

Viewing gender imprisonment on the shoes of female characters in the novel 'The Great Gatsby': A Feminist Approach

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ABSTRACT

The author F.Scott Fitzgerald's characters in the novel are introduced to the readers in such a way that each character has his/her own flaws as well as wit, this article views the characters of the novel as a reflection of the American Jazz age culture. The article also highlights why the characters strive for the 'American dream' and why the dream was not accomplished. The paper examines how the novel is male centric and how it bestows women as mere beings of ornamental significance and inferior to men. This paper brings out how women in literature were portrayed with the motive of "the role models which indicate what constitutes acceptable versions of the feminine and legitimate female goals and aspirations" (Barry 117). The novel 'The Great Gatsby' is viewed through the lens of feminist theory, it was detected that women characters Daisy Buchanan and Myrtle Wilson are the two important characters who were tyrannized by the patriarchal society and in the same light Tom Buchanan is depicted as the main patriarchal subduction. The paper shows how few women react to the prototype of the 'New women' and the struggles they faced to disobey the rules of society according to Simone DeBeavir's saying "one is not born but becomes a woman"

Keywords

New woman, hysteria, working class, patriarchy, Feminism

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Introduction

The Great Gatsby was written in 1925 by F.Scott Fitzgerald, the novel is a tragic love story, mystery and a social commentary on American life, the novel can be out into many genres based on the reader's opinion, the novel reflects the free-spending lifestyle of four wealthy characters who were observed by the narrator of the novel Mr.Nick Carraway, it could be assumed that the author himself narrates the story through the character Nick Carraway because he is from Minnesota the same place of F. Scott Fitzgerald. The character Nick has attended an Ivy League University, during world war I he has participated in U.S army, moved to New York after war, as he narrates the novel it could be seen that he is battling an inner conflict as he lives in high society, he has many questions running in his mind for which he would get answers as the plot of the novel progresses.

First of all the readers of this novel will understand the problems of women subjugation in a patriarchal society during "the roaring twenties, or the Jazz Age, a term coined by Fitzgerald"(Tyson 121) The setting of the novel is in New York and Long Island around a decade after World War I, where females were uncomfortable to survive and make use of their

rights. Meanwhile the novel also introduces a character Jordan Baker whose lifestyle is unique and becomes the prototype of women's transcendences to get the better of enslavement. The novel's plot centers on how the American dream became a negative motivation for people to achieve power through cunning means. In American history during 1920 'The Grant of Suffrage to American women' has agreed to many changes.

"Before the war, standard dress for women included long skirts, tightly laced corsets, high-buttoned shoes, and long hair demurely swept up onto the head. A few years after the war, skirts became shorter, laced corsets began to disappear. , modern footwear frequently replaced high-buttoned shoes, and "bobbed" hair became the fashion for young women."(Tyson 121).

Jordan Baker is one such women who was willing to break the patriarchal norms of the society, except Jordan Baker the other female characters such as Myrtle Wilson, Daisy and Catherine were restricted from realizing their own capabilities as humans in living their own life, the female characters were not independent but brought into the dominance of their husbands. They did not have an experience of going to market place, they were depicted as jobless beings, the only purpose of their lives were meant to be housekeepers and

to enjoy the belongings of their husband's earnings.

The women in America did not enjoy freedom of changes before the world war I, but later as time swifts it could be seen that women were smoking and drinking often in the company of men, which was something too odd in the American culture but as days went on the American society has accepted and adapted to the changes. These changes can be seen as sequential results of the Grant of suffrage to women which later promoted the convictions of New women. The hosted parties were often attended by women who could be claimed as new women, unlike other feminist these new women did not fight for their equality with men but instead the new women just had a desire to come out of the confinements of the norms of the patriarchal society.

The usage of female characters in the literature is a means of "socialization since it provides the role models which indicate to women and men, what constitutes acceptable versions of the feminine and legitimate female goals and aspirations" (Barry 117). In *The Great Gatsby*, the author has unfolded the plot which is controlled by patriarchy. The male characters in the novel were partially loyal to their wives but they always expect their wives to be loyal to them. The male characters in the novel are committed patriarchs and the female characters are expressed, adjusted and behave as expected by the patriarchal scaffolds.

