

DEMISE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM DURING THE ROARING TWENTIES; A STYLISTICS ANALYSIS OF F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S SHORT STORY *THE RICH BOY*Syed Sajjad Ali¹, Mr. Sulaiman Ahmad², Mr. Gohar Rahman³**Original Article**

1. Lecturer in English, National University of Modern Languages (Peshawar Campus)
Email: ssali@numl.edu.pk
2. Lecturer in English, National University of Modern Languages (Peshawar Campus)
Email: sulaimanahmad@numl.edu.pk
3. M.Phil Scholar in English, Islamia College University (Peshawar)
Email: goharum@gmail.com

Abstract

*This paper aims to stylistically investigate the death of American dream during roaring twenties in the short story *The Rich Boy* by Fitzgerald using Leech and Short's model of stylistics. Fitzgerald has used different lexical categories and highly figurative language to reveal the moral, cultural and psychological downfall of American. He has tried to show the diverse classes, manners, and social stratifications of the American people and the out-and-out or objective existence of American to that of the universal truths and shed light on the facts of life in roaring twenties. The result of the study shows that America did not reach to their desired dream, which was to bring equality and prosperity, in roaring twenties. On one hand America got massive advancement on technological, social, political, and economic level but on the other hand people lost their tradition, culture morality and finally led to bank crash.*

Keywords: American Dream, Stylistic Analysis, Roaring Twenties, lexical categories, Figures of speech.

1. INTRODUCTION

The 1920s is called the roaring twenties or jazz age which is considered the best and also the worst age in American history. It was the age of massive technological, social, political, and economic change. Both economically and military, America got the position of the most powerful country in the world (Wright, 2016). The economy was booming and many Americans including African Americans and women got prosperity and freedom. Women broke their tradition, jazz dance and music became popular. A lot of electrical types of equipment, automobiles, and other consumer products flourished consumer culture. A technological revolution like radio and telephone changed the social lives into entertainment industries. At this age, it was the American dream to bring prosperity, peace, and economic stability among their citizens but in the end, they failed to achieve their target dream. On one hand, during this decade, many people enjoyed their lifestyle

but on the other hand, it also led the society to some crucial things like, crimes, alcoholism, stock market crash, cynicism, skepticism, despair, anxiety, and depression. On October 29, 1929, the Roaring Twenties ended which is considered the black Tuesday, when the stock market crashed costing millions of jobs and beginning the Great Depression.

Francis Scott Fitzgerald is known as the king of the roaring twenties. He became a popular figure for his realistic depiction of the jazz age through his art. He remained a critical observer of his age and saw his nation in a state of moral decline (Morretta, 2015). His work is completely his own and not comparable in pros. He used a realistic approach while digging out the downfall of American culture and norms in 1920 (Fahimeh & Mina, 2015). This research paper analyzed his popular theme the death of the American dream in his short story *The Rich*

Boy by using lexical categories and figures of speech from Leech and Short's (2007) model.

F. Scott Fitzgerald has compiled a collection of eleven short stories which is called *Tales of the Jazz Age*. *The Rich Boy* is one of those eleven short stories. In this short story F. Scott Fitzgerald tries to explore the psyche and traumatic situation of American in the Roaring twenties. Just like his popular novel *The Great Gatsby* it also illustrates the despair and hollowness behind the pleasure-seeking extravagance of the era. The story revolves around Anson Hunter, a young man with worth of fifteen million dollars, who grows up in a sense of superiority and self-indulgence. Soon, he falls in love with a rich lady Paula but his fragile maturity prevents him to maintain a healthy relationship with her. Though, Paula wants to marry him, but his pride and despair do not allow him to admit this to himself as a result they break up. After, few years they meet once again but Anson is still not humble enough to win her love. After Paula's mirage Anson makes relationship with another lady Dolly but their relation does not go longer and Dolly also marries with another person. At the end of the story, Anson finds himself alone, his all friends have married and had children. In desperate loneliness, he accepts the invitation to dinner with Paula and her second husband. Here, he finally confesses that he loves her but in reply she tells him that she had only been infatuated with him. This causes him to fall into a deep depression, he recovers when he starts a fling with a new lady.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The present research study was concerned with the stylistic analysis of the short story *The Rich Boy*. This paper aimed to investigate and look over the particular choices of the writer to create a particular meaning. This paper stylistically analyzed the text of the selected short story to dig out all those linguistics and stylistic features that support the death of the American dream. The research is conducted in a way to enable the reader to trace the stylistic and linguistic features in the selected text. It also helped the reader to know the writing style of Francis Scott Fitzgerald as he is known for his unique writing style. In this research paper, readers are made to understand how he uses Lexical Categories

