

**Thematization and Evaluation
of characters in Fitzgerald's
The Great Gatsby: A Stylistic Study**

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**Section One
Theoretical Side**

1.1. Introduction

The application of a linguistic model to a literary work is not quite a new practice, yet, it will always remain a worthy one. The objective data-based insight it provides are indispensable for the appreciation of the literary work. The present research is an attempt to apply a very well-known linguistic model, the Systematic – Functional, to a celebrated novel, Fitzgerald's (1978) The Great Gatsby.

Within the framework of systemic- functional theory of language – according to which language is perceived as a social phenomenon serving as a means of social interaction – the research accounts for thematization and thematic progression in The Great Gatsby. As well, it endeavours to stretch a parallel line by applying Trabasso and Ozyurek's (1997) model of evaluation of characters to the novel under study to uncover whether these three aspects of the novel (i.e. thematization, thematic progression, and evaluation of characters function on each other- reinforcing way or not to give the novel its final shape.

The hypothesis of the research is that since the novel is commonly believed to be a novel of character, namely Gatsby's, then the three aspects, above – mentioned, should be as follows:

1. Nominal themes – clauses should be predominant over other types (adverbial prepositional, and verbal) with Gatsby being the theme (expressed as 'Gatsby', he or otherwise).
2. Thematic iteration should be the prevalent type of thematic progression types with Gatsby being the theme that is related to different rhemes.
3. As for evaluation it should be Gatsby rather than any other character which receives more evaluations by the narrator or other characters (i.e. direct and indirect evaluation).

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