

**THE FLAPPERS IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD *TENDER IS THE NIGHT***



**A Thesis**

*Submitted to Faculty of Cultural Science, Hasanuddin University in Partial  
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Study Program*

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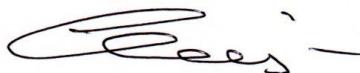
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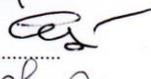
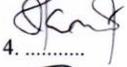
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Makassar, 7 Januari 2021

Yang menyatakan,



(Mardi Handayani)

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, all suggestion and critics will be most welcome to make this thesis better. The writer hopes that this thesis is helpful for all readers who are interested in analyzing the similiar topic.

Makassar, 30 November 2020

The Writer

## ABSTRAK

**MARDI HANDAYANI. Flappers pada karya F. Scott Fitzgerald *Tender is the Night* (dibimbing oleh M. Amir P dan Rezky Ramadhani)**

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah (1) untuk mengidentifikasi karakter wanita yang mewakili “flappers” dalam *Tender is the Night*, dan (2) untuk menjelaskan tentang bagaimana flappers di abad ke-20 dan *American new-woman* sebelum flappers

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis meneliti dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif, yaitu menggambarkan objek penelitian melalui fakta-fakta sosial. Penulis menggunakan teori sosiologi serta mengkaitkannya dengan feminisme dalam menganalisis novel *Tender is the Night*. Pada penelitian ini, aspek yang dijelaskan adalah beberapa tokoh wanita yang merujuk kepada wanita flappers dan seperti apa flappers pada tahun 1920.

Melalui penelitian ini, penulis menemukan bahwa wanita flappers adalah wanita yang bergaya; dalam berpakaian, tata rambut, hingga rias wajah, menghabiskan uangnya untuk membeli yang tidak mereka butuhkan, serta tidak merasa cukup dengan satu pasangan. Gambaran mengenai flappers jelas dideskripsikan melalui beberapa karakter wanita dalam *Tender is the Night*.

Kata kunci: flappers, sosiologi, dan feminisme

## ABSTRACT

**MARDI HANDAYANI. The Flappers in F. Scott Fitzgerald *Tender is the Night* (Supervised by M. Amir P and Rezky Ramadhani)**

The purpose of this study are (1) to identify the women characters that represented “flappers” in *Tender is the Night*, and (2) to explain about how flappers in 20th century and American new-woman looks like before flappers.

In this study, the writer observes using descriptive methods, which describes the object of research through social facts. The writer uses a sociological theory and relate it with feminism in analyzing the novel *Tender is the Night*. In this study, the aspects described are several women character that refer to flappers and what flappers looks like in 1920.

Through this research, the writer found that women flappers are stylish; in dressing, hairdressing, also make-up. Their consumptive behaviour and not feeling enough with one partner. The picture of flappers is clearly described through several women characters in *Tender is the Night*.

Keywords: flappers, sociology, and feminism

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background of study, reason of choosing the object of research, statement of problems, scope of problems, research questions, and significant of study.

#### **A. Background of study**

In the 1920s, America's past and future split drastically. The nation was socially and emotionally embedded in the nineteenth century before the First World War. However, in the 1920s America seemed to break away from its historical ties to the past moving into a more modern era. Flappers and dance halls, movie palaces and radio empires, prohibition and speakaways are the most vivid memories of this period.

Ruunaniemi (2001: 41) in her *Women in the Fiction of F.Scott Fitzgerald* stated that young women who had adopted freer behavior than their mothers had been used to and frankly enjoyed doing anything their elders disapproved of were called flappers. Arguably, the flappers of the 1920s were kind of the beginning of changes in women's lives. The classic image of a flapper is that of a stylish young party girl. They smoked in public, drank alcohol, danced at jazz clubs, and practiced a sexual freedom that shocked the Victorian morality of their parents.

Boyer (1993) stated that the most enduring twenties' stereotype is that of the flapper – the sophisticated, fashionable, pleasure – mad woman. The term flapper apparently originated from a drawing by magazine illustrator John Held Jr. depicting a young

woman dressed in the latest fashion but with her rubber boots left open and flapping.

Flappers were highly popular. Feathers worn in their hair often accompanied their shorter dresses. The Charleston was such people's favorite dance. During this period, the dresses of teen girls were shorter and they often wore stockings of different designs. Overall, the 1920s was a perfect era for teens to grow up in, as getting a career was very easy and North America was booming. There are many literatures that described about the condition at that time.

