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**“LITERARY ANALYSIS OF JAY GATSBY IN THE GREAT  
GATSBY THROUGH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”**

**Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Bachelor in English**

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## **Dedication**

I would like to dedicate this work to my parents who have been my source of inspiration, and whose good examples have taught me to work hard for my dreams. Also, to the memory of my grandparent who will always be in my heart and thoughts.

Finally, I dedicate this thesis to God whose unconditional love and wisdom gave me the strength to finish my studies.

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## **Abstract**

The present work aims to analyze the psychological condition of the main character of the novel *The Great Gatsby* through the lens of Psychoanalytic Criticism, by using Sigmund Freud's theories of personality and ego defense mechanisms.

The first stage offers an analysis of Jay Gatsby's personality structure: id, ego, and superego, finding that these three forces manifest themselves as regards his goal and desire to get back Daisy Buchanan. The second stage analyzes six ego defense mechanisms developed by Mr. Gatsby to protect himself from his traumas: repression, denial, reaction formation, fantasy, and undoing. The final stage exposes the results of the investigation, and how the objectives were successfully resolved.

## Resumen

El siguiente trabajo tiene como objetivo analizar la condición psicológica del personaje principal de la novela *El Gran Gatsby* a través de la crítica psicológica, utilizando las teorías de personalidad y mecanismos de defensa establecidas por Sigmund Freud.

En la primera etapa se analiza la estructura de la personalidad de Jay Gatsby la cuál incluye el yo, ello y superyó. Estas tres fuerzas se manifiestan conforme a su deseo de recuperar a Daisy Buchanan. En la segunda etapa se analizan cinco mecanismos de defensa desarrollados por Jay Gatsby para protegerse de sus traumas, las cuales son: represión, negación, formación reactiva, fantasía y anulación. En la última etapa se exponen los resultados de la investigación y cómo se cumplieron los objetivos.

## Chapter I

### Introductory Framework

Literature is a study area that helps to address human nature and many conditions that affects humans like the need for growth, fears, doubts, and failures. (Sahr, 2015).

Literature helps the readers to strengthen their minds and to and connect with their own humanity. According to David Lodge:

Literature is a record of human consciousness, the richest and most comprehensive we have. Lyric poetry is arguably man's most successful effort to describe qualia. The novel is arguably man's most successful effort to describe the experience of individual human beings moving through space and time. (Lodge,2002, p.10).

Literature and psychology are two branches of science that study the human soul. Psychology research human behaviors and their causes, while literature depicts human behavior through fiction. A literary work benefits from psychology in terms of successfully presenting characters, expressing their moods, and bringing the reader into the psychological dimension of human reality. (Emir, 2016, p.49)

Literature is an important source of inspiration for the science of psychology which tries to explain human emotions. It is one of the most significant means to obtain knowledge, concerning man and his life, his unique experiences, and the idiosyncratic values. David Lodge said: "We will always learn more about human life and personality from novels than from scientific psychology." (Lodge, 2002 p.10).

Sigmund Freud was an Austrian neurologist best known for developing the theories and techniques of psychoanalysis. The theory of psychoanalysis states that all people possess unconscious thoughts, feelings, desires, and memories. Some of Freud's most discussed theories included: Id, ego and superego, psychic energy, and defense mechanisms. According to Rajan:

The theories and practice of Sigmund Freud provided the foundation for psychoanalytic criticism in literature. High preference for the theories of Freud by the modernists may be due to the contents in it regarding mysteries hidden in the unconscious part of the human mind. (Rajan, 2017)

The Great Gatsby is a novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1925. The story is narrated by Nick Carraway who tells his experience of living next to Jay Gatsby, his millionaire neighbor with a mysterious past. "Gatsby evidently suffers from the trauma that he had in the past when his relationship with Daisy was broken, so he wants to recapture their happy moments. In his blind pursuit of wealth, status, and success, Gatsby follows a dream that ultimately becomes a nightmare. Undoubtedly, Gatsby has experienced a traumatic event in the past and a traumatic neurosis keeps him trapped in a fantasy world forever." (Thi Huong Giang Bui1, 2012)

Based on the explained above, this work aims to analyze the psychological condition of the main character of the novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, by using Sigmund Freud's theories of psychoanalysis. Although Jay Gatsby is a fictional character in the novel, it can be interpreted and analyzed as a human.

## 1.1 Problem Statement

To understand literary genres, it is indispensable to understand literary criticism. Literary criticism is the first step to understand concepts, principles, and methodologies for textual analysis. Of all the critical approaches to literature, the psychological has been one of the most controversial for many readers.

Freud's ideas are also of key importance in literary criticism. In his book "Psychoanalytic Criticism" Freud says that an author's chief motivation for any piece of literature is necessary. He says that it would gratify some secret desires that probably developed during the author's infancy and was immediately suppressed and dumped in the unconscious. The outward manifestation of this suppressed wish becomes the literary work itself.

Psychological theories are not usually taught in literary classes, even though they are immensely powerful for understanding a literary text. According to Abdolbaghi Rezaei:

They also enable us to have a meaningful comprehension of human being's development and the world. The better that people come through the literary texts, the better they will tend to deal with what psychological theories are reflected in a genre of literature. (Rezaei, 2013)

The novel *The Great Gatsby* is an example of living the American Dream where people are concerned with seeking out pleasure and power as a replacement for individualism. Throughout the novel, it is hard for the reader to understand Jay Gatsby's dreams, which uncover his desires and means to act, his psychological defense mechanisms, which uncover why he may act a certain way, and his inner impulses, which

lead to certain outcomes. By analyzing all these factors on a psychoanalytical level, the reader will have a guide to understanding the desires, motivations, and conflicts of the main character of the novel.

Based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical theories, the investigation question would be: What are the motivations, defense mechanisms, and personality characteristics of the main character in the novel *The Great Gatsby*?

## **1.2 Objectives of the Investigation**

An objective of the investigation describes concisely what the research is trying to achieve. They summarize the accomplishments the researcher wishes to achieve through the project and provides direction to the study. The following objectives are reasonably achievable within the expected timeframe and the available resources.

### **1.2.1 General Objective**

To analyze the main character of the novel *The Great Gatsby* by using psychological theories for the understanding of his personality, defense mechanisms, and unconscious motivations.

### **1.2.2 Specific Objectives**

- 1.1.1.1** To analyze the personality and motivations of Jay Gatsby through Sigmund Freud's theory of personality.
- 1.1.1.2** To interpret the theory of the ID, Ego, and Superego for the understanding of the way these forces affect Jay Gatsby's behavior.

- 1.1.1.3** To analyze the defense mechanisms of Jay Gatsby for the understanding of his way of protecting himself from feelings.

### **1.3 Justification of the Study**

To understand a literary work, it is important to analyze several aspects such as the author's social background, the author's life, ideas, or movements occurring during the time the author was writing, psychological information, and other works that influenced the writing. Sadly, not all book introductions offer this kind of information.

Of all the critical approaches to literature, the psychological has been one of the most controversial for many readers. Analyzing a novel from a psychological point of view can be fascinating and rewarding for the reader.

Psychoanalytic criticism of literary texts helps to determine the unconscious desires and anxieties of the author. Usually, a literary work is a manifestation of the author's neuroses. The author's childhood traumas, family life, sexual conflicts, fixations, and can be traceable within the behavior of the characters in the novel

The main purpose of this analysis is to enrich the theoretical bases of literary studies, particularly in analyzing psychology circumstances using Sigmund Freud's theories of psychoanalysis. This analysis can serve as a guide to readers and students of English Literature to study and comprehend the novel *The Great Gatsby* and other aspects of psychoanalysis.

## 1.4 Antecedents

The novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald has been an object of analysis for many readers and researchers since it explores universal themes such as the American Dream, human follies, the hopelessness of societal constructs, and man's struggle with time and fate.

