

Analysis on the Issue of Women Oppression in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

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ABSTRACT

The aim of writing "Analysis on The Issue of Women Oppressions in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald" is to show the discrimination on women's rights in a patriarchal society. This novel is analyzed by using feminism theory. By using the theory, it is found that there are women oppression described in the story. Daisy Buchanan and Myrtle Wilson are two main characters who are oppressed by the idea and belief applied in the patriarchal society. Meanwhile, Tom Buchanan is described as the main subject of oppression. His appearances and actions throughout the story become the representation of the patriarchal domination. However, the novel also presents Jordan Baker as a female who manages to free herself from the oppression. It is seen from her actions throughout the story which signify women's transcendences.

1. Introduction

Literary works may be defined as kinds of writings designated to be a work of art. Generally, the term Literary works refers to novel, drama, and poem. The use of unbound languages in literary works makes them different from other scientific writings, like journals, newspapers, and magazines.

Literary works may also be defined as a social institution because they represent the author's life as a part of the society. Literary works, along with their complexity, present human's ideas and understanding about the problems dealt by the humans themselves. The author purposely give human's moral values as well as aesthetic consolations throughout his/her writings.

Literary works have many elements which construct them. Aside from the intrinsic elements, like character and setting, the extrinsic elements also take a part in constructing the literary works. The extrinsic elements are usually related with literary theories, which are manifested into the story. In *The Great Gatsby*, the writer finds out the depiction of feminism theory.

The Great Gatsby, a novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, tells the issue of women oppression in patriarchal society as its main. The story revolves around the social condition of New York and Long Island, where women are confined by the system. Thus, making them unable to develop their personhood and to utilize rights. However, the story also presents Jordan Baker as one of the main character, whose existence becomes a manifestation of women's transcendences to overcome the oppression.

2. Objectives

In composing this project, the writer determines to discuss three problems related to the topic and to be revealed in later discussion, amongs them are :

- 2.1. To find out the impacts of Patriarchy in the society depicted in *The Great Gatsby*.
- 2.2. To explain about the forms of women oppression in *The Great Gatsby*.
- 2.3. To prove Jordan Baker's actions as struggles to overcome the women oppression in *The Great Gatsby*.

3. Biography of the Author

Francis Scott Key, or known as Francis Scott Fitzgerald, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 24th, 1896. He was the son of Edward Fitzgerald and Mary McQuillan. After graduating from the Newman School in 1913, Fitzgerald continued his study at Princeton University to develop his skill as a writer. Fitzgerald was dropped out of school due to his writing obsession. In 1917 he decided to join the U.S. Army. Fitzgerald had a romantic affair with Zelda Sayre, whom he met during his assignment in Alabama. However, they broke off some time after that because he could not convince Zelda that he could support her.

Fitzgerald had relationship with Zelda influenced many aspects of his life. Most of his works' theme were based on their relationship. However, due to his depression, he became addicted to alcohol which affected his health. Fitzgerald died 1940 of heart attack in December 21st, 1940. He was buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Maryland.

The Great Gatsby was one of Fitzgerald's masterpiece which was published in 1925. The novel presented the American's individualism along with feminism issue occurred at that time. Fitzgerald put his personal experiences in the novel. He portrayed Nick Carraway, the main character of the story, as representation of Fitzgerald himself.

Throughout his life, Fitzgerald wrote many notable works. His major works include : *This Side of Paradise* (1920), *The Beautiful and Damned* (1922), *Tender Is the Night* (1934), and *The Love of the Last Tycoon* (1941). Some of F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories are : *Babylon Revisited* (1931), *Crazy Sunday* (1932), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (1921), *The Bridal Party* (1930), and *Winter Dreams* (1922).

4. Summary

The Great Gatsby tells about the story of Nick Carraway who moves to Long Island in search for business connections. At the first

part of the story, it is described that Nick visits his acquaintance, Daisy and her husband Tom Buchanan. He is also introduced by the two to a golf player named Jordan Baker. During his visit, he heard a rumor about a mysterious, rich person named Gatsby.