and figures of speeches to convey his message to his readers.

1.3 Research Objectives

This research paper aims at achieving the following objectives:

- To identify the stylistic features used by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his short story *The Rich Boy*.
- To analyze the death of the American dream during the roaring twenties in the selected short story through stylistic analysis.

1.4 Research questions

1. What sort of stylistic features does F. Scott use in his short story *The Rich Boy*?
2. Does the author represent the death of the American dream through features used in the selected short story?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research paper is very significant because almost no proper systematic work has been conducted in this area so far. From epistemological perspective, this research study will make a great contribution to the available treasure of research regarding the field of stylistics and also to the interpretation of the literary works of F. Scott Fitzgerald. In addition, this research will help the students of literature and linguistics to study short fictions, particularly the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald from a new perspective. Furthermore, from pedagogical perspective, it will enable the teachers of literature to teach short fictions from a new dimension.

1.6 Delimitation

The field of linguistics is vastly spread but the paper is limited to the particular theory the stylistics and linguistics features (Leech & Short, 2007). The research is further limited to lexical features and figures of speech in the selected text. *Tales of the Jazz Age* is the collection of eleven short stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald but the current research is limited to only one short story *The Rich Boy*.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Stylistic Analysis

Stylistics is the branch of applied linguistics that deals with the style of the text (Khan & Jabeen, 2015). Style is derived from the Latin word "elocution" which means the manner of doing something. It describes the thoughts and meanings of the writer and the speaker's mind. Writers and speakers give specific manners to their thoughts. In the stylistic analysis, we study those thoughts. Before 20th century, stylistics only dealt with literary text but after 20th century it deals with non literary text as well. For example, law, religion medicine etc.

Stylistic analysis is the interpretations, evaluation and discussion of a text from linguistic perspectives. It is an important branch of Linguistics in which we study the style of a text (Khan & Jabeen, 2015). Through stylistics analysis we study the writer thoughts and the way of their speaking and writing. In syntax, we study a text up to sentence level but in stylistics we go for border level. We study and explore text beyond the sentence level. In stylistic analysis we interpret the speaking and writing of a writer and try to dig out their intended ideas.

According to Crystal (1980) stylistics as a part of linguistics which "studies certain aspects of characteristics language variation" (Khan, Ahmad & Ijaz, 2015, p.12). In this concept stylistic analysis tries to explain and explore the choices made by the writer in his writing by selecting words and sentences for the structure. The style serves to show how the writer tends to convey his message. It also explains the emotions and thoughts of the writer. It not just explore the meaning of a literary text but also goes beyond the structural approach and moves pragmatic orientation to make a bridge between culture literary and linguistics studies.

Stylistics is mainly concerned to identify the salient textual features that form a style in a text (Anggraheni, 2017). In Linguistics we can define the style that "it is the linguistics of a particular text "because the text is the object of linguistics studies. In other words, a stylistic study tries to analyze the style of a text by recognizing certain patterns of linguistics features. Linguistics Stylistics deals with the use of languages and its impact on a text.

2.3 Stylistic Analysis of Literary Text

Liu (2010) has explained the stylistic features in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* applying grammatical and lexical categories using Leech and Short model. He has applied special lexical clusters and items. Words connotations and lexical deviation are used for themes revelation and characterization. contrast of registers and narrative sentence type in term of syntactical aspects are applied and analyzed, the use of appositional phrases and the sentence ending with prepositional and appositions phrases give an effective way to highlight the surroundings and aroused moods, serving to create suspense and to generate interested for the readers.

