

THE COMPERATIVE ANALYSIS OF JAY GATSBY (“THE GREAT GATSBY”) AND ANTHONY PATCH (“THE BEAUTIFUL AND DAMNED”)

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Аннотация: Ушбу мақола Франсис Скот Кей Фитджералднинг романларидаги 2 асосий образларнинг киёси, машҳур Гу`зал ва Ланатланган романларида, айниқса Скотт Фитзжералднинг Буюк Гетсби романларида узига хосликдан фойдаланишни ва ёзувчининг Жаз давридаги трагедик қахрамонларини таҳлил қилади. Бундан ташқари, мақола икки роман уртасидаги такқослашни урганади ва уларнинг ухшашликлари хақида малумот беради.

Калит сузлар : трагедик қахрамонлар, Жаз даври, қахрамонлик, Америка орзуси, трагедия.

Abstract: *This article analyzes the comparison of 2 main characters in Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald’s novels, the use of identity and tragic characters of the Jazz Age in the famous novels The Beautiful and Damned and especially, The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald. Moreover, the article explores the comparison between the two novels and provides some information about their similarities.*

Keywords: *Tragic characters, Jazz Age, heroism, American dream, tragedy.*

A tragic hero (or tragic heroine if they are female) is the protagonist of a tragedy. In his Poetics, Aristotle records the descriptions of the tragic hero to the playwright and strictly defines the place that the tragic hero must play and the kind of man he must be. Aristotle based his observations on previous dramas.¹ Many of the most famous instances of tragic heroes appear in Greek literature, most notably the works of Sophocles and Euripides. A tragic hero is a type of character in a tragedy, and is usually the protagonist. Tragic heroes typically have heroic traits that earn them the sympathy of the audience, but also have flaws or make mistakes that ultimately lead to their own downfall. In Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Romeo is a tragic hero. His reckless passion in love, which makes him a compelling character, also leads directly to the tragedy of his death. F. Scott Fitzgerald, in all his novels, recounts the problems that were inherent in the American dream in the aftermath of the Civil War. The

style and depiction of the characters in his fictional stories embody the American experience and identity. He criticises the American dream by depicting the characters in his works as corrupt and immoral, which underscores the failure and disillusionment that followed the Post-Renaissance period in America. According to Will, Fitzgerald's works revolve around the successes and failures of the American dream. To analyse the notion of the American hero as depicted in Fitzgerald's works, it is important to examine the historical and social contexts around the emergence of the American identity.⁶ An examination of the post-war conditions can provide insights into the illusions implicit in the American society at the time. Brooks, Warrington, and Warren write that the post-war era was not only filled with creativity and the revival of learning and culture, but had a great deal of disenchantments. Fitzgerald reports the events that characterised this period in the American history in his literary works. Anthony Patch, a leading character in Fitzgerald's 1922 novel, *The Beautiful and Damned*, represents the beliefs, values, and perspectives of the Americans in the 1920s, which were marked with a pursuit of the "lustrous and unromantic haven". According to Mizener, Fitzgerald appropriately depicts America as a lustrous, rosy, and romantic place for Americans; but, a strong desire for a "meretricious life" prevented the youth from achieving this dream". Fitzgerald's characters embody the origins, promises, and corruptions that defined the American dream and personality. One dominant theme in Fitzgerald's novels is the quest for heroism. In his works, the characters engage in a quest or a "pursuit of happiness" throughout the novel. In *The Beautiful and Damned*, Fitzgerald starts by disclosing the corruption that bedeviled the "dream in Industrial America". His hero (Anthony Patch) is a person who pursues 'romantic wonder' only to end up destroyed and reduced morally and physically by the leisure of the American experience. The book details how Patch's attitude and immoral actions lead to the disintegration of his personality. His moral, intellectual, and physical wellbeing declines when he engages in alcoholism and self-destructive behaviours that render him inept and ineffectual in relation to his interpersonal interactions and relationships. . Fitzgerald's characters and depiction of the American dream in his works have attracted criticisms from various people.⁷ According to James, Fitzgerald manipulates history in order to "accommodate gender anxiety and disillusionment" that followed the post-war era. In this regard, he stereotypes the suffering and challenges that people faced during this period in the way he

⁶ Bloom, Harold. *F. Scott Fitzgerald: Modern Critical Views*. New York; Chelsea House Publishers, 1985. Print.

⁷ Mizener, Arthur. *F. Scott Fitzgerald: A collection of critical essays*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1963. Print.

portrays the leading characters in his novels. Anthony Patch is an embodiment of the successes and failures of the American dream.

The Great Gatsby can be considered a tragedy in that it revolves around a larger-than-life hero whose pursuit of an impossible goal blinds him to reality and leads to his violent death. According to the classical definition of tragedy, the hero possesses a tragic flaw that compels him to reach for something or attempt something that precipitates a disastrous result. Writers employ the conventions of tragedy to explore characters' relationship to fate and free will, and provide catharsis, or emotional release, in audiences. Gatsby's tragic flaw is his inability to wake up from his dream of the past and accept reality. Jay Gatsby in 'The Great Gatsby' can be considered a tragic hero, because he brings about his own downfall. Although, the author tries to portray Gatsby as a perfect person, there are some imperfections that are still evident. Gatsby is a hero for himself. He has a 'platonic conception of himself' thus he feels he has achieved his dream. Gatsby's biggest weakness is his love for Daisy. He is determined to get Daisy back. He sees her as perfect and worthy of all his affections and praise. In reality she is undeserving and through her actions proves she is pitiable rather than respectable. Jay Gatsby is an enormously rich man and wealth defined importance in the flashy years of the jazz age. He has endless wealth, power and influence but never uses material objects selfishly. Everything he owns exists only to attain his vision. In spite of all his financial success he did not achieve his purpose in life. His goal was to get the girl Daisy. Even worse, he died at the end of the book with only one friend who did not base Gatsby's value as a person solely on his money and lavish parties.⁸ Gatsby is a romantic dreamer who wishes to fulfill his ideal by gaining wealth in hopes of impressing and eventually winning the heart of the materialistic, superficial Daisy. Gatsby believes in The Great American Dream, for that is the basis for his ideal originated. Gatsby's tragic flaw lies within his inability to see that the real and the ideal (Daisy) cannot coexist. The reader sees irony here, knowing she is far from sophisticated, but superficial, selfish and pathetic.⁹ Gatsby's vision is based on his belief that the past can be repeated. To become worthy of Daisy, Gatsby accumulates his wealth and with the evidence of material success he wanted to rewrite the past and Daisy will be his. Gatsby's downfall is choosing Daisy to represent his great vision. Gatsby dies with faith. His dream falls apart in front of him, yet he still holds his faith in Daisy. Gatsby never lost faith in his vision, it was totally pure and he pursues it with

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⁹ F. Scott. Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (New York: Charles Scribners, 1925) here cited from F. Scott. Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby* (London: Heinemann, 1987).

such great intensity that by the end of the book he is recognized as an admirable character. ¹⁰Gatsby is a tragic hero because he meets the entire criterion of a tragic hero. He is a thrilling character that proves he is a tragic hero because he is the commendable of the honor he receive. His false impression about life leads to his decline. Tragic hero is certainly heroic but he is also disastrous. This is the irony of a decline hero.

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¹⁰ Coghlan, Ralph (April 25, 1925). "*F. Scott Fitzgerald*". *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Saturday ed.). St. Louis, Missouri. p. 11. Retrieved May 1, 2022 – via Newspapers.com.