As the time passes, Nick starts to learn the behaviour of Long Island's society. He is first disturbed, knowing that Tom has a romantic affair with another woman named Myrtle Wilson. He also learns that people in society regard possession as their top priority. In the midst of the crisis, Nick then meets Jay Gatsby, a kind and wealthy man who lives next to him. Nick is intrigued by Gatsby's existence in which Nick thinks as 'different' than any other wealthy person.

Nick then develops a close friendship with Gatsby. Later in the story, Nick learns from Jordan that Gatsby is used to be Daisy's lover. She informs that Gatsby actually goes to Long Island in an attempt to rejoin Daisy. Nick agrees to help Gatsby by arranging a meeting of the two. Upon their reunion, it is seen that both Gatsby and Daisy still love each other. However, Daisy's engagement with Tom makes it difficult for them to get back together. They then decide to secretly continue their romantic affairs. On the other hand, Nick also gains a relationship with Jordan as a result of their intense closeness.

As the story goes, Tom becomes aware of Gatsby's relationship with Daisy. Then, he invites everyone (Daisy, Nick, Gatsby, and Jordan) to spend the time together in New York. There, Tom asks both Gatsby and Daisy whether they have something to hide. Gatsby reveals his past and explains to Tom that he comes to Long Island to get Daisy back. Tom gets angry after hearing the fact and forces Daisy whether she wants to stay with him or leave with Gatsby. Daisy is terrified. Scared of Tom's wrath, she finally decides to stay with Tom, abandoning Gatsby. After the incident, all of them decides to go back to Long Island.

Following their arrival at Long Island, Tom, Nick, and Jordan learn about an accident which causes Myrtle's death. It is revealed that Daisy is the one who kills her. Tom attempts

to save Daisy from the accusation by accusing Gatsby as the one responsible for the accident. Later, Gatsby is murdered by George Wilson (Myrtle's husband), who wants to make a revenge. In other hand, Tom and Daisy are able to free themselves from the guilt by moving to New York.

Following Gatsby's death, Nick decides to leave Long Island along with its people. He breaks off with Jordan because their relationship does not work well. In the final moment, Nick recalls all of the moments he had and realizes that Gatsby himself was the only 'humanity' which existed in the society.

5. Review

5.1. Forms of Women Oppression in *The Great Gatsby*

The writer notes that women oppressions become the important issue depicted in the story. It depicts how women are treated unjustly in patriarchal society. The writer considers that knowing the forms of oppressions depicted in the story is a key leading to a deeper analysis and understanding of the issue.

It can be seen in that the east egg, the background of place of story, is depicted as a part of the patriarchal society. Its people belief that men own a higher priority compared to women. It includes their responsibility to earn a living in marriage relationships. This is shown on how many female characters in the story are being jobless. This idea is applied in the society because its people assumed that men have more capability in handling things compared to women. They consider that men are more intellectually and physically capable in doing the job.

For a while, it may seem that women are the ones who get the benefit from the system. Women let men to be responsible in public domain and gladly accept all the nourishment. They do not need to work to get needs for a living. However, they are actually unconsciously oppressed by this system. The comfort they get from their husband makes them being dependent, unable to act on their own. It also prevents them from discovering

their true potential as human beings in leading their own life. In short, it can be said that their rights to act are cut off. They are trapped by the comfort given to them.

That kind of oppression is depicted by the female characters (except Jordan Baker) in the story. They become too dependent on their husband because they are not allowed to do the job. This condition construct their mindset that they have to find a financially strong partner in order to support their needs. Because they become too dependent on their partner, they consider that being married to a wealthy man is a must. They are no longer aware of their self-capability. Thus, it makes the society see them as weak, secondary citizens.

