

The main character's social stratification changes depicted in *The Great Gatsby* novel during the roaring twenties

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the changes of the main character's social stratification in The Great Gatsby during the roaring twenties. It focuses on how Gatsby's social class changes from lower class to working class, then lower middle class, and finally to lower-upper class. In addition, it also analyzes how Gatsby tries to improve his power and status during that era. This study uses qualitative descriptive methods with primary data from The Great Gatsby novel, supported by sociological theories from Max Weber related to social stratification. The data was collected by reading the novel and identifying relevant data related to the problem formulations. The results show that although Gatsby achieves wealth and changes his social class, he fails to gain power and status in the upper class because his wealth is earned through illegal activities, especially bootlegging. This research reveals that social mobility in the roaring twenties was influenced not only by wealth but also by background, reputation, and legality. The study offers insight into class, power and status portrayed in the novel during the roaring twenties.

Keywords: Max Weber; roaring twenties; social stratification; The Great Gatsby

INTRODUCTION

A literary work is a story from the author's imagination about an event that occurred in real or imaginary life, which contains elements related to life that can attract the reader's attention and encourage the reader to imagine the work. Literary works are expressions of a person's feelings and thoughts that originate from experience, the imagination of the mind, which is assisted by language as a medium, which is depicted in the form of aesthetic writing (Esten, 1978, p.9) Esten argues that literary works are the expression of artistic and imaginative facts as a manifestation of human life and society in general, through language as a medium and have a positive effect on human life. Literary works can also function as a medium for understanding the culture of a nation (Luxemburg in Sangidu 2004, p. 41). It means that literary works can be used to understand a culture because literary works describe people's lives related to situations and events.

Literary works have two elements, intrinsic and extrinsic as units that are interconnected and form a unity of meaning (Stanton in Wicaksono 2017.p 90-91). The analysis of the work of art implies the study of its intrinsic elements: its form, structure, and meaning, as embodied in its narrative, characters, setting, and style (Wellek and Warren 1949.p 139).The extrinsic approach deals with the relationship of literature to other spheres such as biography, psychology, society, and history, considering factors outside the work itself (Wellek and Warren 1949.p 73).

A novel is a literary work that depicts a fictional story in the form of writing or words, complete with intrinsic and extrinsic elements. With its long content, the novel takes time to read thoroughly and cannot be finished in one sitting. Known types of novels include romance, classic stories, comedy, tragedy and horror, each of which has its own characteristics. One example of a novel that raises the theme of romance and has relevance to the social reality of American society is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This novel was first published on April 10, 1925, and is set in New York

City and Long Island in the summer of 1922. The story tells of the romance between a young man named Gatsby, who comes from a lower class, and a woman named Daisy, who comes from the upper class. However, even though Gatsby loves Daisy sincerely, Daisy chooses to marry a man from the same upper class. *The Great Gatsby*, published in 1925, depicts American society during the roaring twenties. As a representation of post-World War I in America, this work depicts the typical social, economic, and cultural life of the time. The historical setting of the novel depicts the transition of American society from a post-war atmosphere to a period of economic development.

The Roaring Twenties was a period when the United States experienced significant economic development, accompanied by social and cultural change after World War I. "The 1920s... marked a cultural revolution fueled by Prohibition, the automobile, and the movies, challenging traditional values amid unprecedented prosperity. Flappers danced the Charleston in speakeasies, jazz echoed from Harlem, and Hollywood's silver screen projected images of liberated women and urban excitement that scandalized the bluenoses" (Doherty, 2007, p. 23-24). The Roaring Twenties showed rapid economic progress and showed significant inequality in American society, both in terms of wealth, class and other social factors. Significant wealth is concentrated in the hands of a small number of wealthy people, while the majority of Americans live in poverty or in lower classes burdened by debt and rising costs of living. Social stratification in the 1920s saw a large wealth gap between the upper and lower class. The gap between the rich and poor was getting bigger and it was hard to move up social class unless you were extremely lucky or dealt in illegal business, in the end the rich kept getting richer and poor kept becoming poorer (Busyeiri and Dinanti, 2021, p. 48).

Social stratification has been viewed by Weber in three dimensions: class, status, and power (parties) (Weber in Gerth and Mills 1946 p 181). Class (Wealth) is the total value of an individual or family, including income, stocks, bonds, real estate, and other assets; power is the ability to influence others to do your bidding, even if they do not want to; and Status (prestige) refers to the status and esteem people hold in the eyes of others (Max Weber in E.Barkan, 2021, p. 211).