Klarer (2004:1) states that, in most cases, literature is referred to as the totality of written expression, with the limitation that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more accurate sense of the word. It means that not all of document can be called as literature because literature itself has certain specification. There are several different forms of literature, for instance poetry, plays, or novels. They can also be grouped by language, historical period, sources, genre, and subject. One kind of literature is novel. Related to that, Sumardjo (1998: 29) states that novel is a long form of the text. This long shape means the tale includes complicated storyline, lots of characters, and different settings.

In 1920s, F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of authors that illustrated about flappers. One of his works is *Tender is the Night*. The novel tells the story of Fitzgerald's darkest and most autobiographical book, the cracked marriage of Dick Diver and Nicole Warren because of Rosemary Hoyt, a beautiful 18-years old artist. She fell in love with Dick since they first met. She tried to seduce Dick

until he loved her back. Love affair happened between them. As a psychiatrist, Nicole sometimes heard that Dick has love affairs with his patients. She could not handle it anymore. So, she asked Dick to divorce her. At the end, Nicole is remarried with Tommy Barban, and Dick disappeared to America.

As discussed above, flapper era appeared in *Tender is the Night*. This is interesting for writer because there are women characters that represented as flappers in *Tender is the Night*. In this research, the writer is using sociology of literature with feminism theory to see how American new-woman looks like in 20th century. The sociology of literature approach is the way to see literature as the reflection of the social condition in society of the real life. So, the writer will also identify American new-woman before the flappers exist.

## **B. Identification of the Problems**

After reading *Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the writer identified that there are several problems that appear in the novel. The problems are as follows:

1. Women characters that represented flappers' era
2. Mental illness of Nicole Warren, looks like *schizophrenia*
3. Character change of Dick Diver as main character

## **C. Scope of Problem**

Based on identification of the problems, the writer focuses on the women characters that represented flappers era in 20th century in *Tender is the Night*.

Also the writer will describe about flappers and American new-woman in 1920s before flappers exist.

#### **D. Research Questions**

Based on scope of problems above, there are two questions that will be answered by the writer in this thesis. The question are as follows:

1. How are women characters represented in *Tender is the Night*?
2. How does the flappers in *Tender is the Night* reflect American in 20th century?

#### **E. Objective of Study**

The objectives of this study are formulated from the research questions, as follows:

1. To identify the women characters that represented flappers in *Tender is the Night*.
2. To explain about how flappers in 20th century and American new-woman looks like before flappers exist.

#### **F. Significance of Study**

1. The benefits of this research are highly expected to contribute in 20th century in America research area. The writer hopes this research will be helpful as a reference to other student and other writers.

2. As practical purposes, to give more information to everyone who read this thesis and the writer hopes that people will know about American new-woman in 20th century.

### **G. Sequence of Chapter**

In this thesis, there are five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter contains of the background of analysis, identification of problems, scope of problem, statement of problems, objectives of study, significance of the study and sequence of chapter. The second chapter explains the literature review which is consisting of theoretical background, sociology approach, theory of feminism, and about women in America 1920. The next chapter consists of methodology of the study. It contains of research design, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and research procedure. After that chapter IV is central of analysis. It contains the analysis of women in *Tender is the Night* and flappers looks like. Finally chapter V describes the summary of the analysis and suggestion.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with previous study, sociology of literature, explanation of liberal feminism, author biography, and women in America 1920.

#### A. Previous Study

The writer found several previous studies which emerge the topic of *Tender is the Night* itself that can be used as references to support this thesis. First study is written by Lince Paembonan (2001) titled *Hedonism in F. Scott Fitzgerald's Tender is the Night*. The study is focused on hedonists in Europe after World War I. The result of her study is Fitzgerald shows hedonism through many ways like drinking alcohol, using wealth to get what they wants, and having affair. Lince used genetic structuralism approach in her study.

Second reference is written by Veronica Wulan Kristanti (2005) titled *Nicole Warren's Schizophrenia in F. Scott Fitzgerald's Tender is the Night*. The study is focused on the characterizations of Nicole Warren, Nicole Warren's *Schizophrenia*, and the casual factors of Nicole Warren's *Schizophrenia*. The result of her study shows that Nicole is described as an attractive woman. For the people who do not know her well, Nicole is a strong person. While for her close relatives, Nicole is described as weak and needs to be protected. She can be both introvert and extrovert. The casual factors that make her a *schizophrenic* are the psychological factors. Her incest relation with her father in the past and

contradictory messages from her father lead Nicole to be a *schizophrenic*.