Society's perception on women as weak human beings, later creates another form of oppression. In *The Great Gatsby*, it is described that the society prevents them from claiming their rights. Most of female characters in the story are depicted as being jobless. They are not allowed by the society to take parts in the marketplace. The only job they have are housekeeping and enjoying the possession their husband given to them. In return for the comforts given to them and also as an effort to have a decent partner, they willingly beautify themselves for the pleasure of their husband. This is shown by the following quotation :

'I almost made a mistake, too,' she declared vigorously. 'I almost married a little Kyke who'd been after me for years. I know he was below me. Everybody kept saying to me: 'Lucille, that man's way below you!' But if I hadn't met Chester, he'd of got me sure.' (2004:38)

The quotations above describe Catherine, the wife of Chester McKee. It is stated that before marrying Chester, Catherine was proposed by a man named Kyke. However, she refused him over and over due to his poorness, and decided to marry Chester instead. Her decision to marry Chester (who was much richer than Kyke) signifies that patriarchy corrupts the mind of society.

It is important to note that women may also take parts in the oppression to them. In

The Great Gatsby, the women of the society are described as having a significant behaviour, that is, talking about another woman. When they talk about another woman, the bad issue about her will be spread over and will be accepted by society as a fact. For example, when women talk about another woman who has a weakness, that issue will be accepted and the woman who becomes the object of the talk will be oppressed considerably. Women do not realize that their acts actually oppress their own gender. This case also occurs in the story :

'You see?' cried Catherine triumphantly. She lowered her voice again. 'It's really his wife that's keeping them apart. She's a Catholic and they don't believe in divorce.'

Daisy is not a Catholic and I was a little shocked at the elaborateness of the lie. (2004:37)

The quotation above is shown in the event when Nick, Tom, Myrtle, and Catherine gather in a hotel in New York. Catherine tells Nick about the issue concerning Daisy above. Catherine does not realize that her speech will oppress Daisy indirectly. Society will accept the bad issue created by Catherine and they will view Daisy just like the issue implies. In short, Catherine takes part in the oppression occurred to Daisy. The table below shows the subject and the object of the oppression :

	Oppressor	Oppressed
Male	Tom Buchanan	George Wilson
Female	Myrtle Wilson Other supportin character (Catherine)	Daisy Buchanan Myrtle Wilson.

5.2. Tom Buchanan Represents Patriarchal Dominance

In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald describes the power and dominance of the patriarchal system through the character of Tom Buchanan. He is the character who represents the common concept of 'man' of the system, a figure who dominates other characters. His appearances and actions throughout the story are described as being

superior. At the first chapter of the novel, he is described as the following:

...Two shining, arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward. Not even the effeminate swank of his riding clothes could hide the enormous power of that body—he seemed to fill those glistening boots until he strained the top lacing and you could see a great pack of muscle shifting when his shoulder moved under his thin coat. It was a body capable of enormous leverage—a cruel body. (2004:9)

As stated in the quotation above, he is described as a figure who has a strong physical embodiment. That description resembles a perfect idea of masculinity, a feature that belongs to men in the patriarchal society. It should be noted that among all of the male characters in the story, he is likely to be the only character who applies this feature. Thus, making him as the main antagonist of the story as well as the primary subject of patriarchy.

Tom's control over Myrtle Wilson is also shown by his physically abusing Myrtle. In the beginning of the story, it is shown that Tom beats her up when she attempts to mock Daisy :

'Daisy! Daisy! Daisy!' shouted Mrs. Wilson. 'I'll say it whenever I want to! Daisy! Dai---' Making a short deft movement Tom Buchanan broke her nose with open hand.

Then there were bloody towels upon the bathroom floor, and women's voices scolding, and high over the confusion a long broken wail of pain. (2004:41)

It is a proof that Tom is able to completely dominate Myrtle. From the statement above, it is described that Tom punches Myrtle right in the face because he is displeased by her mocking. Although Tom regards her as his girlfriend, he do it on purpose for her disobedience. This, once again, shows how powerful he is to control female characters depicted in the novel.