In 1993, Carlos Adolfo Méndez B from Liceo Rodrigo Facio, In the article “El Gran Gatsby de F. Scott Fitzgerald: Un acercamiento a su Intertextualidad” analyzes the novel *The Great Gatsby* to show that Fitzgerald idealizes the novel with the presence of at least four texts that interact and determine the unconscious and conscious motivations that take him to the process of writing the novel. This analysis shows that Fitzgerald uses the ideal of the American Dream as one of the major themes of the novel. This idea derives from The Independence Declaration of the United States, he tried to keep the original American Dream alive. Also, Fitzgerald considers the idea of the “American Adan” showing the presence of an ethic-moral text in the novel. Finally, *The Great Gatsby* is considered as a didactic text, the author tries to explain to the reader that the ideas of the American Dream and obsession with money can have a negative ending, just as Gatsby's.

A second work in 1997 by Felix Jimmy from the Department of Language and Arts Education, Sanatha Dharma University, Yogyakarta, titled "A Background Analysis on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*", investigates the influences of the extrinsic factors to the content of the novel, using a combination of the socio-cultural, biographical, and mythopoeic approaches. At the end of the investigation, it is concluded that the novel is written in The Jazz Age. Also, the author's life influenced the novel, since Fitzgerald's

origin was in Middle Western. The author had a clear judgment upon the materialistic and consumerist Middle East, he tries to remind basic American values on a corrupt time.

Another important investigation in 2013 by Thi Huong Giang Bui<sup>1</sup> from the Department of English Literature, Fukuoka Women's University, Japan, titled "Jay Gatsby's Trauma and Psychological Loss" examines the losses of Jay Gatsby using the Freudian theory to understand the protagonist's traumas and the reason why he never escaped from his elusive world. At the end of his work, it is concluded that Gatsby found his first trauma when he loses Daisy, and all his later actions show that he never accepts it, so he fights to change his past. However, despite all his efforts, he could not change his past, and he continually suffers the trauma. Gatsby followed a dream that unfortunately became a nightmare.

Furthermore, in 2015, Cristina Logroño Rubio from the Philosophy and Letters Department, Zaragoza University. In her thesis "Rebellion in Times of Wealth: The Great Gatsby (1925) and The Catcher in the Rye (1951)" analyzes both novels to determine their relation, historic and social contexts, and the protagonist's rebellion. At the end of this thesis, it is found that both protagonists are tragic heroes. Gatsby fights against socioeconomic obstacles to recover Daisy's love. After all his efforts Gatsby's dream turns to be impossible and he ends up paying for Daisy's errors with his death. Also, both The Great Gatsby and The Catcher in the Rye are linked to the socio-economic and cultural contexts characterized by a time of prosperity and an affluent economy. At the end of both novels, the rebellious attitude of the protagonists is worthless.

Finally, in 2016, Hellen Turner from the University of Essex analyzes the subject of identity and how it is formed, in her thesis "Gender, Madness, and the Search for Identity in

selected works of F. Scott Fitzgerald'. She considered many literary works of the author, and in the novel *The Great Gatsby*, she identified Gatsby as a potential melancholic suicide, who is rescued from this fate by being murdered at the hands of George Wilson.

### **1.5 Scope**

- The focus of this scope is to analyze the main character of the novel *The Great Gatsby* by using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical theories.
- It is intended to demonstrate the motivations, identity, internal conflicts, and ways of acting of the character, and how a literary work usually is a manifestation of the author's neuroses.
- Although many approaches can be used to analyze this novel, such as sociological, feministic, historical, and mythological, this analysis focuses only on the psychological approach.
- The researcher limits the analysis to the main character of the novel, Jay Gatsby.
- This analysis will be developed during January through July, 2020.

## Chapter II

### Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is vital to all research and analysis, it provides a sense of structure that guides the entire process of research and demonstrates an understanding of theories and concepts relevant to the topic. Therefore, this chapter will define the concepts of literary, theory, themes, symbols, and motifs, as well as the biography of the author and the plot of the novel *The Great Gatsby*.

#### 2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

The Oxford Dictionary defines literature as 'written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit', which implies that it is of historical nature since only time can tell which artistic merits will last. The Oxford dictionary also defines theory as "a formal set of ideas that is intended to explain why something happens or exists". According to Celena E. Kusch:

The literary theory does not mean making hypotheses or guesses about literature. In the field of English studies (and most academic disciplines), theory refers to the study of the underlying assumptions we make about the nature of language, authors, readers, texts, human subjectivity, narrative, aesthetics, power, culture, and other major elements of literary production and reception. The practical application of these theories emerges in literary criticism, where we make concrete arguments often supported by close readings of textual details about the way our underlying assumptions play out in a particular text or texts. (Kusch, 2016)

Literary theories were developed to understand the way people read texts. The exponents of each theory believe their theory is the correct one, but people interpret texts according to different theories at a time. All literary theories are lenses through which readers can see texts. These theories help readers to have a new perspective of the text.

Literary criticism consists of comments on selected works. The role of the critics is significant; they are supposed to critically review, discuss, and evaluate literary works. A critical review does not imply a negative or rejecting judgment, but a reasoned opinion, based upon vital, analytical questions. They are usually written by scholars who are experts in literature and publish in scientific journals or papers.

Some of the most common literary theories are Archetypal, Cultural criticism, Feminist, New Criticism, New Historicism, Psychological, and Reader Response. First, archetypal criticism tries to find and understand the purpose of archetypes. The word archetype is a Greek word that means "original pattern" from which all copies are made, a prototype. Some themes of human life like love and loss, character types like the rebel and the wise elder, animals, and patterns like the quest, the descent into the underworld, are considered archetypal. Archetypal criticism draws on the works of the psychoanalyst Carl Jung, literary critic Northrop Frye, and others. Unlike psychoanalytic critics, archetypal critics such as Frye do not attempt to explain why the archetypes exist.

Second, cultural criticism is a recent movement. People that use cultural criticism view a text concerning the dominant or competing ideologies of the time and place in which the text was written. Works are therefore considered in light of their historical and cultural contexts. For example, the novel *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad may be read

in terms of practices of European imperialists, race relations in Africa, or the economic history.

Third, feminist criticism is based on feminist theories. It considers texts where societies treat men and women inequitably. Feminist criticisms analyze texts in light of patriarchal, cultural institutions, masculine and feminine stereotypes, and inequality between male and female writers. Feminist criticism was developed in the 1960s and 1970s, but it was evident in earlier works, for example in the works of Virginia Woolf and Mary Wollstonecraft.

Fourth, new criticism is a literary movement that proposes close reading and textual analysis of the text itself. It is called "New" because it operates contrary to the previous focus on the author's biography, the historical context, and the perceived parallels between these and the text. New criticism focusses on both the "external form" like the ballad, ode, and the "internal forms" like the structure, repetition, plot, tone, mood, setting, style, literary devices, and theme. The movement is also referred to as formalism or structuralism.

Fifth, new historicism critical approach that examines works in their cultural and historical contexts. This approach examines a wide range of texts such as newspapers, advertisements, popular music, historical accounts, poetry, novels, and diaries. New historicisms believe that works cannot be viewed in isolation from history and culture. A reading of a work must consider its intention, genre, and historical situation.

Sixth, psychoanalytic criticism is literary criticism grounded in the psychoanalytic theory of the founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. This approach attempts to psychoanalyze the author's unconscious desires, the reader's responses, and the characters

in the work. The last approach involves examining the text for symbols and psychological complexes. Other key figures in this approach are Carl Jung and Jacques Lacan.

Finally, reader-response criticism is a critical approach that shifts the emphasis to the reader from the text or the work's author and context. This approach focuses on the individual reader's evolving response to the text. The readers, through their values and experiences, create the meaning of the text and therefore there is no one correct meaning. (Anderson, 2019)

When analyzing a text, from which a student will write a major paper, it is advised that the student should first focus on the elements of a story: plot, setting, atmosphere, mood, character, theme, and title. The next logical approach is to look at the language (devices and patterns) and the form of the text (structure). Then the student might consider any of the existing approaches.

In this analysis, the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald will be analyzed through the psychological approach. This approach stems from the theories of Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis. Freud believed that we are all heavily influenced by the unconscious. The mind is made up of the id (instinctual impulses), the superego (values and morals of society), and the ego (consciousness). Freud was also the man who coined the terms Oedipal complex and Electra complex, so sexual relationships, and motivations (conscious or unconscious) are part of this analysis as well.