Khan, Ahmad, Ahmad, & Ijaz (2015) have done stylistic analysis of short story 'The Last Word' by Dr. A. R. Tabassum. They discussed different formative elements like point of view, allegorical elements and characters so as to shed better light on the story. They stylistically analyzed the story in terms of lexical and phonological and grammatical schemes and figures of speeches following the same model of Leech and Short. They mainly focused on Features of parallelism, repetition consonance, alliteration, rhyme and assonance. They concluded that the language used in story is very eloquent and full of musicality. The use of alliteration, rhyming, assonance and consonance is mad to generate a musical sound pattern. Metaphoric use of garden represents the world and phases of the sun show man's life (Khan, Ahmad, Ahmad, & Ijaz, 2015).

Evangeline and Fomukong (2016) explained that figurative and syntactic language has very powerful effect on people thoughts and actions. This discussed the advertisement of Dangote Cement, analyzing what is communicated and how it is communicated. Because of the power of influence of language producers are very keen in choosing language for advertisements to catch the attention of readers and persuade them. Resultantly, they make their language attractive and emphasize on the quality of their products. He has chosen textual conceptual functions given by Jeffries (2016) to uncover the ideologies and social meaning presented in the selected advertisement. The study focused on ideologies, social meaning, and the structural analysis and the role of context to show underling meaning and function of the text. The study concluded

that the advertisers choose different stylistic devices that carry positive impact on readers and urging them to go for their brand.

Anggraheni (2016) analyzed the interior monologue in the novel "the sound and the furry. This study analyzed the linguistic style and its effect and the approach of stylistics to study a personality. He has used the checklist features of Leech and Short (2007) and examined the features in each monologue. The conclusion of his study confirms that William Faulkner has used interior monologues in the first three chapters of his novel. The dynamic use of language in the novel make the reader able to adjust in to characters 'minds and find differences among characters. The style of the novel is divided into three sections. Firstly, the writer has use simple language including simple lexis and simple syntax in Benjamin's section which make it as a children story and the inappropriate use of cohesive devices confuse and frustrate the reader. Secondly, stylistically rich and complicated features in the Quentin section make the text artistic but can cause acute tiredness and frustration. Thirdly, the writer has used unusual language features in Jansen's section give a kind of relieving effect for the readers after the first two frustrated sections (Anggraheni, 2016).

Batool, Khan, Iqbal, Ali and Rafiq (2014) stylistically studied "the road not be taken" by Robert Frost. This study covers aspects like phonological and graphological patterns, grammatically, semantically and the lexico-syntactic patterns and choices. This paper concluded that the author has used personal pronoun in the poem but still t is applicable to general world because the poem is simple but the theme is highly universal. The poet has used different devices to convey his universal message and through those devices the researchers find out that selected the poem is carefully constructed and the author is trying to balance something which cannot to being balanced easily (Batool1, Khan, Iqbal, Ali, & Rafiq, 2014).

The above literature review showed that different researchers have conducted their research on different works using stylistic analysis and they have revealed their target themes in their selected works through stylistic approach. The literature review also showed that

so for no systematic study has been conducted to from stylistic perspective to explore the death of American dream in the Fitzgerald's short stories *The Rich Boy*. Therefore, there is a gap available in the existent treasure of literature and this research aims to filling this gap.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Design

The research is both qualitative and quantitative in nature; it means the researchers have used both theoretical arguments and numerical discussion. The researchers have collected nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, similes, metaphors, idioms and ironies in numerical order and then has analyzed them by applying the checklists of linguistics and stylistics features.

3.2 Data Collection

The researchers have analyzed a short story taken from the *Tales of Jazz Age* by Fitzgerald. The researchers have also chosen some linguistics and stylistic features from the Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short theory A Checklist of Linguistics and Stylistic Features. The categories are divided into four headings; Lexical categories and grammatical categories, figures of speech, cohesion, and context. In this paper, the researchers have used lexical categories and figures of speech as a tool for stylistic analysis.

