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Thesis

**A LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK THE PHARMACIST OF AUSCHWITZ:
THE UNTOLD STORY BY PATRICIA POSNER USING A SOCIO-CULTURAL
APPROACH**

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Abstract

The purpose of this investigation is to analyze the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner. This is done using a Socio-Cultural Approach based on Victor Capesius's life. The investigation takes support from multiple theories made by professionals. These theories help explain the research question of the thesis. To each theory, the researcher provides an interpretation.

In addition, symbols, themes, and motifs are explained. Each literary device is given an interpretation as well based on quotes or situations from the book. Furthermore, the researcher provides the conclusions of the investigation. Each specific objective is explained with a conclusion based on the results of the investigation. Lastly, recommendations are given to future researchers interested on writing a literary analysis using the socio-cultural approach.

Resumen

El propósito de esta investigación es analizar el libro *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story* escrito por Patricia Posner. La misma se hace utilizando un enfoque sociocultural basado en la vida de Víctor Capesius. La investigación se apoya en múltiples teorías elaboradas por profesionales. Estas teorías ayudan a explicar la pregunta de investigación de la tesis. Para cada teoría, el investigador proporciona una interpretación.

Además, se explican los símbolos, temas y motivos. Cada uno de estos también recibe una interpretación basada en citas o situaciones del libro. Asimismo, el investigador proporciona las conclusiones de la investigación. Cada objetivo específico se explica con una conclusión basada en los resultados de la investigación. Finalmente, se dan recomendaciones a los futuros investigadores interesados en escribir un análisis literario con un enfoque sociocultural.

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Chapter I

Introductory Framework

This thesis focuses on the book “*The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story*” by Patricia Posner. This book is about the life of one of the most evil and twisted men who ever existed. A man without remorse and driven to do horrible things to fellow humans just for power and extreme greed. The research conducted on this document is focused on the socio-cultural approach: therefore, it investigates the socio-cultural aspects that surrounded Victor Capesius and the lives of the German society before, during, and after WW II. In addition, many documents and investigations by historians are reviewed in order to compare the lives of important characters during the war in relation to the socio-cultural aspects of Victor’s life.

Patricia Posner’s work allows new generations to understand how social and cultural aspects can influence on humans lives to extreme circumstances. Her investigation traces the path of an educated man, Victor Capesius, who was a pharmacist and salesman who worked for IG Farben and Bayern. This man knew and socialized with Jews before The Second World War. Later on, he would end up in Auschwitz alongside “the Angel of Death” sending people to their immediate death or to slavery work. Sadly, that is not the worst he did as he also denied all his crimes after the war. Consequently, he was able to avoid the punishment he well deserved. In conclusion, this document investigates his way to becoming the massive murderer he eventually ended up being on a socio-cultural approach.

1.1 Problem Statement

Since the holocaust, many historians have wondered why the Nazis did what they did. How a nation, a race, a group, could commit such atrocities out of hate and power is the question to this day. It has been seventy-five years, and even though there are many valid theories, many thoughts, and many points of views on this matter. Its magnitude makes professionals and students always have the doubt and curiosity to fully understand the actions of the Nazis during The Second World War. Therefore, throughout the years, new theories, new studies, and new points of views have come to light, and in this investigation the goal is to give a fresh point of view on the socio-cultural factors which brought a normal man down to his shame. That being the case, this brings us to the question: How life-changing events turned Victor Capesius into the massive murderer in charge of the pharmaceutical department of the Auschwitz concentration camp?

1.2 Objectives of the investigation

1.2.1 General Objective

1.2.1.1 To analyze the pre and post war events which changed Victor Capesius into a war criminal during the historical context represented in the book *The Pharmacist of Aushwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner.

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

1.2.1 To identify the reasons of Victor Capesius acceptance to the Nazis' offer for running the pharmaceutical department of the Auschwitz camp.

1.2.2 To determine the reasons why Germany launched a massive campaign for committing atrocities against humanity.

1.2.3 To analyze how Germany's life changed after the events of Auschwitz.

1.3 Justification

This thesis aims to identify the reasons which turned a normal man into a massive murderer known as the pharmacist of Aushwitz. The investigation mainly focuses on the socio-cultural field going hand in hand with the book *The Pharmacist of Aushwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner since what we are trying to understand is the socio-cultural context in which Victor Capesius' life took place. This document aims to achieve this goal by focusing on a socio-cultural approach. During this investigation the importance of this approach is explained as well as its parts and definition.

In order to understand this approach, there are important aspects that are needed to take into consideration such as: environment, living condition, economy, social condition and more. This investigation takes these aspects in order to connect the life of Victor to the historical events of the period. It is important to mention that this person was not well known until 1986. Patricia Posner, who is the author of the book, first heard of Victor Capesius in a live television interview on "The Phil Donahue Show" conducted by her husband, Gerald Posner. (2017, p. 9) The interviewee was Rolf Mengele, son of Dr. Josef Mengele known as the "Angel of Death." Rolf told Gerald about how his father had a friendship with the pharmacist of Auschwitz, and that was the moment when Patricia and the world first new about Victor Capesius. After that interview, Patricia initiated an investigation that took her 31 years to complete in order to bring to light one of the most horrifying stories that took place during the Second World War.

Many readers will take benefits of this investigation since it could be seen as another source to understand more about this character and his disturbing actions. In the book, it is shown how after The Second World War, Victor denied all charges against him. Victor even began to believe his lies to the point he played innocent and tried to live a normal life after the war. The book does not go much into the why of this behavior, which is one of the objectives of this thesis; that is, to comprehend why Victor took that stand until his death and examine how Germany's life changed after World War II events. The research extends positively into the socio-cultural aspects where Victor Capesius' life and decisions are compared with the events after the hostilities.

1.4 Antecedents

The topic of study is the socio-cultural analysis of Victor Capesius, who was the head of the pharmaceutical department of the Auschwitz death camp. Although he was best known for what he did in Auschwitz from December 1943 to 1945, before that, Victor served as an SS pharmacist in Warsaw and Dachau. The study covers Victor's life before the war which includes his origin, studies, job, and family. Then it covers his part in The Second World War and his functions in the Nazi regime. The third part deals with what happened after the war, and during an important event known as the denazification mainly focused on Victor's life until his death.

There have been many studies and articles regarding socio-cultural theories about the Nazis and their way of thinking and acting. Since the end of The Second World War, many historians were assigned to study and to understand the individuals that committed atrocities against humanity. It is interesting that the book *"The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story"* by Patricia Posner is the first investigation made about the life, work, and contributions of Victor Capesius. After Patricia Posner published her book, many studies and articles started to come to light about this individual who had done horrible things and still managed to live his

normal life without any legal repercussions. *Xlsemanal* is a top magazine in Spain, which published an entire article regarding The Pharmacist of Auschwitz called “De amable farmaceutico a asesino implacable en Auschwitz” (n.d) (From friendly pharmacist to ruthless murderer in Auschwitz) This article recapitulates the life of Victor Capesius as is told in Patricia Posner’s book with the statement of; how normal people can become evil.

On May 13, 2013, Dr. Jane Pederson with the cooperation of Professor Teresa Sanislo, published an investigation about the Nazi’s mind named, “Perceptions of the Nazi Mind: Psychological Theories, 1940’s – Present.” This investigation was composed of 38 pages long and talked about how the first the horrors of the Holocaust and the perspectives of the men behind this event, were nearly impossible to understand. However, as time passed, theories of the Nazi perspectives evolved and changed, and the public perception of Nazis changed along with it. This investigation provides four whole chapters set in different times: 1940-1950, 1970’s, 1990’s, and 2000’s with the theories and the public’s perception of the Nazis. These theories unfold the socio-cultural points which benefit this investigation. Dr. Jane Pederson’s investigation concludes by stating that;

“The atrocities that unfolded during the Holocaust will forever puzzle today’s generation and generations to come as far as trying to come to an understanding of exactly how something so terrible on such a grand scale could ever occur. It is quite literally a question that may never be answered. However, psychologists have proposed theories for decades since it happened as to how a human mind could ever justify being so cruel.” (2013)

In other words, time will go on, but humans will never forget this horrible chapter of our history since it has awakened our curiosity on how this could ever happen, and no one will rest till finding answers or valid arguments on the subject.

There is a book with a similar idea. The book's title is *Ordinary Men* written by Christopher Browning and deals with how normal men became massive murderers. The author followed the trail of the German Reserve Police Battalion 101, a group of men that were very unlikely to turn into mass murderers. However, they did. This brings a question made by Browning himself when writing the book, "If the men of Reserve Police Battalion 101 could become killers under such circumstances, what group of men cannot?" (1992, p. 189) There is truth in this question because history has shown that humans under the right circumstances can unleash their inner evil. It is important to remember that humans have a capacity of good. However, there is also a hidden capacity for evil.

Therefore, this brings some questions: How much evil is contained within each person? And What draws the line? It could be laws, of course. However, there is a more important aspect to take into consideration which is the moral line. Since the beginning of time, humans have broken the law, sometimes without hesitation, and that is where people need to know their limit because it is extremely dangerous to cross it, and there could be no return.

Another book worth mentioning is "*The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind: Hitler, Hess, and the Analysts*" by Daniel Pick. This book is about how after the war ended, American and British leaders tried to understand the illogical psychic life of the Nazis. Walter Langer, who was an American psychoanalyst, was in charge of inspecting the man in charge of the Nazi regime, Adolf Hitler. Langer's analysis was done through other sources such as interviews, studies, and reports of people who had some sort of indirect or direct contact with Hitler. The other analysis was overseen by Henry Dicks, who was a British psychiatrist. Unlike Langer, Henry did have direct contact with his patient, Rudolf Hess.