Psychological Criticism is the analysis of the unintended message of the author. This type of analysis focuses on the biographic aspect of the author. To analyze the

unconscious elements in a literary text, based on the background of the author is the main goal of psychological criticism.

Besides, psychological criticism analyzes three main points. First, analyzes the creative process of the artist. That means, what is the nature of the work, and how it is related to mental functions. Second, it analyses how different circumstances on the author's life affect or influence their motivations or behavior. Finally, it analyses the fictional characters using methods of psychology

Furthermore, psychological criticism was born from the idea of Psychoanalysis. Sigmund Freud, an Austrian neurologist considered the father of psychoanalysis, found this theory to treat mental illness patients. The theory is known as a talking cure, where patients try to vocalize their subconscious motivations to gain further insight. Sigmund Freud believed this method released repressed emotions that helped to heal and cure the patient.

In Chapter 7 of the book *Writing about Literature with Critical Theory*, Lynn analyzes the motivations behind Sigmund Freud and his theory. The book starts with a quote from Sigmund Freud that says: "When a member of my family complains that he or she has bitten his tongue, bruised her finger, and so on, instead of the expected sympathy I put the question, 'Why did you do that?'" -Sigmund Freud (Lynn 167)

Sigmund Freud believed that even silly things like biting your tongue might have an unconscious meaning. Therefore, by asking deep questions, it could help to understand those thoughts and unconscious motivations. Then the person or patient can understand the reasons behind his habits by paying attention to the unconscious. The theory of Sigmund

Freud was all about the unconscious, and he believed that it was naturally sexual. This where the Oedipus Complex appears. According to Sofe Ahmed, the Oedipus complex can be defined as: "...the concept is a desire for sexual involvement with the parent of the opposite sex, which produces a sense of competition with the parent of the same sex and a crucial stage in the normal developmental process."

Freud stated that this complex was prominent in young boys. The sexual attraction started from breastfeeding and turns to desire when a boy reaches towards his youth. He then desires the mother sexually, but the father is seen as an obstacle. As a result, there is an aggressive instinct created towards the father.

Freud's concept also remains from imaginative psychoanalysis with little scientific evidence and is currently losing its credibility. However, there is little argument that his ideas were the foundation of modern psychoanalysis, which persists in society today.

(Willhardt's, 2017)

Some of the most common theories of Sigmund Freud are The Core theory, the theory that all human behavior is ultimately motivated by sexuality, the three Psychic Zones, and the defense mechanisms.

The Core theory is related to the unconscious aspects of the human psyche. It states that most of our actions or mental processes are motivated by psychics. He said that the mind is like an iceberg, that means, its greatest weight and density is below the surface.

According to Freud, there are two kinds of the unconscious. First, the pre-conscious is latent not directly aware of something. Second, the unconscious that is something difficult to revive, it is blocked or repressed, it comes out in perverse ways.

The theory of psychoanalysis focused on the three parts of the psychic apparatus: the id, ego, and superego. First, the id is the part of the psyche that stems from the pleasure principle. It stems from instinct and irrational behavior that caters to the unconscious. It is the primary source of all psychic energy, and functions to fulfill the primordial life principle. The id is also characterized by impulses to obtain the gratification of instinctual needs, being the source of all aggression desires, lawlessness, and self-destructive.

Second, the ego is the rational part of the psyche. However, it is important to mention that most of the activities done within the ego are unconscious. It is characterized by protecting the individual and society, being rational, reasoning logical, partially conscious, and aware of reality.

Finally, the superego is the censor of the psyche; it abides by the morality principle. It is characterized by being largely unconscious, it is a moral censoring agent, blocks off or represses those drives which society regards as unacceptable, and operates on rewards and punishments.

Another theory of Sigmund Freud is The Defense Mechanisms. This theory states that our ego is very delicate and fragile and so we often use ways and means to try to protect it. It has several mechanisms like, Substitution (Compensating) in which the person overdo one thing to cover up deficiencies in other areas. The repression which is trying to

forget failures or unfortunate incident. Rationalization, that is justifications. We substitute a "good reason" for action rather than the real one. Regression, which is reverting to childish behavior or habits. Sublimation, that involves basic drives become expressed in socially acceptable forms. Other mechanisms include Identification, Insultation, Scapegoating, Intellectualization, Malingering, and Aggression. (Dwinastiti, 2013)

The novel *The Great Gatsby* brings to light the deep and serious psychological issues that affect the characters. *The Great Gatsby* is an example of the American Dream in which people begin to seek out pleasure and power instead of individualism. Wealth is easy to come, and it is used as a tool to obtain other desires. The novel is an inspiring read and is very intriguing to the readers especially with the various romantic and sexual relationships of the characters. The relationships are however emotionally dysfunctional, and the characters only survive through their relationships and their stories of psychological drama and dysfunctional love.

## **2.2 Themes, Symbols, Motifs**

A theme is the main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly. The writer presents the themes in literary work through several means. It may be expressed through the feelings of his main character, through thoughts and conversations of different characters, or through experiences of the main character in the course of the literary work.

The theme of a literary work gives readers a better understanding of the main character's conflicts, experiences, discoveries, and emotions. Through themes, the writer

tries to give his readers an insight into how the world works, or how he or she views human life. According to Wiehardt:

When reading fiction, identifying themes can enhance the experience by allowing you to better understand characters and conflicts and possibly even anticipate what will happen next. Consider a simplistic example. The main character may have a strong work ethic, and he may value similar traits in others and despise those who are lazy. As a reader, when you identify this trait in a character and see that he is drawn to other characters like him, you may also be able to anticipate arising conflict when these characters are forced to deal with another character who does not share their work ethic. (Wiehardt, 2019)

One of the main themes in the novel *The Great Gatsby* is the ideal of the American Dream. The origins of the American Dream come from a history book written in 1931 by James Truslow Adams and historian and American writer. The book was entitled “The Epic of America”. According to James:

If [...] the things already listed were all we had to contribute, America would have made no distinctive and unique gift to mankind. But there has been also the American Dream, the dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown

weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position. No, the American dream that has lured tens of millions of all nations to our shores in the past century has not been a dream of merely material plenty, although that has doubtless counted heavily. It has been much more than that. It has been a dream of being able to grow to the fullest development as man and woman, unhampered by the barriers which had slowly been erected in older civilizations, unrepressed by social orders which had developed for the benefit of classes rather than for the simple human being of any and every class. And that dream has been realized more fully in actual life here than anywhere else, though very imperfectly even among us. (Truslow, 1931, p. 373-375,)

In the story, the main mission or dream of Gatsby was to better himself. However, that changed when he fell in love with Daisy, his main goal was now to better himself so he could achieve Daisy's love. He is the epitome of the American dream and is the perfect example of what Fitzgerald is trying to portray about the idea. Gatsby shows how although he accomplished the American dream, he can never be happy because the American dream has no boundaries, the seeker will always be searching for a new dream. (Wulick, 2019)

Motifs are devices that emphasize the theme, and for this reason, is sometimes confused with the theme. The concept of theme tends to be confused with a motif. A theme is a universal idea or concept that the author wishes to comment on in a novel he or she has written. Often, the reader needs clues to help him/her find the theme. A motif is a literary device that assists the reader in finding and understanding the theme. Motifs are recurring ideas and structures that contribute to the overall theme of the novel. To identify a motif, the reader must pay attention to events, the narration, character interactions, or descriptions that are similar and are repeated often. In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, the weather, infidelity, and parties are motifs that contribute and support the overall theme.

Other important devices in literature analysis are the symbols. In literature, they are used to help associate and connect things with ideas or concepts. Usually, they represent an idea with a physical object that communicates more meaning than the idea itself. The author gives symbolic meaning to the objects that are different from their literal sense. Symbolism can take different forms. Generally, it is an object representing another, to give an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant. Sometimes, however, an action, an event, or a word spoken by someone may have a symbolic value.