Tom Buchanan lives in East Egg, a part of Long Island which becomes a home to many aristocrats. His status as an aristocrat gives him a majestic impression, a figure who

stands above the others. He uses this to take control of female characters like Daisy. It is related to the concept of patriarchy, where norms and rules are governed by the males. Moreover, it becomes one important thing, considering that patriarchal system exists mostly in the aristocrat society.

Tom's most notable actions are his controls over Daisy. In the story, he is described as the one who is able to make Daisy, his wife, becomes obedient to him. He even went so far as to restrain her feeling toward Gatsby. This, of course, is the result of the fear inculcated to her. The story also shows that he uses his dominance to betray his own marriage by secretly having an affair with another woman. Tom's power enables him to do what he wants. In the fourth chapter of the story, it is also revealed that he uses his status to claim the marriage. He shows his power by showing his possessions, meaning that he could provide her with the comforts she needs. That is a proof that he can 'buy' Daisy's will with his money and his status as an aristocrat. The quotation below shows how he propose Daisy using his wealth :

He came down with a hundred people in four private cars and hired a whole floor of the Seelbach hotel, and the day before the wedding he gave her a string of pearls valued at three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. (2004:82)

Another Tom's dominance is shown in his actions towards Myrtle and George Wilson. By using his wealth, he manages to attract Myrtle and secretly having a relationship with her. It should be noted that both of them break the moral values because they betray their own partner. However, Tom is considered to being 'immune' towards such values because of his power as the subject of patriarchy. This represents his dominance to do what he wants without concerning the ethical values.

It is important to note that the story shows Tom's domination over the male character; George Wilson. It is told that he is financially stronger than George who is just a mere garage owner. He uses his might againsts

George by bullying him in various ways like repeatedly deceiving him and gaining a secret relationship with his wife. At the beginning of the story, it is told that George wants to buy Tom's car in order to make more money by selling it back. Tom delays his request to make him in a desperate condition which will secure Tom's relationship with Myrtle. However, In the later part the story, it is revealed that Tom finally chooses to sell his car to him in order to prevent George from taking Myrtle away with him to New York to start a new business. Those indicate how Tom manages to control other characters for his own benefit by using his power.

5.3. The Oppressed Women

The issue of women being oppressed by the patriarchy is represented by some main characters in the story. The kind of oppression which is experienced by female characters is that they are confined by the system; unable to attain their rights and develop their potential. As stated before, patriarchy creates a false belief that women can not compete in marketplace like men, thus forcing them to rely themselves on their husband. Then, it constructs an idea that women must look for a financially powerful partner in order to support their life. In *The Great Gatsby*, most of female characters are influenced by this belief. Wealthy and possession becomes very important aspects to support them. because men are the ones who can get those possessions, they become the primary subjects of the society. The women in *The Great Gatsby* are unaware that by being dependent on their husband, they entrap themselves in a 'cage'. They lost their willingness to explore their personhood and their full capacity as human beings.

5.3.1. Cultural and Physical Oppression Occured to Myrtle Wilson

Myrtle Wilson is one of the main female characters in *The Great Gatsby*. She is described as a middle-aged woman with an appropriate appearance, making her as a

feminine figure. Myrtle Wilson is defined by Fitzgerald as a female character who is strongly influenced by the false belief created by the system. Throughout the story, she values wealth as the most important aspect in life. It is seen from her action in making a relationship with Tom. It is done purposely to get more possessions compared to those she get from her own husband.