3.3 Theoretical Framework

3.3.1 Lexical Categories

In the analysis of lexical categories is often used to find out how choice of words involves various types of meaning. Lexical categories cover the lexical items of a text in a general sense (Leech & Short, 2007:61) Lexical Categories are divided into following groups.

- a) General
- b) Nouns
- c) Adjectives
- d) Verbs
- e) Adverbs

3.3.2 Figures of Speech

Leech and Short (2007) state that figures of speech are those features that are fore grounded by virtue of departing in some way from general norms of communication by means of the language code, for example, exploitation

of regularities of formal patterning, or deviations from the linguistic code. Or simply we can say that figures of speech are words or phrases which possess separate meanings from their literal definition. These are divided into the following groups:

- a) Metaphor
- b) Simile

- c) Idiom
- d) Irony

4. Data Analysis and Discussion

In the current section the data which was collected for the analysis of the selected short study is analyzed, interpreted, explained and presented below.

4.1 Lexical Categories Contributing in the Theme of the Death of American Dream During Roaring Twenties

4.1.1 Table 01: Nouns

S. No	Abstract Nouns	Concrete Nouns	Common Nouns	Proper Nouns	Spatial Nouns
1	Fairy Land	Electric Mobiles	War	Anson Hunter	Men's clubs
2	Unreality	Million dollars	Drinkers	Hunter	Yale Club
3	Vulgarity	Smoke	Party	Champagne	Everglades Club
4	Impatience	Automobile	Dinner-party	Whiskey	City club
5	Egotism	Diamonds and emeralds,	Dozen clubs	Cocktails	Linx Club
6	Hypnosis	Pint bottle	Music		Beach Club
7	Cynicism	Jewel-box	Cigarette		Hunters' house
8	Anxiety	Radio	Rich		
9	Idealism	Limousine	Woman		
10	Self-indulgence		Double-shuffle		
11	Solidity		Powder		
12	Tenderness		Pinkish-gray		
13	Despair				
14	Looseness				
15	Sybarite				
16	Infatuation				
17	Scandal				
18	Inefficiency				
19	Doubts				
20	Illusion				

Table NO.1 shows the analysis of nouns contributing in the theme of the death of American Dream in roaring Twenties in the Fitzgerald's short story *The Rich Boy*. It shows that the writer has used total number of 53 nouns that contribute in the theme of American dream in roaring twenties, in which 20 are abstract nouns, 9 are concrete nouns, 12 are common nouns, 5 proper nouns and 7 are spatial nouns.

Abstract noun mainly refers to something that has no concrete shape. It may include an idea, aspect, concept, experience, state of being, feeling etc. Writers have their approaches to naming and describing things or people, because a particular name used by a writer shows the writer's view of the occasion and help the reader to understand the writer's point of view about that occasion. Therefore, naming has a massive effect and so it is always done with much consideration (Evangeline, 2016, pp 109).

Fitzgerald has used more abstract nouns in his writing that truly explain the abstract and mental situation of American people in 1920. For instance, he uses **Anxiety, sybarite, doubts, cynicism, despair, solidity, egotism and illusion etc.** These nouns aptly depict the overall mental trouble and traumatic struggle of people in 1920. Apparently, they had everything that a human needs for everyday survival but internally, they were hollow and looking for internal peace. With modern technologies and advancements their minds were still not satisfied that's why some writers have regarded this age as "The Period of the Psyche".

"The Roaring Twenties or the Jazz age is known to be a decay of excessive freedom, wealth and carefree youthful enthusiasm" ("Echoes" 461). Through concrete nouns Fitzgerald mysteriously depicts the wealthy culture and the struggles with the excessive materialism and lack of morality that accompanied it. He uses lots of words that indicate the consumerism and excessive material wealth such as: **Electric Mobiles, automobiles, limousine and radio etc (Concrete nouns)** were new inventions in America that broadly affected the everyday life in 1920. The production of automobiles caused and economic revolution across America. Freedom of choice encourages people to visit places previously impossible, rural dwellers were also able to shop in cities. Teenagers and young generation gained more and more freedom with driving freedom. Dating young couples found a portable place to be alone and comfortable as the automobile helped to facilitate relaxed sexual attitudes. **Million dollars, Money, diamonds**

and emeralds, Stock Exchange and jewel-box etc (concrete Nouns) indicate the extravagance of the society material wealth.

