

LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF THE CONCEPT OF UGLINESS IN THE GREAT GATSBY BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

Inoyatova Dilnoza Ilxomovna

A teacher of the department of Methodology of teaching foreign languages in Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute

Abstract. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is often seen as a glamorous story about wealth and parties, but beneath that shiny surface lies a world of ugliness. This article explores how Fitzgerald shows us this ugliness, not just in how things look, but in how people act and what they value. We'll see how the author uses descriptions of places, characters, and their choices to show the dark side of the Roaring Twenties, revealing a society obsessed with money and appearances while ignoring real human connection and moral values. This isn't just about a story of failed love; it's a look at how chasing the wrong dreams can lead to emptiness and destruction, and the ugly truths that can be hidden behind a pretty face.

Key words: moral values, concept, ugliness, moral decay, physical appearance

Introduction. *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, is a book that sparkles. It's full of fancy parties, beautiful people, and lots of money. But if you look closer, you'll see a kind of ugliness woven into the story. It's not the kind of ugliness you can just see with your eyes, like a broken-down building. Instead, Fitzgerald shows us a different kind of ugliness: the ugliness of what people do, how they treat each other, and the things they think are important.

During the analysis it is found that the author describes the unpleasant view of the place mostly. For example, *The Valley of Ashes*, situated between West Egg and New York City, is a stark, physical representation of the moral decay and social inequality that the wealthy classes ignore. It's a landscape of industrial waste, where "ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens." In some cases visual contrast can also be seen. For instance, this starkly ugly place contrasts sharply with the opulent mansions of West Egg and East Egg, emphasizing the vast divide between the privileged and the working class. The ugliness of the Valley is a direct consequence of the wealth and excess enjoyed by the rich.

Symbolism is also used to express ugliness. The ashes symbolize the moral decay and spiritual emptiness of the era, representing the waste and destruction created by the careless pursuit of wealth and pleasure. It's also linked to the "dust" that gathers around the past.

George and Myrtle Wilson reside in this wasteland, linking their personal struggles and moral desperation to this ugly landscape. Their environment mirrors their despair.

In the book, moral ugliness in wealth elite can be seen as well. Tom Buchanan's Brutality: Tom's blatant racism, infidelity, violence, and arrogance reveal a profound moral ugliness hidden beneath his wealth and social standing. His actions demonstrate a callous disregard for others' feelings and well-being.

Daisy Buchanan's Shallowness: Daisy, despite her allure and beauty, displays a deep moral ugliness through her selfishness, irresponsibility, and cowardice. Her inability to take responsibility for her actions and her willingness to sacrifice others for her own comfort are profoundly ugly.

The Careless Rich: The overall behavior of the wealthy characters is marked by a lack of empathy, moral responsibility, and genuine human connection. They are shallow, self-absorbed, and prone to reckless behavior, highlighting the ugliness of their privilege and irresponsibility.

Superficiality of the Parties: The extravagant parties at Gatsby's mansion, while appearing glamorous, are ultimately meaningless and chaotic, showcasing the emptiness of their social lives. The guests are often portrayed as careless and detached, engaging in superficial and fleeting relationships. This excessive pursuit of pleasure masks an underlying spiritual void.

Gatsby's obsessive pursuit of Daisy and his unrealistic vision of recreating the past expose a kind of desperate ugliness. His inability to accept reality and his blind adherence to an idealized image of Daisy ultimately lead to his downfall. This clinging to illusion and unrealistic expectations is ultimately self-destructive.

Gatsby's story illustrates the way the American Dream can become corrupted by materialism and the pursuit of unattainable goals. The ugly side of the dream is the obsessive pursuit of wealth and status, often at the expense of ethics and morality.

Even the seemingly romantic "green light" at the end of Daisy's dock becomes, at times, a symbol of Gatsby's unattainable and increasingly distorted dream. It is a physical object that becomes imbued with an unrealistic projection of the past.

Characters' Self-Delusion: Many of the characters are trapped in self-deception, refusing to see themselves or their actions clearly. This refusal to confront the truth contributes to their moral decay and ultimately their destruction.

The Masks People Wear: The novel often reveals how characters present a superficial facade to hide their true selves and their moral failings. This disconnect between appearance and reality highlights the ugliness of their hidden flaws.

Even Nick, who acts as the moral observer, grapples with his own biases

and limitations, recognizing the complexities of human behavior and the difficulty of judging others. His own internal struggle adds to the complexity of the ugliness portrayed.

Conclusion. The ugliness in *The Great Gatsby* is not just about physical appearance but is a deeper exploration of moral corruption, social injustice, and the destructive power of illusion. Fitzgerald uses setting, characterization, and symbolism to reveal the ugly underbelly of the American Dream, the hollowness of wealth, and the destructive consequences of unchecked ambition and desire. It's a powerful critique of the superficiality and moral decay of the Jazz Age, a stark warning about the dangers of unchecked materialism and the pursuit of unattainable dreams. The ugly truths of the novel are often hidden beneath a glamorous veneer, which makes them all the more insidious.

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