In the novel the protagonist Great Gatsby claims to have been graduated from Oxford University, and the society immediately agrees to it without any cross questions but when the character Jordan Baker (woman), who is a golfer by profession was often looked strange to the society. Hence it could be seen that the society judges male characters based on their economic status. But when it comes to female characters the society often wants to cross question and feel odd towards the women who are apart from patriarchal society.

The main intention of Jay Gatsby's parties were to attract Daisy, hence it could be seen that the few men who belong to Jazz age had a belief to gain attention of women by wealth instead of true love and compassion. Though Jay Gatsby was trying to attract Daisy he loved her unconditionally. The character Daisy lives across the bay in the more

luxurious and stylish East. Gatsby could see the green light beaming on the dock of Daisy, generally the green light signifies the sign of acceptance and approval, but in turn in the novel the green light represents unapproachable riches.

The character Daisy is a married woman and a mother, but then Gatsby continues to love her as his "golden girl". This shows that men in Jazz age did not have guilt to break the patriarchal norms but if women breaks the patriarchal norms they are often accused. Daisy met Gatsby when she was a young girl from a rich family, while Gatsby was a military officer, Gatsby had to participate in the war and so Daisy has promised to him that she would wait for his return from the war to marry him, but she broke the promise and married Tom Buchanan, a rich man and class mate of Nick. In this scenario it was not the intention of Daisy to marry a rich man but because of the compulsion of the society and the delayed return of Gatsby from war she married Buchanan. It could be seen that during the jazz age women did not have freedom to marry the person whom their heart desires and the society does not allow a young girl to remain unmarried for long days.

The inequities of gender roles in the society has been successfully advocated. "This belief in the inborn inferiority of women is a form of what is called biological essentialism because it is based on biological differences between the sexes that are considered part of our unchanging essence as men and women." (Tyson 85).

It is a huge failure of the patriarchy to realise the fact that women were not in- built with feminine complexities but were forced to accept and act manageable and unassertive roles. The society rewards the women who are not violent and who are obedient at all situations, the submissive woman is always considered as a virtuous and appreciable being. It is quite obvious that in all fairy tales women are given reward at the end "they lived happily ever after ending" to a female's story, even in fairy tales only the women who were submissive to the patriarchal norms were granted happiness and reward, if a female character in fairy tale violates the patriarchal norms they are often visualized as villain, intrigue, witchcraft etc.

Based on the roles played by Women characters in the novel they are categorized as 'good' and 'bad',

they were judged based on how religiously they adore and follow the norms of patriarchal society. "That is, patriarchy treats women, whatever their role, like objects: like objects, women exist, according to patriarchy, to be used without consideration of their own perspectives, feelings, or opinions" (Tyson 89-90)

The words 'madonna' and 'whore' or 'angel' and 'bitch' were viewed **oybtin** terms of how they practice the patriarchal scaffolds. Bad girls sexually attract men through their outfit and their mannerisms were used for the selfishness of men. Such women were rejected because the male characters feel they don't deserve better things, they were labelled as unworthy to be the wife of men or become mothers to their legitimate children, therefore besides a novel 'The Great Gatsby' serves as a documentation of American dream, meanwhile except Jordan Baker no other female characters in the novel were bold enough to be as they wish. Except Jordan Baker all the other characters were afraid of the comments from the society and that fear did not allow them to break the patriarchal norms.

It is very obvious that Fitzgerald has used many female characters than male characters in the novel. "whose dress and activities, identify them as incarnations of the New Woman, and they are portrayed as clones of a single, negative character type: shallow, exhibitionist, revolting, and deceitful" (Tyson 122) except Daisy the other characters who are found the parties of Gatsby were partially patriarchal women, although they too have the fear of criticism from the society, they feel Gatsby's parties are the only place where they could exhibit their free will and party was found to be a stress reliever for them.

Few women in the party had a very bad behaviour as they gossip about other women in their absence, this is a sick behaviour because the gossips would start to become rumors and the society would only agree to the rumors and finally whom they gossip about would get a bad name in the society. Women hardly realize that such gossips would spoil the dignity of their own gender. Women are not bold enough to gossip about women who were in higher social status than them, therefore it could be seen that even women judge and respect fellow women based on their social status.

