

GENDER IN DOCTRINATION THROUGH LITERATURE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE *GREAT GATSBY*

Munejah Khan

Assistant Professor, Department of English Language & Literature, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Received: 01 Mar 2019

Accepted: 04 Mar 2019

Published: 13 Mar 2019

ABSTRACT

F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1925) is often referred to as one of the best exemplification of the Jazz Age or the Roaring Twenties. The wealthy Gatsby is the American dream incarnate and his parties exhibit the enthusiasm of the 1920's. The Roaring Twenties also propagated the feminine ideal of the "new woman" who could defy the norms of patriarchy. However, even with the emergence of the "new woman" the inequities did not cease to exist. This paper analyses how The Great Gatsby is essentially written from a man's perspective and how it presents women as objects of ornamental importance to men and as inferior beings. Fitzgerald blatant sexism is voiced through the narrator Nick Carraway when he says "Dishonesty in a woman is something you never blame deeply. . . ." In the novel patriarchal order categorizes women either as "Madonna" or as "whore" based on their submission to or rebellion against, the rules of patriarchy. This paper focuses on how the representation of women in literature aims at providing "the role models which indicate what constitutes acceptable versions of the feminine and legitimate female goals and aspirations" (Barry 117). The paper through Fitzgerald's novel illustrates how women like Daisy internalize the norms and values of patriarchy that emphasize the superiority of men. Daisy on the birth of her daughter says as if to reaffirm the inferior status of women "All right, I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool—that the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool". The paper analyses how women have been constructed in The Great Gatsby and reaffirms Simone De Beauvoir's statement "one is not born but becomes a woman".

KEYWORDS: *Patriarchy, Gender, Women, New Woman, Feminism*