The Pursuit of American Dream—Analysis of Jay Gatsby in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*

By I-Hsuan Claire Su

**Synopsis**

The thesis is composed in English. It features the idea of American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* and aims to disclose how Fitzgerald presents the ensuing problems of disillusion and corruption through his protagonist, Jay Gatsby. Its discussion incorporates the issues of identity, the economy, the rise of the bourgeois and so on in an attempt to see how these events shape and affect the life and mentality of contemporary society. The author then examines the text to demonstrate how Jay Gatsby symbolizes the American Dream by looking at his relationship with his love, Daisy. The conclusion revisits the issues mentioned above and values the protagonist’s spirit in his pursuit of American Dream, however fruitless.

**Comment**

**Decent Writing** Though with occasional misspelling, typo and grammatical slips, this piece of writing as a whole is decent. The author can write idiomatically and has a handsome command of the language. It is therefore welcome to the general audience and suggests that the author can argue, analyze and convey meanings with reasonable clarity, appropriate sentence structure, vocabulary as well as transitions. In addition, the tone of this thesis stays disinterested throughout, giving an impression of consistency.

**Sound Logic** The author shows sound logic in her debate. She is sensible of justifying every assertion proposed by applying to textual analysis. For example, in Chapter III where the discussion focuses on how Gatsby symbolizes the American Dream, the author supports her argument by her interpretation of the text and also elaborates by giving satisfactory and sufficient accounts of historical events. With this presentation of evidence and reasoning, the argument in this thesis is all the more convincing and logical.

**Arrangement of layout** The author treats every issue with fair distribution of length. Even in the conclusion where she revisits the discourse, the author knows well to avoid redundancy and recapitulate succinctly as well as cogently. This suggests that the framework of the thesis is carefully devised, arranged and managed and shows that the author can develop her argument without preference that could undermine an academic research.
Suggestion

**Form of Citation** This thesis is all in all well written and merits recognition, given the author’s academic training at this stage. However, if this piece of writing intends to be a scholarly text, its form of citation should comply with MLA (Modern Language Association), Chicago or other academic styles commonly used in humanities. Though there are notes indicating the source of the works cited in the thesis, the form of citation is not applicable in academic field. There are specific and meticulous regulations in citing reference and format of bibliography, depending on different genre, print or online information. Managing well in the form of citation helps build credibility and demonstrate accountability to the source material.

**Reference** The end of the thesis bears a bibliography of several research works but few of them are addressed sufficiently. Most of them are referred to, oftentimes abruptly, as a couple of lines to serve as what the author assumes to be support of evidence. However, such lack of context results in inducing a knowledgeable reader to challenge the validity and is likely to provoke disagreement. It is recommended that a balanced literary review will enrich and establish a comprehensive discourse and help make up a work of scholarship.