Symbols add color, depth, and realism to the story. Instead of explaining everything in detail, authors use symbols to allow readers to discover connections between characters, plot, and different settings on their own. Symbols create a more active and engaging reading experience. authors also use symbolism to tie certain things that may initially seem unimportant to overarching themes or to connect disparate objects or places to unify a work. (Wulick, 2019)

In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, there are several symbols such as The Green Light, the Eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg, and the Valley of Ashes. These symbols will be explained in Chapter IV.

### **2.3 Author's Biography**

F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of the most recognized figures in American literary and cultural history, not only as one of the major writers of the twentieth century but also as a man whose life story excites the fascination of a public that knows him primarily as the author of *The Great Gatsby*. (Prigozy, 2002)

Francis Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born on 24 September 1896. His father was a salesman and his mother an Irish-Catholic who was the heir to a successful Minnesota grocery store. He was named for his distant cousin, the writer of the poem that became the lyrics to American national anthem. The family lived comfortably on the outskirts of the city's most fashionable residential neighborhood, Summit Avenue. Although they lived just blocks from the city's most elegant and wealthy families, they were not considered rich and therefore were perched precariously on the community's social hierarchy.

In 1911, his parents sent him to the Newman School, a Catholic prep school in Hackensack, New Jersey. Here he met Fr. Sigourney Fay who was his mentor and encouraged him to develop his talents and pursue his dreams. During the years at Newman, Fitzgerald published three stories in the school literary magazine.

Throughout his career, Fitzgerald wrote four complete novels. *This Side of Paradise* (1920) marked the beginning of Fitzgerald's career as a novelist and was built

largely around experiences and observations made when he was at Princeton. He also wrote *The Beautiful and the Damned* (1922), a book first serialized in Metropolitan Magazine. *The Great Gatsby* (1925), was the novel for which Fitzgerald became most well-known and it met only limited success upon its publication.

Fitzgerald worked on his fourth novel, *Tender Is the Night* (1934), sporadically for almost ten years after the publication of *The Great Gatsby*. Despite favorable reviews, the novel sold even more poorly than *The Great Gatsby*. At the time of his death in 1940, Fitzgerald was working on *The Last Tycoon* (1941), a novel based upon his experiences in Hollywood. Half the novel was completed at the time of his death.

At the time of his death in 1940, Fitzgerald had slipped into relative obscurity. His personal life was chaotic and his literary reputation fragile. Not one of his books remained in print and every indication suggested he was on his way into obscurity. However, after World War II, interest in his work began to grow. By the 1960s, he had risen from the dustbin to secure a place among the great twentieth-century American authors. Professionally, his works provide a valuable voice for exploring themes of ambition, justice, equity, and the American dream, themes that are still current, affording him with a well-deserved place in American literary history. The next list is a selection of works by F. Scott Fitzgerald:

Novels: *This Side of Paradise* (1920), *The Beautiful and Damned* (1922), *The Great Gatsby* (1925), *Tender is the Night* (1934), and *The Last Tycoon* (1941)

Short stories: *Flappers and Philosophers* (1920), *Tales of the Jazz Age* (1922), *All the Sad Young Men* (1926), *Taps at Reveille* (1935), *The Pat Hobby Stories* (1962), and *The Basil and Josephine Stories* (1973).

The *Great Gatsby* is considered Fitzgerald's finest work, with its beautiful lyricism, pitch-perfect portrayal of the Jazz Age, and searching critiques of materialism, love, and the American Dream. He wrote the book in Valescure, France and it was published in 1925.

The *Great Gatsby* is narrated by Nick Carraway, a Midwesterner who moves into the town of West Egg on Long Island, next door to a mansion owned by the wealthy and mysterious Jay Gatsby. Although the novel was well-received when it was published, it was not until the 1950s and '60s, long after Fitzgerald's death, that it achieved its stature as the definitive portrait of the Roaring Twenties, as well as one of the greatest American novels ever written.

The *Great Gatsby* was Fitzgerald's third novel. It took him about two and a half years to write and edit it. Fitzgerald also didn't like the title his publisher wanted to name the novel "Trimalchio" or "Trimalchio in West Egg". The novel was not a commercial success. Fitzgerald hoped it would sell 75,000 copies, but it didn't even sell 20,000 in its initial run. During World War II, the Red Cross started a program to send pocket-sized books to U.S. soldiers stationed abroad, as well as those being held in prison camps. The *Great Gatsby* was one of the books selected and was shipped to thousands of American soldiers during the war.

The story of love and the failure of the American Dream allowed the novel to suddenly become popular, and to get more attention from literary critics. The *Great Gatsby* continued to grow in popularity and was the subject of a lot of literary criticism which was

important because critical attention by professors and graduate students caused *The Great Gatsby* to be placed on more college syllabi. This eventually trickled down to high school classes and caused *Gatsby* to become more and more popular each year. (Edwards, 2018)

## 2.4 Plot

The novel *The Great Gatsby* begins with Nick Carraway, a young man from Minnesota. He moves to New York to learn about the bond business. He rents a house in the West Egg district of Long Island, a wealthy but unfashionable area populated by the new rich. Nick's next-door neighbor in West Egg is a mysterious man, named Jay Gatsby, who lives in a gigantic mansion and throws extravagant parties every Saturday night.

Nick drives out to East Egg one evening for dinner with his cousin, Daisy Buchanan, and her husband, Tom. Daisy and Tom introduce Nick to Jordan Baker, a beautiful, cynical young woman with whom Nick begins a romantic relationship. Nick also learns a bit about Daisy and Tom's marriage. Jordan tells him that Tom has a lover, Myrtle Wilson, who lives in the valley of ashes, a gray industrial dumping ground between West Egg and New York City. At a vulgar, party in the apartment that Tom keeps for the affair, Myrtle begins to taunt Tom about Daisy, and Tom responds by breaking her nose.

As the summer progresses, Nick gets an invitation to one of Gatsby's legendary parties. He encounters Jordan Baker at the party, and they meet Gatsby himself, a surprisingly young man who has a remarkable smile, and calls everyone "old sport". Gatsby asks to speak to Jordan alone, and, through Jordan, Nick later learns more about his mysterious neighbor.

Gatsby tells Jordan that he knew Daisy in Louisville in 1917 and is deeply in love with her. He spends many nights staring at the green light at the end of her dock, across the bay from his mansion. Gatsby's extravagant lifestyle and wild parties are simply an attempt to impress Daisy.

He wants Nick to arrange a reunion between himself and Daisy, but he was afraid that Daisy will refuse to see him if she knows that he still loves her. Nick invites Daisy to have tea at his house, without telling her that Gatsby will also be there. After an initially awkward reunion, Gatsby and Daisy establish their connection. Their love rekindled and they begin an affair.

After a short time, Tom grows increasingly suspicious of his wife's relationship with Gatsby. At a luncheon at the Buchanan's house. Gatsby stares at Daisy with such undisguised passion that Tom realizes Gatsby is in love with her. Though Tom is himself involved in an extramarital affair, he is deeply outraged by the thought that his wife could be unfaithful to him. He forces the group to drive into New York City, where he confronts Gatsby in a suite at the Plaza Hotel. Tom asserts that he and Daisy have a history that Gatsby could never understand, and he announces that Gatsby is a criminal and that his fortune comes from bootlegging alcohol and other illegal activities. Daisy realizes that she also loves Tom. Tom sends Daisy back to East Egg with Gatsby, attempting to prove that Gatsby cannot hurt him.

When Nick, Jordan, and Tom drive through the valley of ashes, however, they discover that Gatsby's car was struck and killed Myrtle, Tom's lover. They rush back to Long Island, where Nick learns from Gatsby that Daisy was driving the car when it stuck Myrtle, but then Gatsby intends to take the blame.

