



**"COLOUR SYMBOLISM IN 'THE GREAT GATSBY': ILLUMINATING THE
CHARACTERS THROUGH HUES"**

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ABSTRACT

The article "Colour Symbolism in 'The Great Gatsby': Illuminating the Characters through Hues" delves into the clever way that F. Scott Fitzgerald used colour to represent themes and characters in his well-known book. This abstract explores how the colours green, yellow, white, blue, and red represent different facets of the individuals' personalities and the Jazz Age social milieu. Colour green, which is represented by the green light at Daisy Buchanan's dock, is a representation of Gatsby's unfulfilled ambitions and unrelenting drive for money and prestige. In the 1920s, it symbolized the shallowness of the American Dream as well as his desire for a future with Daisy. As witnessed by Daisy's clothes and Gatsby's ostentatious belongings, yellow is a colour linked to riches and moral deterioration. Daisy and Jordan Baker are dressed in white, which is a colour associated with innocence and purity, yet also hides their social façades and moral ambiguity. It portrays the discrepancy between their lives' realities and displays. As seen by Gatsby's reflections in the blue water and the faded eyes of T. J. Eckleburg's billboard, the colour blue is symbolic of melancholy

and unfulfilled dreams. The characters' yearning for an irretrievable past is highlighted by this. Through Tom Buchanan's violent behavior and the intense emotional moments between characters such as Gatsby and Daisy, Red a symbol of passion and vitality adds intensity to the story. This abstract draws attention to how Fitzgerald used symbolism to convey larger themes of ambition, illusion, and the fallacy of the American Dream, as well as to enhance characterizations. The purpose of this essay is to provide readers with a more sophisticated comprehension of how colour functions as a literary element in "The Great Gatsby," enhancing the story and encouraging in-depth contemplation of the intricacies of human aspirations and societal ideals.

KEYWORDS: Ambition, illusion, fantasy, human aspiration, purity, fallacy, richness, discrepancy.

1. Introduction

Famous for portraying the wealth, aspirations, and moral decline of 1920s America, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is considered a classic of the Jazz Age literature. Of all the literary strategies it employs, colour symbolism stands out as a crucial component that enhances the story and provides a deep understanding of the characters and ideas. Readers can decipher the characters' inner motivations, wants, and failures by using Fitzgerald's purposeful use of colour, which also creates a vivid image of the time. This piece of writing explores *The Great Gatsby*'s complex use of colour symbolism, showing how different colours are subtly incorporated into the narrative to highlight character intricacies and the story's central indictment of the American Dream. We reveal the levels of significance that make this book a timeless investigation of society's ideals and human nature by closely examining important characters and the colours that correspond with them.

2. The Symbolism of Colors in Key Characters

2.1. Jay Gatsby: The Green Light and the Gold Dream

The American Dream, which Jay Gatsby idealized through Daisy Buchanan, is symbolized by his unwavering pursuit of the green light. Gatsby's dreams and the more general topic of unfulfilled ambitions are symbolized by the green light at the end of Daisy's dock. The light, for Gatsby, is a beacon pointing him in the direction of a future in which he may make up for lost time and lead a prosperous, happy life with Daisy. The "gold dream," as Gatsby refers to his interpretation of the American Dream, is closely associated with financial

prosperity and money. Gatsby thinks he would be accepted and loved by Daisy, a sign of status and riches if he achieves this gold fantasy, which is a mirage of success. Gatsby's goal to reinvent himself and infiltrate Daisy's old money society is reflected in his home, extravagant parties, and opulent lifestyle.

Ultimately though, Gatsby's dreams are revealed to be hollow when the green light and the gold dream appear. The society that Gatsby longs to join is firmly rooted in outdated social systems and biases, so despite his enormous fortune and efforts, he can never fully achieve the acceptance he seeks. Daisy is also exposed as a shallow and flawed person who can't measure up to Gatsby's romanticized ideal. Gatsby's goals are ultimately unattainable, as symbolized by the green light fading in the end. The tragic way he passed away highlights the pointlessness of his quest and casts doubt on the American Dream, showing it to be an illusory illusion that promises more than it can possibly fulfill.

In terms of symbolizing affluence and moral deterioration, yellow has a major influence. Though yellow is frequently linked to wealth and the lavish lifestyles of the protagonists throughout the book, it also alludes to the superficiality and corruption that lurk beneath their glamorous exterior. Gold and yellow are frequently associated with one another, which is directly related to Gatsby's enormous fortune. Known as the "circus wagon," Gatsby's opulent yellow automobile is a conspicuous representation of his monetary prosperity and his ambition to get Daisy Buchanan back. But after it plays a part in the tragic accident that claims Myrtle Wilson's life, this car starts to represent death and ruin, entwining the ideas of riches and moral decay.

