

An Analysis of Gatsby's and Daisy's Hierarchical Needs in *The Great Gatsby* with Maslow's Theory

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Abstract- *The Great Gatsby* vividly presents the mental state of young people and the value orientation of the society in the American jazz age, and thus drawing numerous readers to ponder over the rupture of the "American Dream" and the "wilderness era" of the American upper class. This novel certainly possesses profound literary connotation and impressive research values. Depending on this masterpiece, Fitzgerald was enabled to fortify his unique position in the history of American literature. This paper aims to use Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to interpret the psychological needs of Gatsby and Daisy, the main characters in *The Great Gatsby*, so as to find out their behavioral motivation and the influence of their internal psychological factors. Simultaneously, by comparing their key choices of life alterations, the paper also tries to explore the main value of American society in the Jazz age. In so doing readers may gain a new perspective to understand this elusive work. Initially, a brief introduction of Fitzgerald and academic achievements of the novel for years will be listed. In the second part, Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory can be introduced briefly. After that, Gatsby's motivations are analyzed from last four parts of needs, as well as Daisy's; it is found that Gatsby has gone through a rather tortuous process to meet his psychological needs in his class promotions and pursuing Daisy unremittingly, and finally he receives a fugacious self-actualization. Conversely, Daisy, because of her aristocratic family, mostly hovers around the level of psychological security and love needs. The sharp contrast between the two reflects a great propensity to plutocracy and egoism in American society in the 1920s.

Index Terms- *The Great Gatsby*; Fitzgerald; Hierarchy of Needs; individual psychology

I. INTRODUCTION

F. Scott Fitzgerald, a well-known short-story writer and novelist, is praised as the poet laureate of the Jazz Age and representative of the Lost Generation. Fitzgerald was born in an upper-middle-class family and educated by his mother in the early period, and then he continued studying at Princeton where he began his literary life and met many sincere friends providing much help. Gradually he managed to be a leading figure in the socially important Triangle Club, one of the greatest clubs of the University [1]. When he picked up the pen, his own experiences give him a lot of inspirations and enlightenments.

During his roughly twenty-year literary life, he has composed four splendid novels and over 160 short stories [1], reproducing artistically the true history and showing the spiritual style, mainstream culture and social features at that time, and finally unraveling the emptiness behind prodigality and mendacious nature of the American dream. His works have won generations of adoration and drawn numerous scholars' heeds. With increasingly great recognition and compliments from literary commentators, Fitzgerald occupies an imperative position in American literary world, and his compositions are introduced to many foreign countries, some even are selected into textbook and become must-read classic.

Among those Fitzgerald's masterpieces, *The Great Gatsby* can be considered the most remarkable and widely known. In 1920s, the capitalism was booming and America hunted a large amount of wealth after WWI, pushing American agricultural civilization into industrial modernization. Besides, the government advocated a 'free' financial policy and dismissed much governmental intervention, to heighten the efficiency of economic operation, so American economy moved to an extremely prosperous stage [2]. While at the same time a wind of hedonism and extravagance began flourishing, the amount of wealth became the only criterion to evaluate a person. It is under such condition that Gatsby started his dream pursuing and paid the price of life for love, drawing much sympathy and glorification, which made a distinct comparison with the indifferent and snobbish so-called upper class.

The Great Gatsby, as an outstanding novel, naturally whets a host of scholars' appetite to investigate. Among those great achievements, their study contents often focus on American dream, narrative strategy, symbolic meaning and character analysis and so on, providing readers various perspectives to understand the novel.

The quite early study about Fitzgerald from 1940s to 1970s, mainly concentrated on his life experiences and artistic analysis of his works, so some biology of Fitzgerald spouted, of which fairly important may be Scott Fitzgerald: A Bibliography by Jeffrey Meyers, and Some Sort of Epic Grandeur: The Life of F.Scott Fitzgerald by Matthew J. Bruccoli and so forth. In the later period, the abroad study

gradually paid attention to the images in novel, such as Cowley's *A Second Flowering: Works and Days of the Lost Generation*, pointing out that those modern cars represent wealth and status, as well as death [3]. Cowley began to realize the links between characters and machines. By the end of 20th century, the study of Fitzgerald reached a climax; many critics actively analyzed *The Great Gatsby* through all kinds of literary theories, including structuralism, narrative theory, feminism and psychological analysis, etc. For instance, in the book *Critical Theory Today: A User Friendly Guide*, Lois Tyson analyzed the novel in sundry aspects like Marxist criticism, postcolonial criticism and some other theories, enriching the researches of the work.