The next day, Tom tells George, that Gatsby was the driver of the car. George, who has leaped to the conclusion that the driver of the car which killed Myrtle must have been her lover, finds Gatsby in the pool at his mansion and shoots him dead. He then fatally shoots himself. At the end of the novel, Nick stages a small funeral for Gatsby, ends his relationship with Jordan, and moves back to the Midwest to escape the disgust he feels for the people surrounding Gatsby's life. (Surakarta, 2018 p. 187)

## **Chapter III**

### **Methodological Framework**

Methodology, according to Dew (2007, p. 433), refers to the principles underlying particular research approaches, as distinct from “methods”, which are ways of collecting data. The methodology determines a method for researchers to produce data for analysis (Carter & Little 2008; Hesse-Biber & Leavy 2011). According to Avis (2003, p. 1003), researchers need to provide their methodological justification by discussing the reason why they select a method in their research. In this chapter, the researcher will explain how the investigation will take place, the research approach that will be used, and how the data will be collected.

#### **3.1 Research Approach**

A research approach is a plan and procedure of collection, analysis, and interpretation of data. It is based on the nature of the research problem being addressed (Chetty, 2016) There are two approaches to collect and analyze information: qualitative and quantitative research.

Quantitative research deals with numbers and statistics. This method of research is expressed in numbers and graphs. It is used to test or confirm theories. Quantitative data can be collected using several methods such as surveys, experimental research, observational research, and content analysis. Surveys are lists of close or multiple-choice questions. Experiments are situations in which variables are controlled to establish cause

and effect relationships. Also, the researcher can observe people in a natural environment where variables cannot be controlled.

On the other hand, qualitative research deals with words and meanings. It is used to understand concepts, thoughts, or experiences. This type of research involves going deep into topics that are not well understood. To collect qualitative data, the researcher can do interviews that involve asking open-ended questions, do a discussion among a group of people to gather different opinions, a deep study about a person, group, event, or organization, or a literary review. (Raimo Streefkerk, 2019). In this psychological analysis of Jay Gatsby in the novel *The Great Gatsby*, the researcher uses the qualitative method which is the one that better adjusts to the type of data and research questions.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The research design is the most important thing in conducting the research. It is the planning of how the researcher gathers the data collected into a certain appropriate literary theory. This design phase of the analysis determines which tools are going to be used and how they will be used. There are various research design types such as: descriptive, experimental, correlational, explanatory, and diagnostic. However, in this analysis, the researcher focuses on the descriptive research design which is the most suitable for the subject matter.

In a descriptive design, the researcher describes the situation or case. It is a theory-based design method created by gathering, analyzing, and presenting collected data. This allows a researcher to provide insights into the why and how of research. Descriptive provides to the reader information about the need for the research.

Besides, descriptive research is unique in the number of variables employed. Like other types of research, descriptive research can include multiple variables for analysis, yet unlike other methods, it requires only one variable.

### **3.3 Information Sources**

According to Sunderland and Lundin “An information source can be characterized as both, an entity an individual selects as a source to search to find information. The interface with which the individual interacts (i.e., analyses and interprets) when seeking certain information.” (Söderlund and Lundin, 2016)

Whether it comes from newspapers, magazines, books, blogs, or websites, it is important to know, distinguish, and select the correct information sources as a part of the investigation process. There are three types of information sources the writer should consider primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. A research paper usually requires a combination of primary and secondary sources.

Primary sources can be defined as firsthand documents with direct evidence of the research topic. The Library of Congress defines primary sources as the raw materials of history—original documents and objects which were created at the time under study. They are different from secondary sources, accounts, or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience. A primary source is often created during the time the events of research occurred, for example, newspapers, articles, and diaries. (Sotheby's Institute of Art New York Library, 2018)

Secondary sources are based, interpret, and analyze the primary sources. Some examples include books, textbooks, and scholarly review articles in which authors interpret

data from another research. Tertiary sources compile, summarize, and synthesize secondary sources. For example textbooks, reference books, encyclopedias, bibliographies, or handbooks. (APUS Librarians, 2019)

In this research, the primary sources are taken from the original book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The secondary sources will be taken from a thesis of a student of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang, and a research paper from a student at Fukuoka Women's University.

### **3.4 Analysis of Categories**

A literary analysis is an opinion-based type of essay that makes a point about a work of literature. Typically, a literary analysis makes a point about a literary work, then supports that point by discussing the work's literature elements like symbols, motifs and ironies, main themes, and implied ideas that are not necessarily apparent within the literature itself. Usually writing a literary analysis involves discussing the story under the lens of the literary elements, writers should not focus on what the story is, but instead, focus on what makes the story work. (English creek, 2016) The category of analysis in this research will be a literary analysis with a psychological approach.

Thanks to literary analysis, it is possible to know what resources the author of work used, with what intention he used them, and what things he considered when developing the work. By analyzing a work, we can better understand everything that is linked to it and take it to a higher level of understanding.

On the other hand, a psychological approach enables the reader to have a better comprehension of human beings' behavior, it includes an investigation of the creative

process of the artist or the analysis of a fictional character using psychological theories. This approach stems from the theories of several figures like Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, such as the Id, Ego and Superego and defense mechanisms.

In this research, the book that will be analyzed is *The Great Gatsby* written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The main goal is to analyze the protagonist, Jay Gatsby, from a psychological point of view to understand his motivations and ways of acting throughout the story.

### 3.5 Data collection Instruments

The main data in this research are taken from the novel *The Great Gatsby*, therefore detailed and careful reading is the most important data collection of techniques. The researcher will collect the data by reading the chapters of the novel several times.

The investigation will count with a series of tables with the explanation of two Sigmund Freud theories of psychoanalysis: Defense Mechanisms, and the theory of Personality. In the first column, the researcher will write an explanation of each theory. Then, on a second column an extract from the book that portrays and reveals important information related to the theories. Finally, in a third column, the researcher will write his analysis and interpretation of the theory based on the extract from the novel.

Below there is an example of the two tables that will be elaborated in this research.

Theory	Fragment	Analysis
Defense Mechanisms		

Theory	Fragment	Analysis
Theory of Personality: Id, Ego, and Superego		

### 3.6 Collection data process and data analysis

The collection of data and data analysis process of this work will follow the next steps. First, the researcher will analyze the theories of psychoanalysis created by Sigmund Freud. These theories will provide techniques to psychoanalyze the main character of the novel, Jay Gatsby.

Second, the researcher will read the novel carefully to understand the story and identify behaviors on the main character that could reflect a psychological problem. After that, the researcher will mark statements or quotes in the novel, that reflect important information that matched the objectives of the study.

Third, the researcher will process and organize the obtained data for analysis. The data will be structured in a series of tables, each table will include the explanation of the psychological theory, an extract from the novel, and the researcher's analysis. Finally, the researcher will report the results obtained from the data analysis. This will be explained in chapter five.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Data Analysis**

Following data collection, it is crucial to analyze the data to reach the objectives of the research. Therefore, the objective of this chapter is to analyze the information collected from the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald with the support of psychoanalysis theories stated by Sigmund Freud. Finally, some of the themes, motifs, and symbols present in the novel will be analyzed as well.

#### **4.1 Approaches to the investigation**

Anyone with a critical eye can analyze a text, however, several literary approaches help the reader focus when analyzing a work. These approaches reveal why a particular work was constructed, and his social and cultural implications.

The book chosen in this analysis is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The researcher will focus on the main character, Jay Gatsby, whose life is driven by his passion and obsession towards Daisy Buchanan. This work aims to understand Jay Gatsby's personality, behaviors, and motivations, and as a result, learn more about human minds.

The character will be analyzed through a psychological approach, founded by the theories and practices of Sigmund Freud. The basis of this approach is the idea of the existence of a human consciousness, desires, and feelings that a person is unaware, but influence his emotions and behavior. Psychological elements will be present in literary works as long as humans are the theme of the texts.

The Great Gatsby is a psychological drama of dysfunctional love. It starts with a young boy with poor beginnings who is in constant pursuit of the American Dream, so he can get love and social standing. Mr. Gatsby lives in a fantasy world that helps him escape from facing his traumas and accept his past. Besides, some of the main characters of the story are involved in romantic and sexual relationships with tragic endings. All the events that happened to Jay Gatsby have a psychological reason. The psychological approach will help the researcher understand how the repression of Gatsby's unhappy life drives his character.

#### **4.2 Theories vs literary work**

In this section, some parts of the literary work *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald will be analyzed and backed with two psychological theories, The Personality Theory, and The Defense Mechanisms Theory.

