CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

Richard Taylor in his *Understanding the Element of Literature* has stated:
“Literature, like the other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life-experience.”

Since literature reflects life is arguable for the meaning of the life itself is very broad, Wellek (1967:1) wants to emphasize with that axiom is the portrait of man’s life condition in the language of literature. It summarizes man’s life history in the form of writing such as novel, drama, or poetry. Thus, the essence of literature is conveying the meaning of life in the real of literature.

Literature has three genres. Those are prose, poetry and drama. Poetry is a meaningful arrangement of words. Drama is fictitious represented in performance. Prose is a fictitious narrative kind of writing, in general this is called novel.

Taylor (1981:460) says that:

“*Novel is a form of literary work. Novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity, which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience or conduct*.”

Therefore, novel creates by authors to represent their life experience that they put in written form.

Novel deals with a human character in a social situation, man as a social being. The novel places more emphasis on character, especially one well-rounded
character, than on a plot. Another initial major characteristic of the novel is realism—a full and authentic report of human life.

Novel as a part of the fiction can be defined as a work of prose fiction which tells story or uses incidents to dramatize human experience and individual character. The term of character can be applied not only in the real world as someone’s identification, but also can be applied in the literature works such as novel.

Abrahams (1981:20) declares that:

“Characters are the persons presented in dramatics of narrative work, who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with the moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say and what they do in action”.

Character is one of the important element for the construction of the works. By reading a literary work, we often feel sympathy for a character or we may feel unsympathy for another.

In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald actually wants to reflect the social condition at 1920s as the Roaring Twenty's people were partying all over the place. The novel chronicles an era that Fitzgerald himself dubbed the "Jazz Age." (Fokkema,1990). Although Fitzgerald, like Nick Carraway in his novel, idolized the riches and glamour of the age, he was uncomfortable with the unrestrained materialism and the lack of morality that went with it.

Nick Carraway narrates in both first and third person, presenting only what he himself observes. Nick alternates sections where he presents events
objectively, as they appeared to him at the time, with sections where he gives his own interpretations of the story’s meaning and of the motivations of the other characters.

Nick’s attitudes toward Gatsby and Gatsby’s story are ambivalent and contradictory. At times he seems to disapprove of Gatsby’s excesses and breaches of manners and ethics, but he also romanticizes and admires Gatsby, describing the events of the novel in a nostalgic and elegiac tone.

Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* is an interesting novel to study. It provides story of man’s life experience about materialism and this picture is presented through the character of Nick Carraway, Jay Gatsby, Daisy Fay Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, and Myrtle Wilson. I uses any or all several basic means of characterization: a character is revealed by (1) his actions, (2) his speech, (3) his thought, (4) his physical appearance, (5) what other characters say or think of him.

In this thesis, I found that the character whose name appears in the title is automatically the protagonist, Jay Gatsby. Gatsby has amassed a vast fortune in order to win the affections of the upper-class Daisy Buchanan, but his mysterious past stands in the way of his being accepted by her. I will find and analyze is Gatsby a flat or round character.
1.2 Problem of the Analysis

It is important to make the specification of the problems that are going to be analyzed in order to avoid the ambiguity of the analysis and to support me to get a clear description about the object of the analysis itself. Here, I find some problems as follows:

1. How the characters are portrayed in F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby*?

2. Who are the flat characters and who become the round characters?

1.3 The Objectives of the Analysis

The present thesis covers its objectives in reference to the analysis. The Objectives of the analysis are the statements about activities and objects that are going to be analyzed based on problem of the analysis. By writing this thesis, I want to achieve the objectives that can answer the problem of the analysis, they are:

1. To find and analyze how the characters are portrayed in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*.

2. To find and analyze who are the flat characters and who become the round characters.
1.4 **Scope of the Analysis**

In this thesis, I will restrict the fields of analysis that are going to be analyzed in order to make sure that the analysis still stays on the track. This thesis focused on the characterization of Nick Carraway, Jay Gatsby, Daisy Fay Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, and Myrtle Wilson.

1.5 **Significance of the Analysis**

Theoretically, this thesis will enrich the study of literary study trough a novel, especially the study about flat and round character.

Practically, this thesis will be useful for English department students who are interested in the field of study about novel especially the study about flat and round character, so they can use this thesis as a reference.

1.6 **Review of Related Literature**

In completing this thesis, the writer get and uses available numbers of books, I realizes that this analysis needs input of the related study as considerations in order to enrich the analysis. They are:

2. Wellek (1963) in his book “Theory of Literature” says that literature as represents of life, and life is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the nature world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation.

3. Kenney (1966) in his book “How to Analyzed Fiction” explains briefly the method to analyze a literary work specially fiction. The author explains how to analyze plot, character, setting, point of view, style and theme as the literary element.