In spite of many women in the Gatsby's party the readers could observe three women characters who were portrayed in detail by the author. The setting of the novel was at the time when the concept of "New women" was emerging and those three women are mere reflection of "New women". Though outwardly Daisy, Myrtle Wilson and Jordan Baker seem to be New women, their inner self often led to the judgement of the patriarchal society. Those three women lived a life with some emptiness throughout the novel. It could be seen that those three women characters tried to fight against the patriarchal society but they failed in their attempts.

Tom Buchanan, the womanizer

As Lois Tyson writes in Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide: The connection between classism and colonialist psychology is especially evident in the nature of Tom's womanizing. He does not pick on women from his own cultural milieu. He seduces only working-class women: for example, "one of the chambermaids in the Santa Barbara Hotel" (82; ch. 4), where Tom and Daisy stayed upon returning from their honeymoon; Myrtle Wilson; and the "common but pretty" (112; ch. 6) young woman Tom tries to pick up at Gatsby's party. (442)

Tom Buchanan is a rich man and a conceited womanizer, he is the husband of Daisy, through the character Tom Buchanan, Fitzgerald explains the power and supremacy of the patriarchal society. The character of Tom represents the male chauvinist and patriarchal society, throughout the novel he is described and his role signifies that he has superiority complex. The couple have their residence in the East Egg and Tom was not loyal to his wife as he had a secret mistress by the name Myrtle Wilson, who is the wife of a garage owner, Tom Buchanan did not show his dominance over the rich class but he has shown subjugation over the working class, he has an attitude that the working class people are not bold enough to question him, meanwhile it could be seen that Daisy was not bold enough to prevent or to question her husband regarding his illegal affairs with Myrtle Wilson, this shows how painful it is for her to go through. He indeed did not have any love on Myrtle but just mere lust. Tom abuses Myrtle as the result of his dominance over her. The readers could know that Myrtle was beaten by

Tom at the beginning of the novel, it is also the part of male dominance which Tom shows on Myrtle. Tom punches her on the face when Myrtle disobeyed him this shows that although Myrtle was his girlfriend he was not good enough to adjust and understand her instead he was only aiming at showing his dominance over her. This shows how men were cruel to women during the Jazz age.

Powerlessness is the main gap Tom finds to conquer the women and dominate them. Tom was not able to make every women submissive but only Daisy and Myrtle, he has also seen many women at Gatsby's party but he behaves to them in a decent way. As part of the plot of the novel Tom breaks Myrtle's nose just because she has uttered Daisy's name and she claimed that she is as virtuous woman as Daisy, from this it could be seen that Tom views working class people with less dignity and he has prejudice that those women are bad, unworthy, mere objects for the physical pleasure, hence he becomes outrageous when Myrtle compares herself with Daisy.

Tom also has a prejudice in his mind that working class people must never demand respect from the upper class people, he looks at Daisy through the lenses of orientalism and considers her as an inferior and he considers Daisy as superior. This shows the selfish nature of Tom Buchanan to use a woman as his mere object of pleasure and he never understands her feelings and he never respects her emotions. It is so important to notice that Tom and Myrtle had broken the moral values because they were not loyal to their own partner as they both are married and involve in a secret relationship. It also shows that it was a dream for Middle class women to marry a wealthy man, so they don't mind to break the patriarchal norms. However Tom should not have been cruel to Myrtle and of course Myrtle must face the consequences of her choice.

As Lois Tyson writes in *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*: "Mrs. Wilson . . . was now attired in an elaborate afternoon dress of cream-colored chiffon. . . . With the influence of the dress her personality had also undergone a change. . . . Her laughter, her gestures, her assertions became more violently affected moment by moment." (443)

The actions of Tom Buchanan makes Myrtle to believe and act like a colonized subject, she accepts the way Tom expects. Tom's view of classism and sexism are merged together and his womanizing ethics is a type of "othering". As orientalism considers eastern people as outsiders, Tom considers the working class people as outsiders. Myrtle is easily taken away by the social status and wealth of Tom as so precious which will make her do anything to keep Tom with her. Moreover Tom knew very well that the cultural superiority will never exist without cultural inferiority and hence he uses his financial and social status to keep the working class people under his control and never allowing them to upgrade themselves in the society. Tom always considered the upper class people with big brother consciousness and he looked at the working class people with small brother consciousness, especially to Myrtle he was dominating as much as he could.