The purpose of these books, studies, investigations, and analysis has always been the same after decades of what happened seventy-five years ago. It has been the study to understand the socio-cultural and mindset of the people responsible of the extermination of millions of humans during the holocausts. What is curious is that the Nazis did not show any sign of remorse whatsoever for what they did. They hid behind vague excuses to justify their actions which sadly worked for many of them. To this day, the holocaust is studied by historians in order to never forget the lives humanity lost on one of the darkest events of our history.

There is an article in a website called Taylor and Francis Online with the title “*Nazi Ethics: Perpetrators with a Clear Conscience*” that talks about how ordinary Germans became willing executioners of criminal and immoral deeds. The article states that:

“Neither did they act without any moral orientation nor in the awareness that what they were doing was morally reprehensible. As perpetrators with a clear conscience, they were convinced that the humiliation, persecution, deportation and, finally, killing of the Jews was the right thing to do.” (2013)

Consequently, what was the main motivation to do such things? Hate towards Jews. The socio-cultural approach plays an extremely important aspect on the investigation of hate the Nazis expressed towards Jews in the Nazi Germany. This factor will be covered in this document in Chapter II and III.

1.5 Scope

This thesis provides a socio-cultural analysis of the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner considering the global events that were happening at that time such as The Second World War that affected the life of Victor Capesius. The study is based on before, during, and after the events of the holocaust, specifically the concentration camp of Auschwitz that ran from 1939 to 1945 following the trace of just one individual, Victor Capesius. The book covers the life of Victor before his job as an executer and after the war ended until his death. This investigation focuses on the intend to understand the socio-cultural events that were present on the life of the main character of Patricia Posner's book following his way to be known forever as the pharmacist of Auschwitz. This study analyses other theories from professionals to enrich the ideas and give support to the body of the study in order to achieve a satisfactory conclusion.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

In this second chapter, many important definitions, the author's biography, and the plot of the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story*, will be provided. Moreover, important theories from the 1940s to the 2000s are explained and argued. These theories were formulated by important professionals in the field of history and psychology. Said theories will help this investigation by providing support to this thesis approach, since they are all based on understanding the events that took place during the Second World War and how regular men turned into Nazism. These ideas provide new approaches to understand and answer the question of how life-changing events turned Victor Capesius into the massive murderer in charge of the pharmaceutical department of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

Literature

There are many definitions for literature. Many authors, articles, and studies have their own definition, and all of them focus on explaining the same term using other words or points of view. According to an article written by Arthur Krystal, literature means not only what is written, but what it is voiced, what it is expressed, what it is invented, in whatever form (n.d). In other words, literature can be fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or prose. In addition, it can be movies, songs, and even TV shows. This definition gives a wide perspective of what literature can be, and allows us to understand the term in a clearer way.

Theory

Over history, theories have been very important to look for answers and to understand situations, behaviors, or certain events. A theory may have multiple perspectives from multiple people; therefore, it can be said it has a systematic way to achieve conclusions. According to an article published on the American Museum of Natural History website, “A theory is a well-substantiated explanation of an aspect of the natural world that can incorporate laws, hypotheses and facts” (n.d). In other words, theories cannot just be hunches or guesses. Therefore, theories must have supporting evidence in order to be valid and be taken serious on the field the theory takes place.

Literary Theory

Now that the concept of literature and theory was explained, it is time to merge these two concepts into one to define literary theory. According to Vince Brewton, literary theory is:

“... the body of ideas and methods we use in the practical reading of literature. By literary theory we refer not to the meaning of a work of literature but to the theories that reveal what literature can mean. Literary theory is a description of the underlying principles, one might say the tools, by which we attempt to understand literature.” (n.d)

In short, literary theory is the interpretation we, as readers, have from a text. A literary text can have a certain meaning intended by the author, but this text can be interpreted and understood differently by the readers. Therefore, the same text might have multiple points of view on the same topic.

Socio-cultural Approach

This thesis focuses on the socio-cultural approach, as it considers events of Victor Capesius' life in the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner. According to the Georgia State University (2017), "The sociocultural approach examines the influences of social and cultural environments on behavior. A major influence on people's behavior, thought processes and emotions are other people and the society they have created." In other words, society and the major events of our world form and shape people's character. Therefore, the environment a person lives in will have a direct impact on their personality, since that person will have to make decisions just as many people did during the Second World War because of their social and cultural circumstances. All the theories mentioned in this second chapter help to support to determine the best way to come to an answer for the research question.

Theories

There are many aspects to take into consideration to reach a proper theory, such as political, economic, cultural, social, and environmental. All these are a culmination of important aspects to understand how a normal man could join the Nazi party and committed atrocities against humanity. This analysis will break down seven recognized theories published by important professionals who tried to understand and justified Hitler and the Nazi's actions. They based their theories on the socio-cultural aspect, as well as the psychological aspect in order to reach a conclusion. Many of these theories analyze the socio-cultural environment of these men, who willingly accepted to commit war crimes because of a race superiority complex.

Hitler's Childhood and Split Personality Theory by Walter Charles Langer

In 1943, Walter Charles Langer, an American psychoanalyst, was in charge of preparing the psychoanalysis of Adolf Hitler for the Office of Strategy Services (2013, p. 3). Langer analyzed the emotional and mental state of Hitler, as well as his influence on those that were around him. Langer studied very important and singular aspects such as Hitler's beliefs, what he thought about himself, and what his comrades and the German people thought about him. Langer believed that the analysis of these aspects could allow him to predict Hitler's behavior in the future, which theoretically he did by predicting Hitler's suicide.

Even though, this analysis was conducted in 1943, it was not published until 1972 in the book *The mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report*. Langer came to the conclusion that Hitler actually thought of himself as an all-powerful being destined to save Germany. There is a report which states that Hitler said to one of his associates during an interview, "Do you realize that you are in the presence of the greatest German of all time" (1972, p. 37). What is curious here is that Hitler did not call himself "one of the greatest," but "the greatest." This statement says a lot about himself and his tremendous ego. Moreover, the use of propaganda and Hitler's speaking abilities were tremendous advantages to persuade the German people into believing and, most importantly, trusting Hitler's words. This is a crucial aspect because when Hitler got people to believe that he was the savior of Germany, normal citizens turned into Nazicism and followed him. Thus, following orders beyond morality. Langer thought that Hitler had deep and extensive mental issues.

One interesting conclusion was that Hitler might have had two wholly separate sides of himself that blurred exactly who he was as a person. Langer believed that one part of Hitler was

soft and sentimental, which made him an indecisive individual. On the other hand, the other part was hard and cruel and that made him a decisive person with an extreme desire to go and get what he wanted regardless all costs (1972, p. 132). Linger stated that, "Hitler's mind is like a battle royal most of the time with many conflicting and contradictory forces and impulses pulling him this way and that" (1972, p. 131). He concluded that Hitler's actions were affected due to a vast personality disorder, which could be the cause of his eccentric behavior. Langer came up with another similar theory, which stated that Hitler was using a psychological maneuver to repress his sensitive side by overexaggerating his "Führer" personality, because for Hitler sensitivity was seen as a weakness that needed to be overcome in order to be great.

Another important aspect, which Langer took into consideration to understand Hitler's mind, was his past before becoming The Führer. For this theory, Langer relied on one of Freud's theories that stated that the first years of the life of a child are very important to shape his future. Freud stated that, "It is during these early years, when the child's acquaintanceship with the world is still meager and his capacities are still undeveloped, that the chances of misinterpreting the nature of the world about him are the greatest" (1972, p. 148). Therefore, Langer took this theory and stated that Hitler's childhood affected him greatly on the understanding of himself and the world, since his father figure only transmitted him anxiety, uneasiness, and uncertainty during his childhood. Additionally, his mother's death in 1907 played a big role into developing his personality. Lastly, Germany's loss in the First World War could be considered the main cause of Hitler's mental breakdown per se, since his German ego was crushed and humiliated. These aspects played a big role on his part as The Führer. Hitler wanted to make the world pay because he believed that Germany was humiliated after the First World War. Therefore, he started a big

campaign, which took him years in order to rise to power and begin Nazism. He had to start a propaganda blaming the enemies for Germany's fall.

These theories and analysis methods are interesting and worth taking into account to analyze Victor Capecius' socio-cultural environment. Victor, just as Hitler, might had a split personality after the war, since he lived in total denial for what he did during the events of the holocaust. Therefore, this theory is analyzed regarding Victor's behavior further on. In addition, the childhood theory is considered to see if he lived similar events as Hitler and if that had a direct effect on his adulthood, as well as his social circle and life as a child. Furthermore, Hitler's life events had a direct impact on Germany's society before and after the Second World War. He wanted to rise to power in order to begin his evil plans, but for this to happen, he needed to overthrow German's government. This incident is explained in History (2009) website, and it is known as Beer Hall Putsch. This event sentenced Hitler to prison in the early 1920s, which made him rethink his tactics in order to rise to power. This is when the famous Nazi propaganda began. According to an article published in The Holocaust Explained website, "The failure of the Munich Putsch had shown Hitler that he would not be able to take power by force. Hitler therefore decided to change tactic and instead focus on winning support for his party democratically and being elected into power." (n.d)

Many faithful followers of the Nazi party had children, and these children grew up with the Nazi propaganda. Therefore, Hitler was forming an enormous group of young followers, having a great impact not only on the German society, but all Europe before the war. However, life in Germany after the war was completely different. The postwar trials and denazification started, and Germany was controlled by the allied forces. According to an article published in The Holocaust Explained website:

“After the war, Germany was split into four zones of Allied occupation. These were: Northeast Germany (controlled by the Soviet Union), South East Germany (controlled by the United States), South West Germany (controlled by France) and North West Germany (controlled by Great Britain). Each zone of occupation carried out the denazification process differently.” (n.d)

For the lives of German society, this implied a change of their environment, which completely turned around their lives in their own country. Alan Taylor wrote an article on The Atlantic website stating that,

“After the end of the war, millions of German nationals and ethnic Germans were forcibly expelled from both territory Germany had annexed and formerly German lands that were transferred to Poland and the Soviet Union. The estimated numbers of Germans involved ranges from 12 to 14 million, with a further estimate of 500,000 to 2 million dying during the expulsion.” (2011)

Therefore, it can be concluded that Germany’s life drastically changed after the war just because of a man who was extremely eager for power and control.