Despite highly developed and wealthy, they had nothing of real value in their life. In the story **Anson hunter (Proper noun)** is given the name **Hunter** as he continues to hunt for something that can be of a true value to him. He does not value what he has but searching for love and compassion. It was American dream to bring prosperity and peace but they failed to bring satisfaction. **Champagne, Whiskey and Cocktails (proper Nouns)** are the types of alcohol. From 1920–1933 the manufacture, sale and transportation of liquor was banned in America. Despite Prohibition people used to manufacture and sale it illegally to make money, lots of Gangsters began selling alcohol on the black market that increased many other criminal activities.

Jazz music and dance became popular in roaring twenties. More than 60% of American population used to enjoy in different clubs and cinemas. **Drinkers, party, dinner party, music and cigarette etc (common nouns)** show the moral decline of American society in roaring twenties. The night life of the 1920's blown up with social changes and new styles of fashion, music, women and ways to get booze. Outbreak of clubs, where people could go to buy alcohol from bootlegger, broke the morality of the society (Cormack, 2021, pp.1-384). **Yale Club, Everglades Club, city club, Linx Club and Beach Club (Partial Nouns)** are different clubs motioned in the short story. It indicates the culture moral breakdown and the freedom of men and women in 1920s.

4.1.2 Table 02: Adjectives

S. No	Frequent Adjectives	Other Adjectives
1	Drunk	Queer fish
2	Fashionable	Terrible
3	Intoxicated	Cynical
4	Unable	gallant girls
5	Confused	Sardonic minds
6	Humorous	Meaningless
7	Absurd	Immature
8		Insincere
9		adventurous women
10		Mysterious
11		Bitter girl
12		Jealous
13		Dizzy
14		Doubtful
15		Curious
16		Naïve
17		Dreadful
18		Hilarious
19		Reckless
20		Broken
21		Unsatisfactory
22		Esoteric
23		Hilarious
24		Disappointed
25		Timorous
26		Tired
27		Motionless
28		Uproarious
29		Concealed
30		Pathetic
31		Blurred
32		fast girls
33		tragic faces

Table No.2 shows that the writer has used total 40 adjectives that contribute in the theme of the death of American dream in roaring twenties in the selected short story, in which 7 are frequent adjectives and 33 are other adjectives.

Flapper is the most important symbol of roaring twenties (Moore, 2010). These were young girls who broke the old tradition and wore

short skirts, bobbed hair, listened to jazz music, drank, smoke and move more sexually free than previous generations. They could vote and join outdoor jobs. In the short story, Fitzgerald has used suitable adjectives for those women like: **Bitter girl, adventurous women, gallant girls etc.** These adjectives show the modernity and hypocrisy of modern women. They broke their past traditions and chose a new way of life. They began to dress and move differently and began

to take part in the consumer economy and achieved more freedom in the new culture.

The mentality “get rich quick” that developed in 1920s caused depression. American believed that their future was around the corner. This concept was fueled by the production of consumer goods and exotic silent tales of riches and success. With this attitude of “get rich quick” many American carelessly spend what little money they had. Hoping to look like movies stars they purchased vast beauty products. Their reckless behaviors toward success and richness lead them to Great depression. Fitzgerald has used enormous adjectives that pertinently show the depressed

situation of American in 1920s. **Confused, absurd, Helpless Curious, Broken, Terrible, Dizzy etc** show the absurd and terrible life of American in roaring twenties. The careless government and immature policies lead to the crash of New York Stock Exchange in 1929 which caused great depression in the country. It was the age of cynicism and skepticism born of the disasters of World War 1 and influenza pandemic that killed many people across the country. There was radical change in life. **Cynical, Doubtful, Curious, Confused, absurd Meaningless, sardonic, motionless, Pathetic, Blurred etc** show the skeptic and cynical situation of people.