"These people! You have to keep after them all the time," she says (36; ch. 2). Then she "swept into the kitchen, implying that a dozen chefs awaited her orders there" (36; ch. 2)

Through this it could be seen that Myrtle does not behave in her real self, because she knows her real self would not be good enough to attract Tom and hence she voluntarily acts in the way Tom would fall for her.

Possession of wealth

"merely atmospheric, their bodies part of the decor"(Froehlich & Hazleton 87)

As Nick enters Daisy's room he is surprised by looking at the material possessions in the room, in spite of the couch, it was the presence of a woman who has attracted him the most, therefore women in this context is seen only as ornamental objects. It was believed that if men marry a fair woman, it increases his status in the society and fair woman makes the home beautiful and attractive. Meanwhile it was also a belief during the jazz age if a woman marries a wealthy man her social status would increase and she will be given more respect in the society. Daisy is of such a character who has married Tom for he is a wealthy man, she is indeed a good and loyal wife to Tom, meanwhile she voluntarily fell into the pit of sorrow, she also has a chance to overcome from

her sufferings and lead a better life but her strong patriarchal convictions prevented her from doing so. Hence it could be seen that among the three female characters only Daisy has internalized the essence of patriarchal norms.

“actions depicted in the story are seemingly being under the control of Tom. She is confined by Tom from developing her personhood. The story also reveals her inability to free herself from Tom’s control . . . Daisy is fully aware of the oppression which she experiences. She realizes that she is oppressed by her surroundings”(Affronia & Hendrarti 7)

In other aspect wealth and possession becomes important factors for survival for women during the Jazz age, as women were not allowed to work in market places like men and they were not allowed to compete with men, so in order to overcome the fear of poverty, women had to marry wealthy men, because women are dependent on their husbands who are capable of working and bring income to the home. Even though Daisy wants to leave Tom for his ill-treatment, thinking about the life of her daughter she decides to accept all bitterness of her life and live silently. Therefore it became a default ethic in Daisy's mind that a patriarchal woman is not supposed to question her husband, so she lost all her boldness to raise questions and decides to live in the direction life directs her

‘All right.’ I said, ‘I’m glad it’s a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.’(Fitzgerald 20)

Daisy utters these words to Nick when Nick comes to see her, through these words two things could be noticed, the first thing is that it expresses the fear of Daisy, she is not happy to have a daughter because she herself being a woman has undergone many struggles in her life so she fears that her daughter would also undergo the same sufferings in future and the second thing to be noticed is that she would never teach bravery to her daughter to fight for her rights, as Daisy is so obedient to her husband she would bring up her daughter also in the same that she must be submissive to her husband.

Is Fitzgerald against feminism..?

“ to a charming wraith, a being who exists only as a fragile veneer, a shining radiance of Gatsby’s

construction, the centerpiece of Tom’s wealth, rather than a woman with a personality of her own. Fitzgerald allows Daisy to exist only in the images men create of her” (Strba 45)

When Fitzgerald introduces Daisy in the novel, she is portrayed without any substance and does not have an identity for herself or she does not exist by herself. She is often defined by the way she is related to male characters like Tom and Gatsby. It could be seen in Fitzgerald's description that Daisy was defined as Tom's wife and Gatsby's cousin, where it was only the male who comes first and then followed by the female. It is said that in Fitzgerald’s writings women were willfully “marginalized into purely personal areas of experience” (Strba 41)

It is not that Fitzgerald is against or had a motive to suppress women but he has just portrayed the reality of Jazz age through his writings. It could be observed that Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* “contains no important woman character” (qtd. in Turnbull 197) but the fact is that Fitzgerald did intentionally not give important role to women characters, in the surface reading of the novel it perhaps appears in such a way that Fitzgerald does not give importance to women characters but while understanding the novel in depth it could be seen that women characters have equal roles such as male protagonist. The story itself is centered on women characters, for example although Gatsby is the protagonist of the novel it is so clear that without the characters Daisy and Myrtle the plot of the novel would not progress.

The character of women by a critic is “secondary roles in the story, which keeps with the traditional view that woman do not have a voice” (Wrenn 12), but the character Jordan Baker proves the statement wrong because she had the boldness to construct her life in the way she wishes to be, and therefore not all women were submissive followers of Patriarchy but women like Jordan are exceptions.