Defense Mechanism Theory by Erich Fromm

As Dr. Pederson and Professor Sanislo mentioned in their investigation, thirty years passed to see another fresh point of view and analysis regarding the Nazis. During the 1970s, the German psychologist/psychoanalyst, Erich Fromm published his work centered on Hitler’s mindset before and after the Holocaust. Fromm also gave his point of view on Langer’s analysis by giving a new perspective. One of Fromm’s theories is that “Hitler’s behavior and ability to

commit such atrocities was that he employed a defense mechanism in which he de-humanizes the enemy to make the killing of them seem less like murder and more like simply ridding himself of a nuisance” (2013, p. 10). Hitler used to refer to Jews as “political enemies” to make his orders of killing people seem less morally difficult for his soldiers.

Fromm disagreed with Langer’s theory about how Hitler’s childhood had a great impact on his personality turning Hitler what he ended up being. For Fromm, the difference is that character development is not finished around the age of five or six years, as Langer implied and that essential changes do occur afterwards. In addition, Langer’s theory does not take into account the whole process of living and of character as a developing system. This did not mean that Fromm disagreed that childhood does affect people’s lives. However, he could not support Langer’s theory because as it may see, many children, in the world, had suffered similar events as Hitler did, but they did not become tyrannical psychopaths as him. In contrast, Fromm looked to later experiences such Hitler’s failure in high school, family conflicts, and the idea the Hitler started living a fantasy world because of his extreme narcissism.

In Dr. Pederson and Professor Sanislo’s paper, it is mentioned how Fromm theorized that The Führer was driven by destructiveness (2013, p. 12). Moreover, Fromm believed Hitler had a pattern of destructiveness since growing up such as architectural destructiveness, but even to the point of tearing down a whole race, the Jews. Fromm concluded his analysis by stating that, “Hitler had numerous psychological disorders and an immensely flawed outlook on reality, but he somehow could not classify him as being insane” (2013, p. 13). In other words, even though Hitler was far apart from reality, the world that he had created in his mind was being presented in the world at the moment, making his wishes a reality and not an entire fantasy. Clearly, an insane person could have not been able to achieve what Hitler did.

Fromm's defense mechanism theory mainly gives support to the analysis of Victor after the events of the holocaust. He might have employed a defense mechanism to avoid any moral responsibility for his crimes during the war because of the socio-cultural events at the time. Victor was aware that many Nazis were not only sentenced to prison, but also to an immediate death. Just as many German citizens denied the holocaust, Victor denied his actions, as well. Therefore, there is a connection between Victor's action and the German Society. As a result, this theory will help figuring out the reasons of Victor's stand during the trials.

The Teacher and The Learner Experiment and The Rorschach Method Theory by Stanley Milgram

Florence Miale and Michael Serzel's theory was based on a study conducted by a psychologist from Yale University named Stanley Milgram. Said study was mentioned in the book *Are we all Nazis* by Hans Askenasy. The study was done the same year as the Eichmann's trial. The purpose of the study was to discover at what degree, people would obey a command even if that command goes against their own moral codes. Dr. Pederson and Professor Sanislo mentioned that this study's purpose was chosen because just about all Nazis justified themselves for what they did with the "just following orders" defense (2013, p. 13).

Milgram conducted an experiment where he told random volunteers they would be on a memory study, and they would partner up with another person, who was an actor. The volunteer would be given the role of the teacher and the other person, who was the actor, would have the role of the learner. The volunteers' role was to ask questions to the "learner," and if they were wrong, the teacher was commanded to administrate an electric shock that was hooked up to the learner. According to Hans Askenasy, the number of volts of each shock ranged from fifteen to

four hundred and fifty. In addition, words that indicated the shocks intensity were on these volt switches. For instance, at 15 it read “slight shock” and at 450 it may say “Danger- Severe Shock” or simply “XXX” (2013, p. 14). The volunteer was ordered to administrate a higher-level shock every time the learner answered the question incorrectly. Sometimes, the shock was too intense that the teacher could see and hear the learner protest, scream, and even asked to leave the study for the pain that those shocks were causing them. The volunteers at times did not want to continue with the study because there was a moral conflict. However, Milgram kept telling the volunteers “please continue” (2013, p. 15) being almost enough for them to keep on administrating shocks.

This experiment helped to show how any average citizen is willing to ignore their conscious and keep doing something that make them uncomfortable as a result of just following orders. Miligram’s experiment showed that under the right circumstances, people will do something beyond their own morals in order to obey authority. The reason they do this is because they blame the experimenter for their actions and not themselves, which takes away any possible guilt they could have. The result of this experiment matched up the testimonies of the Nazis, in which they started that they were not psychopath murderers, but that they were just following orders. As Miligram said, “Often, it is not so much the kind of person a man is as the kind of situation in which he finds himself that determines how he will act” (2013, p. 16). With this conclusion, it was implied that the main and, maybe the only responsible for all the atrocities that the Nazis committed, was their leader, Adolf Hitler. Miale and Serzel analyzed Miligram’s conclusion and their thoughts were that obedience might had been the main aspect of the atrocities committed by the Nazis. They thought that obedience overpassed aggression, and this made the tragedy possible. Additionally, they added that under the conditions, at that time, in

Nazi Germany, anyone, even normal and decent people, could have behaved as the most bestial Nazi did.

Afterwards, Miale and Serzel analyzed The Rorschach Method, which was administered to sixteen Nazis when they were kept prisoners after The Second World War. This method is a psychological test in which a person is asked to describe what he or she sees in 10 inkblots, of which some are black or gray and others have patches of color. The method was made so the variance of the responses would reveal the mindset of the individual. It was believed that this method would allow psychiatrists to get a better understanding of the actions of the Nazi prisoners during the war. The results of the test proved that they shared similar dark personality traits such as rejection of responsibility and death, violence, status, and depression; this one being the most common one among Nazis after the holocausts. The ones who carried out the study came to the conclusion that these traits are found in large numbers of any group of power seekers, for instance, in politics, commerce, arts, or any other place. Thus, they concluded that The Rorschach tests led them to conclude that Nazi leaders were beyond normal citizens. However, this contradicted what had been said before; that is, that the Nazis were normal citizens that were persuaded into becoming Nazis based on the circumstances of the time.

To Miale and Serzel, the Nazis were indeed normal citizens who were just following orders, as Milgram's study suggested. However, the results of The Rorschach Method indicated that these individuals had psychopathic traits, but this was given to the situations they were put into. Miale and Serzel ended their analysis by letting the reader come up with their own conclusion about the Nazi mindset. It leaves the question of "whether or not these men became Nazis based on deep and innate violent behavior patterns, or if they had simply fallen victim to social psychological factors of the environment and situation, they found themselves in" (2013, p.

19). According to Miale and Serzel, all Nazis had a level of responsibility. However, the only Nazis fully responsible for all the atrocities committed during The Second World War were Adolf Hitler and his high rank associates because the mentality of his followers was to just to follow orders; consequently, the mindset would be completely different, since it is not the same to give the initial orders and then execute them. Even though, these two theories are impossible to administrate to Victor Capesius, they do provide useful insights regarding the Nazi's mentality, and will help with the analysis of Victor's behaviors after the war.

Fantasy World Theory by Richard Koenigsberg

In 1975, Koenigsberg published a book titled *Hitler's Ideology: A Study in Psychoanalytic Sociology*. In this book, Koenigsberg explained another perspective of the man who gave the initial orders, Adolf Hitler. According to the author, Hitler's mindset was completely different from the other Nazis because he was the man who triggered his evil ideas. Koenigsberg believed that Hitler did not know how to differentiate the real world from his fantasy world. This psychologist based many of his theories on Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*. Metaphorically speaking, for Hitler, Germany was a dying body which needed salvation, and he was its only savior. Koenigsberg described Hitler's fantasy world as a "literal living organism." To Hitler, the Germans were the flesh and blood (the main substance to live), which made the country run (1975, p. 5). Politicians were the ones maintaining the country's healthy, and the Jews were the disease consuming the national body; consequently, they needed to be eradicated. In conclusion to this theory, to Hitler, Germany was a living organism that was on the verge of being killed.

This led Koenigsberg to theorized how Hitler's mother affected him greatly, psychologically speaking. His mother died in 1907 due to breast cancer, so Hitler's main priority became saving Germany at any necessary cost to compensate his "weakness," as he could not save his mother. Koenigsberg thought that Hitler used a denial psychological defense mechanism regarding his mother's death, which had a great influence on his role as a politician. Moreover, Koenigsberg stated that, "Hitler projected the image of his mother, dying of cancer, into social reality. Consequently, he perceives the nation to be diseased, disintegrating, and in the process of dying" (1975, p. 59). Additionally, Konigsberg said that "Hitler's mindset was one that was detached from reality, and that he projected his own fantasies into reality. This theory explained Hitler's mentality from the perspective that his subconscious was almost completely in control of his external behavior" (2013, p. 22). Consequently, this theory gives another perspective of Hitler's mind. Therefore, it can be taken into consideration to analyze Victor Capesius during the holocaust, since we can investigate Victor's family circle in order to determine if there were any traumas with any family member.