However, because of the Great Cultural Revolution, the study of *The Great Gatsby* at home began quite a lot later, after the opening-up policy in 1978, some preeminent scholars started the formal systematic research on American literature. Especially profiting from professor Wu Ningkun's translation of the book in 1983, Chinese readers got the access to know and perceive this excellent work and Fitzgerald. Moreover, Chang Yaixin's *American Literature History* thought highly of *The Great Gatsby*: "its competence to convey the version of the author all reveal Fitzgerald's consummate artistry" [4]. And the release of Wu Jianguo's *Fitzgerald Studies* in 2002 had taken the domestic study of Fitzgerald to new heights. At the beginning, scholars were apt to analyze the novel from the respect of American dream, just like Li, she compared *Gatsby*, *Tom* and *Daisy*, by the help of binary opposition in structuralism, in order to interpret the theme—the disillusionment of American dream [5]. Later some scholars tended to dig into its symbolic meanings, Pan Shujie demonstrated that human destiny is duplicated like a machine component, which reflects the ethical predicament [6]. Of course there are also many new insights about the novel, Liao Juan chose the narration of "Love" as the center of study, she stressed on the alert functions and enlightenment granted by the tragedy in story to modern youngsters. And parts of them tried to interpret *Gatsby's* action from the view of individual psychology, as Hua claims that all the motivations of *Gatsby's* behaviors are driven by the compensation for his inferiority feelings [7].

For all an army of excellent research outputs, quite a few people interpreted *The Great Gatsby* from the view of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, thus by using of this theory, the author will analyze the psychological transformations of *Gatsby* and *Daisy* in *The Great Gatsby* in this paper, in order to present the emergence and changes of their complicated psychological needs so as to uncover absolutely different natures of the two, and finally provide readers a new perspective to latch on this novel.

II. MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Abraham Maslow, the father of humanistic psychology, has composed a series of psychological books among past decades of years such as *Motivation and Personality*, *Existence Psychology Exploration*, *Religion*, *Performance of the State of Man* and so on, which established Maslow's position in psychological analysis area. Among them, his hierarchical needs theory in *Motivation and Personality* exhorts wide effects in many domains. This chapter will also emphasize the introduction of it.

A. Hierarchical Needs

In Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, he points out that environmental forces and internal needs are the two factors determining a person's behavior and the society's development [8]. The former mainly plays a supplementary role in one's motivation, maybe its effects don't appear to be much conspicuous and infinitely decisive, but this situational element shouldn't be neglected and denied.

Maslow divided these different inner needs into five models; from bottom to the top, they are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs, which often impose dramatic influences on behavioral orientation.

1) Physiological Needs

Physiological needs are the most fundamental needs in hierarchical needs pyramid and can be considered to be the most necessary physical requirements to support a human's survival. They often contain food, air, water, sleep, shelter, breathing and so on. Without them, people will be so vulnerable to illness and threatened by death. "When one deals with physiological needs, like hunger, signals will not do, only satisfiers will do, only food will allay hunger." [8]. Thereof, physiological needs are regarded as the basis of human's living and pursuing.

2) Safety Needs

When the first demand is met, people are often inclined to seek for safety guarantee. "There then emerges a new set of needs, which we may categorize roughly as the safety needs" [8]. This term consists of personal security, financial stability, and freedom from fear, from anxiety or nervousness, strength, and conviction of law and order and so on. In addition, safety needs are also rather basic needs, in a lower level. If people are confronted with those dreadful threats, they may enter a deeply painful and stressful situation.

3) Love and Belonging Needs

Once the above two needs are satisfied completely, people will gain the room to contemplate the interactions with others. "After both physiological and safety needs are fairly well gratified, there will emerge the love and affection and belongingness needs" [8]. According to Maslow, humans desire such a sense of intimacy, love and affiliation and get away from loneliness and isolation in order to be accepted by social groups and achieve the goal. Besides, he also underlines that there is a great gap between love and sex; the latter is under the first term, merely a kind of animal instinct, while the former is a higher-level spiritual enjoyment. If love is absent in life, people may find life unendurably dull and inane elsewhere. In the experiment, animals prefer mother's accompanying even without milk rather than automatic feeding by machines [9]. Namely, love and belongings occupy a prominently significant place in the formation of one's disposition.

