

The Great Gatsby: The Viewers Perception of Daisy

Buchanan

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Gender, Dress & Society Term Paper

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Abstract:

This paper will be discussing the overall summary of the movie *The Great Gatsby*, it will also go in depth of the symbolicalness of the character Daisy Buchanan and why she dresses the way she dresses. In each scene she portrays a different sense of the person she is inside, if it's not her beauty showing it's the entitlement to her inheritance or simply just showing off her wealth and when it's neither one of the two it's her at her most basic form, no diamonds, jewelry or elegant dresses but her surroundings in each scene explains her choice of clothing. The way in which Daisy is represented has a lot to do with who she is around the social perception of how she views the people around her and her behavioral consequences because of it. The idea of Daisy Buchanan's character is that maybe she dresses the way she dresses around certain crowds because of how she feels them or to fit in with that crowd. Within the paper, it will touch on every aspect of the character Daisy and explain why she dresses the way she does in particular scenes. Her Social Perception of others, in effect her Behavioral Consequences and over all the Social Comparison Theory behind it.

Introduction:

The Great Gatsby is a novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, an American author in year 1925. The novel takes place in towns called, west and East Egg located in Long Island and also some scenes in Brooklyn and Manhattan, NY during the summer of 1922. The characters in the novel are Jay Gatsby, Nick Carraway, Daisy Buchanan, and Tom Buchanan. The novel is told through the eyes of Nick Carraway, he is relatives to Daisy Buchanan. Daisy and Tom are married. Nick comes to know Gatsby from being his neighbor for the summer while he rents out

a small town house just next to Gatsby's Mansion. Gatsby and Daisy have met in the past, one night approximately 5 years ago before Daisy got married to Tom and Gatsby was sent away to fight in the first World War. They made love and fell for each other, a few years had gone after Gatsby got drafted and Daisy hadn't heard from him. The morning of the day she was supposed to be wed to Tom, Daisy receives a letter from Gatsby asking her to wait for his return, by then it was too late. A few more years go by and Gatsby who is considered to be new money, finds a mansion to live in West Egg of Long Island while Daisy, who is considered to be married into old money, lives directly across the Lake East Egg of Gatsby's Mansion and has no clue of it. Every night Gatsby throws elaborate parties where the entire Long Island and New York go to celebrate in their own richness, in hopes that Daisy would one day wonder in but she never does, until Nick her cousin moves next door in Gatsby and Gatsby uses Nick as a direct connection to hopefully see Daisy once again. The character I will be focusing on is Daisy Buchanan. Daisy has a large impact on not just Gatsby but the characters around her also, her reaction in the moment of each scene she is in motivates the characters and the dress of the scenes as well. Daisy, a young and beautiful debutante, also considered to be a flapper in the 1920's, in some moments come off self-adsorbed but in the short moments she spends time with Gatsby comes to be more humble even for a short moment and the way she dressed in each scene shows the difference in the actions she takes.

Scene 1:

Daisy is introduced by Nick, she is in a room filled with white curtains that are blowing through the wind of her open windows, with a large glassy chandelier to the center of the ceiling.

Daisy herself is wearing a white / off white dress A line dress. The dress is fitted from the bust to waist and tied around with a ribbon. From the waist down the dress gets loose fitting with extra pieces of material added onto the dress. The scene is portrayed to show the beauty, innocence, and purity of Daisy, in addition to that it is also to show her wealth. Along with the dress Daisy wears diamonds on both hands and her wedding ring that is extremely big and diamond earrings. The symbolicalness of this scene is to show that Daisy is a sweet girl but she is also self centered with her inheritance, the wealth that is not only Tom's but hers now. Daisy floats around the room with no care in the world, all she can say is how happy she is to see Nick her cousin. Nick however, sees right through her bright smiles she uses to cover up the fact that Tom her husband is having an affair with another woman. All the white in the room that fills it with purity, happiness and the richness of Daisy Tom and her close friend Jordan Baker but it isn't enough to mask the truth of how Daisy feels in her current moments.