Veronica used psychological approach in her study.

Third reference is written by Becky Ann Wagenblast (2015) titled *Gender and Agency in Tender is the Night, Save Me the Waltz, and The Garden of Eden*. The study is about conceptualizing the self as other, outside the normative behaviors and conditions expected of American women of the time, is figured in these stories (as in American culture at large) as mentally unstable or diseased in some way; the characters make poor decisions and commit regrettable actions; they destroy as much as they create. But by courageously giving voice to their own sense of selves in a world which prizes muteness in its women, their attempts at creation and agency are continually inspiring nonetheless. The writer examines their use of language, emotions, and actions reasserts their voices as creators of their own narratives, recentering the texts as important explorations of Modern women.

In the first research, Paembonan examined about hedonism that reflected in the novel. The second research which conducted by Kristanti examined about *Schizophrenia* that happened in Nicole Warren as wife of Dick Diver. The third research aimed to find out the gender and agency in three novels, one of them is Fitzgerald's novel. The similarity of previous studies and this research is taking *Tender is the Night* as primary data. The differences are on issue and approach. In this research, the writer studies about flappers which is portrayed in novel *Tender is the Night*. Also the writer explain how flappers and American new-woman before flappers exist looks like, using Sociology of Literature.

## **B. Sociology of Literature**

The writer used sociology of literature approach because as the definition, sociology focuses on relationship between literary works and social context at that time which the works are created.

Sociology is an attempt to understand the social world by situating social events in their corresponding environment (social structure, culture, history) and trying to understand social phenomena by collecting and analyzing empirical data. This scientific approach is what differentiates sociological knowledge from common sense. According to Swingewood in *The Sociology of Literature* (1972: 11) Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists.

Literature sociology is a specialized field of study that focuses its attention on the relationship between literary work and the social context in which it is created. It demonstrates that there are determined social conditions in the life of a literary style. The sociological analysis of literature is very helpful in understanding the socio-economic, political, the views of the community and the imagination of writers, and the relationship between those thought and cultural structures in which it exists and defines the interaction of literary phenomena and the social framework.

According to Endraswara (2013: 78) the concept of mirrors is an important point in the sociology of literature. In this context, literature is considered to be an imitation of society. Of course, the literature would not simply present the raw facts. Literature is not a copy of reality, but of reality (subtle and esthetic reflection) that has been interpreted. That statement also supported by Hall (1979: 32) that the concept of literature is perfectly viable since it takes into account the writer's active concern to understand his society.

The concept of mirror has also been further developed by Abrams in his book, *The Mirror and the Lamp* stated that literature is mirror of people's lives. Based on that statement, Ian Watt (1964:300-313) in his article namely *Literature and Society* also stated three approaches, there are: (a) the mirror approach, which tries to examine literary works can reflect the state of society at the time when the work was written, (b) author's social context approach, and (c) approach to literary social functions.

From the concept of mirror, sociology of literature researchers is searching for an image of truth at the time the study was published. However, the reflection of reality can be honest and objective, also can reflect the impression of subjective reality. In this case, literary works will provide the ideal reality of the social order of life, and not something entirely abstract. The author's imagination was neatly structured to function on reality as the embodiment of his dreams.

According to definition above, the sociology of literature approach is suitable for this research because the writer will find out the social condition in *Tender is the*

*Night*. With concept of mirror, it will help the writer to find out the flappers that portrayed in novel.

### **C. Liberal Feminism**

The writer used feminism theory because the theory is about women that want to be equal with men in many aspects; political, education, also social status.

Feminism can be interpreted as a social movement to gain gender equality in social, economic and political sectors. It comes from feminist movement in the United States who sees women as inferior to men. Barry (1995:121) states that feminism theory is basically a movement to express the desire of women to be equal with men. Not just about social status, but also about education, express the opinions, and also political rights.

Over the centuries and in many different countries, women have articulated their sex, their complaints, their needs, and their hopes in different ways. The definition is supported by Baumgardner and Richard (2000: 56) that:

“feminism as a movement, meaning a group of working to accomplish the specific goals. Those goals are social and political changes-implying that one must be engaged with the government and laws, as well as with social practices and belief. And the implicit in these goals is access to sufficient information to enable women to make the responsible choices”

Magie Humm in *The Dictionary of Feminist Theory* states that feminism combines both the doctrines of equal rights for women (the coordinated movement to gain women's rights) and the philosophy of social change that seeks to create a society for women beyond mere social equality. (1990: 74)

In Virginia Woolf's book, *Room of One's Own* in 1929 is such an effective and engaging plea for women. She wrote about freedom and room for women, they must have money and make money by themselves with the freedom and room that they have. Not just about women writers, but also flicked her readers about the problems of women in society broadly. She also wrote about women who can produce works by expressing their ideas. In other words, feminism is the philosophy of equality for women. It sees the world from the point of view of women, with a detailed social and human experience. According to definitions above, feminism theory is suitable with this research because flappers reflect to women.