Myrtle's obsession with wealth leads her to betray George. She becomes too dependent to him for the luxury given to her. Her perception towards the value of her own existence is a product of the strong belief created by patriarchy. The quotations below also supports the idea :

'I married him because I thought he was a gentleman,' she said finally. 'I thought he knew something about breeding. But he wasn't fit to lick my shoe.' (2004:38)

'The only CRAZY I was was when I married him. I know right away I made a mistake. He borrowed somebody's best suit to get married in and never even told me about it, and the man came after it one day when he was out. She looked around to see who was listening: 'Oh, is that your suit?' I said. 'This is the first I ever heard about it.' But I gave it to him and then I lay down and cried to beat the band all afternoon.' (2004:39)

The quotations above shows her guilty feeling for marrying George Wilson. Before marrying George, she thought that he is a wealthy man who can provide her with comforts and luxury. However, upon knowing that George is not capable to do so, she willingly leave him and look for a better one. She does not realize that her efforts to fulfill her lust for possession makes her blind. Myrtle lost the meaning of life as human beings.

There may be a confusion concerning Myrtle's actions described in the story. It seems to us that her betrayal to her husband, George Wilson, makes her to have a higher position. In other words, she manages to show her transcendence by dominating him. However, this is obviously not true. The fact that she becomes Tom's object makes her the oppressed one. It is proven by the events

where Tom physically abuse her. She willingly accepts this treatment with no effort to fight for the purpose of gaining his wealth.

Myrtle's obsession with Tom's wealth makes become dependent on him. She is 'trapped in a cage', unable to perform her full ability as a woman. She abandons her pride, her rights, and her full extent potential as a woman; as a human being.

5.3.2. Daisy Buchanan as an Oppressed Woman

Daisy Buchanan is the main female character as well as the most oppressed one in *The Great Gatsby*. She is Gatsby's past lover who currently becomes Tom Buchanan's wife. She is described as being beautiful and innocent who represents the feature of feminity. It is in contrast with Tom whose appearance symbolizes masculinity.

Meanwhile, Daisy becomes the character who is oppressed by Tom and the system of patriarchy itself. She is forced to accept the system without being able to free herself. The first issue concerning Daisy's oppression can be seen on her past with Gatsby which becomes the main essence of the story. It is revealed that Daisy was Gatsby's lover before marrying Tom. Their feeling towards each other was so strong that they even promised to live together in the future. However, due to Gatsby's poorness, she decides to leave him and to marry the wealthy Tom. Her decision to marry Tom is not actually her true desire, but a demand which grows and exists in the society. The system makes her to follow the rules of the society which conflicts her will. This is shown in the night before her marriage :

'Here, dearis.' She groped around in a wastebasket she had with her on the bed and pulled out the string of pearls. 'Take 'em downstairs and give 'em back to whoever they belong to. Tell 'em all Daisy's change' her mine. Say Daisy's change' her mine!'. 'She began to cry—she cried and cried. (2004:82)

The quotation above shows her regret towards the decision to marry Tom. She feels guilty for

accepting the value of the system and for her inability to free herself from it.

All of Daisy's actions depicted in the story are seemingly being under the control of Tom. She is confined by Tom from developing her personhood. The story also reveals her inability to free herself from Tom's control, which is depicted by her betrayal towards Gatsby. It is true that she leaves him in order to marry Tom. However, her feeling for Gatsby still remains the same. It can be seen in parts of the story where she shows her affection upon reuniting with him :

As he left the room again she got up and went over to Gatsby and pulled his face down kissing him on the mouth.

'You know I love you,' she murmured. (2004:123)

The quotation above is taken from the story where they rejoin after being separated for five years. Her feeling towards Gatsby shows her true desire to stay with Gatsby. However, she is unable to attain her goal. The three characters' confrontation in the later part of the story depicts Daisy's inferiority against Tom. She is asked to choose whether to stay with Tom or to go with Gatsby. She is then forced to leave Gatsby, which means that she abandons her wish. The event indicates that she can not manage to free herself and to show her transcendence. Her will is defeated by Tom's domination. This is, of course, a result of the patriarchal system which strongly affects her.

Daisy's inability to overcome Tom's domination is also shown in the later part of the story. In their last confrontation, she chooses to stay with Tom and leave Gatsby instead. Then, it is told that Daisy intentionally crashes her car into Myrtle Wilson which instantly kills her. It is a proof that Daisy cannot free herself from Tom's domination. Instead of struggling against Tom, she decides to kill Myrtle.