Victor, alongside Josef Mengele, was one of the men in charge of choosing the destiny of the Jews as they arrived at the camp. In addition, he also experimented with these prisoners by providing them with drugs for pharmaceutical purposes. This gives the perception that Victor, in his mind, believed he was powerful to do whatever he wanted to whomever he wanted, without thinking of any possible consequence for his actions. However, after the war ended, Victor's behavior changed in order to find the possibility to be free and live a normal life, one that he denied to millions of humans. At the end, Victor was able to avoid the charges and open a store in Germany, where he succeeded once again as a pharmacist.

Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Test Theory by Eric Zillmer, Molly Harrower, Barry Ritzler, and Robert Archer

In 1994, four analysts published the book *The Quest for the Nazi Personality: A Psychological Investigation of Nazi War Criminals*. In this analysis, the authors used new perspectives to analyze the Nazi's mindset. One of their claims was that for people, it is easier to classify all Nazis as insane and psychopaths. However, they pointed out the importance of looking at the social environment of the time and the authority figures before giving a final diagnosis. To them, the previous analysts made the mistake to label all Nazis with a specific diagnosis by just studying the mindset of only a few of them. Therefore, Zillmer, Harrower, Ritzler, and Archer studied and analyzed over two hundred Nazis. Even though, they agreed that many Nazis shared similar behavioral and personality traits, it would be incorrect to reduce them all into one personality. They stated that,

“In fact, based purely on averages and probabilities of modern personality theory it would be highly unlikely that all Nazis shared on common personality, but highly likely that some traits were coming to subgroups of Nazis. The Nazis were hardly a random sample of individuals from the varieties of human nature. That is not to say that many Nazis of a particular order or rank did not have specific traits in common or were more likely to exhibit a particular personality trait than non-Nazis. But to bluntly suggest that all Nazis had a homogeneous personality and to reduce the behavior of many individuals to global and common descriptors using one or two adjectives, is an obvious oversimplification, one that has however been engaged repeatedly in describing the developments of the Third Reich.” (1995, p. 14)

In other words, it was wrong to classify all Nazis with a common adjective just because of the results obtained in a study conducted to only one Nazi, as there were thousands of Nazis who might not share the same personality.

These authors theorized that the Nazi personalities had to be measured on individual context and group context, since it is there where the Nazi behavior occurred. These analysts and the previous ones shared one common goal in their analysis: to see whether or not the Nazis were criminals or just average citizens caught in a social situation that forced them into becoming murderers. They administered the psychological Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Test to the Nazis in the Nuremberg Trial in order to find an answer to that question. The results of this test were not to measure their IQ level, but rather to see their individual levels of cognitive abilities, since they believed that that test would give them a gist of these individuals' mental state. The results of the psychological Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Test were amazingly surprising, since the twenty-one Nazi prisoners had IQs over 128. Thus, they could be considered as nearly geniuses.

However, according to Zelmer, these results were not important because there is no relation whatsoever between intelligence and morality. These results were not revealed to the media because it was better for people to believe that these Nazis were not smart individuals, but just mentally deficient people. Nevertheless, this test did have a beneficial outcome. For the Nazi prisoners, it was an opportunity to appear cognitive inept rather than actually intelligent men. Even though, the Nazis were imprisoned, they were still fighting to see who the smartest man in the room was, so they could demonstrate their power and racial superiority. Therefore, the analysts wondered why they did not intentionally ruin their results. The answer to this helped to explain tremendously traits of their personality and mental states.

The Nazis' behavior when taking the IQ test showed that they were still fighting for power and racial superiority; even though, they knew their lives could be over after the trials and that their leader was dead. This indicated how deeply inside their subconscious, they really believed they were the superior race above all. The cause of this is the great impact of the propaganda, social factors, and Hitler's ideologies on these men's minds. In addition, these authors also analyzed the validity of the Rorschach tests administered to the Nazis at Nuremberg, as well as their results. They believed that the tests could not be held up as completely accurate. Therefore, they disagreed with the authors responsible of taking those results seriously, as only facts and evidence of the psychopathic nature of the Nazi mind. This study helped to understand that there is not a correlation between intelligence and morality. Even though, intelligence is an important aspect inside a socio-cultural analysis, this conclusion helped to separate it and not to see it as a particular aspect that psychopaths have. Therefore, this test was important to understand that not one person in the world, no matter the IQ level, can also be evil.

Socio-Cultural Environment and Double-Track Theory

Interestingly, in the decade from 2000 to 2010, there were a lot of new analysis regarding the Nazi's actions during The Second World War. Said analysis were more focused on the influences of the social-cultural environment than any other past publication regarding this topic. The same idea and question have remained since the end of The Second World War, to understand if the men who joined the Nazi regime were average citizens or born/made psychopaths; however, what has been different, over all these years, is the approach taken to do these analyses by the different professionals. In the past, it was believed that an event with the magnitude of the holocaust could never occur again because media attributed all the responsibility only to the Nazis, by classifying them as sadists and psychopaths. This in a way,

comforted people and gave them someone to blame. Even though, the Nazis were in fact guilty, people did not attribute the blame to the social circumstances that these men were living at the time, and this factor has as much blame as them.

In 2000, Jay Gonen published the book *The Roots of Nazi Psychology: Hitler's Utopian Barbarism*. He talked about how the use of fear, terror, and the Nazi's ideological messages were the right strategy to mobilize the masses into following them and, therefore, they became Nazis. As Dr. Pederson and Professor Sanislo mentioned in their investigation, according to Gonen, the socio-cultural environment that Germany was living at the time was the perfect tool to encourage normal German citizens to turn into Nazism. Gonen also supported the "double-track" theory. This idea was first explained by Rudolph Binion in 1979 (2013, p. 28). The theory consisted on the idea that Hitler's plans for solving his fictional problems with the Jews and his attempts to fix Germany's living space, were like tracks that overlapped in his mind. Consequently, these made Hitler to take so drastic actions to accomplish his sick purposes.

It was believed that Hitler's traumatic life and his experiences with the Jews led him to place the blame on them for all the bad things that happened during his life. For instance, the death of his mother, since Hitler considered that her Jewish physician was the one to blame, as he could not save her from death. Another example is Germany's humiliation after The First World War. Hitler also found the Jews as main responsible for this. According to Binion, Hitler's unconscious would replay the drama of those traumatic events leading him to the same conclusions, finding the Jews as the ones to blame (2013, p. 29). In Gonen's words,

"Hitler's mindset was that of the psychological defense mechanism of scapegoating the blame of traumatic events in his life on to others, in his

particular case, the Jews. He did this because he unconsciously replayed past traumas and applied his emotions and experiences of those events into his current issues, thus returning to the conclusion that the Jews were to blame.”
(2013, p. 29)

In other words, Gonen concluded that Hitler sought to solve the problem of inadequate living space and saving the body of the nation by removing what he believed was poisoning it, the Jews.

2.2 Themes, Symbols, Motifs

Theme

The Literary Terms website (n.d) defines theme as the central idea, topic, point of a story, essay, or narrative. In short, theme is the central idea on any form of art. It is defined in personal criteria, and it is mainly based on a personal interpretation. Thus, there is not right or wrong when choosing a theme. For a reader, the theme of a story can be justice and for another injustice, and both can be right.

Symbol

It is a literary device that contains several meanings, and they are often spotted at first sight. The Literary Devices website states that “A symbol is something that stands for or suggests something else; it represents something beyond literal meaning. In literature, a symbol can be a word, object, action, character, or concept that embodies and evokes a range of additional meaning and significance” (n.d). In other words, a symbol is an object, action, or idea that is repeated in a story and its meaning transcends more than what it actually means. Moreover, symbols are subjective. Therefore, an object in a book, for instance, can have many different meanings for multiples readers. Examples of these three literary devices are reviewed in the next

chapters based on the book of this investigation; *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story*
By Patricia Posner.

Motif

The Literary Terms website (n.d) states that “Motifs work in a story to emphasize the theme, and, for this reason, it is sometimes confused with the theme. Motifs are recurring images, objects, or ideas that highlight the theme.” In other words, motifs are a recurring narrative element or abstract idea with a symbolic significance. Unlike symbols, motifs are intangible, for instance, values, feelings, light, and darkness. When a plot structure is repeated in a text, it is probably a motif. These must be related to the central idea of the work, and they always end up reinforcing the author’s overall message.

2.3 Author’s Biography

Patricia Posner

She was born in London, having spent half of her life in Britain and half in the United States. For thirty years, she has worked in 12 books on investigative historical nonfiction with her husband, the bestselling author Gerald Posner. On those projects, Patricia conducted every interview with him, sifted through thousands of pages of original documents in government and private archives, and worked on the early drafts of manuscripts, and the editing. Patricia has always been greatly interested in the history surrounding The Second World War and the Holocaust. She had been long fascinated by the mostly untold story of Victor Capesius, an ethnic German from Romania, who ended up as the chief pharmacist at Auschwitz, the largest Nazi concentration camp.

She learned about Victor in 1985, when working with Gerald on the biography of the Nazi Angel of Death, Dr. Josef Mengele. During later projects assisting Gerald, Patricia was able to delve further into The Second World War and the Holocaust. In 1991, she published a book collection of interviews carried out to the children of Nazi perpetrators. In 1994, a New Yorker article "Letter from Berlin: Secrets of the Files," in which Patricia and her husband were two of the last researchers, allowed her full access to the millions of Nazi party membership files in the Berlin Document Center prior to the U.S. transfer of those papers to German custody. Moreover, in 2015, she developed another book investigation; this time about the Vatican Bank and how the Catholic Church profited from the holocaust by secret investments in German and Italian insurance companies that escheated life insurance policies of Jews sent to Auschwitz. While collecting information about Capesius over the years, Patricia also launched her own solo writing career.