Moreover the next thing to be noticed is that almost all the women characters in the novel are described as middle aged women, it was a general thing that many young women characters could be used in the novel but the writer Fitzgerald uses middle aged women for two important reasons, the first reason could be even though they were middle aged people they couldn't come out of the

pitfalls in life or they were not mentally mature enough and behave like children who are too obedient to elders. Another significance could be that those middle aged women serve as a role model to patriarchal good women of their next generations, the male characters in the novel expect those three women characters to serve as a prototype of virtuous woman to their daughters.

Patriarchy has ruined Daisy's life to such an extent that she must be quiet even when her husband has a secret affair with another woman and in the contrary Daisy feared being noticed by others even to talk to her cousin, Nick. She couldn't even have freedom to talk to her cousin freely but even during the small conversation she had with Nick, she was always conscious that she should not be noticed by anyone.

Myrtle Wilson the innocent woman character

The character Myrtle Wilson faced death because of her own choice by having relationship with Tom Buchanan. She being a middle class woman could have better lived a simple and happy life with little earnings from her husband instead she wished to live a luxurious life by have an illegal affair with Tom. She has violated the patriarchal norms and exhibited unethical sexual choices. In the novel Myrtle appears for the first time in a telephone scene, through a phone call she disturbs Tom Buchanan during his dinner time as the character Jordan utters in the novel "Tom's got some woman in New York", who hasn't the decency not to disturb at dinner"(Fitzgerald 16).

This shows that Myrtle being a middle class woman does not have the guilt to disturb Tom during his lunch hours. Her husband George Wilson in spite of being a hard worker was not able to satisfy all fantasies of Myrtle that is why she was attracted to Tom. Although the choice of Myrtle Wilson is unethical but then she deserves much respect from Tom, Tom could have treated Myrtle in a better way, Tom did not even respect her as a human and used her as an object of physical pleasure. Although Myrtle was too open in her overt sexuality Tom still controls her and abuses her physically. Hence it could be seen that even though Myrtle was a middle class woman she behaves in a decent way but Tom being a civilized and aristocratic man behaves too uncivilized. Thus the role of Myrtle proves that Myrtle is much civilized than Tom.

Fitzgerald "in the end makes Myrtle pay heavily for being openly sensualist"; whereas Tom goes Scott free (Strba 44). Towards the end of the novel it could be seen that one bad choice of committing adultery has made Daisy to lose her life but Tom does not feel guilty about his deeds and he still continues his same activities by changing his locations. Myrtle was not given an excuse or warning in the novel to ignore her bad deeds and to start living a good life, the life of Myrtle Wilson's especially her death with her breast hanging out of her body serves as a lesson and awareness to all women not to violate the patriarchal rules.

One of the import female characters in *The Great Gatsby* is Myrtle Wilson, Fitzgerald has introduced this character in such a way that she was greatly influenced by the wrong beliefs created by the system. In this place we must also consider the innocence of the character Myrtle, she was not mature enough to make a right decision and her innocence becomes her main weakness which Tom takes advantage of. "I married him because I thought he was a gentleman"(Fitzgerald 1925) these words uttered by Myrtle shows that she feels guilty for marrying George Wilson, but then she was not guilty to have affair with Tom. Before her marriage she was misguided that George was a wealthy man but when she comes to know the truth she was disappointed. Even though Tom abuses her she tolerates everything without fighting just for the sake of possession of wealth, this shows that Myrtle had so much greed. She has given up her pride, rights and her full potential as a woman and even to be as a human being.

Jordan Baker a typically new woman:

Another important warning against patriarchal society is the concept of New woman' "also has a different figure compared to other female characters in the story. Being described as having steady posture and small breast, she has a strong impression as being a man-like... is described for having resemble a cadet, a figure which is only compatible for men"(Affroni&Hendrarti 8) the name Jordan Baker is most probably a male name, it is something odd that a woman character has the male's name. The characters Jordan Baker is not dependent on anyone even financially, she is a golf player by profession.