However, unlike Myrtle Wilson, Daisy is fully aware of the oppression which she experiences. She realizes that she is oppressed by her surrounding. This idea is supported by

the quotation which is taken in the beginning of the story :

'Oh, yes.' She looked at me absently. 'Listen, Nick; let me tell you what I said when she was born. Would you like to hear?'

'very much'

'It'll show you how I've gotten to feel about—things. Well, she was less than an hour old and Tom was God knows where. I woke up out of the ether with an utterly abandoned feeling and asked the nurse right away if it was a boy or a girl, and so I turned my head away and wept. 'All right.' I said, 'I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.' (2004:20)

From the quotation above, we can see her feeling towards her newborn daughter. She knows well how it feels to be an oppressed woman. She is unhappy with her newborn daughter as she knows what kinds of life her daughter will get. She is afraid that her daughter will lead the same fate like her.

5.4. Jordan Baker Acts as a Liberated Woman

Unlike other female characters in the novel, who are oppressed by the system, Jordan Baker represents an important role as a character who is able to free herself. Fitzgerald purposely differentiates her from the other, in which she is the only female character who doesn't have marriage relationship. It makes her as a symbol of independent woman who doesn't rely on man's power. Jordan Baker's first appearance in the beginning of the story signifies her true quality :

The younger of the two was a stranger to me. She was extended full length at her end of the divan. Completely motionless and with her chin raised a little as if she were balancing something on it which was quite likely to fall. If she saw me out of the corner of her eyes she gave me no hint of it—indeed, I was almost surprised into murmuring an apology for having disturbed her by coming in. (2004:11)

Compared to Daisy, who is a tender and elegant woman, Jordan Baker poses contrast characteristics. From the quotation above, it is

stated that she raises her chin whenever she is in contact with other people. That trait becomes an attempt to take herself to be in the same level as other people, whether they are males or females. She is described as the character who will not let herself to be positioned under males' control.

Jordan also have different figure compared to other female characters in the story. Being described as having steady posture and small breast, she has a strong impression as being a man-like. It was stated in the novel as the following :

I looked at Miss Baker wondering what it was she 'got done'. I enjoyed looking at her. She was a slender, small-breasted girl, with an erect carriage which she accentuated by throwing her body backward at the shoulders like a young cadet. (2004:13-14)

Based on the quotation above, it is shown that Jordan has a masculine appearance. She is even described for having resemble a cadet, a figure which is only compatible for men. Her outward appearance give her a tough impression. By showing her manly figure, society will accept Jordan as a strong, transcendental figure compared to any woman in common.

It is stated that Jordan lived and grew only with her aunt. It is possible that having lived without males figure (father, uncle, or brother), does not make Jordan know about hierarchical position in gender. It enables her to develop both feminine and masculine side. It is seen in the quotation below :

'Her family is one aunt about a thousand years old....' (2004:22)

It is important to note that the story describes Jordan's struggle against the oppression. She is the character who refuses to accept the belief. It is represented by her actions in the entire story which contradict the idea of the society. She opposes the belief by doing things that can not be done by other women depicted in the story. It is a her struggle to overcome the oppression which exists in the patriarchy.

The biggest achievement which makes her able to free herself from the oppression is

that she is able to attain her transcendence by getting profession as a golf athlete. Look at the quotation below :

'Jordan's going to play in the tournament tomorrow,' explained Daisy, 'over at westchester'. (2004:21)

....At first I was flattered to go places with her because she was a golf champion and every one knew her name. (2004:63)

It is believed by society that sport could be done only by men (as it requires more physical strength). However, Fitzgerald shows that Jordan is able to diminish their belief. By attaining her transcendence and showing her full potential, she automatically gains society's acknowledgment as well as her rights. She is no longer trapped in patriarchal system, where woman becomes an object whose existence is confined in the house to do chores and serve her husband.