4) Esteem Needs

The fine gratification of the first three needs often gives rise of esteem needs, which derive from that "All people in our society have a need or desire for status" [10]. This part is mainly composed of self-esteem and respect of others, meaning that people will try hard to set up confidence and achievements, and win others' recognition and a sense of self-value.

5) Self-actualization Needs

Self-actualization needs situate at a superior level of the needs pyramid. Maslow describes it as "the desire to

accomplish everything that one can, to become the most that the one can be" [8], which means that people are capable to be whomever they want to be and achieve their targets by their potential and endeavor. Those people have two standers at least, one is to realize and express internal cores, such as the talents and perfect function. The other refers to some rare people who suffer illness or remain in trouble, but deprived of human nature [8]. No matter what way, a man has become what he can be and devotes to his nature, which refers to his reaching this level.

B. The Relationship among the Five Needs

Maslow harbors a view that all these needs are mutual influential and mutual constrained. However, quite a few people hold a wrong sight that only the lower needs are well met can the next advanced needs appear, and lower-level needs can totally dominate the higher one. As a matter of fact, the emergence of a new need is a slow process, and it didn't arise in the moment the last one is finished. Of course the relationship among five sorts of needs cannot be such fixed or rigid. People hold different values and beliefs in accordance with respective upbringings and traits, some may think highly of love, some may pay much price for business, while both of them can abandon the basic settings for survival to protect those they consider invisible but invaluable. So a person's action cannot be concluded as a simple transition between the two levels, there are also mental factors functioning.

III. ANALYSIS OF GATSBY'S HIERARCHICAL NEEDS

A. Groping for Inner Security

Apparently, even though Gatsby comes from a quite poor family, he is not facing the survival challenge or mortal threats. So it seems that his first need is satisfied partly. If the survival problem doesn't need to exceedingly concern about, the desire for a stable life and quiet inner world will ensue.

A seething averseness and sadness of war stalked the whole United States after the WWI. In order to diminish their spiritual sorrow, many Americans take the fancy of immediate satisfaction that they indulge themselves in a sense of anesthesia brought by materials, providing a sea of opportunities for some businessmen to produce these matters that seems legitimate superficially. Moreover, through a battery of arms trafficking and strategic supplies, American industrialization was greeted with a staggering advancement, which prompted the prevailing wind of hedonism and extravagance in a wider sphere [10]. Gradually, wealth is considered as the only sign of success.

His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people—his nation had never really accepted them as his parents at all... He was a son of God—a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that—and he must be about His Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty.

...

But his heart was in a constant, turbulent riot. The most grotesque and Fantastic conceits haunted him in his bed at night [11].

Ostensibly, Gatsby is not lucky enough to have chance inheriting large wealth. Under this condition, Gatsby's mediocre family formed a sharp contrast with mainstream value, exaggerating Gatsby's growing inferiority complex and a strong willing to alter the all. According to Adler, a notable

Austrian psychologist, a sense of inferiority will make people nervous [12], and Maslow also indicates that one may feel upset and panic when he was coting with some things that exceed his capacity [8]. So the above two points signals Gatsby's scarcity of mental safety. He realized that he must struggle to get rid of the terrible state and gain an advantageous position. To accomplish that, he determined to read lots of inspirational books, set a strict schedule, even changed a new name, and the later working for Dan Cody just for a better life and try to calm down his intranquil mind. But after Cody's death, Gatsby was bereft of the bequest; he nearly got nothing.

Loneliness, sense of interiority and bewilderment are the sources of Gatsby's fears and anxiety. However, due to the distortion of American dream in 1920s, traditional morality had suffered much shock and it is unable to narrow the gulf between rich and poor. Gatsby was destined to go through many failures. But at least his constant and crazy works and frequent travels bring him a shred of psychological serenity; cause to some extent, busy and arduous projects may ease a person's sense of uncertainty.

B. Falling in Love with Daisy

Although he had not yet gained a complete success, his safety needs appear to be gratified in some degree. Maslow supports that love and belonging needs mainly contain affection, friendship and love, which are more advanced than physiological needs and safety needs. This sort of needs show people's longing for emotional interaction and expression. Everyone needs love and care no matter how old they are.