The Freudian theory of personality states that the psyche is structured into three parts, the id, ego, and superego. According to Freud, the id is the primitive and instinctual part of the mind, the super-ego operates as a moral conscience, and the ego is the realistic part that mediated between desires of the id and the superego. While these three levels are interdependent, each level also serves a purpose in personality development. McLeod (2019). In the following chart, the three stages of Jay Gatsby's personality will be explained.

Table 1 Theory of personality.

Theory of Personality	Fragment	Analysis
<p>Id: Impulses to obtain the gratification of instinctual needs, being the source of all aggression desires, lawlessness, and self-destructive.</p>	<p>“Gatsby bought that house so that Daisy would be just across the bay.”</p> <p>“He had waited five years and bought a mansion where he dispensed starlight to casual moths so that he could ‘come over’ some afternoon to a stranger’s garden.”</p> <p>“He wants her to see his house,” she explained.</p> <p>“And your house is right next door.” Chapter 4, page 84</p> <p>“he let her believe that he was a person from much</p>	<p>Jay Gatsby is driven by his for Daisy on the id level. He believed that becoming a wealthy man will get him everything he wanted.</p> <p>He bought his house just across Daisy’s and throw extravagant parties to call her attention.</p> <p>When Jay met Daisy he was attracted to her because he was beautiful and wealthy, but he was still a poor man. He knew she will never love him, so his id told him to chase her. To do so, he lied and make her believed he was wealthy. In the end, it didn’t work since he had to go to war, and as a</p>

	<p>the same strata as herself’</p> <p>Chapter 8, page 95</p>	<p>consequence, Daisy married someone else.</p> <p>All of Gatsby’s desires are below the level of consciousness. He was driven by his id at a higher level drowning his ego.</p>
<p>Ego: Realistic part that mediated between desires of the id and the superego.</p>	<p>“I think he half expected her to wander into one of his parties, some night,’ went on Jordan, ‘but she never did. Then he began asking people casually if they knew her, and I was the first one he found.”</p> <p>“I want to see her right next door”</p> <p>“She’s not to know about it. Gatsby doesn’t want her to know. You’re just supposed</p>	<p>On the ego level, Jay Gatsby developed a plan to get Daisy back. That is when he discovers Nick, his neighbor is Daisy’s cousin, so he asks him to arrange a surprise reunion. He was hoping their relationship bloomed once more to fulfill his id.</p> <p>Then, he developed a higher desire of wanting Daisy to leave Tom Buchanan, her husband, and scape with him.</p>

	<p>to invite her to tea.”</p> <p>Chapter 4, page 79</p> <p>“he wanted nothing less of Daisy that she should go to Tom and say: I never loved you” Chapter 6, page 109.</p>	
<p>Super-ego: moral conscience.</p>	<p>“I wouldn’t ask too much of her,” I ventured. “You can’t repeat the past”</p> <p>Chapter 6, page 110</p> <p>“I have an idea that Gatsby himself didn’t believe it would come, and perhaps she no longer cared.”</p> <p>Chapter 8, page 161</p>	<p>Nick Carraway plays an important role since he acts as Gatsby’s super-ego. He warned him and advised him that he cannot repeat the past, that he should move on.</p> <p>At the end of the novel, Gatsby's super-ego overpowered his id when he heads for the pool of his home despite having been desperately expecting a phone call from Daisy. Nick Carraway believed that he no longer cared and</p>

		believed Daisy would never call.
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Sigmund Freud states several Ego-defense mechanisms in his written works. His daughter, Anna Freud, developed these ideas and add ten of her own. This theory states that there are psychological strategies unconsciously used to protect a person from anxiety, feelings, or guilt. These mechanisms help ward off unpleasant feelings or make good things feel better. Ego-defense mechanisms are natural and normal, but when they get out of proportion neuroses to develop, such as anxiety states, phobias, obsessions, or hysteria. McLeod (2019). The following chart will explain how Jay Gatsby protected himself from feelings by using Ego-defense mechanisms.

Table 2 Defense Mechanisms

<b>Defense Mechanisms</b>	<b>Fragment</b>	<b>Analysis</b>
<b>Theory</b>		
Repression: Keep information out of conscious awareness. Ensures that what is unacceptable to the conscious mind, and would	“James Gatz—that was really, or at least legally, his name. He had changed it at the age of seventeen and at the specific moment that witnessed the beginning of his career when he saw Dan	James Gatsby grew on a poor home; his parents were farmers and he never accepted that.  He saw the opportunity to get out of poverty, so he left his home and changed his

<p>if recalled arouse anxiety, is prevented from entering it.</p>	<p>Cody’s yacht drop anchor over the most insidious flat on Lake Superior.”</p> <p>“I suppose he’d had the name ready for a long time, even then. His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people—his imagination had never really accepted them as his parents at all.”</p> <p>“So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen-year-old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception, he was faithful to the end.”</p> <p>Chapter 6, page 98</p>	<p>name from James Gatz to Jay Gatsby.</p> <p>He repressed those sad memories of his past life to create a new and wealthy one.</p>
<p>Denial: Refusing to recognize or acknowledge</p>	<p>"Your wife doesn't love you," said Gatsby, "She's never loved you. She loves</p>	<p>Jay Gatsby denied the fact Daysi left him because she</p>

<p>real facts or experiences that would lead to anxiety</p>	<p>me" "You must be crazy!" exclaimed Tom automatically. "She never loved you, do you hear?" he cried. "She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me. It was terrible, but in her hearts, she loved anyone except me!" Chapter 7, page 130</p> <p>"Gatsby. Somebody told me"- The two girls and Jordan learned together confidentially. "Somebody told me they thought killed a man once". Chapter 3, page 44</p> <p>"I don't think so much that." Argued Lucille skeptically; "it's more that he was a German spy</p>	<p>felt in love with someone else.</p> <p>He strongly believed Daisy loved no one but him. He is convinced that Daisy never loved Tom, he uses that to tried to get her back, although he fails at the end of the novel.</p> <p>Jay Gatsby was denying his past life and his real identity. No one at the parties knew who he was. There were a lot of speculations about his life, most of them were negative.</p>
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	during the war.” Chapter 3, page 44	
<p>Reaction formation: Emotions and impulses are anxiety-producing or perceived to be unacceptable are mastered by exaggeration of the directly opposing tendency.</p>	<p>“I was brought up in America but educated at Oxford because all my ancestors have been educated there for many years. It is a family tradition.”</p> <p>“My family all died and I came into a good deal of money.” Chapter 4, page 65</p>	<p>Jay Gatsby exaggerated the story of how he became a millionaire to hide the illegal business he was running.</p> <p>He lied by telling Nick his family was rich and after all of them died, he inherited all the money.</p>
<p>Fantasy: A way of escaping reality and take actions to improve reality. It is the canalizations of impossible wishes into the imagination. The person escapes from problems and from the reality that does not satisfies and refuges on the mind.</p>	<p>“I wouldn’t ask too much of her,” I ventured. “You can’t repeat the past.” “Can’t repeat the past?” he cried incredulously. “Why of course you can” Chapter 6, page 110</p>	<p>Jay Gatsby lived in a fantasy world, believing Daysi genuinely loved him and believed she would leave Tom to be with him. He always tried to change his reality and repeat the past where Daisy was in love with him.</p>

<p>Undoing: Trying to alter the past. Trying to change Attempting to “undo” to protect the ego from feelings of guilt.</p>	<p>“I’m going to fix everything just the way it was before,” he said, nodding determinedly. “She’ll see.”</p> <p>“He talked a lot about the past and I gathered that he wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy. His life had been confused and disordered since then, but if he could once return to a certain starting place and go over it all slowly, he could find out what that thing was....” Chapter 6, page 110</p>	<p>Jay Gatsby always tried to change his past. He never accepted the fact he left Daisy to go to war, and when he returned, she was married to someone else. He could not accept that Daisy didn’t wait for him.</p> <p>His only goal was to change the past, to undo his error, and get back Daisy's love.</p>
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### 4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

In literature, a theme is a central topic of a book. This central topic is revealed through plot events, the actions and dialogue of the characters, and even the narrator's tone. Books can have more than one major theme. The theme of a literary work gives readers a better understanding of the main character's conflicts, experiences, discoveries, and emotions. Through themes, the writer tries to give his readers an insight into how the world works, or how he or she views human life.