In the late 1990s, she started a monthly column about the developments in women's health. Having come from a family with a long history of breast cancer, Patricia was highly skeptical regarding the general pharmaceutical and medical advice, which stated that all women should rely on hormone replacement during menopause. In 2000, Random House/Villard published Patricia's memoir casting doubts on the efficacy of universally prescribed HRT and presented her program for going through menopause naturally. In 2003, after the landmark medical study, the Women's Health Initiative was published and confirmed many of the alarming health risks she had addressed in her book. Later on, Villard published an updated paperback titled *No Hormones, No Fear*. From 2005 to 2007, Patricia wrote two columns for Miami's *Ocean Drive* magazine, one about health developments and the other one, covering everything from local politics to battles over historic preservation to a much-cited profile of magazine editor Tina

Brown. She has also written for Salon, Huffington Post, and The Daily Beast, as well as having appeared to discuss her reporting, among others in NBC's TODAY, FOX's The O'Reilly Factor, and MSNBC. Her biography about Capesius is the ideal juncture for her interest in The Second World War, the Holocaust, and her earlier reporting on the pharmaceutical industry and public health.

2.4 Plot of the book

The Pharmacist of Auschwitz is the little-known story of Victor Capesius, a Bayer pharmaceutical salesman from Romania, who at the age of 35 joined the Nazi SS in 1943 and quickly became the chief pharmacist at the largest death camp, Auschwitz. Based in part on previously classified documents, Patricia Posner exposes Capesius's reign of terror at the camp, his escape from justice fueled in part by the theft of gold ripped from the mouths of corpses, and how a handful of courageous survivors and a single brave prosecutor finally brought him to trial for murder twenty years after the end of the war. The Pharmacist of Auschwitz is much more than a personal account of Capesius. It provides a spellbinding glimpse inside the devil's pact made between the Nazis and Germany's largest conglomerate, I.G. Farben, and its Bayer pharmaceutical subsidiary. The story is one of murder and greed with its roots in the dark heart of the Holocaust. The story is told by Nazi henchmen and industrialists turned into war criminals, intelligence agents, zealous prosecutors, intrepid concentration camp survivors, and Nazi hunters. Set against a backdrop ranging from Hitler's war to conquer Europe to the Final Solution to postwar Germany's tormented efforts to confront its dark past, Posner shows the appalling depths to which ordinary men descend when they are unrestrained by conscience or any sense of morality.

2.5 Germany's Life After the Hostilities

After the war ended, Germany was not the same. It took the country years to make amends for what the Nazi party did. Right after the war, the Allied forces invaded Germany to liberate the camps and the people in them. However, life in Germany was never going to be the same. Certain events started to emerge in order to move on from one of the darkest episodes of humankind. Such events are the new life of the German Jewish community that survived the holocaust, the new group that rose in order to deny the holocaust, and the Nuremberg trials in order to bring the Nazis to justice.

Even though the Jews were liberated from the death camps, their lives were never going to be the same. They lost their family, their communities, their belongings. The Jews lost their entire life and were left with nothing. Shani Rozanes wrote an article about how Jewish life developed in Germany after the Holocaust (Made for Minds, 2021). In this article, Rozanes mentioned that Karl Marx, who was a German Jewish journalist, said "How can I possibly, after all that has happened, live in Germany as a Jew?" This statement says everything about how German Jews felt after their own country murdered their families. Rozanes stated that, "More than 90% of the Jewish refugees who had ended up in Germany left within three to four years, mostly to the US and the newly founded state of Israel. Only about 15,000 of them stayed on German soil" (Made for Minds, 2021). Sadly, it was never going to be same for them. On top on how the Jews felt, new groups rose stating that the holocaust never happened.

This new group started the holocaust denial by negating the facts and millions of proofs that were left behind after the holocaust. Despite the testimonies of thousands of Jews who survived the death camps, this group denied the Nazis' actions during the holocaust and did not

believe there was even a genocide. An article named *History: The Holocaust: Holocaust Revisionism and the Fight for History* in the Lloyd Sealy Library website stated that,

“Holocaust denial is an attempt to negate the established facts of the Nazi genocide of European Jewry. Key denial assertions are: that the murder of approximately six million Jews during World War II never occurred; that the Nazis had no official policy or intention to exterminate the Jews; and that the poison gas chambers in Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp never existed.” (n.d)

In other words, these groups denied absolutely everything the Nazis did by providing other justifications for the disappearance of millions of Jews. However, it did not work since the Nuremberg trials began after the end of the war in order to sentence the Nazis to prison and death.

The Nuremberg trials took place from 1945 to 1949 in the city of Nuremberg in Germany. The purpose of these trials was to bring justice to all the victims who died or were affected in any way during the holocaust. Unfortunately, the man who maybe deserved more to be sentenced to prison was not there, since Hitler killed himself in 1945 right after it was known that Germany had lost. According to the History website,

“Most observers considered the trials a step forward for the establishment of international law. The findings at Nuremberg led directly to the United Nations Genocide Convention (1948) and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), as well as the Geneva Convention on the Laws and Customs of War (1949). In addition, the International Military Tribunal supplied a useful

precedent for the trials of Japanese war criminals in Tokyo (1946-48); the 1961 trial of Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann (1906-62); and the establishment of tribunals for war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia (1993) and in Rwanda (1994).” (History.com Editors, 2019)

As we can see, these trials helped to establish a new way to handle international law. In addition, this helped later on in the upcoming years to deal with war crimes that were present in on other events similar to the ones that the Jews lived.

In conclusion, these three events have an important role in the approach of this investigation. As mentioned before, this thesis is focused on a socio-cultural approach. Therefore, the events of the German Jewry life that took place after the holocaust, the new group denying these events, and the Nuremberg trials are extremely important in order to analyze the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story*, and Victor Capesious' life. It is important to mention that Victor was present at the Nuremberg trials, and he was one of the many Nazis that were able to avoid the chargers. However, Patricia Posner's book accomplishes its goal to never forget the victims of the holocaust and to remember that Victor Capesious was not the innocent man he claimed to be.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The purpose of this chapter is to start the analysis of socio-cultural elements found in the book. This analysis is focused on the book *The Pharmacist of Aushwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner. The main objective of this document is to gather all the important aspects from the book regarding Victor's pre, during, and post war life. Patricia Posner's book is the principal source of this document. Therefore, everything that is analyzed is taken from this book. Furthermore, the reader will find this document beneficial to understand Victor's story on a socio-cultural approach. In addition, the readers will be able to find the data collection instruments. This concept is defined by Cambridge dictionary as "The activity of collecting information that can be used to find out about a particular subject" (n.d). Therefore, within this analysis are found main characters, secondary characters, quotes, theories, and important events in the book, all these in order to reach a satisfactory conclusion on the socio-cultural approach.

3.1 Research Approach

When analyzing data collection, there are two main approaches. These approaches are quantitative and qualitative. First, it is substantial to define what a research approach is. According to Vijay Grover (2015), a research approach is the concept plans and the procedure for research that span the steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Moreover, it is important to analyze the quantitative and qualitative approaches and determine which one suits best in the analysis of the book *The Pharmacist of Aushwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner through the socio-cultural approach.

The qualitative approach is a method that is expressed in words. According to Raimo Streefkerk (2019), this method is used to understand concepts, thoughts, or experiences. In addition, it enables the researcher to gather in-depth insights on topics that are not well understood. This method allows researchers to formulate ideas and theories on their own regarding their approach and type of investigation. On the other hand, the quantitative method is expressed in graphs and numbers. This method is used to test or confirm theories and assumptions. Additionally, it can be used to establish generalizable facts about a topic (Streefkerk, 2019). Therefore, this approach allows researchers to incorporate experiments. For example, in order to analyze data this is the one a researcher needs. In view that these two methods have been defined, let us continue with the data collection of both methods in order to determine which one suits better for the socio-cultural analysis of this investigation.

When it comes to collect data with these two approaches, they contrast themselves. For instance, a quantitative research tests theories and hypotheses, and the qualitative research formulates them, instead. The qualitative approach takes interviews, group discussions, ethnographic propositions, and literature reviews in order to answer the research question of the investigation. On the other hand, a quantitative approach focuses on surveys, experiments, and observations to reach an answer for the question in study. Therefore, now that these two approaches have been explained, it is important to know that the qualitative approach is a more viable method for this investigation. In literature, it is necessary to use qualitative approaches due to the nature of the investigation. The main purpose with this approach is to make a literary analysis on a socio-cultural approach. This is done by gathering the concepts and all the theories mentioned in Chapter II. Therefore, all the characteristics of the qualitative approach match the objective of this investigation.

3.2 Research Design

In this section, the concept of research design is explained, as well as the chosen instruments for this investigation. According to Shona McCombes (2019), research design is a framework for planning the research and answering the research questions. In addition, when creating a research design, the researcher needs to make decisions about certain aspects. This is the type of data that is needed, the methods, and the sources for support to conduct the investigation. In other words, this is the core of every investigation, since it helps to plan how it will be conducted. Moreover, the instruments of this investigation are focused on the book under research. These are centered on the analysis of the main and secondary characters. In addition, the socio-cultural context in which these characters were involved in during the period of the Second World War. Therefore, the socio-cultural approach is the main instrument in this investigation since every aspect that is analyzed is focused on this approach. Lastly, the theories from multiple professionals who over the years have studied the Nazis, as these theories provide an extreme support for this investigation.