This novel depicts the struggle of the lower class to reach the upper class in the roaring twenties. The main character Gatsby, who is originally in the lower class, then rises to the upper class and with his wealth tries to have his social status accepted and recognized by the upper class, because he obtained his wealth through criminal by selling and smuggling alcohol, which during the roaring twenties was prohibited, Gatsby ultimately failed to gain status recognition from the upper class.

Over the decades, sociologists have outlined as many as six or seven social classes based on such things as, once again, education, occupation, and income, but also on lifestyle, the schools people's children attend, a family's reputation in the community, how "old" or "new" people's wealth is, and so forth (Coleman and Rainwater in Barkan, 2021, p. 219). Steven E. Barkan stated that there are several classes in social stratification: upper class, middle class, working class and lower class (E.Barkan, 2021, p. 211).

Upper-Upper Class

Members of the upper-upper class have "old" money that has been in their families for generations; some boast of their ancestors coming over on the Mayflower. They belong to exclusive clubs and live in exclusive neighbourhoods; have their names in the Social Register; send their children to expensive private schools; serve on the boards of museums, corporations, and major charities; and exert much influence on the political process and other areas of life from behind the scenes (E.Barkan, 2021, p. 219).

Lower-Upper Class

Members of the lower-upper class have "new" money acquired through hard work, lucky investments, and/or athletic prowess. In many ways their lives are similar to those of their old-money counterparts, but they do not enjoy the prestige that old money brings (E.Barkan, 2021, p. 219).

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Upper-Middle Class

People in the upper-middle class typically have college and, very often, graduate or professional degrees; live in the suburbs or in fairly expensive urban areas; and are bankers, lawyers, engineers, corporate managers, and financial advisers, among other occupations (E.Barkan,2021,p. 220).

Lower - Middle Class

People in the lower-middle class typically work in white-collar jobs as nurses, teachers, and the like. Many have college degrees, usually from the less prestigious colleges, but many also have 2-year degrees or only a high school degree (E.Barkan,2021,p. 220).

Working Class

They generally work in blue-collar jobs such as factory work, construction, restaurant serving, and less skilled clerical positions. People in the working class typically do not have 4-year college degrees, and some do not have high school degrees. Although most are not living in official poverty, their financial situations are very uncomfortable (E.Barkan,2021,p. 221)

Lower Class

Many poor people lack high school degrees, and many are unemployed or employed only part time in semi skilled or unskilled jobs. When they do work, they work in such jobs as janitors, house cleaners,migrant laborers, and shoe shiners (E.Barkan,2021,p. 221)

The Roaring Twenties

The Roaring Twenties also known as The Jazz Age, was the time between the end of World War I and the start of the Great Depression in 1929, and is regarded as one of the most remarkable times in American history. "The 1920s... marked a cultural revolution fueled by Prohibition, the automobile, and the movies, challenging traditional values amid unprecedented prosperity. Flappers danced the Charleston in speakeasies, jazz echoed from Harlem, and Hollywood's silver screen projected images of liberated women and urban excitement that scandalized the bluenoses" (Doherty, 2007, p. 23-24).

The story of alcohol prohibition campaign, which reached its peak during the roaring twenties or early 1920s, is inseparable from the massive cultural shifts that reshaped American society at that time. The Prohibition story is inseparable from the cultural revolutions of the 1920s, where young Americans rejected old morals through excessive drinking in speakeasies. This Jazz Age (roaring twenties) excess among the youth directly propelled the Eighteenth Amendment, banning alcohol's production, sale, and transport from 1920 to 1933. (Behr,1996,p.23). The Eighteen Amendment to the constitution prohibited the production, importation,transportation, or sale of alcohol in the United States,the exceptions to this law included hard cider for personal consumption, alcohol for religious ceremonies, and alcohol used as a medicine (White,2014,p. 5).

During the prohibition era, alcoholism was still a significant concern even though the sale and manufacture of alcohol were prohibited. Throughout prohibition, alcohol was still available from a variety of sources. It was smuggled into the country. It was illegally brewed and distilled without proper authorization. Industrial alcohol was "washed" and redistributed to the illicit alcoholic beverage market (White,2014,p. 5). The failure of Prohibition in the United States in the 1920s stemmed from several key factors. The primary factor was the rise of illegal bootlegging and underground bars (speakeasies) that made alcohol easily accessible, leading to increased public demand and fueling binge drinking in these hidden places. Furthermore, inadequate oversight and unregulated production led to substandard liquor, which resulted in serious health problems and deaths.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative method where analysis is focusing on the discovery of the content, meaning, structure and discourse of a text. Qualitative research is a type of educational research in which the researcher relies on the views of participants, asks broad, general

questions, collects data consisting largely of words (or images) from a small number of individuals or sites, and conducts the inquiry in a subjective, biased manner" (Creswell, 2009, p. 173). In this study, qualitative methods were used to analyze *The Great Gatsby* novel to describe the changes of the main character social stratification during roaring twenties