Table 3 Themes.

Theme	Explanation
The American Dream	The mayor's representation is Mr. Gatsby, he is a man of humble origins who made his fortune; however, Gatsby's life is miserable. We can also see how Myrtle has a love affair with Tom so she can get out of poverty and achieved her American Dream. However, the author portrayed the American Dream as something hard to achieve, something that could never make you happy, and in some cases something unachievable. Also, he shows the reader how the American dream can never make anyone happy because the person will always just want more. The novel shows that to be happy people cannot have boundless goals, but instead need to learn to appreciate the present, rather than obsess with the future.

Society and Class	<p>There are clear differences between the lifestyles of the wealthy people like Tom, Days and Mr. Gatsby, and the working class who live in Queen or as Nicknamed, The valley of Ashes. The Social status is an important element in the novel that in many cases determined if you could achieve your goals or not.</p>
Money and Materialism	<p>Everyone in the novel is obsessed with money. Some people inherited the money like Tom and Daysi, and others like Mr. Gatsby made their fortune. On the other hand, there's George and Myrtle who eager for more, and despite all the work and effort seem to be stuck in poverty. Gatsby was born on a humble home, but he never accepted that. He left his home and worked hard to become a wealthy man. He though his wealthiness and extravagant parties would impress Daysi and help him get back her love.</p>
Love and desire	<p>Most of the characters in the novel are driven by love and desire. Mr. Gatsby fell in love with Daysi when he was a young military, Daisy promised to wait for him after the war, but instead, she married Tom Buchanan, unfortunately, they end on an unhappy marriage. Mr. Gatsby dedicates his life on getting Daysi back, but she is not truly in love with him, he had an obsessive desire to relive the love they had on the past.</p>

As explained in chapter II, a motif is a literary device that assists the reader in finding and understanding the theme. Motifs are recurring ideas and structures that contribute to the overall theme of the novel. To identify a motif, the reader must pay attention to events, the narration, character interactions, or descriptions that are similar and are repeated often.

Table 4 Motifs.

<b>Motif</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Weather	Weather plays an important role in the novel since it is had a direct correlation with mood and atmosphere. The first time Mr. Gatsby and Daisy meet after five years, Gatsby was extremely anxious and nervous, and there was a terrible storm on West Egg. Then, the hottest day of the year, Gatsby confronts Tom by telling Daysi never loved him. This is the same day Myrtle gets killed by Daysi.
Love affairs	Love affairs are present in the novel several times. First, Tom had an affair with Myrtle, his friend's wife. Myrtle is a scape for Tom from his relationship with Daysi, and Tom is Myrtle's ticket to leave The Valley of Ashes and to achieve the American Dream. Second, the affair of Daysi with Mr. Gatsby, for Daysi it was a way to receive the love and affection Tom never gave her, and for Gatsby, it represented the idea of his American Dream. This shows how the characters of the novel are not happy with their lives, even if they have a lot of money, they are not satisfied and try to search for a scape from their lives.

Parties	Parties are important and repetitive elements in the novel, at the beginning of the novel we can see how Mr. Gatsby throws extravagant parties with food, music, dancing, and a large number of guests. Most of the guests were not even invited and did not know who Gatsby was, they showed up only to prove their social status. This is the element Mr. Gatsby used to call Daysi's attention. He was hoping she came to one of his parties and get impressed by all the things he had achieved.
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Symbols are literary devices used to help associate and connect things with ideas or concepts. Usually, they represent an idea with a physical object that communicates more meaning than the idea itself. The author gives symbolic meaning to the objects that are different from their literal sense. Symbolism can take different forms. Generally, it is an object representing another, to give an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant. Sometimes, however, an action, an event, or a word spoken by someone may have a symbolic value. Symbols add color, depth, and realism to the story. (Wulick, 2019)

Table 4 Symbols.

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
The Eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg	This painting on an old advertising billboard over the valley of ashes represents the eyes of God who have the power to see and judge everything. The morning following the death of his wife, George Wilson sees the eyes and announces that "God sees

	everything" claiming for justice. Besides, they symbolize the loss of spiritual values in America.
The Valley of Ashes	This place represents the corruption and social decay that came with the lavish and careless lifestyles of the rich during the 1920s. Those who live in the valley of ashes are stuck in poverty, the valley is a place of hopelessness and loss. The author criticizes the American Dream through this symbol. The valley of Ashes represents the difference between the rich and the poor, and the hypocrisy of the American Dream.
The Greenlight on Daysi's dock	The green light represents the hopes and dreams of Mr. Gatsby. Since it was situated on Daisy's dock, he associates it with her and the desire of getting back her love which is his final goal.

## **Chapter V**

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In this chapter the results of the investigation will be explained, the researcher will show how the objectives were resolved, the contributions to the investigation field, and the gaps that could be later filled and resolved by another researcher.

#### **5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion**

The conclusion is the final part of any investigation. This is an important part where the author makes judgments regarding his hypothesis, refutes, or verifies it based on a synthesis of the results obtained. The conclusions should reflect the scope and limitations of the study, the recommendations that may be useful to the research problem, as well as the consequences and determinations that may contribute to knowledge development.

Besides, this part is intended to demonstrate why the investigation should matter to the reader and the importance of the researcher's ideas. Also, conclusions can serve as a basis for continuing research, creating new ideas to resolve an issue, or offering new approaches to a topic.

#### **5.2 Conclusions**

In the following part, the researcher will explain how the specific objectives were resolved during the investigation, and the conclusions obtained after the collection of data, and the analysis.

### **5.2.1 To interpret the theory of the Id, Ego, and Superego for the understanding of the way these forces affect Jay Gatsby's behavior.**

The second objective was achieved by psychoanalyzing Jay Gatsby's behavior throughout the novel *The Great Gatsby*. As explained in chapter IV, the theory of Id, Ego, and Superego states that the human psyche is divided into three forces: Id, Ego, and Superego. These forces shape a human's personality and behavior.

Thanks to this research, the researcher could find that at the level of Id, Jay Gatsby developed a desire towards Daisy Buchanan. To fulfill that desire, his ego developed a plan to relive and restore all his memories with Daisy. Nick Carraway, his friend, and the narrator of the novel acted as his super-ego, by warning and advising him that he could not change the past and should move on.

### **5.2.2 To analyze the defense mechanisms of Jay Gatsby for the understanding of his way of protecting himself from feelings.**

The second objective was achieved by analyzing certain behaviors of Jay Gatsby that could represent an Ego defense mechanism. As explained in chapter II and IV, this theory states that there are psychological strategies unconsciously used to protect a person from anxiety, feelings, or guilt.

Jay Gatsby created several defense mechanisms to protect his pride and ego. First, he repressed his childhood and original identity, by creating a new one, so he could be socially accepted. Second, he experienced a trauma when he could not keep Daisy in his life, that is why he denied the fact she left him and married someone else to protect himself from feelings. Third, he seems to be unconscious about the changes in his life, so he tries to live

in his fantasy world like a kind of escapism. He lived alone in his mansion away from people and real situations that could make him feel emptiness. He is just there to live near the woman he loves, Daysi Buchanan. Finally, Jay Gatsby tried to undo all his errors, so he could change the past and relive all the memories that made him feel happy like the time when he won Daysi's heart.

### **5.2.3 To analyze the personality and motivations of Jay Gatsby through Sigmund Freud's theory of personality.**

After analyzing the personality structure of Jay Gatsby in table No.1, and his ego defense mechanisms in table No 2, several aspects of his personality and life were found

First, we can conclude that Mr. Gatsby never accepted the world where he was born when he decided to leave his parents and start a new life. His failures originate from the lack of moral guidance from his parents.