Jaggar (1983) in her book *Feminist Politics and Human Nature, Philosophy and Society* grouped feminist political into four. There are liberal feminism, socialist feminism, marxist feminism, and radical feminism. In this part, the writer will be focusing on liberal feminism.

The liberal feminism movement is the oldest women's movement, since the 19th century. Liberal feminism is a particular approach to achieve equality between men and women that emphasizes the power of an individual person to alter discriminatory practices against women. Liberal feminism is an individualistic type of feminist philosophy, which focuses on the capacity of women, through their own acts and choices, to preserve their equality. Amy R Baehr (2013) in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Archives* stated that liberal feminism conceives of freedom as personal autonomy, living a life of one's own choosing, and political autonomy—being co-author of the conditions under which one lives.

The primary aim of liberal feminism is gender equality in the public domain. Such as equal access to education, equal pay, the end of sexual segregation in jobs, and improved working conditions. From this standpoint, legal changes would make these goals possible.

In legal, political, social, and educational environments, liberal feminism seeks to eradicate discrimination between women and men. The subordination of women is in the liberal opinion triggered by asymmetrical gender socialization patterns and patriarchal laws that exclude women from economic and political life.

In this context, liberal feminism reflected in *Tender is the Night*. Which is that women do what also men do. They want equality in every aspect such as economy, political, also educational. They want to end discrimination against women. Like if men works, women also can work outside to earn money to support the economic needs for them, not stay at home.

#### **D. Women in America 1920**

Before flappers, there was Gibson Girl era. Kate Bulo (2018) in *The Vintage News* stated that one popular illustrator namely Charles Dana Gibson had something else in mind for the public image of the ideal female. Using her respected position in popular American magazines, the talented Gibson illustrated a kinder, gentler “New Woman,” who became known as the “Gibson Girl.”

Bulo illustrated of Gibson Girl were like a member of upper-class society, they were always perfectly dressed in the latest fashionable attire. Their social status allowed them the time to look for personal fulfillment, finding it in the most unusual places for women at that time. The Gibson Girl might be an adventurer

who embraced outdoor physical activities. As well, they took their artistic ambitions by drawing, painting, singing, or playing the violin as a pattern for upper-middle class women. The Gibson Girl wardrobe was full of elegant dresses, shirtwaists, bustle gowns, and floor-length skirts, each worn on the appropriate occasion, at a proper time of the day.

In literature, flappers did not appear out of nowhere, since free-spirited and independent young women had been of interest to earlier American writer as well. Way (1980: 10) stated that Fitzgerald 'wrote about current changes in behaviour, feeling, and moral outlook as if they were accomplished facts.' Those changes, such as liberalization of young's manner, had been going on and were accelerating, something that most members of the older generation had not been aware of until Fitzgerald's novel brought it to public consciousness

Ruunaniemi (2001) stated that a lot of young men did not return home from World War I, which left an entire cohort of women without enough husbands to go around. The war and Spanish flu pandemic also impressed young people with the knowledge that life is short and could end at any moment. Instead of staying home preparing to marry a man who might never come, young women wanted to spend what time they had enjoying all that life had to offer.

Flappers did what was not expected by society. They danced to the music of the Jazz Age, they smoked, they wore makeup, they spoke a language of their own, and they lived for the moment. The lifestyle was followed by flapper fashion. To make dancing easier, skirts have become shorter. In favor of brassieres that bound their breasts to make dancing easier, corsets were discarded. The straight, shapeless dresses were simple to make and the line between the rich and everyone else was blurred. The look, because of the lifestyle, became trendy.

The rise of the car was another factor in the rise of the society of flappers. Cars meant a woman could come and go as she pleased, travel to speakeasys and other entertainment venues, and use the large vehicles of the day for sex.

The flappers end on October 29, 1929 because it was the beginning of the worst economic downturn of industrialized world namely The Great Depression era. Their hedonistic lifestyle cannot afford with that new economic realities.