Data in this study is categorized into primary and secondary data. Primary data refers to the main information providing first hand sources related to the object of the study. The primary data in this study are naration, dialogues, and monolog in the novel *The Great Gatsby*, which the researcher uses to search for information regarding the social stratification of American society during the roaring twenties. Secondary data sources are used to provide materials such as theories related to the problem and any information that is relevant to be attached to this final project. The secondary data in this paper includes a range of scholarly writing related to the social stratification during roaring twenties articles, journals, books, book reviews, previous studies and textbooks related to the study.

The first step, researcher reading the novel as the primary source. Reading the primary source requires the researcher to read the novel several times. Identifying the characters, understanding the theme, conflict, and plot. The following step was identifying the data. The data were found after reading a novel. The data collection process were carried out with a focus on monologues, dialogues and narratives that are relevant according to the chosen topic. After the identification stage, the selected data were thoroughly grouped based on the related study. The final stage of the data collection method was data reduction. The data that had been collected is carefully examined, and then some of it was excluded or selected based on its relevance and effectiveness in supporting and addressing the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Jay Gatsby when He was in Lower Class

This novel reflects Jay Gatsby's early life in *The Great Gatsby*, where he comes from a lower-class background. Beginning as James Gatz, the son of a poor farmer, Gatsby reflects the struggles of the poor people with their low education and unstable employment. Gatsby managed to escape this poverty through illegal means, but his transformation from lower-class to lower-upper-class (new money) demonstrates how difficult it was for the poor people to rise his class during the roaring twenties.

"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 careerI 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 " (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 75-76)

It is told that Gatsby's real name is James Gatz. Since he was 17, he decided to change his name to Jay Gatsby, he felt that his parents were poor farmers who were depicted as unsuccessful. He rejected his past and background, because they did not match the big dreams he had in his mind. This quote illustrates how poor people often not only live in economic limitations, but also feel trapped in a social system that limits their dreams. Based on Brakan (221) Many poor people lack high school degrees, and many are unemployed or employed only part time in semi skilled or unskilled jobs.. Gatsby comes from that world, but he tries to fight back, Gatsby realized that if he remained James Gatz, the son of a poor farmer, he would never have the chance to live like the upper class he dreamed of.

"An instinct toward his future glory had led him, some months before, to the small Lutheran college of St. Olaf in southern Minnesota. He stayed there two weeks, dismayed at its ferocious indifference to the drums of his destiny, to destiny itself, and despising the janitor's work with which he was to pay his way through." (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 76)

Gatsby tried to pursue his dreams by entering a small Lutheran college of St. Olaf. He had high hopes for his future, but the reality was not as bright as he had imagined. The college did not support his ambitions, and he had to work as a janitor to pay for college. Based on Barkan Many people from the lower class did not graduate from school, or if they did, they had to work in semi skilled or unskilled jobs such as janitors or laborers in order to survive (Barkan 211). Gatsby felt that the job as janitor was too low for him and did not match his big dreams, a real-life example of the lower class who can only work in semi skilled and unskilled jobs, so he chose to drop out after only two weeks. Gatsby's experience reflects the difficulties of poor people in accessing higher education.

Jay Gatsby when He was in Working Class

In *The Great Gatsby*, the working class is represented by Gatsby's early life when he worked on Dan Cody's yacht. Gatsby, who does not have a college degree, can steal cody's heart and employ him. This job was common for working-class people, a less skilled job, which helped Gatsby gain insight into upper class society.

