

**THE AMERICAN MODERN ERA 1920s IN
FITZGERALD'S SELECTED SHORT STORIES**



A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Literature Study Program in Faculty
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Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree in
English Literature*

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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THESIS

THE AMERICAN MODERN ERA 1920s
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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on Friday, 4th August 2023
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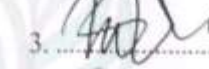



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On August 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **GRACE BINTAN** (F041191004) entitled "*The American Modern Era 1920s in Fitzgerald's Selected Short Stories.*" submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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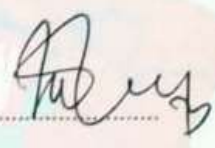
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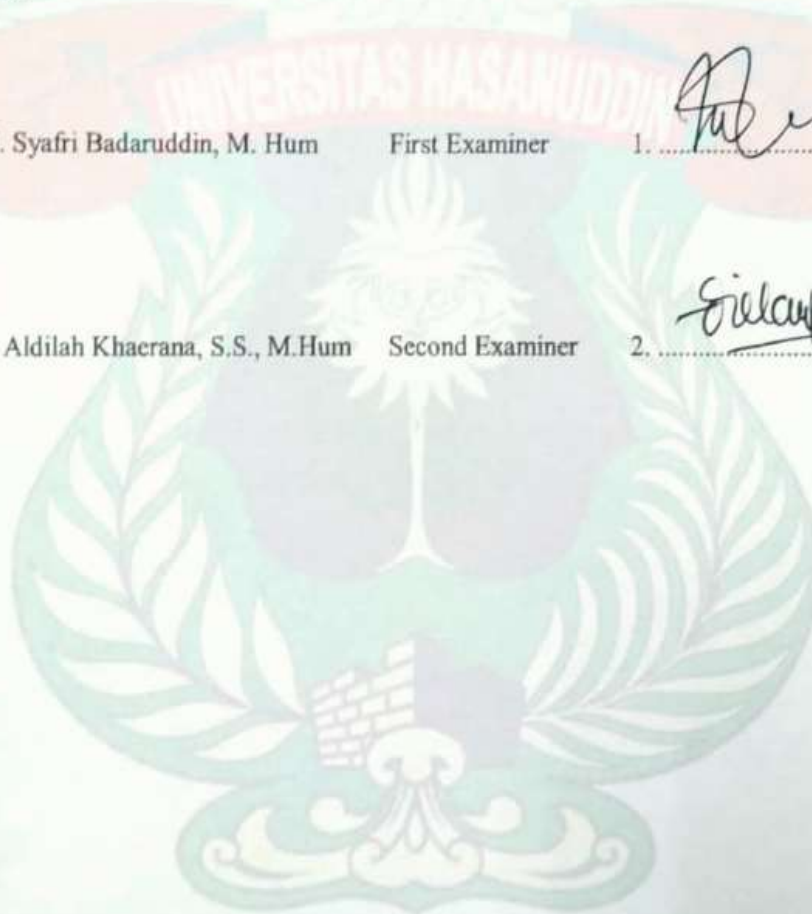
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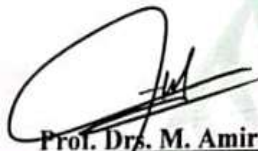
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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas expect the quotations and references.

Makassar, 10th August 2023

The Writer,



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The writer,

Grace Bintan

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ABSTRACT

Grace Bintan. The American Modern Era 1920s in Fitzgerald's Selected Short Stories. (Supervised by M. Amir P. and Abbas).

This study aims to identify the modern conditions of the American era as depicted in the characters in the two short stories *The Jelly Bean* and *The Rich Boy*. The writer identifies some of the effects of the progress of the modern era on the young generation in the 1920s depicted in the two short stories.

In conducting this research, the writer used the genetic structuralism approach by Lucien Goldmann to analyze intrinsic elements, namely character, plot, setting, and theme. In addition, this approach also analyzes extrinsic elements that include the conditions of the modern era that occurred in society, especially the younger generation at that time. The object of this research were the short story *The Jelly Bean* (1922) and *The Rich Boy* (1926) by Francis Scott Fitzgerald. The writer also used qualitative method research that explains the depiction of the modern era at that time.

