

WOMEN'S VIEW ON MEN'S SUCCESS: IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S *THE GREAT GATSBY* AND HAMKA'S *TENGGELAMNYA KAPAL VAN DER WIJCK*

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Abstract: Marriage is a very important step in women's life. A woman must be sure that the groom she has chosen is the right man for her entire life, and she must be ready for the consequence of her choice for the rest of her life. Having a handsome, well-known and prosperous husband, is a part of women's esteem. When all those things gone, it is a condition in which a wife must show her integrity and faith to her husband. In some parts of the world, there is a belief related to the culture that when a woman gets married, she has to set her life as a house wife with high integrity since it is her dignity. She will lose her pride when she decides to be a widow by divorce. *The Great Gatsby* and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* are the literary works that propose the idea of women's choice in marriage. They agreed to choose the different men to be their husbands because of the success they see at the time. Both works explore women's problem when their husbands are not as success as their previous boyfriends. The word 'choice' then becomes very important since she cannot take what she has given back because her condition before and after marriage is different.

Keywords: *marriage, women's view, men's success, The Great Gatsby, Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*

Marriage is a nature in human's life. Since the first human was created in the world, the idea of marriage became something important so that God created the law of it in order to avoid the relationship abuse. Indeed, the marriage law is different from one religion to others, but the idea of marriage vow is the point of this man and woman relationship.

Marriage is placed as the sacred relationship between man and woman in which the process comes gradually. Starting from introduction to loving each other, then it comes to agreement to get married. All of the process will be done by the couple to get the meaningful relationship in their marriages, and love becomes the first reason of all things.

Talking about marriage means not only talking about love but also the unity of two families. In some countries like in Europe and America, family involvement is not important anymore, but the idea of marriage automatically makes two families united by the term of in law: son in law, daughter in law, mother in law, father in law, etc. In this condition, of course, the couple will think about the 'appropriateness' in their family. Being 'appropriate' in the level of family status is the crucial point in choosing spouse. A spouse who is not at the appropriate level does not consider as the ideal one.

The idea of having the ideal marriage becomes the focus of this research. The objects of the research are two well-known novels, they are, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van*

Der Wijck. *The Great Gatsby* is a novel written in 1925 when the great depression happened in America. This literary work was considered as the failed one at first before being appreciated by many critics later on (Beuka, 2011:93). This novel was filmed many times in 1926, 1949, 1974, 2000 to 2013. *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* by Hamka, at first, was considered as plagiarism of Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr's *Sous les Tilleuls*, but it was rejected by many Indonesian critics. Then this novel was also filmed in 2013.

This is a kind of comparative study since there is no literature can stand alone on its own nation's cultural and literary heritage (Andre, 2013:23). It could be because of culture, translation studies as well as chauvinistic nationalism. That is why there are some similarities between these two works which are proper to be compared. Both of these works tell about the women's love to poor men which fade away because of other men's proposal who are more prominent and success in their career.

The Great Gatsby is a love story between Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan. They fall in love in young age. Jay is not a rich man. He is an orphan without any relatives. He suffered by working from one place to others; while Daisy comes from 'better' family. Her life is much better financially than Jay's. Yet, his love to Daisy makes Jay worker harder including becomes a soldier in World War I (this is what Jay confessed to many people). They promised that they would be married someday. While waiting Jay, Daisy meets Tom. This most powerful and wealth man who finally becomes Daisy's husband (Fitzgerald, n.d.:7).

The almost same story happened in *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*. This work is a love story between Zainuddin and Hayati. Zainuddin, whose half of his blood is Padangnese, is rejected by Batipuh society because of his parents' sin in the past. He is an orphan who comes to his father's homeland because he wants to meet his father's relatives. Unfortunately, the culture of the society is matriarchal so his presence is

not welcomed. The worst is because he falls in love to Hayati, a niece of a very famous person in Batipuh. The existence of uncle from mother line is very important for people from Minangkabau. So, when Hayati's uncle minds with Hayati and Zainuddin's relationship, their love is almost impossible to continue. Additionally, Hayati meets Aziz, her best friend's brother, Khadijah. Aziz is the real Minang man. His family is prominent and his job is also stable. Therefore, Hayati's *mamak* prefers to accept Aziz's proposal better than Zainuddin's. This decision is taken because Hayati herself decides to accept Aziz.

Both stories above describe how the female characters finally change their mind about love because of the prominent men. Financial stability seems very important for Hayati and Daisy in choosing the future husband. Even though, firstly, the decision they take is forced by their extended family, but finally they choose the 'force' for their future. Is it because of the force of the family they do it? Or is it because of their own happiness?