"He was employed in a vague personal capacity — while he remained with Cody he was in turn steward, mate, skipper,secretary, and even jailor, for Dan Cody sober knew what lavish doings Dan Cody drunk might soon be about, and he provided for such contingencies by reposing more and more trust in Gatsby " (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 77)

Based on Barkan (221) working class people often work in blue collar jobs, such as restaurant serving and less skilled clerical positions jobs that do not require a college degree. We see that Gatsby worked for Dan Cody in various roles without a definite title, a ship's steward, mate, skipper, secretary and even a jailor. In general, the steward's job includes serving guests in the restaurant, cleaning the public areas, and also helping in the kitchen. Gatsby's job with Dan Cody placed him in the working

class base on barkan theory, because Gatsby work in blue collar jobs and less skilled clerical position such as steward

Jay Gatsby when He was in Lower-Middle Class

Although Gatsby is not explicitly mentioned as having formal higher education, Gatsby actually had a high school degree because Gatsby had attended the small Luthern College of st. Olaf, even though it was only for two weeks. His role and position as a military officer can be compared to white-collar work such as teacher and nurse, because he occupies a leadership position, his work is not entirely manual (not blue-collar like a laborer). There is an organizational structure and official recognition that makes him move up in social class from his previous position that put him in the lower-middle class, higher than working class but not yet upper-middle class.

" I accepted a commission as first lieutenant when it began. In the Argonne Forest I took two machine-gun detachments so far forward that there was a half mile gap on either side of us where the infantry couldn't advance..... I was promoted to be a major, and ever y Allied government gave me a decoration —!" (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 51-52)

In this quote, Gatsby recounts his experiences during the war, where he became a military officer,he received a commission as a first lieutenant, led troops in battle, and was eventually promoted to major. In addition, he received various awards from the allied countries, indicating official recognition of his contributions to the war, the ranks and decorations he obtained are symbols of vertical social mobility that Gatsby achive.

Based on Barkan (220), the lower-middle class group usually consists of white-collar workers such as teachers, nurses, who generally have degrees from regular colleges or high schools. Gatsby actually had a high school degree and his role and position as a military officer can be compared to white-collar work such as teacher and nurse, because he occupies a leadership position, his work is not entirely manual or not blue-collar job. This quote reflects Gatsby's transition from the working class to the lower-middle class, where he begins to gain social status and public recognition, although he has not yet achieved the wealth.

Jay Gatsby when He was in Lower-Upper Class

Gatsby live like old money families owning big houses and throwing parties,but do not get the same respect because his new money not inherited. Gatsby is a perfect example of this class. He made his wealth on his own, but old-money people still do not fully accept him.

"I lived at West Egg, the — well, the less fashionable of the two, though this is a most superficial tag to express the bizarre and not a little sinister contrast between them.... the one on my right was a colossal affair by any standard — it was a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy, with a tower on one side, spanking new under a thin beard of raw ivy, and a marble swimming pool, and more than forty acres of lawn and garden. it was Gatsby's mansion. (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 7)

Based on Barkan (219), lower-upper class in many ways their lives are similar to those of their old- money counterparts, but they do not enjoy the prestige that old money brings. Gatsby lifestyel in west egg similar to the upper-upper class (old money), a part of Long Island known as the home of the "new money." Gatsby's house is described as being very luxurious, resembling a European historic building, with a marble swimming pool, and surrounded by acres of gardens. All of these luxuries indicate that Gatsby has achieved lower-upper class, even though his house is located in an area considered "less prestigious" than East Egg, where the old money people live. members of the lower-upper class are those who have acquired their wealth through hard work,not because of family inheritance. Although they live similar to the upper-upper class (old money), they do not enjoy the same social status.

"There was music from my neighbor's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. At high tide in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft, or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motor-boats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam. On week-ends his Rolls-Royce became an omnibus, bearing parties to and from the city between nine in the morning and long past midnight, while his station wagon scampered like a brisk yellow bug to meet all trains. ". (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 32)

Gatsby's extravagant and party-filled lifestyle, which is typical of people with upper class, those who have gained great wealth. The description of Gatsby's parties,uninvited guests who come and go, luxury cars that operate like public transportation, and eight servants who work to clean up the party, reinforces the image of Gatsby as someone who is trying to show off his new social class through grandeur and large parties. Based on Barkan (219) lower-upper class their lives similar the lifestyle of old money, but have not yet gained the same recognition and social status that upper-upper class bring. Gatsby has everything similar with upper-upper class, wealth, a mansion, luxury cars, and glamorous parties,but remains outside the social status he truly desires. All the properties and symbols of luxury that Gatsby shows off reflect the characteristics of the lower-upper class who try to imitate and compete with the old money lifestyle, but Gatsby have not yet fully gained prestige or status from the upper-upper class or old money.

Gatsby Powers in The Great Gatsby Novel

Gatsby did not have the power to control or influence Daisy's feelings or choice. Even though he loved her a lot and worked hard to win her back, he could not make her love him back or decide to be with him. His wealth could attract people, but his wealth could not change Daisy's heart or force her to choose him.