Based on the research, the results of the research analysis of this thesis show that the characters Jim Powell, Nancy Lamar, Anson Hunter, and Paula Legendre portray themselves as people who live in the Modern Era. Then, the writer discovered American social conditions in the modern era depicted in the short stories *The Jelly-bean* and *The Rich Boy*, namely alcoholism, flappers, and speakeasies. Alcoholism at that current time was rampant even though there was a ban on the circulation of alcohol which was reflected in the characters of Anson and Nancy, who always went to nightclubs to enjoy alcohol until they got drunk. The author also finds the character of Nancy Lamar, the girl in the club, Dolly Karger, who styled and behaved as an illustration of the flapper that emerged due to the granting of rights for women in the 1920s. And the last one is Speakeasies, where nightclubs are used to find pleasure and illegal drinks are represented in both short stories that they often go to nightclubs to have parties and get drunk.

Keywords: *Modern Era, The Jelly-bean, The Rich Boy, Fitzgerald.*

ABSTRAK

Grace Bintan. Modern Era Amerika 1920-an di dalam Cerita Pendek Pilihan Karya Fitzgerald. (Dibimbing oleh M. Amir P. dan Abbas).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kondisi modern era Amerika yang tergambar dalam karakter tokoh-tokoh di dalam kedua cerita pendek *The Jelly Bean* dan *The Rich Boy*. Penulis mengidentifikasi beberapa efek dari kemajuan era modern terhadap generasi muda pada 1920-an yang tergambar pada kedua cerpen tersebut.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, Penulis menggunakan pendekatan Strukturalisme Genetik oleh Lucien Goldmann melalui analisis unsur intrinsik yaitu karakter, plot, setting, dan tema. Selain itu, pendekatan ini juga menganalisis unsur ekstrinsik yang mencakup kondisi era modern yang terjadi dalam masyarakat terutama generasi muda pada saat itu. Objek dari penelitian ini adalah cerita pendek *The Jelly Bean* (1922) dan *The Rich Boy* (1926) karya Francis Scott Fitzgerald. Penulis juga menggunakan penelitian metode kualitatif yang menjelaskan penggambaran Era modern pada saat itu.

Berdasarkan analisis penulis, hasil penelitian analisis dari skripsi ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter Jim Powell, Nancy Lamar, Anson Hunter, dan Paula Legendre yang menggambarkan diri mereka sebagai orang yang hidup di Era Modern. Kemudian, penulis menemukan kondisi sosial Amerika pada era modern yang tergambar pada cerpen *The Jelly-bean* dan *The Rich Boy* yaitu alkoholisme, flappers, dan speakeasies. Alkoholisme pada saat itu sangatlah marak meskipun terdapat pelarangan untuk peredaran alcohol yang tercermin dari karakter Anson dan Nancy yang selalu ke Club malam untuk menikmati alkohol hingga mabuk. Penulis juga menemukan tokoh Nancy Lamar, para perempuan yang terdapat di Club, Dolly Karger yang bergaya dan berperilaku sebagai gambaran dari flapper yang muncul akibat pemberian hak bagi wanita di 1920an. Dan yang terakhir, Speakeasies yang merupakan tempat-tempat clubs malam yang dijadikan tempat untuk menemukan kesenangan dan minuman illegal yang di representasikan dari kedua cerita pendek bahwa mereka sering ke club malam untuk mengadakan pesta dan mabuk-mabukan.

Kata Kunci: *Era Modern, The Jelly-bean, The Rich Boy, Fitzgerald.*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The transition from the traditional state of America to a more advanced and prosperous America is known as the Modern American period. This Era began in the 20th century when the reformers known as America witnessed the rapid convergence of industry, urbanization, and immigration. The First World War, which raged in Europe from 1914 to 1918, sparked the rise of the United States as a significant world power, so America experienced an economic boom from 1920 to 1929. Thus, there came an unprecedented industrial boom during this period. The rapid accumulation of the American people's financial resources accompanied this industry's growth at that current time. The postwar decade was the first time the American people appeared to be in such good financial health. That is what causes this Era to emphasize believing in money and power so that they become hedonistic and no longer believe in values that they consider rigid.

During this modern period, young Americans began to lose their way because they were confronted and blinded by wealth. Besides that, the young Americans who had served in the war were deeply disillusioned because the horrific destruction they had just witnessed made the Victorian social morality of early 20th-century America appear as stuffy, hollow hypocrisy. Allen (1952:133-134) stated that they started to live aggressively to maintain the excitement of the war years because prewar life felt uninteresting. More importantly, this generation

could not heed the moral counsel of parents who had promised them a perfect existence but had instead had them suffer through a war without honor.