Tom, the man who dominates innocent women was not able to dominate her, rather even the arrogant Tom couldn't accept the woman who is odd to patriarchal society, Tom dislikes the way she lives. Even Nick Carraway does not have interest on Jordan Baker though he admired her at their first meet, however Nick was a kind man, besides having a romantic relationship with Jordan Baker, he refuses to accept her. This shows that the attitude of Nick Carraway towards 'New Women' was no way different from Tom, they both had the same point of view. "But his descriptions suggest a concealed source of antagonism: she is 'unfeminine', androgynous, more of a boy than a 'lady'" (Strba 41). Nick Carraway has also had a small amount of Male dominance over the woman character, he too fell for lust, had Nick Carraway been a perfect gentleman he must have ignored her without having a romantic relationship with her, this shows that even Nick Carraway lacks few qualities of a gentleman like other male characters in the novel.

Nick utters these words in the novel, he refers to Jordan while uttering these words, just because she was against the patriarchal norms he labels her as dishonest woman, he has not even fully analysed about the behaviour of Jordan Baker but he labels her as dishonest woman. "Dishonesty in a woman is a thing you never blame deeply" (48).

The character of Jordan Baker also serves as a role model and as a motivation to all women who need to be free from the patriarchal norms. The other has portrayed the character in such a way that she is unique from other female characters. Besides a golf player she is also the woman character who does not marry. Comparing to Daisy, Jordan Baker is more edible and sophisticated woman. She could always be taken as a counter-part to Daisy, Jordan Baker lifts her chin no matter whether male or female, while having conversation with other people, symbolically it shows that she does not feel dominated by others and she shows that she is also equal in status with whom she interacts.

She is the character in the novel who refuses to accept the beliefs of how a woman should and should not be. She proves it by doing things which the society believes that women cannot do. In the novel only male characters were portrayed as

someone who could manipulate others in order to achieve power and status in the society, for example Gatsby sells drugs to achieve power, Tom manipulates Myrtle, like-wise Jordan Baker was able to manipulate the Golf game in order to achieve her ambition. Among the three women it could be seen that all the three suffer from various problems but it could be closely seen that the characters Daisy and Myrtle suffer at their own will but the character Jordan suffers just because she has the thirst to be an independent woman.

Plight of acquisition of wealth

All the characters in the Novel including female characters fall into disgrace because of their strong determination to acquire more wealth. All the characters in the novel were of good principles until they fell for the attraction of more wealth and high reputation in the society. "The men of greatest achievements are men with highly developed sex nature's; men who have learnt the art of sex transmutation"(Hill 155). To prove this statement, the characters Tom and Gatsby can be taken into account, both the men are attractive and good at courting with women, Tom was able to attract Myrtle and Gatsby was able to attract Daisy, and most notably both the men are wealthy and they have good power in the society. Besides owning many good qualities they lack some moral qualities, both the men did not feel guilty to have affair with other man's wife, hence it could be seen that male characters did not respect the female characters but just wanted them to be a part in their lives for selfish purposes, both the male characters expect the women to act according to their convince but they were not good enough to adjust themselves according to the convince of women.

The statement more applicable to the characters Gatsby and George Wilson is "The man who cannot be stimulated to great heights of achievement by love, is hopeless he is dead, though he may seem to live"(Hill 169), Gatsby was at his best when he was in love with Daisy, but the couple were not lucky enough, they were not able to marry, once he lost his loved one he hesitates to lead a normal life. Although he appears to be a wealthy and happy man, the memories of Daisy was keep on haunting him. It was because of the patriarchal society that Daisy was not able to accept Gatsby, and Gatsby in

order to own wealth started to earn it in illegal way which again did no good to him. As said in the novel, Gatsby was earlier an army man who took part in world war, when he was in love with a woman he did good deeds but his love failure turned his life upside-down.

On the other side George Wilson wants to earn money by purchasing Tom's car and selling it for more money, his desire to have more wealth made him to dig a pit for himself, it was because of the car's deal which made Tom and Myrtle to meet each other. George Wilson becomes terribly angry on Myrtle when he learns that she has an affair with Tom, but George Wilson was not kind enough to understand and forgive his wife, both George Wilson and Myrtle had desire to acquire more money but then the society looks at men and women in a different perspective, it was mainly because of the fear of criticism Myrtle runs out of her home and ends up in death. In a way her husband George Wilson is also partly responsible for her death.