4.1.3 Table 03: Verbs and Adverbs

S. No	Verbs	Adverbs
1	Dance	Stubbornly
2	Drinking	vaguely excited
3	Fail	Indiscreetly
4	Singing	Sharply
5	Regret	Offensively
6	slipped down	Dully
7	Cry	Terribly
8	Tremble	Unhappily
9	Investigate	Vigorously
10	Annoyed	Abstractedly
11	Driving	Anxiously
12	Lacking	Impatiently
13	Hesitated	Stubbornly
14	Died	Scarcely
15	Lose	Temporarily
16	To conceal	Slackly
17	slipped out	Diplomatically
18	Collapse	
19	Weeping	

Table No.3 shows that the writer has used 19 verbs and 17 adverbs that contribute in the theme of the death of American dream in the selected short story.

World War 1 had a considerable impact on the American people, it accelerated the going change. “In the War many people lost their lives,

after the War they started to enjoy and appreciate every second of their lives. They started doing things of their desires” (“Echoes 460”).

In the aforementioned verbs and adverbs show the demise of American dream in roaring twenties. **Dance, drinking, driving, lose**

etc (verbs) and impatiently, vaguely, Scarcely, Temporarily etc (adverbs) reveal the freedom and cultural break down of the American society. These verbs and adverbs show that people in 1920s were involved in temporary amusements like dancing, drinking and singing. The verb (conceal) shows that majority of people were hypocrites, they were

involved in different crimes like: illegal manufacturing of alcohol, gambling etc. Annoyed, hesitated, Cry, slipped out, slipped down etc (Verbs) and Unhappily, Terribly, Indiscreetly etc (adverbs) show the moral, ethical, cultural, economical and psychological lose of people in 1920s.

4.2 Figures of Speech Contributing to the Theme of the Death of American Dream during Roaring Twenties

4.2.1 Table 04: Similes, Metaphors, Idioms and Ironies

S. No	Similes	Metaphors	Idioms	Ironies
1	The country of the rich as unreal as fairy-land	The blood-red sun over Columbus Circle	little under the weather	He felt that if he could enter into Paula's warm safe life he would be happy
2	It was exactly as if they could say "Neither of us has anything: we shall be poor together"--just as delightful that they should be rich instead	The girl was of a wild whose whole life was a condescension	A Queer fish	The Diamond as Big as the Ritz
3	The smoke banked like fog		Brood over	
4			biding his own time	

Table No.4 shows that the writer has used about 11 figures of speeches in the selected short story which contribute in the desired theme. In which 3 similes, 2 are metaphors, 4 are idioms and 2 are ironies.

Fitzgerald has used a realistic approach to the description of American society (Keshmir & Mahdikhani, 2015). He has used highly figurative language and tried to reveal the diverse classes, manners, and social stratifications of the American people and he the out-and-out or objective existence of American to that of the universal truths and shed light on the facts of life. He is known for descriptive and organized language. He has used different similes, metaphors, idioms and irony that create a kind of imagery and vivid pictures for the

readers. For example in the simile "the country of the rich as unreal as fairy-land" he compares the perceived and defined life style of rich with a fairy land. Fairy tales are amusing stories for children that pass the time away and finally to be dismissed, and they never exist in the form the way they are told. They seem very amusing and mostly optimistic but they cannot be tied with real life because they have no real form. Similarly the lifestyle of the rich American look comfortable and satisfactory but in reality their life is untrustworthy. Through material things they have made a life which looks charm but these material things have kept them far from the reality of life. In another simile "It was exactly as if they could say "Neither of us has anything: we shall be poor together"--

just as delightful that they should be rich instead" He mocks the dream of America in roaring twenties. American dream was based on money and consumption which they could not achieve. Fitzgerald says that just like in the short story Paula and Anson both are rich and both possess their personal fortune of millions dollars but still their situation is not better than poor. Similarly, though America got economic prosperity but it is not long lasting, neither only money can make life prosperous. Though, people became advanced in every field but they have lost their culture, morality and unity. On one hand economically they became rich but morally and culturally they are poor. **"The smoke banked like fog"** is another simile which shows the over use of industries, automobiles, cigarettes and other intoxicated things. People were so indulge in things which cause environmental pollution. Fitzgerald mostly wrote about the miss behavior of rich and the influence of money on them with a figurative way. In a metaphoric way **"The girl was of a wild whose whole life was condescension"** he has compared Paul with a wild creature. Paula is a rich girl in the short story. Being a rich figure Paula's attitude is always superior. It shows the mistrust of Fitzgerald on rich women and rich American. Mostly women broke their traditions and they adopted unworthy life in the name of freedom.