Rogers (1925: 172) stated that the true spirit of jazz is an exuberant rebellion against convention, tradition, authority, monotony, and even grief from anything that would shackle the human soul and prevent it from gliding freely through the air. As a result, young Americans no longer believe in conventional beliefs, so they adopt new lifestyles that they like and become hedonistic. The young generation is more driven by popular culture at that time. They are following these current trends: getting drunk (alcoholism), orgies, flashy fashion, taking care of their bodies by visiting salons, driving expensive cars, women wearing short skirts, women with bob hair, women smoking, and also listening to jazz music.

The disenchantment behind the flamboyant lifestyle of the Modern Era is represented in the works of the lost generation, written by several American writers, one of whom is Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald's literary works represent a lot about the life of the Modern Era, such as his two short stories, *The Jelly Bean* (1920) and *The Rich Boy* (1926). *The Jelly Bean* describes the life of the modern Era, which at that time was disillusioned with the rigidity of post-war morality, which made them adopt a new lifestyle as shown in the story, where Jim Powell was born in the beginning into a middle-class family. Still, his father died while involved in a drunken brawl, so his life became difficult. It made him turn from ordinary life to the worse side of social life and gambling. Jim Powell is known to have joined the war, but after it was over, he became jobless and lazy. One day Jim Powell was invited by Clark Darrow to attend a party. At the party, he

immediately falls in love with Nancy Lamar, a beautiful girl who likes to gamble. But at that time, Clark Darrow said that Nancy already had a fiancé and would soon be married. Moments later, Nancy asked Jim Powell to help remove the gum from her shoes. After that, Jim gave Nancy Darrow's bottle of alcohol, and Nancy drank it. Jim Powell also saves Nancy from a gambling debt, and in the drunken stupor, Nancy tells him that she loves Powell. Powell knows that Nancy is only using him. Powell left town to become a gentleman so that Nancy could love him. But while Nancy was drunk, she married her ex-boyfriend. So, this made Powell give up and return to his sinful life.

Also, *The Rich Boy* tells about the modern Era's conditions through the Character Anson Hunter, a wealthy young man in New York who says that life in front of him is straightforward. He joins a club in New York to maintain his life of luxury. While in Florida, he met Paula Legendre, a person from the upper class, and his relationship with Paula was very shallow. Paula and her mother accompanied Anson to the North; when they arrived at the hotel, Anson was found drunk, which made Paula's mother disappointed at Anson's immoral behavior. Worse yet, he did not apologize. Since that day, Anson was also drunk and broke off his engagement with Paula because he thought he had control over Paula, but after that happened, Paula was rumored to be getting married.

Furthermore, the writer chose two short stories, *The Jelly Bean* and *The Rich Boy*, as the research object in this literary work. Fitzgerald tells about the characters' lives involved in alcoholism, speakeasies, and flappers which are synonymous with the young generation in modern America around the 1920s. The

writer chosen this object and topic because of the writer's interest in the changes that occurred in American society around the 1920s which changed due to the progress of the country, many deviations occurred and began to leave their strict lives as in these two stories Alcoholism, flappers, and speakeasies were very rampant in those years. In this research, the writer chose the title *The American Modern Era 1920s in Fitzgerald's selected short stories* using the Genetic Structuralism approach, which discusses the Modern Era in both short stories.

1.2 Identification of Problems

After reading Fitzgerald's short story *The Jelly-Bean* and *The Rich Boy*, the writer found several problems which became to this research, such as:

- a. The life of the American Modern Era.
- b. Reflection on the American Modern Era in selected short stories.
- c. The impact of the American Modern Era on society is presented in selected short stories.
- d. Some of the characters reflected American Modern Era in selected short stories.

1.3 Scope of The Problem

Based on the problems that the writer found above, the writer found that four things could be analyzed further. However, this study limits the discussion only to the second and fourth problems. The problem reflects the American Modern Era that appears in the character of the two short stories the writer has chosen.

1.4 Statement of Problems

From identification of the study above, the writer emphasizes the analysis to answer these questions as follows:

- a. How do the characters' Image of the Modern People of America In *The Jelly Bean* and *The Rich Boy*?
- b. What is the American Modern Era reflected in the selected short stories?

1.5 Objective of The Study

Based on the research question above, the writer conducts this research to the objectives of the study as follows:

- a. To describe the characters' Image of the Modern People of America In *The Jelly-Bean* and *The Rich Boy*.
- b. To explain the American Modern Era reflected in these short stories.