Second, Jay Gatsby followed a dream that ultimately became a nightmare. He experienced several traumatic events in the past and that trauma kept him trapped in a fantasy world forever. He lost his objectivity when it was related to Daysi Buchanan, that's why some of his decisions might not seem rational. He believed Daisy loved him and that she never loved Tom. His dream was unattainable because it didn't exist.

Third, Mr. Gatsby tried to fit in among the wealthy, high-profile people who visit his mansion, however, like most introverted personalities, he preferred to stay quietly in the background of his parties.

Finally, Mr. Gatsby can be described as a materialistic person. He seems to measure his life by his possessions. He views his wealth and possessions as a necessary step toward his larger goals.

### 5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

**What are the motivations, defense mechanisms, and personality characteristics of the main character in the novel *The Great Gatsby*?**

After analyzing the characteristics of Jay Gatsby's personality, through the personality theory by Sigmund Freud, it was found that his id, ego, and superego manifest themselves as regards his goal and desire to get back Daisy and ascend to a higher class. The id ruled over the superego so that his strong desire could be fulfilled.

The superego manifests itself at the end of the novel when Gatsby heads for the pool despite having been desperately expecting a phone call from Daisy. This example helped the researcher find out he accepted that the pursuit of his dream was out of his hands. Thus, the id no longer manifests itself, and the ego finally manages to balance the id against the superego. Sadly, the fatal end shows how the ego manifests itself too late in the story.

On the other hand, Jay Gatsby developed several ego defense mechanisms to protect himself from his traumas. To do so, he repressed all the sad memories from his past life to create a new one. Moreover, he denied the fact Daisy left him because she felt in love with someone else. Also, he denied his origins by lying Nick Carraway about how he became a millionaire.

The aggressive nature of Gatsby's pursuit of Daisy ultimately ruins his relationship with her. He lived in a fantasy world, believing Daisy genuinely loved him and believing she would accept she never loved her husband Tom Buchanan. He always tried to change his reality and repeat the past where Daisy was in love with him.

## 5.4 Recommendations

After concluding the research and analysis, it is important to give recommendations for future researchers. This part will include suggestions about how the work can be improved and the areas that deserve further investigation. The researcher provides the following recommendations based on the study findings:

1. It is crucial to take adequate time to think and state the objectives of the research since they will guide the whole work. The researcher should have the objectives in mind during the whole process and never change them once it was started.
2. It is necessary to be familiarized with the literary work that will be analyzed. To do this, it is important to take the time to read the work several times and pay attention to detail to collect information that will help the research development.
3. Before starting the research, the investigator can create a calendar or schedule with all the steps, activities, and goals necessary to finish the research. This will help to manage the time effectively and complete the work faster.
4. To make a deep investigation of the author's background can reveal important information about the work that will be analyzed. Most of the time a literary work is a reflection of the author's life.
5. Studying the context in which the author wrote the book can help determine the goal of the author when writing the work. Investigate about the time, location, and political system.

6. The novel *The Great Gatsby* is full of different characters with different lifestyles and stories. Most of them carried different traumas, psychological disorders, and defense mechanisms that can be very interesting to analyze.
7. There might be many literary themes found in the novel *The Great Gatsby*, however, this novel provides a wider vision of the American Dream that can be deeply analyzed in a further investigation.

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## **Tribunal Examinador**

Esta Tesina fue aprobada por el Tribunal Examinador de las Carreras de Inglés de la Universidad Internacional de las Américas, como requisito para optar por el grado de Bachiller en Inglés.

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Lic. Rigoberto Gutiérrez Albenda  
Tutor

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MSc. Catalina Guerrero Troyo  
Lectora

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Lic. Leslie Elizondo Mora  
Director de las Carreras de Inglés

## Carta del Director de Carrera

San José, 27 de agosto de 2020

Señores  
Universidad Internacional de las Américas  
Estimados señores:

El suscrito Lic. Leslie Elizondo Mora, Director de las Carreras de Inglés, hace constar que ha revisado la Tesina del estudiante, Allison Mariana Calderón Díaz, portador(a) de la cédula de identidad no. 1-1670-0318, que ha titulado: *Literary Analysis of Jay Gatsby in The Great Gatsby through the Psychological Approach*.

La mencionada Tesina, responde a los requisitos exigidos en la Guía que nuestra carrera tiene para estos casos. Por tanto, se autoriza al autor para que lo presente ante el tribunal examinador nombrado para esta ocasión.

Atentamente,

Lic. Leslie Elizondo Mora  
Director de las Carreras de Inglés

## Carta del Lector

San José, 27 de agosto de 2020

Licenciado  
Leslie Elizondo Mora  
Director de las Carreras de Inglés  
Universidad Internacional de las Américas

Estimado señor:

La estudiante Allison Mariana Calderón Díaz portadora de la cédula de identidad no. 1-1670-0318, ha presentado para su lectura y corrección de estilo la tesina denominada *Literary Analysis of Jay Gatsby in The Great Gatsby through the Psychological Approach*. He revisado y corregido la coherencia de los objetivos con el marco teórico, instrumentos y resultados, la calidad del trabajo y la relevancia del trabajo. Por lo tanto, hago constar que este se encuentra listo para ser presentado a la Universidad como trabajo de graduación.

Atentamente,

.....  
MSc. Catalina Guerrero Troyo  
Lectora de Tesis

## Carta del Revisor

San José, 27 de agosto de 2020

Licenciado  
Leslie Elizondo Mora  
Director de las Carreras de Inglés  
Universidad Internacional de las Américas

Estimado señor:

La estudiante Allison Mariana Calderón Díaz, portadora de la cédula de identidad no. 1-1670-0318, ha presentado para la respectiva revisión la tesina denominada Literary Analysis of Jay Gatsby in The Great Gatsby through the Psychological Approach. Por lo tanto, se hace constar que el documento fue revisado en lo relativo a la estructura gramatical, ortografía, puntuación, cohesión y terminología. Asimismo, se comprobó que las correcciones sugeridas se incorporaran al documento. Por ende, una vez incorporadas las recomendaciones efectuadas en el documento, el mismo se considera listo para su presentación la Universidad como trabajo de graduación.

Atentamente,

.....  
MSc. Dinier Amador Serrano  
3-0248-0199



## Universidad Internacional de las Américas Código de Ética

La suscrita Allison Mariana Calderón Díaz, número de carné: 1-1670-0318 graduada del grado de Bachillerato en Inglés de la Universidad Internacional de las Américas, se compromete a cumplir, durante el ejercicio profesional, con el Código de Ética de la Institución, que se rige por los siguientes principios:

**PROBIDAD:** actuar siempre con rectitud y honradez.

**PRUDENCIA:** actuar con pleno conocimiento de la materia sometida a su consideración.

**JUSTICIA:** permanente disposición hacia las funciones de la profesión, bajo los lineamientos legales que debe respetar todo profesional.

**RESPONSABILIDAD:** cumplir con los deberes, tanto en calidad como en oportunidad.

**DISCRECIÓN:** guardar respeto sobre los hechos o informaciones de los que tenga conocimiento con motivo del ejercicio profesional, sin que esto perjudique las funciones y responsabilidades.

**INDEPENDENCIA DE CRITERIO:** no involucrarse o comprometerse con situaciones, intereses o actividades contrarias a la moral, a la sana crítica y que, por ley, sean incompatibles con las funciones profesionales correspondientes.

**DIGNIDAD Y DECORO:** actuar con sobriedad y moderación.

**TOLERANCIA:** evidenciar una actitud paciente y de comprensión ante las opiniones divergentes que puedan expresar otras personas.

**EQUILIBRIO:** desempeñar las funciones profesionales con sentido práctico, buen juicio y equidad.

**ACTUALIZACIÓN:** comprometer parte del tiempo en actualizar los conocimientos y adaptarlos en el desarrollo de la actividad profesional.

**VOCACIÓN:** mostrar siempre apego al trabajo y a la educación recibida, como fundamentos para el desempeño laboral.

**BUENA FE:** toda conducta o comportamiento, criterio emitido y labor desempeñada debe basarse en los más altos principios éticos y tendrá como fundamento la buena fe.

**Allison Mariana Calderón Díaz**

**1-1670-0318**