3.3 Information Sources

Information sources play a crucial factor in investigations and analysis. These sources provide the researcher with fresh point of views related to the research questions in order to reach a satisfactory conclusion. According to IGI Global (n.d), an information source is a person, thing, or place from which information comes, arises, or is obtained. In other words, it is the source from which a researcher gets any kind of information. These can be classified as primary, secondary, and tertiary.

3.3.1 Primary Sources

According to Healey Library (nd), primary sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. These sources can be original documents, diaries, and newspaper reports. Primary sources are important because they allow the researcher to have a direct access to the subject of the research. In addition, they help to relate in a more personal manner with the events under study. Thus, allowing the researcher to be more familiarized with the subject which provides a deeper understanding when conducting the investigation.

Since this document is a literary analysis, the primary source is the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story* by Patricia Posner. This book is an original investigation carried out by Patricia Posner, who worked for over 31 years to tell the story of Victor Capesius. Every aspect and point of investigation are taken out of this book. In addition, important websites provide support to this research regarding the socio-cultural approach and its components. Thus, the book and websites are the primary sources on this investigation.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources

According to UNSW Sydney (2021), secondary sources offer an analysis, interpretation or a restatement of primary sources and are considered to be persuasive. In other words, these sources are the opinion of a particular researcher on the subject of study. Thus, they frequently involve generalization, synthesis, interpretation, commentary, or evaluation in an attempt to convince the reader of the creator's argument. These sources can be found in articles, biographies, criticism of literature, and textbooks. In short, the secondary sources often aim to explain the primary sources.

This document relies on many secondary sources which help to do a more satisfactory research. The secondary sources that are used in this investigation are the theories explained in Chapter II. These theories allow to conduct a comparison in Chapter IV hand in hand with the book under study. In addition, books written by historians are reviewed as support in this investigation. Lastly, investigations on these theories from certified professionals to always have different point of views.

3.3.3 Tertiary Sources

According to The University of Minnesota Crookston (n.d), tertiary sources are sources that index, abstract, organize, compile, or digest other sources. In addition, some reference materials and textbooks are considered tertiary sources when their chief purpose is to list. Moreover, tertiary sources summarize or simply repackage ideas or other information. Some examples of these sources are dictionaries, encyclopedias, fact books, and bibliographies. However, these sources are usually not credited to a particular author. For tertiary sources, this investigation relies upon dictionaries to obtain concepts and definitions. There sources are Cambridge Dictionary and IGI Global dictionary. The importance of these dictionaries is crucial since they allow the researcher to define not well-known terms. Thus, once they are explained, it is easier for the reader to fully understand the investigation. In short, all the information sources are important in order to conduct a well-informed investigation.

3.4 Analysis of Categories

The book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story* is analyzed through a socio-cultural approach. Therefore, the main and secondary characters in this book are analyzed through this approach; in addition to the social and cultural environments these characters were living in. The pre, during, and post war events are analyzed only in relation to Victor's life. When analyzing this character's life, the investigation takes into consideration the people and environment he was involved in. Therefore, it is possible to achieve a wider analysis on his life.

3.4.1 Literary Analysis

According to Jack Caulfield (2020), a literary analysis is to closely study a text, interpret its meanings, and explore why the author made certain choices. This can be applied to novels, short stories, plays, poems, or any other form of literary writing. In other words, a literary analysis is not a summary of reviewing a plot, it is far more than that. Instead, all elements are analyzed in order to understand deeper meanings. This is important because in any story there are many perspectives that can be studied to bring newer points of views.

3.4.2 Main Characters

As stated by Jason Hellerman (2019), the protagonist is the character who the story is mostly about or the point of view of the story. Frequently, the main character has his/her name in the title. As it is seen, *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz* mentions in the title that the story is about Victor Capesius. The title is the most evident way to identify a main character in a story. Therefore, it can be assumed by default that the story is going to be centered on this character. Thus, the main character of *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz* is Victor Capesius. He was a

Romanian of German descent who came from a middle-class family. Posner describes Capesius as an opportunist driven by greed, who took advantage of the situations in his life, either good or bad, to get what it was the best only for him. Before Auschwitz, Capesius encountered many Jews colleagues during his travels as a pharmacist, and he never showed any hostility towards them. Instead, he was only focused on business. Later on, when he was recruited to Auschwitz, he sent his former pharmacist colleagues to slave work, and their families to be gassed. This book traces the path of a normal, well-educated family man, who ended up working alongside side Josef Mengele and sometimes sending thousands of Jews to their immediate deaths.

3.4.3 Secondary Characters

According to Alex Reid (2020), secondary characters are rarely the focus of the story or the central figure. Instead, they assist, disrupts, or otherwise complicates the main plot of the story. However, they are always important in a story since these characters help in the progression of the main character through the plot. In addition, these characters are necessary because they can define the course of a story by having an impact on the main character in any way. In the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz*, the secondary characters are only mentioned when it is essential since the story is only centered on Victor's life. This book does not have concrete secondary characters. Instead, only mentions people who crossed Victor's the path. It is mentioned multiple Jew pharmacists who knew Victor before the holocaust and later on met him at Auschwitz. In addition, there are the Victor' Nazis comrades such a Josef Mengele who worked alongside Victor at the camp, as well as Friederike Bauer, who was Victor's wife and played a big role in his life.

3.4.5 Socio Cultural Approach

According to Cambridge Dictionary (n.d), sociocultural is related to the different groups of people in society; consequently, these people's habits, traditions, and beliefs are important. Therefore, when it is used as a literary analysis approach, these examples are studied by focusing on the main character. In the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz*, Victor's life is analyzed on a socio-cultural approach, as well as his environment, habits, beliefs, family, acquaintances, and friends are important for a wider and richer investigation.

3.5 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

During this section, a triangulation is conducted using the data acquired from the book. According to Helen Noble (n.d), this is a method used to increase the credibility and validity of research findings. In other words, it is used to have a cleared insight and understanding of the theories. In addition, it is important to also have a better perspective of the concepts and methodologies of the socio-cultural approach. Furthermore, the focus of the triangulation is to put the information together to understand the investigator's standpoint on the analysis. Moreover, a tabulation with the data is conducted in Chapter IV. According to Byju's website (n.d), this method is a systematic and logical representation of data in rows and columns to facilitate comparison and statistical analysis. It eases the comparison by bringing related information close to each other and helps in statistical analysis and interpretation. The main purpose with this method is to start the sociocultural analysis hand in hand with the book and the theories. Therefore, quotes from the book, the theories, and an interpretation of their relationship are organized with this method.

3.6 Analysis Table

According to EdrawMax (n.d) website, a comparison chart provides a visual representation of various options that can be compared to each other. In other words, this is a chart that gives a comparison between two or more subjects on different parameters or points of views. Moreover, these charts can be used for both, quantitative and qualitative methods. For this analysis, the qualitative approach is used. Therefore, the data in the chart is not numeric, but in form of texts. Furthermore, the objective of the chart is to provide an interpretation of the theories presented in Chapter II. This is conducted with the main source of information of this analysis, the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz*. Quotes or situations of the book are put in the chart. This allows the researcher to compare them with the theories on the side. Thus, an interpretation of the comparison of the book and the selected theory is given.

Literary Theories	Quote or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation

3.7 Collection and Interpretation

In this document, the collection data and data analysis are based on the quotes or situations of the book, which is the main source of information for this investigation. The researcher provides an explanation and interpretation by using a comparison chart. These quotes or situations are crucial for the analysis alongside the theories. Thus, they allow the researcher to focus on the socio-cultural approach. In addition, permitting the qualitative method to take place on this paper. In addition, the researcher is supported by secondary and tertiary sources. These sources support the interpretations given in Chapter IV. Furthermore, they give the reader a clear explanation of the analysis. Sources such definitions from dictionaries help this document to

provide a wider and richer investigation. In addition, information taken from official websites regarding the main topic of this paper help the reader to have a better understanding on the methodological analysis and allow the investigator to draw conclusions and perceptions.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

In this chapter, the comparison chart with the theories is conducted. In addition, the symbols, motifs, and themes are analyzed. The analysis is carried out by using a comparison chart, which follows the same format as the comparison chart of the theories. Thus, a theme, symbol, or motif is provided, as well as a quote or situation that reflects the chosen literary device, and an interpretation by the researcher of the comparison between of them.

4.1 Approaches to the Investigation

According to Cambridge Dictionary (n.d), a literary criticism or approach is the formal study and discussion of works of literature; for example, by judging and explaining their importance and meaning. In other words, a literary approach is the full analysis of a text by focusing on various or just one approach. In this document, the main approach is the socio-cultural approach. In addition, the implementation of the qualitative method and the comparison charts.

4.2 Theories vs Literary Work

During this chapter, quotes or situations of the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz* are analyzed. Each one of these quotes is interpreted through the researcher's point of view. The instrument that is implemented is a comparative chart. The quotes help the reader to understand the researcher's perspective on the comparison of each quote and theory. The chart is composed of three columns; one for the theory, another one for the quote or situation related to the theory, and finally the interpretation of the researcher regarding the theory and quote.

4.2.1 Book Analysis

During this section, the researcher compares the selected theories to quotes from the book. The comparison is conducted by using a three-column chart. In the third column, it is explained the interpretation of the comparison. All theories explained in Chapter II are put in this chart. Therefore, the objective is to provide an interpretation of each theory basing them on the socio-cultural approach.