1.6 Sequence of Chapter

This research writing consists of five chapters. The first is an introduction. Chapter One contains an introduction with several parts, such as the background, identification of the study, Scope of the Problems, research questions, study objectives, and study sequence. Chapter two explains the literature review, it contains previous studies, an explanation of the genetic structuralism approach to support this analysis, the intrinsic elements such as character, plot, setting, and theme, and an explanation of the American Modern Era. Chapter three is about the methodology of research. It provides the methodological design, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and research procedure. Then chapter four is the center of the analysis; it contains the finding and the result of this

research related to the short stories *The Jelly-Bean* and *The Rich Boy*. Chapter five is the closing chapter. It provides the conclusion about the research, and the suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Related Studies

This chapter consists of other relevant research related to this analysis. Based on the observation, the writer found several studies related to this research. These are theses, articles, and analyses that discuss genetic structuralism similar to the analyses the writer examines. Those studies are written by Palan (2013) from Hasanuddin University, Atmana & Sumitro (2020) from the University of Airlangga, and Yanti (2021) from Hasanuddin University.

First study is a thesis written by Palan, entitled "*Social Realities of England reflected in Charles Dickens's Oliver Twist*" which analyzes the social condition of the Victorian Era in England reflected in the novel *Oliver Twist* by using the genetic structuralism approach. The writer found the intrinsic elements such as the setting, plot, and character of the novel *Oliver Twist* that influenced the writer to discover the social condition reflected in the novel. Then the writer analyzed and found the situation in the Victorian Era, such as the debtor's prison child labor, the factors not guaranteeing worker insurance and the social status between the lower and higher classes.

The second study is journal written by Atmana and Sumitro, "*Genetic Structuralism Analysis in "Go Set A Watchman" by Harper Lee*". The research aims to conduct a sociological literature analysis of the novel *Go Set a Watchman* using the genetic Structuralism theory. This research attempts to reveal the author's viewpoint by analyzing the novel's literary structure, examining Harper

Lee's social background concerning the work, historical events, and society's current state, and the novel's author's point of view.

The writer found the connections between the problematic characters in *Go Set a Watchman*, which depicts the major problematic character in the novel as morally ambiguous. Harper Lee's social life plays a significant role in the novel, which follows the voyage of a privileged young woman in a degraded society. In addition, Lee's education as a college student and her relocation to New York serve to broaden her perspective beyond Alabama. *Go Set a Watchman* was heavily influenced by the historical events that happened in 1950, mainly *Brown v. Board of Education*. Also, this novel depicted the beginning of the downfall of society, economy, and moral aspects in the societies.

The third study is a thesis written by Yanti, entitled "*The Shock Culture Problems of the main character in Plath the Bell Jar*" analyzes the culture shock of the main character in Plath the Bell Jar, Esther Greenwood, by using genetic structuralism. The writer found the main character experienced culture shock when Esther got the invitation to New York. Esther was uncomfortable in New York because she came from a small town, and life was more glamorous in New York. She was also shocked because Doreen, who is a lesbian and didn't feel comfortable with her.

Based on the previous studies mentioned above, those studies have similarities and differences with the writer's research. The first previous study has a similarity in using genetic structuralism theory, and the difference between this research are the object of research that the first previous study used novel Oliver

Twist by Charles Dickens's, the problems to be research, and the research title. The second previous study is similar to the writer's research in using theory. The differences between the previous research and the writer's research lie on the problems to be researched, title of the research and the object of the second previous research used novel *Go Set A Watchman* by Harper Lee. The third research has a similarity in using theory and the differences between the writer's research are the title of the research "The Shock Culture Problems of the main character in Plath the Bell Jar", the research problems, and the research's object.

Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the American Modern Era In Fitzgerald's Short Stories *The Jelly-Bean* and *The Rich Boy*. Unlike the previous studies above, the researcher focuses on the American modern era's, which are reflected in several characters in Fitzgerald's short stories. The writer showed reflections on fiction in America around the 1920s. Thus, even though previous studies used the same theory, the writer used different objects that proved that this research had not been researched before and had not found anything in previous library research.

2.2 Genetic Structuralism Approach

Genetic structuralism is one of the popular theories used in literary research to analyze literary works such as poetry, novels, dramas and short stories. Lucien Goldmann, a Romanian-French Marxist, philosopher, and sociologist, developed genetic structuralism theory. In 1956, Goldmann published his book in France: *The Hidden God: A Study of Tragic Vision in the Pensées of Pascal and the Tragedies of Racine*, which discussed genetic structuralism. Indonesia began

to apply this theory in the mid-1970s. Genetic structuralism appears to add to the weakness of pure structuralism theory, which only focuses on intrinsic elements without involving extrinsic aspects. Thus, in Pure structuralism, the social context of literary works is neglected. Goldmann (1985:141) stated:

Genetic Structuralism approach is the improvement of the pure structuralism approach. Additionally, it reflects the circumstance and conditions of its environment. The genetic structuralism approach fixes the shortcoming of the pure structuralism approach by utilizing the historic and social background that influences the works.