In the course of work, Gatsby encountered Daisy occasionally, and promptly he was attracted and enamored by her. He described Daisy as "a beautiful flower" and "silver". The appearance of Daisy gave rise to the birth of Gatsby's love needs. And those affluent resources and her respectable social status also stimulate Gatsby's bloated aspiration for success. To gain Daisy always means to gain love, of course, as well as all he has been chasing for years. In order to make Daisy look up to him, Gatsby boasted that he came from a rich family with a good education, so as to cover up the inferiority caused by his family and try to create a sense of security for her so that he can achieve the goal of love. In fact, they certainly have a romantic and gorgeous month. Gatsby was immersed in this fantastic relationship at all. More important, he felt beloved, as what he said that "I can't describe to you how surprised I was to find out I loved her, old sports. I even hoped for a while that she'd throw me over, but she didn't, because she was in love with me too [11].

However, all these wonderful times stopped when Gatsby must go to the war, but Daisy always dominated Gatsby's heart. And he confirmed that Daisy has always been font of him even though she has married another one; even when he met Daisy's child he was too shocked to admit this little girl's existence. As long as he affirms this point, his third needs can be satisfied to a large extent.

C. Longing for Respect from Others

The esteem needs are the fourth level in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, including obtaining respects from others and compromising to others based on esteem. People who enable to satisfy the esteem needs by achieving good self-esteem and recognition of others may feel confident in

their abilities. Those who are devoid of self-esteem and often ignored by others will be shrouded in a wave of inferiority.

In the story, Gatsby rejected the moral principles of accumulating wealth by diligence and endeavor, he began to make money crazily and unscrupulously by unfair means, and collude with illegal gamblers, sell illicit wine, and recklessly make exorbitant profits. Finally, he became a rich man as he wished. However, the upper class's continuous attitude towards new upstarts like Gatsby has always been contemptuous [7]. He can't really integrate into the upper class society, because apart from wealth, it doesn't turn out to be any other similar points between Gatsby and upper strata of society in field of values, life styles and rules of handling things, which has lasted for a long time. On basis of it, Gatsby must find a valid way to win others' respect so as to meet his esteem needs.

To reach his purpose, Gatsby put fake books in his study, among which the pages hadn't been cut yet, and he also told lies that he had studied at Oxford in England and was born from a celebrity. He began holding excessively prodigal and luxurious parties per week to show his wealth off. He firmly believed that he will win other people's commends and acceptance. Gatsby always struggled to create common ground to approach traditional American nobility and attempted to create a good reputation, to gain others' respect. Maybe it seems relatively vain and boastful, but it is the only way Gatsby had found to meet his esteem needs.

D. Achieving Transitory Self-realization

In Maslow's opinion, if a person can be what he wants to be, and achieve his goals and ambitions depending on his potentials and efforts, it is considered that his self-realization is generally met [8].

After the receiving of business success that makes a big leap of Gatsby's status, he mustered up his courage to chase Daisy again. The priority of all is to fill this blank in his heart so as to reach the top level. To finish that, he bought a big villa in New York West Egg, held a grand banquet every day, hoping that it would draw Daisy's attention on the other side one day. Occasionally, with the help of Nick, they were able to meet each other and fall in love quickly.

He literally glowed; without a word or a gesture of exultation a new well-being radiated from him and filled the little room.

...

He smiled like a weather man like an ecstatic patron of recurrent light, and repeated the news to Daisy [11].

These above describe how delighted when he met Daisy again. To attract her, Gatsby presented his priceless antiques, spacious gardens, magnificent cattle and colorful shirts of all sorts of materials to Daisy, so as to infer that he can give Daisy all that Tom can give. As he may expect, Daisy came back to him. During this time, Gatsby's love needs were gratified, and he believed that what he desired all the way is just in front of his eyes. By now, Gatsby hunted love and wealth and indulged in his happiness, which means that he had become the person he wanted to be, symbolizing the temporary and sectional achievement of his self-actualization. However, Gatsby gradually realized that Daisy's marriage became the biggest hurdle for him to achieve his dream; for a further consolidation of his hard-won self-actualization, he began forcing Daisy to say that she never loved Tom, beyond Gatsby's expectation, it is Tom that put him into abyss.

Tom, Daisy's husband, the successor of the upper class, can't tolerate the existence of Gatsby. When Tom learned that his wife may have some secret links with Gatsby, he was so jealous that he questioned Gatsby's educational background on the spot, disclosed that the money he made was ill-gotten gains, and successfully stopped Daisy's determination to leave with Gatsby. And later the tragedy was occurred; Daisy killed Mrs. Myrtle accidentally under stress. Gatsby was confronting with an option—neglection or protection, in other words, safety or love.

