



The Illusion of American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

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ABSTRACT

"The Great Gatsby" is a tragic story of a young and poor Gatsby who is much similar to Fitzgerald and he is a man who devoted his life for searching success and happiness. He had a mistress named Daisy. But at last he could not reach to daisy. In other word, he reached to all his desires except Daisy. During this time all people admired him and wanted to be in The Great Gatsby's position. But all of their happiness's were like bubble and they were unreal.

Kuehl says, *"Of Fitzgerald's three major novels The Great Gatsby (1925) most successfully combines the elements of the romance and those of the novel of manners; it also blends the abstract, the ideal, and the mythical, and a realistic treatment of our culture with uniform excellence of craftsman- ship" (413).*

Keywords: The American Dream, Illusion, Reality

1. INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century was a time of great changes, developments and prosperity of the American nation. There is a period during the late 1940's and 50's of great optimism and economic prosperity that followed World War II. During the post-war Era, there is a phenomenon which is known "American Dream".

The American Dream is a rational ethos of the United States, the set of ideals (democracy, rights, liberty, opportunity and equality) in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success, as an upward social mobility for the family and children, achieved through hard working in a society with few barriers (Wikipedia).

High argues, "Many people in the post-world war I period had "lost" their American ideals. So they called "Lost Generation". Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (1896- 1940) is one of the authors of the "Lost Generation" (143).

The *Great Gatsby* (1925) is one of his most important works in which he showed American Dream and its effects well. In this paper, the researcher defines the term "American Dream" and Illusion of happiness in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

F. Scott Fitzgerald was an American writer and is regarded as one of the greatest figure among American writers during 20th century. As already mentioned, Fitzgerald was a member of the "Lost Generation". About Lost Generation, it can be said that in *A Movable Feast*, published after Hemingway and Stein's death, Hemingway said that Stein heard something from a garage owner who serviced Stein's car. When a young mechanic failed to repair the car quickly enough, the garage owner shouted at the boy and told "You are a generation perdue". Mellow explains that according to Stein's speeches, Hemingway says, "That is what you are... all of you young people who served in the war, you are a lost generation" (237).

Furthermore, High argues that The twentieth were strange and wonderful years in America. Everything was in a little doubt condition and America was going on the greatest level in history (143) and Fitzgerald is one of the writers who belongs to this era. About Fitzgerald, it can be said that his life was like one of his novels. He was born in a rich family and educated at Princeton University. In 1917, he became a fashionable army lieutenant, but he was never sent to fight in Europe. At this time he wrote *This Side of Paradise* and when he reached to 24, he was a famous novelist. During twentieth, he wrote an enormous amount of fiction and this matter provided the money for him. Like his the main character, Jay Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby*, most of the time had night parties and trips to Europe. Then in 1929, America's economy collapsed (starting the Great Depression). During this time, he had a serious mental and physical health problem. In 1925, he wrote *The Great Gatsby*. Critics considered this novel as one of the great twentieth century