Genetic structuralism analyzes the meaning of literary works through the structure and origins of the work. Understanding literary works is obtained by analyzing the interrelationships between structures and the literary works themselves when it was produced. Literary works generally result from the author's relationship with his social structure of society. Therefore, the structure of the created literary works is illustrated by the social structure, which involves the writer himself. It is because of the homology between the two structures: literary works and society. Goldmann (1980: 139), believes that homology is between the structure of a literary work and the social structure of society because both of them are the products of the same structural process. The structure of a literary work is homologous to the experiences of certain social groups that appear in their behavior. Then the author's worldview is used as an intermediary for the interconnected two structures. Thus, literary works result from the writer's imaginative work and reflection of the author's worldview.

Apart from the relationship between the two structures, a literary work is a structure that has meaning. In understanding this meaning, it is necessary to

search for historical facts that underlie the literary work's background and the writer's role. Goldman (1981: 66), also added that literature is a structure and the structure is not static. It is the product of a historical process that continues over time, a structured process, and a restructuring process that lives in the society where the literature originates. There are several concepts Goldman initiated to develop his theory, including human facts, collective subject, structuration, and world-view.

Genetic structuralism can be interpreted as a literary analysis from the social aspect which is a derivative of the sociology of literature. Even, this theory still prioritizes structural aspects, both internal and external structures. Therefore, this theory looks at important aspects in analyzing a literary work as intrinsic elements, the background of literary creation, and the social cultural, and historical background in society.

2.2.1 Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements are the building blocks of the short stories. The components consist of theme, character, plot, and setting.

a. Character

The main character or figure in the story is its most crucial component. Character is essential to a story's continuity since a story would not exist without characters. A story's characters may include several emotionally diverse individuals playing distinct roles and are connected to others. But evaluating a character's views or behaviour requires accuracy and is not always straightforward.

According to Abrams (1999:32), a character is a person who appears in a dramatic or narrative work and the reader infers has specific moral, intellectual, and emotional attributes based on what they say and how they say it in the dialogue and what they do in action. Similarly, Luken (2003: 76), describes that character as an expression widely used for the totality of mental, emotional, and social characteristics that characterize a person. Every character formation is always related to attitudes, desires, interests, feelings, and moral principles.

The characters in the story can be divided into several types. Based on the character's role, the character is categorized into two parts, namely the main character and the supporting character. According to Nurgiyantoro (1995:176), the main character is a character who has an important role in a story. This means that the main character is the character told in a story as the center of the story. The main character appears from the beginning to the end of the story, as well as the role that is often shown by other characters. While Minor characters are called supporting characters in a story. The frequency of this character is rare and only appears when he is related to the main character. Besides, the character can be classified into protagonists and antagonists. The protagonist is a character who acts as the main character who has a good character while the role of the antagonist is described as a bad or bad character. The main character is usually the protagonist as the story's central character but does not rule out the antagonist as the main character. The antagonist usually opposes the protagonist (Perrine, 1988: 84-86).

The writer concluded that a character is a character who plays a role in the story. A character is someone in a literary work with some identity. According to kind of the character, the character is divided into two, namely major and minor characters. According to their role, characters are divided into protagonists and antagonists.

b. Plot

The plot is the sequence or series of events that form a story into a unified whole arranged chronologically. Plot is used to organize how the actions in a story relate to one another. Pickering and Hooper (1981:14), said that plot is the sequence of interrelated events and building elements of literary work. In other words, the plot is the sequence or stages the author uses to tell a story and is one of the intrinsic elements of literary works.

Stanton (1965:26) states that the plot in a story affects a specific event with other events. Therefore, the role of an incident cannot be ignored because an event is very influential for the whole story. Like the plot as the framework of the human body, the body cannot stand without a skeleton. Therefore, the plot is essential in the story. The plot occurs because of the actions and reactions between the characters; the event is in the form of utterances, body language or in the form of dialogue. Thus, the plot describes the characters actions, feelings, mindset and attitudes in a story.

