

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE THEME OF FITZGERALD'S NOVEL
THE GREAT GATSBY**

THESIS



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TGL. TERIMA	3. T. 95
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No. EUKU	FK-ig VIT a-
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**UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN
JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI
PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS
June, 1995**

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OF FITZGERALD'S NOVEL THE GREAT GATSEY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all the writer would like to thank the Almighty God for helping her in making everything possible under His Holy providence.

She also would like to express her deepest gratitude to:

1. Drs. A. Gurito, her first advisor, and Drs. Romo Anton Kedang, SVD, her second advisor, who have devoted their valuable time, guidance, advice, and support to her in finishing this thesis.
2. All the lecturers of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University who have helped her during her study.
3. Her beloved parents, brothers and sisters for their prayer, love and support to her in finishing her study.
4. All other persons who have also helped her in finishing this thesis, but cannot be mentioned here.

The Writer

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ABSTRACT

By studying literature, students would not only improve their vocabulary building, but also learn ways of life and value. Novel with its length is one of the literary genres that expresses human life in a certain wide range. It expands in space as well as in time; therefore, novel is decidedly not meant to be read at a single sitting.

In order to have a good understanding of a novel and to be aware of what the writing is about, one should achieve the meaning or the idea of the story. Based on the reason, the writer conducts the study on Fitzgerald's novel in terms of the theme.

The writer chooses Fitzgerald's novel The Great Gatsby with the consideration that it is interesting to recognize the time of Fitzgerald when people of America were searching for their idealism and dream. It was in the decade of 20's on which values of society in the West, particularly in America were changing. The Great Gatsby, one of Fitzgerald's best novels depicts that picture clearly enough.

The methodology of this study uses analytical method and the thematic literary approach. The analytical method is a technique to analyze a work by tearing it into pieces, that is to discuss the story through its elements : characters, plot, setting, and point of view. The thematic literary approach is a technique to define some common approaches by which the author conveys his ideas through the narrator's direct statement or the characters' dramatic statements. Finally, the work itself together with the literary elements add up to the story's idea.

Having analyzed the story's elements with all its factors, the writer comes to the theme that outward appearance affects people so much that they would use any ways to achieve their ideals. The characters of the story believe that materialism can fulfil their ideals. Being attracted to the beauty of the appearance and then, motivated to achieve what they see or dream, they adopt materialism as the means. However, the reality shows that the materialism results nothing but corrupted society.