American dream was based on money and consumption. Fitzgerald metaphorically describes the scene **"The blood-red sun over Columbus Circle"**. Changing of the color of the sun can be compared with changes in life. Red sky is an unusual sight; it may show something unusual has happened in the surrounding or in the history. Red blood sun shows the sigh of death or difficulty ahead in life. This possibly does not have to mean the death of a person but it could also mean the death of something related to life. Fitzgerald has used both contrary to expectation and habitual idioms in the short story. He makes his writing interesting and terse by using different idiom. We can assume

different meaning from his idiomatic expression like **"under the weather"** could possibly mean hanging over, intoxicated or feeling sick. This idiom aptly shows the sick situation of America in roaring twenties. In 1928, the outbreak of influenza virus, most of individuals found their health seriously imperiled. In 1929, the collapsed of economy took place and great depression lead people to under the weather.

According to oxford dictionary the idiom **"a queer fish"** means *"a person whose behavior seems strange or unusual"*. Fitzgerald metaphorically calls American people as a queer fish. Mostly people adopted unusual manners; they lost their traditional approach toward life and adopted a new materialistic life, which was strange and new for Fitzgerald. They were nervous and most were **brooding over** different things like: economy, relations, isolations, health etc. They all were motionless, they could not take any action still they were **"biding their own time"**.

Fitzgerald has used humorous ironies in the short story to aware people that things are not as they seem. For example in the irony **"He felt that if he could enter into Paula's warm safe life he would be happy"** he mocks the American dream. Just like in the short story, Anson futile dream is to enter into Paula's life so he would live happy, similarly American thought that if they can lead to their safe life through money. Fitzgerald ironically says that just like Anson's dream American dream of economic stability is pointless because their struggle toward prosperity and peace is in vain and baseless.

There is another a great irony in **"The Diamond as Big as the Ritz"** which shows that though the American have found the biggest diamond in the world, but it will never give a true form to their dream. Though Washington's has surrounded themselves with luxury and great wealth, but these are useless because they could not bring real prosperity. There is not true

value and wealth in America which can lead them to achieve their dream.

4.3 Major Findings

In view of the comprehensive and thorough examination of the collected data, the researchers prepared the following major findings of the study:

1. F. Scott Fitzgerald has used lots of lexical features and figures of speech in his short story *The Rich Boy* and through those stylistic features the author has represented the death of the American dream in roaring twenties.
2. Through lexical categories and figure of speech F. Scott Fitzgerald has depicted that American people in 1920s were involved in temporary amusements like dancing, drinking and singing etc and they had lost their traditional way of life.
3. F. Scott Fitzgerald has shown that most of the American adopted the attitude of “get rich quick” and they carelessly spend what little money they had.
4. He has used lots of words that indicate the consumerism and excessive material wealth such as: **Electric Mobiles, automobiles, limousine and radio etc.** on the other hand, despite material things, Fitzgerald has used enormous adjectives that pertinently show the depressed situation of American in 1920s such as **Confused, absurd, Helpless Curious, Broken, Terrible, Dizzy etc** show the absurd and terrible life of American in roaring twenties.
5. He has illustrated that the life of the 1920's blown up with social changes and they chose a new styles of fashion in their live. Music, and dance became popular and women broke the past traditions.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

In the present study, keeping in view the results and findings of this study, the researchers give the answers of the research questions given in

the first chapter. In addition, the researchers conclude the study based on the results of the study and also puts forward some recommendations.