The characters also influence the plot. Each character has their personality. If one character meets another character their personalities will match or clash. From this point, the plot either develops smoothly or conflicts arise. Therefore,

the fewer characters in the story, the shorter and simpler the story. On other hand, if there are many characters in the story, then the story will be more complicated and extensive. The plot of the story is divided into three types these are forward, the decline plot, and the blend plot. According to Charters (1987:136-137), plot has five parts these are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

1. Exposition is the initial stage in a story, exposition contains an explanation of the introduction of the characters and the place where the events in a story occur. The character's background is presented in this stage so the reader gains insight into why the main character thinks and behaves in a certain way.
2. Rising action is the stage where the conflict in the story unfolds. At this stage, the conflict develops, and the events are gripping, so tension or crisis is encountered.
3. Climax is the peak of conflict or problem in a story. At this stage, the reader wonders what will happen next in the story.
4. Falling action is a situation where a conflict has reached a climax and gradually begins to subside, or the intensity of the conflict in a story gradually improves.
5. Resolution is the stage that ends the story, which is the end of solving the problem. In solving this problem, there is a happy or even sad ending.

The writer understands that plot emphasizes the problem more on causality and the parts of the fabric of the story or framework from the initial stage to the final stage in a narrative work.

c. Setting

Setting describes places, time, and situation and under what circumstances an event in literature occurred. The setting of a scene in work is the specific physical location in which it takes place. A situation can describe a sequence of details of themes and nuances of an event wrapped in a plot. On the other hand, the setting is generally integrated into other aspects of a story, plot, theme, Character, and philosophical recrimination. According to Gill (1985:117), described the broader domain setting as:

1. The place where the character appears.
2. The location of a particular event.
3. Atmosphere, mood, and feeling created by all the above elements.
4. Beliefs and rules of conduct that represent the identity of a particular society.
5. The social backgrounds of the characters, such as social class, family, and friends in their environment.

Another definition by Abrams in Nurgiyantoro, (2002:216) explains that setting is the story's foundation that expresses the place, time, and the social environment in which events occur.

a) Setting Time

Place setting refers to when an event occurs in a story.

b) Setting Place

Place setting refers to the location that occurs in a story.

c) Setting Society

Social setting refers to issues related to social life behavior at a specific time and place.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes setting of a story is used to define and establish the events such as time, place, and social background. It basically aids in identifying where, when, and under what circumstances the story takes place. The setting is one of those elements which could bring the reader who reads the narrative to feel the atmosphere or the story's situation.

d. Theme

The theme is the main idea in a literary work developed from the whole story, representing the parts of the entire literary work. As stated by Abrams (1988: 25) Theme is a prominent abstract concept that arises from a literary work's treatment of its subject matter, or a subject that reoccurs in multiple literary works. Another opinion by Gill (1985: 195), stated that every fiction or literature has a theme. The theme incorporates concepts and points of view. The theme can be discovered by observing the author, how they convey their interest, treat a common theme, create a moral, and use major speeches and events.

The purpose of the theme to give the story structure and effect in our minds so the reader can easily remember it. A strong theme must encompass the entire literary work. It can occasionally take the form of a fact derived from human experience. The story investigates it and then conveys an impression of every

incident in life. The writer understands that theme is one of the important elements in literary works. Theme contains the main idea and the story's main idea represents the whole story.

2.2.2 Social background of Francis Scott Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald is a writer is known for depicting the Modern Era in the 1920s, especially in his novel *The Great Gatsby*. According to Turnbull (2001:20), Francis Scott Key is an American writer who was born at 424 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota on September 24, 1896.

Fitzgerald dropped out of Princeton University to join the US Army. He became an overnight sensation after the release of his debut novel, *This Side of Paradise* (1920), which was a major success. His third book *The Great Gatsby* was widely acclaimed, but his fourth book *Tender is the Night* published in 1934, was extremely criticized. Battling alcoholism and his wife's mental illness, Fitzgerald attempted to reinvent himself as a screenwriter. He died before completing his last novel, *The Last Tycoon* (1941), but was posthumously acclaimed as one of America's most famous writers.

Fitzgerald had the luck and the misfortune of being a writer who encapsulated a Modern era. He is the son of a failed alcoholic from Maryland and a highly ambitious mother, he grew up acutely aware of his family's wealth, privilege, and exclusion from the social elite. In 1913, after entering Princeton, he made close friends with Edmund Wilson and John Peale Bishop. He spent most of his time writing lyrics for the Triangle Club theatre productions and analyzing how to win over the school's complicated social rituals.