The character of Jordan Baker can be seen through the following line, "The world has become accustomed to new discoveries. Nay, it has shown a willingness to reward the dreamer who gives the world new idea." (Hill 30), her way of live the so called 'New woman' can be looked at two different perspectives, at one side it shows the courage and will power of a woman to be in her own self and chase her own ambition. But at the other hand it always raises a question whether it is ethical to live a life style which is odd to Patriarchy. It is also to be noted that among the three female characters the one who suffered the least was Jordan Baker, she does not give the privilege to other people to determine her happiness and sadness, perhaps that is what has been her self-motivation to do things which was only done by men.

However Jordan Baker did all her best to give life to her dreams but then the society little by little started to marginalize her, it could be seen that Jordan Baker does not have much friends and Daisy was her one and only friend. Nick's refusal to Jordan Baker's was mainly because of her lifestyle, even the character Nick who is portrayed with more gentleman qualities is also not able to understand and accept woman who is odd from patriarchal norms. In this context the character

Nick Carraway represents the American society, and his reflection of Jordan's proposal is a significance that American society during the jazz age does not welcome the concept of 'New woman'.

As Munejah Khan said in his article, "Patriarchy maintains that women are destined for passive roles as they are indecisive and can not exhibit control" (Khan 84) Daisy only finds her identity only by relating herself to make characters, the situation is such that a female right from the birth onwards finds identity only by their relationship with men, for example when a girl child is born she gets identity as daughter of her father or sister of her brother and after marriage a female gets identity as wife of her husband, women were always forced to be within the confinement laid by men, this confinement prohibits the freedom of women to express themselves. And men never intend to understand the emotions and feelings of women characters, in the novel it could be seen that although Daisy does have another choice to ignore Tom and live an independent life willingly she decides to live with a cruel husband who never had real care and concern for her. Not only Daisy even the character Myrtle does not have an unique identity, she gets an it through her relationship with male characters such as George Wilson and Tom Buchanan. Although Myrtle's intention was not to be disloyal to George but her attraction towards wealth made her to have a secret affair with George. When her husband George finds the secret affair between Myrtle and Tom she was not given freedom to tell her answers, instead George Wilson pours out his anger on her and made her to feel uncomfortable, she became too nervous that she lost the control of mind and ran out of the house and ended up facing an accident. If George could have been little more kind to her, Myrtle's life could have been saved.

Injustice in the society

When dealing with the American dream the critic says, "A central concern of the novel is how the American dream motivated people to succeed through Machiavellian means" (Khan 81). The so called American dream in the novel is the dream to possess more wealth and enrich their status in the society, from the novel it could be seen that men never felt guilty for doing Machiavellian things but the real victims were the women

characters, Gatsby was never blamed for being a bootlegger and Tom was never blamed to have dominated women from Middle class family, they did all their best to earn wealth. But the moment when women characters step aside of patriarchy they were blamed, Daisy is accused for meeting Gatsby after many years, Myrtle was accused for her affair with Tom, and Jordan Baker was ignored by Nick just because she wasn't a patriarchal woman. Through the novel it could be seen that in Jazz age how men were least bothered about women, and how men could easily put the blame on women.

The dominance of men over women is clearly conveyed as, "It is not mentioned anywhere whether the girls had necessarily a choice to practise fasting or they were simply forced to stay in their house for publicity." (Baskar 6). The given phrase is proved right by the plot of the novel except in the character Jordan Baker, who is a resemblance of 'New woman'. When all the women were forced to stay inside the roof, she volunteered to chase her dreams and ambitions. And it could also be seen that when a woman starts pursuing her heart's desire the society either isolates her or ridicules her. The character of Jordan does not have any male companions, as Jordan remains unmarried two different interpretations could be made, the first one is, being a 'New woman' she does not demand any male support in her life, she was courageous enough to do things by herself, and the second is that she is isolated by males in the society. From Jordan's life it could be seen that once a woman starts to move away from the patriarchal norms she will not be given another opportunity to be a patriarchal woman again, it was uncommon in Jazz age for a woman to remain unmarried at the middle age. Jordan was a middle aged woman who was unmarried, and when she finally had desire to accept Nick as her male partner, Nick did not accept her and Nick did not have any other reasons to reject her but that she was a patriarchal woman.

