

Title:

The American Dream vs. Indian Aspirations: A Comparative Literary Analysis of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Select Indian Novels

1. Introduction:

The concept of the "American Dream"—success through hard work and perseverance—has been a defining theme in American literature, most notably portrayed in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Similarly, Indian literature often grapples with the idea of aspirations, class mobility, and personal ambition within the socio-economic context of India. This study aims to explore how ambition and the pursuit of success are represented in two very different cultural milieus, focusing on *The Great Gatsby* and one or two Indian novels that similarly depict ambition ending in disillusionment or failure.

2. Objectives:

- To analyze the theme of the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*.
- To examine how ambition and social mobility are portrayed in selected Indian novels.
- To compare cultural, socio-economic, and psychological dimensions of ambition in American and Indian contexts.
- To explore how literary representations reflect or critique societal ideals of success.

3. Research Questions:

- How does *The Great Gatsby* portray the American Dream and its collapse?
- In what ways do Indian novels reflect ambition and its consequences in the Indian social fabric?
- What similarities and differences exist in the depiction of ambition and failure between American and Indian narratives?
- How do cultural values influence the literary portrayal of success and disillusionment?

4. Methodology:

- **Textual Analysis:** Close reading of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and one or two Indian novels such as:
 - *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga
 - *English, August* by Upamanyu Chatterjee
- **Comparative Approach:** Identify thematic parallels and contrasts in ambition, success, and failure.
- **Socio-cultural Analysis:** Contextualize the texts within their respective cultural and historical backgrounds.

5. Scope and Limitations:

This study will focus only on fictional prose (novels) and will limit its Indian texts to those written in English or translated into English. It will not cover poetry or drama. The analysis

will concentrate on ambition as a central theme and will not explore all aspects of socio-economic criticism in the selected novels.

6. Significance of the Study:

The research will shed light on how different cultures construct the idea of success and how literature serves as a mirror to societal values and disillusionments. It is particularly relevant for Indian readers and students as it offers a bridge between American and Indian literary themes, showing universal struggles through culturally specific lenses.

7. Tentative Chapterization:

- 1. Introduction and Theoretical Framework**
- 2. The American Dream in *The Great Gatsby***
- 3. Ambition and Aspiration in Indian Fiction**
- 4. Comparative Analysis**
- 5. Conclusion: Cultural Ideals and Literary Realities**

8. References (Preliminary):

- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Scribner, 1925.
- Adiga, Aravind. *The White Tiger*. HarperCollins, 2008.
- Chatterjee, Upamanyu. *English, August*. Faber & Faber, 1988.
- Cullen, Jim. *The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation*. Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Kumar, Krishna. *The Politics of Education in Colonial India*. Routledge, 2020.