Additionally, yellow is frequently seen at Gatsby's lavish parties, where the colour highlights the opulence with yellow costumes, decorations, and beverages. The artificiality and extravagance of these gatherings draw attention to the hollowness of Gatsby's social circle and the naiveté of his guests' pursuit of pleasure.

2.2. Daisy Buchanan: White Purity or Emptiness

White, a hue that vacillates between denoting nothingness and purity, is frequently linked to Daisy Buchanan. Daisy's white clothes and the white mansion she lives in initially suggest a picture of innocence, purity, and aristocratic elegance. The foundation of Jay Gatsby's romanticized perception of her and the life he wants, is enthralled with her façade, which forms the basis of his romanticized perception of her and the life he wants to lead.

White, a hue that vacillates between denoting nothingness and purity, is frequently

linked to Daisy Buchanan. Daisy's white clothes and the white mansion she lives in initially suggest a picture of innocence, purity, and aristocratic elegance. The foundation of Jay Gatsby's romanticized perception of her and the life he wants is this façade White Still, there's a deep emptiness underlying this façade of innocence. Because Daisy represents an upper-class culture that is shallow, her character lacks depth and substance. She may seem lovely and charming, but beneath the surface, she is a shallow, self-centered person who can never truly love or be faithful. Being called "full of money," Daisy's voice alludes to her materialistic beliefs and her immersion in a society, where social standing and money rule instead of genuine human connection. This emptiness is further portrayed in the book via Daisy's decisions. Her short-lived relationship with Gatsby and her subsequent reconciliation with Tom Buchanan demonstrates her unable to escape her cozy but meaningless life. Her decision to forego genuine emotional fulfillment in favour of the security of her established social status highlights her moral and emotional shallowness. Ultimately, Daisy's whiteness speaks more to the hollowness of the American aristocracy than it does to purity, revealing a world in which genuine morality is absent and looks can be deceiving. Fitzgerald exposes the moral deterioration concealed behind the glitzy exterior of the American upper class through Daisy, underscoring the recurring theme of disappointment in the book.

Particularly in regard to Jay Gatsby, the colour blue is used often throughout the story to represent illusion, fantasy, and a sense of otherworldliness. Because of his idealistic quest for an idealized life and love, Gatsby's environment is frequently portrayed in shades of blue. The azure grass encircling his estate represents the phantasmal, nearly surreal character of his being. It implies that the show and illusion of Gatsby's money and opulence have as much to do with them as actual wealth. Gatsby and Daisy's emotional and social isolation from one another is symbolized by the blue water in the bay that separates their homes. Gatsby's great fortune and efforts to close the gap are shown by this blue difference, which highlights how unattainable his ideal is.

2.3. T.J. Eckleburg: Melancholy and fantasy

A blue coat given to Gatsby by Dan Cody also symbolizes his transition into a new, fanciful persona as he changes from James Gatz into "Jay Gatsby." With this blue outfit, Gatsby steps further away from his lowly beginnings and embarks on his path into a world of wealth and illusion. A detached, godlike view of the moral deterioration and illusions that rule the characters' lives is symbolized by the blue irises of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg's eyes, which cast a haunting, watching look over their deeds. The colour blue in "The Great Gatsby" essentially stands for Gatsby's world of illusions and fantasies. It highlights the distinction

between truth and fiction, underscoring the main themes of the book, which are the fallacy of the American Dream and the difficulty of reliving the past.

2.4. Tom Buchanan: The Red of Aggression and Dominance

Red is used in *The Great Gatsby* to represent Tom Buchanan's forceful and powerful nature. Red is a symbol of Tom's fiery personality and propensity for both physical and emotional control over others throughout the entire book. By displaying rage and manipulating others, he controls both his mistress, Myrtle Wilson, and his wife, Daisy. Additionally, Tom's privileged status in society and his easy access to power are highlighted by the colour red. His red sports automobile, a representation of his money and independence, encourages his impetuous and careless actions, which have disastrous results for others around him. Fitzgerald explores the tensions and conflicts in the book through Tom's portrayal, using red as a symbol of riches, power, and moral rot during the Jazz Age.

3. Conclusion

Colour symbolism is a powerful literary technique used in *The Great Gatsby* to shed light on the characters' inner lives and the story's underlying themes. Fitzgerald creates a deeper psychological depth for his characters and also makes a point about the larger social values of the Jazz Age by linking particular colours to them. Readers are given a more complex knowledge of the characters and their symbolic meaning by the novel's deliberate use of colour.

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