"Yes," he said after a moment, "but of course I'll say I was."

...

He couldn't possibly leave Daisy until he knew what she was going to do. He was clutching at some last hope and I couldn't bear to shake him free.[11]

Obviously, at the end he chose the latter without any hesitation. He had made a full preparation to sacrifice for Daisy, who carried all his love and dreams. He didn't go away but waited for Daisy's call constantly until the coming of Mr. Myrtle's vengeance. After a big shot, his American dream was broken, his love was lost, and he was going to demise.

Gatsby always believes that Daisy is an irreplaceable good girl. However, actually, under her pure, gentle and beautiful appearance, it is such a selfish and cowardly soul valuing money a lot and quailing at life's transforming. Daisy's love is solely based on the materials. Granted, Daisy needs Gatsby's passionate love, but the halo on Gatsby's head more. Nevertheless, superficial luxury never characterizes the true love, but the soul sublimation and spiritual destination of self in the journey of achieving love [13]. So this bubble love is bond to Gatsby's final destroying.

IV. ANALYSIS OF DAISY'S HIERARCHICAL NEEDS

A. Chasing true love and Harvesting Ostensible Respect

Daisy was born in the upper class originally, so she doesn't need to concern about the shortage of provisions or the risk of homelessness or turbulence. So the needs for love mainly draw her attention.

In the early time, she fell in love with Gatsby and dreamed of a happy marriage, but this good wish was gone with Gatsby's leaving. A gush of bewilderedness and sadness overwhelmed her. She was rather eager to seek for another accompanier who is able to offer his love, and more important, a respectable life.

All the time something within her was to cry for a decision. "She wanted her life shaped now, immediately—and the decision must be made by some force—of love, of money, of unquestionable practicality that was close at hand" [11].

It's quite obvious that money and love can be the palliative of her panic and poor nerves. Tom's appearing seems exactly right. Daisy gains her happiness of being loved again at the beginning. But this phase lasts so short, after their girl birth for a moment, her husband should go away for his mistress, which dawned on Daisy that her sense of safety will be challenged again. She presented her less worries to Nick:

I saw that turbulent emotions possess her, so I asked what I thought would be some sedative questions about her little girl.

...

"You see I think everything's terrible anyhow ... Sophisticated—God, I'm sophisticated!" [11]

Through a series of Tom's excessive infidelity, Daisy felt a sea of grief and gradually lost her interior peace. In addition, because of its patriarchal society, Tom's deviance was still under very few restrictions, which strengthens Daisy's insecurity and fears of marriage breakdown in some degree. After all, it means she may lose Tom's family power. So all these experiences greatly are threatening her safety and inner peace.

Maslow claims that people are often prone to deal with lower needs compared with the upper one at the time when the lower levels of satisfaction plummet [8]. Tom's improper act brings great threats to Daisy. She must hold a staunch and long-term backstop, which is the main support of her safety.

Thanks to Gatsby's returning, Daisy enabled to sweep her loneliness and anxiety away while enjoying abundant and costly materials that Gatsby had granted. As Gatsby felt that "Her voice is full of money", Gatsby's remarkable grades and exalting wealth stir her ambitions up again. When Daisy buried herself in Gatsby's gorgeous shirts, she cried, may for these four-year anguish without love or amazed of her final slavery of emotion [13]. Gatsby handed his avid love to Daisy and presented his hefty wealth, which always warned Daisy that she could still maintain a lavish life, even after she left Tom, and she would also possess his sincere and pure love. It seems that falling love with Gatsby again successfully satisfied Daisy's safety needs and love and belonging needs. However, in that time, Daisy didn't know Gatsby's illicit wealth resources, which also brings some hidden dangers to their later experiences. Besides, Daisy has become the object of attention for her unique intimate relationship with Gatsby, and shows off her status by means of Gatsby, to gain others' respects. In order to reach the final level, Daisy has questioned Gatsby if they can leave New York together and settle down in another place, so as to cast off Tom, who will cumber her happiness. But she failed, because Gatsby must confirm Daisy's propensity in these years without his existence.

So in this view, Daisy's first four needs have been satisfied in varying degrees.

B. Defending Physical Safety and Inward Tranquility

The sharp confrontation between Tom and Gatsby reveals the fact that Gatsby's illegal wealth and poor background, which draw Daisy into panic suddenly, as if she returns back to starting point. At the moment, she bumped into Tom's fancy woman by mistake, triggering the fear that she may be accused of manslaughter. Two things that Gatsby's unlawful property and her own crime of killing Mrs. Myrtle pose a great menace to Daisy's physical and psychological security.