But except Jordan, the above mentioned statement is applicable to all other women characters, Daisy did not have the freedom to say no to marry Tom on the day of her marriage. Daisy received a letter from Gatsby on the day of her wedding, but then she was battling an inner conflict within herself, although she had a choice to stop her marriage she

did not do so, it was mainly because of the norms imposed by the patriarchal society, she fears that it would spoil her dignity if people knew that she had a love affair with some other man before her wedding. She never loved Tom truly but then she decides to tolerate all hardships and endeavours and lives with Tom. The patriarchal society made Daisy to stop imagining how beautiful a life could be but rather it made her to believe that a woman must be submissive to her husband.

Hysteria is also an important highlighted theme in the novel and it is applicable to the two male characters Tom and Gatsby. 'The treatments for hysteria were practised to regulate female sexuality and their sexual desire, under the male supervision for its own convenience.' (Baskar 1). Gatsby however was in love with Daisy, he still had strong feelings for her, it was because of her beautiful and fair skin complexion he got attracted to her, just like any men who gets attracted to a woman. Daisy had romantic relationship with Gatsby even after her marriage, it was Gatsby who persuades Daisy to spend a romantic time with him, and he never had a guilt of having an affair with a woman who is married already. He also wanted Daisy to ignore her husband and elope with him, however Daisy loved Gatsby more than Tom, and she decides not to elope with Gatsby instead live with Tom. This shows that Daisy did not want to spoil her dignity, she gives first preference to patriarchal norms than her heart's desire. Meanwhile Tom Buchanan was also not guilty to have a secret affair with Myrtle who is another man's wife, but when he finds that his wife Daisy is in secret affair with Gatsby he accuses her and makes her to feel guilty, hence it could be seen that during the Jazz age many times women were denied right judgements from men.

It could be seen that the way the women characters were brought up it was taught to them that their married life would be happy if and only they be submissive to their husbands. "The comfort they get from their husbands make them being dependent, unable to act on their own" (Affroni and Hendrai 3), perhaps that is what the women characters such as Daisy and Myrtle were not aware about their another side of life where they could live independently without letting their husbands to dominate them. In the case of Daisy except the comfort of luxury she did not experience any other comfort from her

husband, even when it comes to procreation, Daisy's husband wants a baby simply because to escape from the criticism of the society, he did not really have affection towards his baby when he knew that it was a girl child, hence it could be seen that Tom had hatred towards a female child and expects only to have a male child.

As a father Tom is a failure to shower love and concern on his daughter and bring her up in a right way. Like Jordan, Daisy too had a potential to survive without the dependence of men but it is high time that she still remains humble to her cruel husband. In case of Myrtle, once again the selfishness of manhood could be seen, as Tom has a secret affair with Myrtle, he did not legally marry her as his second wife, in case if Myrtle becomes pregnant because of Tom, most probably Tom is going to ignore her and Myrtle would be left to her fate. Therefore it could be seen that women were not taught to fight if some injustice happens to them that is why they voluntarily become submissive to them.

The author leaves it to the readers interpretation to judge if it is love or lust that Gatsby had on Daisy "Green is related with envy or jealousy, that The Great Gatsby has" (Sameen 153), however there is a small clue in the novel which says that the green light was a symbol of envy and jealousy, Gatsby was jealous on Tom and in order to take revenge on him he wants Daisy to come back to his life, hence Daisy serves as a tool to fulfill Gatsby's heart desire, if Gatsby was a fine gentleman and he loved Daisy truly, he should not even have tried to enter Daisy's life again, instead he must have ignored her and let her live with her husband.

Conclusion

To conclude my article I would like to highlight few patriarchal norms in the society which turns the plot of the story upside down. The first thing to be noted is that when women gained empowerment (for example Daisy driving car) the consequences of it was only a disaster, Daisy hits the car on Myrtle. And another important thing to be noted is that all the women characters who just moved sort from patriarchal norms were given punishment naturally, for example Daisy and Myrtle involved in illegal affairs and they faced the consequences of it, Myrtle's punishment was that she died at the hands of Daisy for having

secret affair with her husband, and Daisy's punishment was she willingly decided to live with a cruel man throughout her life. But in reality it all happened not because of women's wrong deeds but it is because the society assumes that men can deal things better than women. None of the male characters in the novel felt guilty for their deeds, therefore patriarchal norms is all the root cause for the holocaust in the novel.

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