Daisy's Choice on Tom Buchanan

Daisy was Gatsby's girlfriend at first. Their relationship was over when Gatsby was still in the war and Daisy was informed that he died there. Her family pushed her to marry Tom. Tom is a friend of Nick, Daisy's cousin. They are Yale men. Tom is also from prominent family who is powerful and rich (Fitzgerald, n.d.:8). He is a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. With his arrogant manner he is proper to be the one who has power in business. Daisy is an innocent woman who accepts Tom as her husband because of Tom's social background. Tom is a well-educated person, rich, and lives in a 'high-class' society. After becoming Mrs. Buchanan, Daisy's life changes. Her life is glamorous and attends many parties. Her daily needs are fulfilled. She never talks about love since her life looks so respected. It seems that she is never sorry accepting Tom as her

husband. Unfortunately, she does not know that her husband has mistress in New York.

What Daisy does is very rational. It is impossible for her to wait the 'dead' Gatsby. She surrenders on Tom's charisma since Tom's condition is promising. She is even not suspicious to what her husband does when he is away from home. As long as her husband can provide what she needs, this relationship does not have any problems at all. Daisy accepts Tom as her husband sincerely. It seems that she begins to love her husband. According to Capitalism society, it is little possibility for authentic love or desire separated from the economic realm (Froehlich, 2006:210). So, Daisy's desire as Tom's wife is really logic to this theory; money talks a lot in this relationship.

Therefore, Daisy is quite shocked when she knows Gatsby is still alive. He is even richer than her husband. As a woman, of course, she will behave in front of Gatsby. But, in the end of the story she confesses that she never loves her husband (Fitzgerald, n.d.:118).

Then is Daisy sorry with her decision on Tom? It seems so. If she knew that Gatsby is a successful man like right now she would not marry Tom. It is proved by her meeting with Gatsby in Nick's house. Gatsby, for sure, still loves Daisy and vice versa, Daisy also still loves Gatsby. As a married woman it is not right to have an affair with her boy in the past. But this boy changes to be a really promising man now. Financially, he is success. He could fulfill what she needs now.

Hayati's Choice on Zainuddin

As a faithful girl, Hayati promises to Zainuddin that she will wait him until he finishes his study in Padang Panjang. She even informs Zainuddin when she visits her friend in Padang Panjang. Unfortunately, Zainuddin must get jealousy since his girlfriend is so close to other man, Azis. Even though Hayati tries to behave in front of Khadijah family by accepting Azis' nice treatment, but it is the first phase for them to be united.

Not too long after that, Azis proposes Hayati. At the same time, Zainuddin does the same thing. Her family suggests her to choose Azis, and Hayati agrees with that. In Indonesia, male suitors almost always require approval of a female's family, while a male's parents usually must accept his marital choice (Forshee, 2006:154). Zainuddin does not get Hayati's family's approval. He is rejected as part of their family. Perhaps Zainuddin is so broke but Hayati is so happy with her marriage. Her husband, like her family say, can provide her all needs. There are a lot of gift she gets from her husband. It is like what Khadijah prediction that Hayati may not love her brother, but she will fall in love after receiving those jewelry.

Like Daisy, Hayati also does not know what her husband does while he is away from home. She does not know how many girls her husband has love affair with. She just tries to be a good wife although her husband does not treat her well. She just knows that her husband gets problem with his job and his loan after they move to Surabaya. Also, in this city they meet Zainuddin as a famous writer. Zainuddin is success now. He is rich, richer than Azis. In desperate condition, Azis asks Zainuddin to take care Hayati. He goes to Banyuwangi and suicides there.

Hayati who actually still loves her ex-boyfriend wants to fix her relationship. In traditional custom, it is impossible for Indonesian woman to express vulgarly to man when her husband just passed away. Something is clear here because the condition is different. Hayati is a widow now, and Zainuddin is a success man. Financial success is really temping for a woman to look for a husband.

CONCLUSION

Marriage is an important phase for a woman. She must consider that this step is a new phase in her life as well as the last one for spending all her life time with her husband. Therefore, she must be careful in choosing a future husband. Love is not enough to fulfill her need since life

needs a lot of things. In capitalism society, love will come a long with prosperity. It means that love will fade away as the financial problem comes.

In the case of Daisy and Hayati, they believe in love at first. They beg to be together with their lover and need their family's approval. Unfortunately, the approval comes to those who are considered as the ideal men. The ideal one means the one from prominent family, handsome,

and rich. Financial stability becomes the reason for them to accept those men's proposal. Their loves arise as the money flows to them. Most women will do it since their life will be stable better than those who only promise that they will love them till die. Based on the story, also, their loves disappear as their husbands' wealth decrease. They, then, are very happy meeting their ex-lovers who are richer than their present husband.

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