However, he failed at Princeton University and published his first novel *This Side of Paradise* (1920) uses the University as the background of his work. Fitzgerald toasted the literary world and the living legend of the Roaring Twenties during the publication of his widely successful first novel, an era that has been called the most expensive debauchery in history to the point where the mere mention of its name conjures up vivid images of flappers with bobbed hair and colleagues wearing raccoon coats (Howard, 2017:2). Fitzgerald fell into a wild, reckless life of parties and decadence after becoming a celebrity, all while desperately trying to please Zelda by writing to earn money. At that time, America was getting boisterous, the young generation was losing their morals, bathtub gin was becoming widespread illegally. It alludes to homemade booze during a time when liquor was scarce. His stunning southern wife Zelda drank hip flasks, danced until dawn, and jumped into outdoor fountains to end the party. Fitzgerald struggled as a writer to make enough money to match his lavish lifestyle and still produce phoneme work. His second novel, *The Beautiful and the Damned* (1922), tells the story of an artist who lost the battle against extravagance and had many flaws.

Then, *The Great Gatsby* (1925), the story of a gangster's pursuit of an unattainable rich girl, is close to a masterpiece. The Fitzgerald family's rise to literary fame was soon tinged with tragedy. Fitzgerald became an alcoholic, and Zelda jealous of his fame, fell into madness. The novel he had been struggling with for years, *Tender Is the Night* is about a psychiatrist destroyed by his wealthy wife, was published in 1934 but did not sell as well as his other novels. Its demise

led him to turn to Hollywood. He made a living as a scriptwriter and struggled to control his alcoholism.

Despite his turbulent life experiences and a life full of the unexpected, Francis Scott Fitzgerald rose and became one of the greatest writers ever in English literature because of his unique style and techniques that interested people in his writing. He redefined and laid the foundation for a new type of writing. Most of his writings reflect his real-life encounters and experiences. He presents them with a symbolic quality that makes them fun and accurate. Fitzgerald was the most famous chronicler of 1920s America, an era that he dubbed “the Jazz Age”, during which the American economy soared, bringing unprecedented levels of prosperity to the nation. Prohibition, the ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol mandated by the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1919), made millionaires out of bootleggers, and an underground culture of revelry sprang up. Sprawling private parties managed to elude police notice, and “speakeasies” secret clubs that sold liquor, thrived. The chaos and violence of World War I left America in a state of shock, and the generation that fought the war turned to wild and extravagant living to compensate. The staid conservatism and timeworn values of the previous decade were turned on their ears, as money, opulence, and exuberance became the order of the day. Fitzgerald portrays the 1920s as an era of decayed social and moral values, evidenced in its overarching cynicism, greed, and empty pursuit of pleasure. The reckless jubilation that led to decadent parties and wild jazz music epitomized in his stories by the opulent parties. By understanding his social background of Fitzgerald, the writer concludes that this

social background of the author is relatable in his Short Stories *The Jelly Bean* and *The Rich Boy*.

2.2.3 Modern Period America

The American modern Era is a decade of prosperity and chaotic life as alcoholism, bootleggers, gangsters, flappers, and jazz music are ingrained in the American soul. This Era was marked by cultural conflicts that existed in the 1920s, such as modern urban culture (cosmopolitan) against more traditional rural culture. This Era saw the great struggle between old and new America. According to Dumenil (1995: 7), a key image of this era was living a fast life, propelled by riches and rapidly changing social values. Evolution, alcoholism, race, immigration, gender politics, and sexual morality colored the culture wars during the 1920s.

The most apparent social changes in the 1920s were consumer-oriented economic changes and mass entertainment, which prompted changes in morals and manners. Flapper is applied to a young woman with a short skirt and bob hair who drinks, smokes, and says nasty things. Alcoholism, gambling, and debauchery also colored America at that time. This change is seen as a liberation from America's Victorian past. But for some Americans, these changes turned America unwanted, resulting in a cultural civil war.

Cultural differences in urban and rural life also characterize the Modern Era. A more modern cultural change is a bright future for people in cities like New York or Chicago. Meanwhile, America's rural heritage protects its future from

urban existence and moral decay. Based on the 1920 population census, the American census recorded as many as 30 million people living in urban areas.

a. Alcoholism

In the 1920s, many young generations were consuming alcohol excessively. Therefore, from 1920 to 1933, the government banned the production, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages in the United States, a period known as prohibition. This was established by the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution and was implemented by the Volstead Act. However, despite the ban, alcohol continued to be produced and consumed illegally, leading to the rise of organized crime and bootlegging.

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, 2014:5). The failure of prohibition in America during the 1920s was due to several factors. One of the main reasons was that many people turned to illegal bootlegging and speakeasies, which made it easy to obtain illegal alcohol despite the ban, to satisfy their cravings, and these environments often encouraged excessive drinking. Additionally, the lack of regulation meant that the quality of the alcohol produced and consumed was often poor, leading to health problems and even deaths.