According to Maslow, a person is often prone to surrender to the lower demands. In this case, Daisy and Tom's vice conspiracy seems quite rational.

Daisy and Tom were sitting opposite each other at the kitchen table...He was talking intently across the table at her, and in his earnestness his hand had fallen upon and covered her own. Once in a while she looked up at him and nodded in agreement. [11]

So Daisy would rather subscribe to impute the crime to Gatsby, and then fly away with Tom without any news. At Gatsby's funeral, not just Daisy and Tom didn't show up, but also the old guests who used to attend Gatsby's parties were afraid to keep any connections with him. Obviously, Daisy opts to subordinate to her lower needs and gave up Gatsby,

the only one who can love her with all his heart and even is willing to give the whole life for her. Standing by Tom means that Daisy is allowed to continue her luxurious and noble lifestyle, but she will never receive true love, the high-grade nourishment.

Rating low-level needs and higher ones, Daisy chose the former, sacrificing Gatsby and flying to Europe, which reveals the ugly nature of money supremacy in upper class circumstance.

V. CONCLUSION

The Great Gatsby is one of the most impressive works of Fitzgerald. In this novel, Fitzgerald not just draws a picture of "the Jazz Age" and the vivid upper class's life in America, but also makes a delicate anatomy of personality. This paper aims to analyze the psychological needs of main characters, Gatsby and Daisy, with the purpose of providing a relatively novel perspective to interpret this novel and attracting much more innovative researches on it. These two main characters' psychological changes are made a quite deep analysis as follows.

Gatsby was born in a poor family, which stimulates his sense of inferiority in comparison with ideological trend, so he began feel nervous and anxious about his life condition. So he gradually kept the pace with the original American dream, attempting to achieve his goals by great efforts to meet his inner safety needs. And then he was obsessed with Daisy in the process of working, which drew his love needs. He even pretended to be a rich man for satisfying this need. However, a large body of failures occurs to him that illicit methods can solely help him gain what he wanted. Although acquiring wealth by some quite furtive methods, Gatsby cannot be defined as an evildoer, because it is the corollary of that time's encouraging and forcing [14]. Finally, when he succeeded in gathering a large amount of wealth in that way, he retrieved Daisy, for all in only a short period. Besides, he boasted his false academic experiences and listed hefty fake books out of a sense of identity, also for others' respect. He received Daisy's love and quite good statues, which means he accomplished his dream and he become what he wants to be. By this time, Gatsby's five needs can be gratified respectively in different degrees.

Daisy always felt uncomfortable because of Tom's fickle love, but the returning of Gatsby renders her beloved and fosters a sense of vanity, recompensing her poor inner safety. In addition, with the special relationship with Gatsby, Daisy also gained envy and respect from others. Until now, Daisy can reach the fourth level.

But everything is changed when the accident occurred. Mrs. Myrtle was killed by Daisy. At that moment, Gatsby presented his selflessness and courage to sacrifice for love; he considered love superior and forwent his basic safety needs, which is always praised by most readers. Conversely, Daisy reveals stolid and ruthless natures, leaving Gatsby alone and escaping to Europe. She is subject to her lower-level needs unquestionably. Generally, it can be said that Daisy always hovers around the second and third level. By the great contrast, Gatsby's bravery and nobility can stand out conspicuously.

Through the analysis on the two main characters' psychological actions, it shows that in the process of chasing self-actualization, they present miscellaneous personalities

pertaining to different connections in the complex background. The two main characters' behaviors are subject to their needs on different levels. Generally, the most basic needs can be often met firstly, but sometimes one may be committed to the upper needs and forsake his basic matters for his higher spiritual pursuing, as it did in the case of Gatsby's voluntary sacrifice at the end. As what Hegel has purported that, the torments of a tragic character enable to arouse people's sympathy, these glorious traits and ample contents must be entrenched in his mind [15]. Transparently, Gatsby can be the one.

Admittedly, Gatsby and Daisy's love is a completely tragedy, heartbreaking but exquisite [16]. In 1920s New York, Fitzgerald depicts a picture of prodigality and extravagance in upper class, and arduousness and sufferance in the lower class, showing people's craze to wealth and love. For the part of ethic, love may end up with misery inevitably in that roaring age. A mass of spiritual aridity shrouded the whole America, which is people's common feeling at that time.

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