"He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: "I never loved you." After she had obliterated four years with that sentence they could decide upon the more practical measures to be taken. One of them was that, after she was free, they were to go back to Louisville and be married from her house — just as if it were five years ago." (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 84)

According to Weber in Barkan (211),Power is the ability to influence others to do your bidding, even if they do not want to. In this quote Gatsby is trying to use his power to rewrite the past. He wants to influence Daisy's decisions, asking her to erase four years of her life and marriage to Tom, and go back to the past as if nothing had ever happened. This reflects his ambition to impose his will on Daisy, even when it conflicts with her current reality and desires. Gatsby believes that with his wealth, he can repossess Daisy, and influence her decisions and her life.

"I want to speak to Daisy alone," he insisted. "She's all excited now ——" "Even alone I can't say I never loved Tom," she admitted in a pitiful voice. "It wouldn't be true." "Of course it wouldn't," agreed Tom..... Tom opened his eyes wide and laughed. He could afford to control himself now....."She's not leaving me!" Tom's words suddenly leaned down over Gatsby. "Certainly not for a common swindler who'd have to steal the ring he put on her finger." (Fitzgerald, 1925,p. 102)

Gatsby begs Daisy to admit that she never loved Tom, hoping that by doing so they can erase the past and be together again as they were five years ago. In the previous quote, Daisy was influence by Gatsby to say that she did not love Tom, but in this quote Daisy said even when they are alone, Daisy still cannot say this convincingly. This shows that Gatsby does not have complete power over Daisy. In contrast, Tom calmly and confidently maintains his power. He corners Gatsby by calling him a "common swindler," which Tom uses to demean Gatsby to mean a common or low-class criminal who relies on deceit to make money. Tom uses this term not only to attack Gatsby's power, but also to emphasize that Gatsby's wealth does not come from a legitimate or legal source such as a family inheritance (as Tom's) but from illegal activities, most likely through bootlegging. By calling Gatsby a "common swindler," Tom humiliates Gatsby in front of Daisy. He seems to be saying that

even though Gatsby is now rich, he will never be on par with the upper-upper class (old money) like himself. This strengthens Tom's power and lowers Gatsby's position in the power structure, reminding Daisy of Gatsby's dishonorable origins. Tom has the greater power, he manages to bend the situation to his will and influence Daisy to stay by his side. Meanwhile, Gatsby fails to use his power to influence Daisy's mind to follow his desire.

Gatsby Status in The Great Gatsby Novel

Gatsby seemed successful and wealthy, but he was seen as new money, not accepted by the old money. They saw Gatsby as an outsider and did not respect him because of his background and how he made money through illegal means.

"Self-control!" Repeated Tom incredulously. **"I suppose the latest thing is to sit back and let Mr. Nobody from Nowhere make love to your wife.** Well, if that's the idea you can count me out... . Nowadays people begin by sneering at family life and family institutions, and next they'll throw everything overboard and have intermarriage between black and white." (Fitzgerald, 1925, p. 100)

Tom insults Gatsby by calling him "Mr. Nobody from Nowhere." This sentence shows that Tom feels that he is superior because he comes from a wealthy and respected family. He looks down on Gatsby who comes from a lower class and is trying to climb the social status. Based on Weber in Barkan (211), Status means the respect and position people hold in the eyes of others. Status is not just about wealth, but also about how people are viewed and respected by society. Tom has high status because he comes from an old family that has been rich for a long time (old money), while Gatsby is just a new money person whose wealth is still considered "unworthy" by the upper-upper class like Tom. So, even though Gatsby has money, he is still considered low because he does not come from a "respectable" environment.

"A little before three the Lutheran minister arrived from Flushing, and I began to look involuntarily out the windows for other cars. So did Gatsby's father. And as the time passed and the servants came in and stood waiting in the hall, his eyes began to blink anxiously, and he spoke of the rain in a worried, uncertain way. **The minister glanced several times at his watch, so I took him aside and asked him to wait for half an hour. But it wasn't any use. Nobody came".** (Fitzgerald, 1925, p. 133)

This quote describes the atmosphere of Gatsby's funeral which was lonely and sad. Although Gatsby often held big parties and was surrounded by many people during his life, when he died, none of them came to honor him. Only his father and Nick were present, while the priest even had to wait because they hoped that someone else would come, but in the end, no one came. This quote shows that even though Gatsby had great wealth, he did not have a social status in the eyes of society. People came to his parties not because they respected him or considered him part of the upper class, but just to have fun. When he died, there was no appreciation left. This emphasizes that status is not only determined by wealth, but also by social recognition and respect in the eyes of others, something that Gatsby failed to obtain, despite his best efforts.