Besides, people felt the government infringed upon their freedoms, leading to widespread noncompliance and even open rebellion against the law. The government has struggled to enforce the ban on alcohol, which led to increased organized crime and corruption. Overall, while the intentions behind prohibition were good, it ultimately failed to curb alcoholism.

b. Flappers

Flappers originated in the United States during the 1920s, which was a time of significant social and cultural change. Flappers were young women who were known for their unconventional, rebellious behavior. Ruunaniemi (2001:41), in her book, explains that flappers are young women in the modern era who adopt, engage in free behavior, and enjoy what they do even though it is against their parents. They symbolized the changing attitudes towards gender roles and sexuality during that time. They were known for wearing short skirts, bobbed hair, and makeup and dancing to the new jazz music. They were also known for smoking and drinking in public, which was seen as scandalous at the time. Some people saw flappers as threatening traditional values, while others saw them as a symbol of freedom and independence.

Flappers were eager to break with the old Victorian values and traditions that had dominated society until then. This included young women who were tired of the restrictive clothing and conservative attitudes of the past and wanted to express themselves more freely. The stereotypes of the modern era are that crazy, sophisticated, and fashionable women are flappers (Boyer,1933). They

represented a new and exciting way of life for many young women, who were eager to embrace their newfound freedoms.

c. Speakeasies

In the Modern Era, American society changed in understanding of places to drink alcohol. The enactment of the Prohibition and Volstead Act which prohibited all types of public drinking places such as salons and bars made people who were very attached to drinking alcoholic beverages create drinking places that were managed illegally. White (2014:6) stated as follows:

From Saloon to Speakeasy Prohibition also changed the location of American drinking. By the end of the 19th century, while the saloon was under assault from the temperance advocates, a new alcohol-serving institution emerged. Just as the saloon replaced the colonial tavern, the nightclub arose from the ashes of the saloon.

Speakeasy or speakeasies is the term people in America use to get alcoholic beverages. Beside the speakeasies, other terms that describe illegal drinking establishments include blind pigs, blind tigers, roadhouses, gin mills, jimmies, and shoe polish shops. Along with various kinds of places to drink illegal drinks, the number of places to drink illegally is increasing. Around the 1920s, speakeasies in America spread everywhere, as in big cities like Chicago and New York, small towns, and every bit of the countryside. In New York, there were 35,000 illegal drinking establishments during prohibition. As a result of the existence of speakeasies, the manufacture of liquor and the owners of speakeasies carry out illegal activities. Although many cases were caught during the prohibition, the majority were not. Therefore, it is nearly impossible to know how many

speakeasies existed during prohibition, but it is safe to say that they were abundant in almost every corner of the United States.

2.3 The Concept of Modern Era

The modern era is characterized by major changes when society has been industrialized. It is based on expanding education, technology, industry, and urban life. Martinelli (2005: 8), argues that modernization is a concept with a specific number of major social, economic, political, and cultural changes that shape history and result from various revolutions (economic, social, political, cultural) in the 20th century. While Fedotova (2008: 74), modernization is a certain form of development, the essence of which is the transition from traditional society to modern society. Modern forces are always reactive forces that gain meaning and momentum through comparison or contrast with the rejection or negation of what has existed before.

Characteristics of the modern society include:

1. Advancement of Industry and technology

In the modern concept of a post-industrial society that has a very complex and advanced industrial and technological system. It is full of automation with minimum human role in its operation.

2. Urbanization

The Modern Era is characterized by a lot of movement from villages to cities, increasing the population of people in cities.

3. Employment opportunities

This society is the hub of industrial and economic organization. The offices of these companies are located in these communities, so better employment opportunities are available for educated, semi-educated and technically skilled people.

4. Better income opportunities

Due to economic, industrial, commercial activities and better income opportunities are available for people from materialistic societies.

5. Urban amenities

Modern urban amenities like fax, telephone, internet, cable, mobile phones, gas, electricity, water treatment plants, sewage systems, airports, railways, road networks, large commercial areas, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, etc. are available in it.

6. Social mobility

Due to better education, industrialization, economic and employment opportunities, a high degree of social mobility is found among people of this type of society. People often change professions, jobs and places of residence.

7. Crime rate

Due to anonymity and population pressure, a high crime rate is found. Murder, theft, robbery, burglary, rape, etc. occur many times a day.

8. Status of women

The status of women in modern society is very high. Women are highly educated and work at par with men in different walks of life. They are considered important and share in decision-making and resource sharing.