Literary Theories	Quote or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation
Hitler's Childhood	<p>“Capesius put into the record information that his defense team would later cite as evidence that he believed whatever he was doing at Auschwitz was simply following legitimate orders from his superiors. Because he grew up in a household in which “my father had constantly declared that Germany was the model of order and the rule of law. Given this attitude, I assumed that</p>	<p>As the theory states, Hitler had great influences in his life by the situations he lived with his family. The case is similar with Victor, but from a different perspective. He was raised thinking that Germany had the absolute power and was the greatest role model. This can affect a person growing up in a household that implements this ideology to the kids. It did not justify his actions during the war, but</p>

	<p>what was going on in Auschwitz was legal, although it seemed cruel to me.” (Posner, p. 187)</p>	<p>it did give the understanding of what side Victor was on.</p>
<p>Split Personality</p>	<p>“When I got to the front [of the line], I saw an officer pointing people to the left and right. . . . This officer was Dr. Victor Capesius. I got to know him prior to 1940. At that time, he was the chief sales representative for Bayer and visited us frequently. He came into my drugstore several times, was always quite nice, chatted with me while his driver arranged his sales displays of Bayer products. Sometimes, he would say: ‘I will leave you some Bayer packing paper, so you won’t have to</p>	<p>As Langer explained in his split personality theory, he believed that Hitler had a sentimental side and a cruel side. From the perspective of Capesius and the theory in mind, he indeed showed different behaviors depending on the social circumstance. In this quote, it can be seen how Capesius was not hostile against the Jews, but actually a nice and friendly person. However, this was before the war because the quote also shows how he was choosing who was going to live or die. Thus, it can be seen how his behavior towards the Jews</p>

	<p>lay out anything for things like that,' and so on. It seemed unbelievable to me that it was him." (Posner, p. 69)</p>	<p>changed depending on the social circumstance.</p>
<p>Defense Mechanism</p>	<p>"At times he got teary eyed, working himself into a tsunami of self-pity. Fritzi wanted desperately to believe that the man with whom she had fallen in love while both were medical students in Vienna was incapable of doing the crimes with which he had been charged. In many instances she enabled his denial." (Posner, p. 229)</p>	<p>Family had great impact on Victor's life after the war ended. He employed a defense mechanism which his wife only made stronger as time passed. Victor was a family man, he knew that what he was doing was beyond wrong, so his family never knew about it. Therefore, Victor had to deny all charges, and this made him take a defense mechanism in order to avoid prison, death, and the horrible disappointment that he would cause to his family if they</p>

		knew that what he was being charged for, was true.
The Teacher and The Learner	<p>“The defense lawyers understood that so long as their clients looked like uninspired bureaucrats, it bolstered the argument that they simply had not had the backbone to do anything other than follow the orders sent down the chain of command. Maybe it would be possible, some of the attorneys thought, to make their clients appear as quasi-victims, men who had wanted to do the right thing by serving their country but had been hijacked by top Nazis into a murderous machine over which they had no control and could not object.</p>	<p>The purpose of the teacher and the learner was to discover at what degree people would obey a command even if that command went against their own moral codes. This is related to the situation that this quote describes. In the theory, there is the teacher, who was the volunteer, and then the learner. The volunteer was commanded to put an electric shock on the learner every time this one had an incorrect answer. However, Miligram, who was the experimenter, was the one who put this whole experiment together. Thus, the volunteer did not feel</p>

	<p>Certainly, went the thinking, it was a concept that a jury of ordinary Germans might embrace. In so doing, they could send a message to an entire generation of wartime Germans that only a handful of demented men were responsible for the horrors of the Holocaust and that the rest of the nation had simply been commandeered against its will.” (Posner, p. 219)</p>	<p>responsible for applying shocks to the learner just as many Nazis did. They justified that the orders came from the highest commanders. On the contrary, they were just caught up on the social situation, which they had not control whatsoever, and they were just ordered to serve their country, even if they had to do terrible things in the process.</p>
<p>Fantasy World</p>	<p>“He ordered all the prisoners to grab rocks from outside the barracks and hold them while hopping around in what he called “exercise” until they dropped from exhaustion. 171 “I am Capesius from</p>	<p>In this quote, it can be seen that Capesius, during his stay in Auschwitz, thought of himself as an all-powerful being. However, he did not express he was God, but the devil, instead. This let us conclude that Auschwitz and</p>

	<p>Transylvania,” he bellowed at the inmates. “In me you will get to know the devil.”” (Posner, p. 81)</p>	<p>the social circumstances allowed him to do as he wanted and gave him an enormous sense of power. Thus, he was a hundred percent invested in his own fantasy, as the man who chose who lived or died.</p>
<p>Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Test</p>	<p>“His first job was as an assistant in his uncle’s pharmacy, the Apotheke zur Krone (Crown Pharmacy), in nearby Sighisoara. 49 Capesius’s mother told him that one day he might inherit that business. 50 He was only there five months before the Romanian army drafted him in 1931 as a first lieutenant and assigned him to Bucharest as a pharmacist assistant. But</p>	<p>As the theory states, there is no correlation between intelligence and morality. Victor was indeed a bright man. He started working in the family business, but personally, he always wanted to grow career wise. This is one of the main reasons he was recruited by the Nazis; that is, because of his abilities and knowledge as a pharmacist. On the other hand, Victor was morally coward. He did not show any</p>

	<p>he soon managed to get extended leave to study chemistry at the University of Vienna.” (Posner, p. 35)</p> <p>“Capesius was very much the ordinary man that he liked to portray to the public. But he was capable, as were many other Nazis like him, of extraordinary crimes. Ultimately, he chose the coward’s path, preferring to live and die in denial. That is to his eternal shame.” (Posner, p. 260)</p>	<p>remorse for his actions and decided to hide the guilt as many Nazis did, until his death.</p>
<p>Socio-Cultural Environment</p>	<p>“Capesius went out of his way to let the court know he had been raised in a multi-cultural environment and that as a result he understood and was sympathetic to peoples of</p>	<p>Capesius tried to defend himself from a socio-cultural perspective that can be seen in this quote. He argued how he once worked and studied with Jews and people from other ethnics, since he was</p>

	<p>all nationalities and ways of thinking. In a clumsy effort to underscore the point he gave a few examples of how he had studied or worked under Jews. (Posner, p. 142)</p>	<p>raised on a multi-cultural environment. Therefore, he was not capable of killing old colleagues and friends. This argument helped Capesius to be declared not guilty before court.</p>
<p>Double-Track</p>	<p>“Capesius had no intention of using any extracted gold to benefit inmates. In fact, he had personally arranged a transfer of a noncommissioned SS officer, Boleslaw Frymark, from his assignment in the “tooth extraction unit” to the dispensary. He and his SS colleagues were by then convinced that all the remaining prisoners were destined to die in the gas chambers. The lure of</p>	<p>Victor’s desire to grow as a well-known pharmacist and to have enough money to open his own business overlapped when he was in Auschwitz. There, he found the opportunity to steal as much as he wanted in order to accomplish his greatest goals. In this quote from the book, it can be seen how he did not care about the Jews lives, only their possessions. These possessions would allow him to accomplish his dreams. Therefore, there was no</p>

	greed was all consuming.” (Posner, p. 111)	problem to kill innocent people in order to achieve what he always wanted.
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Pharmacist of Auschwitz alongside themes and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation

4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

In this section, the themes, symbols, and motifs taken from the book *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz*, are explained. Furthermore, the explanation is from an interpretation of the researcher. This is useful for the reader to understand the researcher's point of view. This section is conducted by using the three-column chart used for the theories. The third column of the chart is where the researcher explains the comparison between the literary device and the quote or situation of the book.

4.3.1 Themes

The first literary device that is analyzed is the theme. As explained in Chapter II, a theme is the central idea on any form of art. In this case, a literary text which is the book under research. Themes are mainly based on a personal interpretation. Therefore, these are interpreted from the researcher's point of view. The themes that are analyzed are: greed, power, and denial.

Theme	Cite or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation
Greed	“Capesius had embarked on his most gruesome war booty, a quest for the gold fillings extracted from the	This quote expresses this theme at its finest. It can be seen how Capesius went beyond just for his treasure.

	<p>mouths of gassed prisoners.</p> <p>Dental gold harvested from corpses, together with gold coins, watches, cigarette cases, and jewelry taken from the arriving prisoners, was smelted into bullion.</p> <p>On average, the Nazis reaped between 65 and 75 pounds of gold daily at Auschwitz.” (Posner, p. 101)</p>	<p>To him, the smell and discomposd bodies did not matter. What only mattered was to have some kind of award out all the horrifying things the Nazis did. Victor was driven only by greed.</p>
<p>Power</p>	<p>“Exercising the power over life and death at the railhead may have been something Capesius initially had wanted to avoid. But controlling who would live and die quickly became intoxicating. At Auschwitz, the default decision was to send most arriving prisoners to their</p>	<p>At the death camp, having the decision of who was going to live or die gave Capesius a strong sense of power that nurtured him inside. By day, Victor sent to their death thousands of people and the book shows how sometimes it was just because he felt like it.</p>

	<p>death. Real power, however, was the ability to sometimes play God, to spare a life, even if it was only a temporary and brutal respite from the gas chamber.” (Posner, p. 70)</p> <p>“At times Capesius seemingly split families for no apparent reason other than his own whim.” (Posner, p. 70)</p>	
Denial	<p>“That morning seemed a surreal nightmare for Capesius. He had trouble fully comprehending that twenty years after the end of the war, a German court was insisting that he be held legally responsible for the murders at Auschwitz. Over the intervening</p>	<p>Victor took a denial stand right after he was captured and accused for his crimes. He believed his lies to the point he thought his crimes were never going to caught up to him. This is a recurrent theme in the third part of the book that takes place after the war ended,</p>

	<p>decades he had become fully invested in his own denial, completely believing he was simply a victim of fate and bad luck. Criminal liability had not seemed a real risk to him, even after his 1959 arrest. But now, hearing the rush of words from Hofmeyer, he could not understand that the court had failed to appreciate his plight.”</p> <p>(Posner, p. 221)</p>	<p>during the trials, and until his death.</p>
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Pharmacist of Auschwitz alongside themes and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation

4.3.2 Motifs

The second literary device that is analyzed is the motif. As explained in Chapter II, a motif works in a story to emphasize the theme. It can be a recurring image, object, or idea that highlight the theme. In this section, two motifs are analyzed. The first motif is the Nazis’ “just following orders” defense and the second one is left or right command.

