

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some aspect that deal with the topic of research, background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of study.

1. Background of the Study

After World War I, America seemed to promise unlimited financial and social opportunities for anyone who has a willing to work hard for American Dream. The Declaration of Independence of America (1776) clearly states that “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*”. This statement is very important to show that America is a nation that honors the idea of liberty and equality. Another proof on how America honors the ideal of liberty is the development of American Dream within American society.

The meaning of American Dream is very broad and can be different, but American Dream is a dream to get better life and to be successful person with hard working, never give up, and positive thinking. The term “American Dream” is familiar after the publication of Henry Truslow Adams’s *The Epic of America* in 1933 in which he claimed that

There has been also the *American dream*, which dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. [...] It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are capable, and be recognized by others for what

they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position. (In Cullen, 2003: 3-4)

For Jim Cullen demonstrates that the dream does not realize one particular vision but that it has throughout history show either political, religious, or socio-economic advancement Adams, the dream manifested not only in material but also societal terms and its realization depends on whatever the citizen made of his inherent potential. In other words, the concept of the American Dream from James truslow Adams is “better and fuller” as term of money, through hard work; apart from social status, every one can a get better life.

The American Dream is the belief that is based on the assumption that each person, no matter what his origins is can succeed in changing his social position and making his dreams come true through his own efforts in getting a new, free and good life. According to John Calvin, this idea started of the Puritans who escaped from the tyranny of the Church of England seeking freedom of worship and creation of the ‘kingdom of God on a hill’. The American Dream began as a search for ideals; in the late 18th century in the Colonial period, it took the form of a fight for democracy (John Calvin in Serghine Ahmed, 2008). In the early decades of the 20th century, the American Dream became a search for a new material and a luxurious life. With the Westward movement The American Dream took another direction and became openly associated with a search for wealth. This short story that has been read by researchers, published real in that period.

In the nineteenth century the development and rise of the American short story was the result of fiction writer altered the form to suit American newspapers. The result was the literary form now know as the short story. The short story emerged in 19th century magazine publishing. In this era, it is generally agreed,

watched the birth of the modern short story (Killick, 2008:6). A short story is a short work of fiction. Historical fiction refers a story that is set in the past. Fiction is prose writing about imagined events and characters. The researcher choose a short story because that is a line of Literary work. The story include intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. The characterization, setting, plot and theme as ground intrinsic elements. The American Dream is shape of extrinsic element, it is a science and lifestyle, not only about theories. Therefore the elements of intrinsic and extrinsic influential in this short story as the bridge to researcher make this thesis.

Another reason is short story reveals an imagination story which is connected with reality, so that, it can be comprehended by the reader. The reader gets internal solace and experience by learning a literary value inside. Meanwhile, a story can be acquired through certain ways what are thought, watched, or experienced by the author and can be guessed by the reader.

The researcher select Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, he was a Jazz Age novelist and short story writer who is considered to be among the greatest twentieth-century American writers. American literature came of age during the 1920s, when many classic works were published and famous name with The Roaring Twenties were also known as the Jazz age after World War I, America went under a radical change and social reform. In "Echoes of the Jazz Age" F. Scott Fitzgerald (1931), the Jazz Age is a celebration of one of the twentieth century's most vital writers. Fitzgerald have the perspective about it was an age of miracles, it was an age of art, it was an age of excess, and it was an age of satire. But petting in its more audacious manifestations was confined to the wealthier

classes among other young people the old standard prevailed until after the War. Only in 1920 did the veil finally was who actually coined the term Jazz Age, a single writer who has inserted the sentiment, spirit, and even frustration of the Jazz Age and Lost Generation, those attempts to define him as a serious artist as opposed to just a popular and commercial writer. Many cite F. Scott Fitzgerald as one of best known as the creator of the flapper in fiction. In addition, many of short story that treat themes of youth, despair, and age with remarkable emotional honesty.

With the result that the period of the roaring twenties is a time Fitzgerald's Short story has come to be regarded as one of finest and most eloquent statement on the destructive nature of the American dream as like in "Winter Dreams". Beside that, before he created his short story, F. Scott Fitzgerald's life is a tragic example of both sides of the American Dream such as the joys of young love, wealth and success, and the tragedies associated with excess and failure. So that is why he created that short story by reflecting his American Dream for presenting his experience and attempts to describe certain moments from his past for his readers.

The researcher take "Winter Dream" because of some reasons. First, "Winter Dream" has become the one of the most famous short story in first published in Metropolitan magazine in September of 1922. Furthermore, the short story became one of American literature books the most important in the history. Fitzgerald divides the "Winter Dreams" story into six episodes and this short story of a sort of first draft of the Gatsby idea in the most famous novel, *The Great Gatsby* (1925).

Second, the story is not too long and can be read in a half day because the text is not too complex to understand. "Winter Dreams" is interesting to be discussed because Fitzgerald often sets his story among the glitz and glam of the American upper classes and connects that dream to the courtship of one of the most celebrated belles of the elite group to which he has aspirations of belonging. It emerges some American Dream that mere conducted by a main character. So, the researcher wants to analyze some conflicts and elements of American Dream which appears of a main character.

The last reason is in Muhammadiyah University at Surabaya, there is no reasearch that discusses specifically for American Dream of Dexter Green in "Winter Dreams" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. For understanding the discussion explicitly, it will be put into statements of the problem below.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the reasercher has two problems to be discussed in following research:

1. What are the conflicts faced by Dexter Green in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Winter Dreams"?
2. How do American Dreams influence Dexter Green in "Winter Dreams" by F. Scott Fitzgerald to resolve the conflicts?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The common objective of the study is mentioned below:

1. To identify conflict faced by Dexter Green in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Winter Dreams".

2. To describe the American Dreams influence Dexter Green in “Winter Dreams” by F. Scott Fitzgerald to resolve the conflicts.

1.4 The Significances Of The Study

The researcher hopes this research will be useful to everyone that wants to know this short story deeply, and after reading this thesis, the reader can take some messages. Because it can increase their insight about F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short story. For instance:

1. The researcher wants to give significant a deeper analysis of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s understanding in “Winter Dreams”.
2. For university student of English Department, this study is expected to give deeper knowledge about literary works. It can give learning about reviewed literary to short story and several concept.
3. For the readers, they can get the insight about the history of America and the concept of the American Dreams.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this scope of research, the researcher only focuses on F. Scott Fitzgerald short story “Winter Dreams” for the explanation of Dexter Green in “Winter Dreams” as main character, and his conflicts. Researcher will just limit on the American Dream as the topic. The study has limitation, and the spirit of the American Dream.

To prevent broader analysis, concept and theory will be applied as a limitation of this study. This study will only focus in conflict faced by main character and the six elements of American Dreams: The Dream of The Good Life (I): Puritan Enterprise, The Dream of The Good Life (II): Upward Mobility, The

Dream of The Good Life (III): The Coast, The Declaration of Independence, The Dream of Equality and The Dream of Home Ownership. To analyze the American Dream of those four dreams will be used.