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RESILIENCE AS THE GREATNESS OF GATSBY

Kulcsszavak: *F. Scott Fitzgerald, A nagy Gatsby, amerikai irodalom, reziliencia*

My paper, as its title – Resilience as the Greatness of Gatsby suggests, aims to correlate F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* and the newly developing field of resilience. More specifically, the paper addresses the question whether the driving force behind Jay Gatsby lies in his degree of resilience – whether he is a resilient character at all.

The first two chapters provide a base for discussion, as they introduce the concept of resilience and dedicate some words to the novel and its main character. In the subsequent chapters the paper takes a close look at the conditions of resilience derived from its definition to determine whether it is relevant to seek any parallels between a resilient personality and Gatsby’s character. In other words, the goal of these chapters is to primarily understand if Gatsby and his circumstances meet the conditions of a resilient setting. Finally, the research takes into consideration the strange anomaly of risk factors functioning as sources of motivation, i.e. how it is possible that poor circumstances better the chances of not only recovering but growing as well.

In regard to its methodology, the paper heavily relies on comparing the qualities of resilience and the characteristics of Gatsby and focuses on two particular risk factors in the case of the character: growing up in poverty and getting rejected by Daisy. The study expects to find that Jay Gatsby represents a significant fictional example of the resilience paradigm, and to successfully identify the resilient characteristics of his attitude.