comes from lower class, longs for the wealth, and joins the leisure class.

Jay Gatsby has a lot of ways in reaching his dream. To have a lot of money, he does a lot of professions. Jay Gatsby starts his dream from his early youth. He changes his name since seventeen years old, becomes a janitor in St. Olaf, joins the rich Dan Cody, has a military career, work with the dark figure Meyer Wolfshiem, and works as a broker. Jay Gatsby's in reaching his happiness can be seen clearly for having Daisy back since she is the source of his happiness. He provides parties and shows his house, shirts, and other belongings to attract her. He also tries to make her return to him and divorces Tom. Even, he sacrifices himself to covers Daisy's fault. Daisy Buchanan's reaching her dream makes her marries Tom Buchanan, a young man from the solid aristocratic family who can promise her the wealth and the life style. This also makes her never divorce Tom although she does not love him and leave Gatsby because his source of wealth is questionable. Tom Buchanan reaches his dream by using his money for hedonistic life including having a mistress. Myrtle Wilson reaches her dream by becoming Tom's mistress and using Tom's money to buy everything she wants.

The corruption of the characters in reaching the American Dream is clearly seen. Firstly, the corruption of Jay Gatsby's in reaching a lot of money is by becoming a bootlegger. The corruption of Jay Gatsby's in trying to win Daisy is by impressing her with the wealth he possesses. He builds his images excessively in order to establish the leisure class. Secondly, the corruption of Daisy Buchanan's dream in reaching the money for prestige and establishment makes her have no idealism. She corrupts her dream by stagnating in the pleasurable activities. She lacks

motivation and ambition and pursues an empty goal in the empty rich society. Thirdly, Tom corrupts his dream by stagnating in the pleasurable activities too. He also uses the wealth for hedonistic life by having a mistress. He has neither morality nor idealism. Finally, Myrtle Wilson corrupts her dreams in the way she gains the wealth by becoming Tom's mistress. Using Tom's wealth, she buys everything she wants.

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