The aim of this research study was to find out the death of American dream in roaring twenties the short story *The Rich Boy* by F Scott Fitzgerald through stylistic analysis. A careful stylistic study using lexical features and figures of speeches could help us to evaluate and understand a theme in any literary work. Stylistic analysis has given us evidences to draw the theme of the death of American Dream in the selected short story. The result of the study shows that America did not reach to their desired dream, which was to bring equality and prosperity, in roaring twenties. On one hand America got massive advancement on technological, social, political, and economic level but on the other hand people lost their tradition, culture and moral corruption took place.

In the selected short story, F. Scott Fitzgerald has used various lexical categories and figures of speech while depicting the lifestyle and situations of Americans in roaring twenties. Through abstract nouns he illustrated the overall mental trouble and traumatic struggle of people in 1920. Through concert nouns he showed their technological advancement and over material consumption. Mostly adjectives, verbs and adverbs pertinently show the depressed, terrible and absurd situation of American in 1920s such as **Confused, absurd and Helpless etc (adjectives) Annoyed, hesitated, Cry etc (Verbs) and Unhappily, Terribly, Indiscreetly etc (adverbs)**. Through lexical and figures of speeches Fitzgerald has also depicted the modernity and hypocrisy of modern women. He showed that how modern women broke their past traditions and chose a new way of life and how they became morally corrupt in the name of freedom.

In the present research study, the researchers have analyzed only lexical features

and figures of speeches in the concerned short story, therefore the researchers recommend that the other features of Leech and Short's theory may also be looked for in this story. In addition, the researchers explored only one short story in the present research study, so, it is suggested that a study with a bigger sample may be conducted and in doing so, the other short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald may also be explored from the same perspective and using the same theoretical orientation in order to further prove and justify the present research study and also to explore new dimensions in the stories of the author

REFERENCES

- Anggraheni, R. R. (2016). A stylistics study of the interior monologues in William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*. *Yogyakarta: English Language Studies, Graduate Programme, Sanata Dharma University*.
- Batool, S., Khan, A. B., Iqbal, A., Ali, K., & Rafiq, R. M. (2014). Stylistic analysis of Robert Frost's poem: *The Road Not Taken*. *Journal of ELT and Applied Linguistics (JELTAL)*, 2 (4), 52-64.
- Cormack, R. (2021). *Midnight in Cairo: The Divas of Egypt's Roaring '20s*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Evangeline Fomukong, S. A. (2016). Stylistics analysis in advertising discourse: A case of the Dangote Cement advertisement in Bamenda- Cameroon. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 7(6), 105-112. <https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.all.v.7n.6p.105>
- Fitzgerald, A. E. S. F. (2021). *Scribner's Magazine Vol. XC Number 5 November 1931 Containing: Echoes Of The Jazz Age By F. Scott Fitzgerald*. Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Fahimeh, K., & Mina, M. (2015). F. Scott Fitzgerald's unique literary and writing style. *English Language and Literature Studies*, 5 (2), 1-9.
- Khan, A. B., & Jabeen, T. (2015). Stylistics analysis of the poem 'To Autumn' by John Keats. *International Journal of Academic Research and Reflection*, 3, 1-11.
- Khan, A. B., Ahmad, M., Ahmad, S., & Ijaz, D. (2015). Stylistic analysis of the short story 'The Last Word' by Dr. A. R. Tabassum. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 6 (3), 11-12.
- Liu, X. (2010). Stylistic analysis of *The Great Gatsby* from context category. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 1(4), 662-667. <https://doi.org/10.4304/jltr.1.4.416-425>
- Moore, L. (2010b). *Anything Goes: A Biography of the Roaring Twenties* (1st ed.). Abrams Press.
- Morretta, A. (2015). *F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Jazz Age*. New York: Cavendish Square Publishing, LLC.
- Stylistics Analysis in Advertising Discourse: A Case of the Dangote Cement Advertisement in Bamenda- Cameroon. (2016c). *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 7(6), 106-112. <https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.all.v.7n.6p.105>
- Wright, J. R. (2016). The politics underlying the provision of and changes in pathology and laboratory services in the United States during the Roaring Twenties. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*, 140(9), 983-991. <https://doi.org/10.5858/arpa.2016-0113-hp>