.... and suddenly I remembered the story about her that had eluded me that night at Daisy's. At her first big golf tournament there was a row that nearly reached the newspaper—a suggestion that she had moved her ball from a bad lie in the semi-final round. The thing approached the proportions of a scandal—then died away. A caddy retracted his statement and the only other witness admitted that he might have been mistaken. the incident and the name had remained together in my mind.

Jordan Baker instinctively avoided clever shrewd men and now I said that this was because she felt safer on a plane where any divergence from a code would be thought impossible. She was incurably dishonest. She wasn't able to endure being at disadvantage, and given this unwillingness I suppose she had begun dealing in subterfuge when she was very young in order to keep that cool, insolent smile turned to the world and yet satisfy the demands of her hard jaunty body. (Chapter III : 63-64)

The quotation above shows that Jordan, as a woman, manages to act and behave like men. *In the Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald describes the social conditions where people do whatever it takes in order to achieve power

and dominance. For example, Gatsby, who sells drugs in order to possess wealthy, and Tom, who blames Gatsby for the death of Myrtle. Fitzgerald shows the true capacity of Jordan as a woman in which she can act like the rest of male character in the novel. Just like Tom who manipulates other character (George Wilson) to fulfill his desire with Myrtle, Jordan also does the same thing. She is able to manipulate the game in order to achieve her goal, that is, to win the golf tournament. Such trait is only possessed by male characters in the story. It means that Jordan puts herself in the same level.

6. Conclusion

The Great Gatsby tells about how patriarchal system applied in the society affects the characters' life. The patriarchal domination occurred in New York and Long Island creates oppression which confines women from attaining their rights. Actually, the background condition of the story makes it possible for women to free themselves from the oppression. However, the fact that patriarchy has been rooted and implemented for a long time, makes it difficult to accomplish such efforts.

The oppression created by patriarchal domination is not only formed into a concrete discrimination, but it is also formed into an idea which is accepted by the society. People's mindset is influenced by the false belief which says that the higher authority is taken under men's control. The belief states that men are the ones responsible for undergoing every aspect in social life. It makes women become secondary citizens who can not participate in social life, leaving them in a powerless state.

The Great Gatsby appoints the issue through its characters. Tom Buchanan is depicted as the main antagonist, a symbol of patriarchy itself. He is described as the character who is able to control other people, like Daisy Buchanan, Myrtle Wilson, and George Wilson.

Daisy Buchanan and Myrtle Wilson represent the oppressed women in the patriarchal society. Daisy Buchanan is

depicted as the ideal concept of the confined woman. Myrtle Wilson is depicted as the character who unconsciously accepts the oppression she experiences. She holds the belief that a man have to provide wealth and comforts to his wife in exchange for the pleasure a woman gives to him.

Jordan Baker is the only female character depicted in the story who manages to free herself from the oppression. She manages to show her transcendence in the midst of the patriarchal society. Jordan Baker's career as a golf athlete indicates that she is able to develop her potential as a human being. It is a prove that she manages to reach an achievement which is regarded by society as being obtainable only by men. Unlike Daisy and Myrtle, Jordan is the only female character who does not have a marriage relationship. It means that she does not hold the belief that a woman should depend herself on a wealthy man. It makes Jordan as an independent woman.

It is explained that Jordan used to live only with her aunt. The lack of man's figure in Jordan's life may have influenced her mindset. Thus, she considers that both men and women are the same human beings. Jordan believes that there is no hierarchical positions between those two. Both men and women are equal, meaning that they have the same rights in attaining their opportunities.

The issue of women's oppression in *The Great Gatsby* reminds us that women are the same human beings as men. It means that they have the same rights and opportunity to take a part in every aspect of social life. They also have to be independent, able to act according to their own will without considering the rules and ideas created by the system. In order to do so, women need to develop their true potentials and show their transcendences to the society. By doing that, they can define their identity, not as men's objects but as human beings.

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