The way of the main character's in The Great Gatsby novel improve his social class during the roaring twenties in America

During the roaring twenties the demand for alcohol remained high, which opened up opportunities for the illegal trade of alcohol, known as bootlegging. In this excerpt from the novel *The Great Gatsby*, Gatsby became wealthy through illegal means moved from the lower class to lower-upper class. However, because he acquired his wealth through bootlegging, he was still not accepted by the upper-upper class or old money. This shows that in American society at that time, social mobility was determined not only by wealth, but also by the origin and method of obtaining that wealth.

"On Sunday morning while church bells rang in the villages along shore, the world and its mistress returned to Gatsby's house and twinkled hilariously on his lawn. **"He's a bootlegger," said the young ladies,** moving somewhere between his cocktails and his flowers. ". (Fitzgerald, 1925, p. 48)

Based on White (5), The Eighteenth Amendment to the constitution prohibited the production, importation, transportation, or sale of alcohol in the United States. The sentence: "He's a bootlegger," said the young ladies. Shows how the surrounding community suspected that Gatsby's wealth came from an illegal sale of alcohol. During the prohibition era in America, bootlegging or illegal alcohol trade became a fast way to get rich. Gatsby's involvement in bootlegging reflects how many people are looking for quick riches to get in to the upper class. This placed Gatsby in a lower-upper class position he was rich, but did not have the social status of old money brings. Gatsby's wealth was suspected and not respected, instead becoming the subject of gossip and rumors.

"I found out what your 'drug-stores' were." He turned to us and spoke rapidly. **"He and this Wolfsheim bought up a lot of side-street drug-stores here and in Chicago and sold grain alcohol over the counter.** That's one of his little stunts. **I picked him for a bootlegger the first time I saw him, and I wasn't far wrong."** (Fitzgerald, 1925, p. 103)

This quote supports the claim that Jay Gatsby was involved in bootlegging during the Prohibition Era. Based on White (5), The Eighteenth Amendment to the constitution prohibited the production, importation, transportation, or sale of alcohol in the United States. The character of Mr. Wolfsheim, mentioned here, was one of Gatsby's business partners in this illegal activity. In this case, the discovery of the "drug-stores" that were used to sell bootlegging alcohol, reveals the dark side of Gatsby's efforts to achieve the wealth (class) and social status he desired. Gatsby and Wolfsheim bought drugstores in different places, even in Chicago, to secretly sell alcohol. Because alcohol was illegal during prohibition, they used the drugstores to hide their real business. This proves people were right to think Gatsby was a bootlegger, which is how he got rich. It also shows the secret side of Gatsby's money and how hard he worked to reach his dream and be accepted by upper class.

Gatsby's involvement in this illegal activity explains why he remains an outsider to the old money. Despite his wealth (class), the means he uses to attain higher social class are still looked down upon by these groups. Tom Buchanan, for example, immediately judges Gatsby to be a bootlegger when he first meets him, indicating how the old money is very skeptical of the new money whose wealth does not come from legitimate sources. Gatsby, despite wanting to be accepted into the upper class and achieve a higher social status, must face the reality that he cannot gain acceptance from the old money.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research discussed in chapter four, there are two conclusions that the researcher can provide. First, it describes the social mobility of the main character. Gatsby started life from the lower class, to the working class, then rose to the lower middle class, finally reaching the lower upper class. However, despite his success in changing social classes, Gatsby still failed to achieve the power and social status obtained by the upper upper class (old money). This shows that in that period, social stratification was influenced by historical factors, where new money did not automatically grant full access to power and social status. Factors of family origin, reputation, and how to acquire wealth were the main keys to social acceptance, and Gatsby, who came from a poor background with suspicious sources of wealth, faced barriers from the upper-upper class (old money), so he failed to change his power and social status.

Second, Gatsby's efforts to improve his social class are driven by a strong desire to be part of the upper class, which can bring him closer to Daisy, the upper-upper class representation he dreams of. However, his way of acquiring wealth through illegal businesses such as bootlegging during the Prohibition era in the roaring twenties not only accelerates his wealth but also creates a negative stigma in society. To obtain social status does not only depend on the amount of wealth (class), but also on how the source of wealth is obtained. By illegal means, Gatsby received criticism and

discrimination from the old money, so that his wealth and luxury did not give him the power and social status that Gatsby dreamed of.

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