Scene 2:

In the next scene, Nick is able to bring Daisy over to Gatsby's mansion and they rekindled their love and affection for each other. In this scene it is just Nick, Gatsby and Daisy alone. Nick who is not a rich man and Gatsby who is considered to be new money. Daisy is wearing no diamonds, no fancy rings, no diamond head pieces, nothing extravagant. She wore simple small pearl earrings with a cream, black and red silk head scarf and a black and white silk robe. In this scene you see Daisy in her simplest form, nothing too extravagant just basking in her beauty. Although she is in Gatsby's mansion and Gatsby is rich despite being new money she dresses humbly, in nothing to show off her wealth. This could be because her perception of Gatsby is different from what she comes from. When she first met Gatsby he was just a soldier in

uniform, he didn't speak to her about any wealthy family he was the relative of or any wealth that he has of his own, so she embraces him for who he is and what he had. There is a part in this scene with Gatsby and Daisy where Gatsby is throwing his expensive custom made English shirt's off the balcony onto his bed where Daisy is standing, in this moment Daisy begins to cry, when Gatsby asked her what was wrong all she could say was ,they'er such beautiful shirts. In this moment of the scene, Daisy may have come back to reality, the reality that she is married to a wealthy man (old money) and they share a child together, despite the love she had for Gatsby she couldn't leave Tom. It is clear she loves Gatsby but she wouldn't trade the wealth she inherited for anything in the world.

Scene 3:

The next scene takes place at Gatsby's Mansion, only this time it isn't Daisy and Gatsby alone. Nick, Tom, and Jordan will be joining and Gatsby's throwing his normal extravagant weekend parties. Daisy has on a mid length cream dress that has a outer layer of large rhinestones or could be diamonds on the dress, over her shoulders she is wearing a short fur cape. On her hands she is wearing her large diamond wedding ring with pearled bracelets that is attached with a diamond pendent and has diamond hooks on her fingers like additional rings on each hand. She is also wearing a diamond head piece that has pearl detailing with a large diamond pendent that has three sets of pearls dangling off the pendent. Daisy is dressed extravagantly wealthy for the occasion. If you notice Daisy dresses in her expensive and wealthy items of clothing when her husband Tom is around but when she is alone with Gatsby she doesn't care to look extravagant. One moment of this scene Gatsby takes Daisy for a dance and Daisy asks him "Is this made entirely from your own imagination", Gatsby says to her "No...

You were there all along, every idea, every decision, but of course if anything isn't to your liking I can change it" Daisy says to him "Its perfect, from your perfect irresistible imagination." "*Luhrmann, B. (Director / Producer), Martin, C. (Producer)*". This scene grasp the every thing that Daisy truly desires and it is wealth, extravagance and all its awe.

Conclusion:

In closing, Daisy is portrayed as this loving and sweet character that end up marrying Tom, a man with great fortune because her true lover Gatsby left to fight in the war but this isn't the case. The character's costumes tell the true story of Daisy Buchanan, a story that shows the Social Perception of how she views Gatsby differently from Tom, Yes they are both wealthy men but one being old money and the other being new money is what makes them different and my theory is that Daisy showed her attributions through dress by dressing wealthy around Tom but casual around Gatsby. Daisy would have kept Gatsby around for fun but never left Tom. In the very last scene of the movie Gatsby has been murdered, Nick say's "I rang, I wrote, I implored, but not a single one of the sparkling hundreds that enjoyed his hospitality attended the funeral, and from Daisy not even a flower, I was all he had." "*Luhrmann, B. (Director / Producer), Martin, C. (Producer)*". That very lines explain's the behavioral consequences of Daisy's social perception, one being that dress affects ones own behavior. In this last scene Daisy stands next to Tom with her lavish dress and fur coat ready to travel over seas as Nick begs on the phone for her visit to Gatsby's funeral and she choose to tell her butler that she isn't available to take any calls. She choice Tom over Gatsby not because of love but because of wealth, this is the social comparison theory of Daisy Buchanan.

Reference:

SOURCE:

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