Motifs	Cite or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation
<p>“Just following orders”</p>	<p>“The change in the law meant that so long as a defendant was following orders, he could only be held responsible for a lesser crime of an accomplice to murder. In the new Germany, that translated into a maximum ten-year sentence.” (Posner, p. 188)</p>	<p>There is a trend in the book, which is the statement defense the Nazis used in order to be set free or to reduce their responsibility for the killing of millions of Jews. Capesius used this defense, as well when he was in court. “Just following orders” had deeper meaning, which was to take off all the moral weight many Nazis felt in order to feel good about themselves, since they thought they had not a choice but to obey the orders that came from the higher commanders.</p>
<p>“left or right”</p>	<p>“The image of that immaculately dressed SS</p>	<p>This is a very followed topic in the book. Capesius</p>

	<p>officer, occasionally whistling an operatic aria, carrying a polished riding crop with which he directed prisoners to the left and right, became an indelible memory for many of the camp's survivors.” (Posner, p. 51)</p>	<p>alongside Mengele decided who was going to live or die. The decision was taken by simply sending the new prisoners to the left or to the right. Left meant immediate death, while right meant to live by being a slave.</p>
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Pharmacist of Auschwitz alongside themes and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation

4.3.3 Symbols

The third literary device that is analyzed is the symbol. As explained in Chapter II, a symbol is something that stands for or suggests something else. It can represent something beyond literal meaning. In this section, three symbols are analyzed. The symbols are Auschwitz, Jew's belongings, and the gas chambers.

Symbols	Cite or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation
Auschwitz	<p>“Vera Kriegel, was led into one of his lab rooms. She was stunned to see a wall covered with human eyeballs. “They were pinned up like butterflies,”</p>	<p>Auschwitz was a horrendous place where millions on Jews died. They were treated worse than lab rats by the Nazis. In this book, Auschwitz symbolizes and means hell for</p>

	<p>she later recalled. “I thought I was dead and already living in hell.”</p> <p>Mengele sent those eyes to his mentor, von Verschuer, so that one of the professor’s Berlin researchers could finish a paper about whether eye pigmentation was a useful biological racial marker.”</p> <p>(Posner, p. 48)</p>	<p>the Jews, as it can be seen in this quote. Vera Kriegel, who was an inmate, could not differentiate reality due to the unbelievable things the Nazis were doing to the Jews. It was not only the killing of her people, but also the unnecessary experiments that were conducted on them that impacted their perception of reality.</p>
<p>Jew’s belongings</p>	<p>“By the time Capesius arrived at the ramp, thousands of prisoners had been pulled off the trains. Each had been allowed to take 50 kilos of belongings for the journey, most of it their treasured items bundled into cloth sacks. All those personal goods were stockpiled onto an</p>	<p>The Jew’s belongings symbolize their legacy. As it is seen in the quote, they were only allowed to bring with them 50 kilos of belongings. Therefore, the Jews chose to bring with them the most important things in their lives. This symbol represents what the Nazis wanted but could not</p>

	enormous clearing along the edge of the track.” (Posner, p. 57)	destroy, which was the Jew’s legacy.
Gas chamber	“Most new prisoners deemed unfit for labor—including the elderly, children and pregnant women—were automatically directed to the left, which meant death in the gas chambers (ultimately 1.1 million of the 1.5 million deported to Auschwitz died immediately).” (Posner, p. 49)	For a Jew, being in the gas chamber symbolized his or her life was worthless, as they were not even eligible for slave work. The cruelty in this symbol is beyond difficult to take and understand. The Nazis only chose worthy slave people in order to do the dirty work in the camp.

Fragments or quotes from the book The Pharmacist of Auschwitz alongside themes and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions and recommendations are provided during the development of this chapter. The conclusions and recommendations are based on the book under study, *The Pharmacist of Auschwitz*. Moreover, the specific objectives are analyzed in this chapter. In addition, each chapter has its own conclusion. Lastly, the research question is explained based on the entire investigation.

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

The purpose of the conclusions is to provide a clear explanation and justification to contribute to the planning of the main objectives. Therefore, several subjects are discussed on each conclusion for each objective. In addition, it is given an explanation of the achievement reached during the investigation. Moreover, some experiences that the researcher faced during the development of the investigation, are shared. Therefore, all this is done with the objective to fully comprehend the investigation and its initial objectives.

5.2 Conclusions

In this section of the chapter, the analyses of each specific objective are provided. Thus, each objective is given a conclusion. These answers are based on the investigation made on book under study. Certain parts of the book gathered in Chapter IV express a clear relation to the objectives of the document; therefore, they are provided in this Chapter again to accomplish the idea the researcher had in mind at the beginning of the investigation.

5.2.1 To identify the reasons of Victor Capesius acceptance to the Nazis' offer for running the pharmaceutical department at the Auschwitz camp.

Auschwitz had a major impact on Victor's life. However, he did not want to be transferred to this concentration camp at the beginning. According to this situation in the book,

Capesius knew that Auschwitz, as it had morphed into its hybrid status as a penal, work and death camp, was unlike any other. It was also where SS doctors and German pharma companies had the largest number of human guinea pigs on which to test lab drugs in chilling medical experiments. (2017, p. 43)

It can be proven that Victor feared this place because of the stories he had heard. On the other hand, he knew only the best doctors were transferred to Auschwitz, which for a pharmacist was an amazing opportunity.

Victor did put some resistance into being sent to Auschwitz. He recommended another of his colleagues to be transferred instead of him, as it can be seen in page 43.

He tried circumventing Lolling by lobbying a Dachau friend, Captain Dr. Hermann Josef Becker... Capesius said he preferred to stay at Dachau. "I like it there," especially since the camp "was well run." But Becker was unable to help. (2017, p. 43)

Therefore, from this it can be concluded that Victor was not really excited about the idea of being sent to Auschwitz. However, as strange as it may seem, Auschwitz ended up transforming Victor into a massive killer and a person who was moved by greed.

5.2.2 To determine the reasons why Germany launched a massive campaign for committing atrocities against humanity.

There are many reasons which can be taken into consideration to determine the reasons why Germany committed genocide. From a socio-cultural point of view, it was the hate towards a dominant ethnicity like the Jews. In addition, the social circumstances which forced regular men to become soldiers. Lastly, having young Germans being raised with the Nazi ideology. This last reason can be seen in the book of study. Victor was raised on the idea that Germany was the absolute main model of maximum law. Therefore, it can be concluded that every German or person who was influenced by the Nazi ideology, was a small part that together formed a massive killing machine. It all goes back to Hitler's ideology. Then, these men were called into battle, as they were raised to fully obey any order from the Nazis. Therefore, they had no problem to follow orders because from their point of view they were right, since they were raised that way.

5.2.3 To analyze how Germany's life changed after the events at Auschwitz.

Germany's life significantly changed after the war. The country was invaded and controlled by the allied forces. As explained in Chapter II, new groups arose to deny the horrible events which exterminated millions of humans' lives. In addition, many Jews who were born in Germany felt betrayed by their own country. Thus, they had to migrate to a different nation. Furthermore, the trials that decided the destiny of the Nazis began. These trials lasted almost five years. However, there were follow ups on these trials over the following years to finish the conviction of the remaining Nazis. From this, it can be concluded that Germany's life was not the same after the events of the Second World War and the holocaust. Regarding Victor's life

after the war, he had his difficulties in prison awaiting to be judged, but at the end, he managed himself to deny his crimes and live a normal life out of the gold he stole at Auschwitz.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

Throughout this entire investigation, the research question was answered from many perspectives. Many events in Victor's life started when he was a little child. The fact that he was raised under the German ideology influenced his decisions as an adult. However, his life changed when he decided to join I.G. Farben. This company was one of the most powerful in the pharmaceutical field during that moment. Moreover, this event allowed Victor to gain reputation in his job. Consequently, this was one of the reasons why he was chosen to join Auschwitz. By analyzing and seeing how the death camp was run, Victor realized what he was capable of. The realization of how much gold he could steal from the Jews was one of the reasons which turned him into a murderer. In conclusion, a series of events throughout Victor's life had a direct and indirect impact on his decisions. These events were his family environment during his childhood, his studies, and his never satisfied greed for money and recognition.

5.4 Recommendations

To conclude this investigation, a series of aspects are recommended in order to help future researchers. These recommendations can help to conduct an investigation under the socio-cultural approach. In addition, they give support to the literary analysis hand in hand with said approach. In hopes to help future students or researchers, it is essential to have a good command of the information of the book which is going to be analyzed. In addition, to be aware of the limitations that every investigation can have, and finally, to understand the approach which will be chosen to analyze the book.

As an investigator, it is important to have a good knowledge of the subject the investigation is going to be about. Therefore, when it comes to literary analyses, it is recommended to have read the book at least more than once. This has to be done even before starting to write the objectives of the investigation. In addition, it is also crucial to know about the author's life and know what motivated the author to write the book in the first place. This will allow the researcher to understand the author's main point of view within the book and be more familiarized with it.

The researcher has to understand that there are limitations in every investigation. Even though, the person has plenty of knowledge on the subject of study, it is important to rely on different sources to give support to the investigation. However, sometimes a researcher may realize that there can be a lack of previous studies depending on the research area the investigation focuses on. Therefore, it is important to look for similar investigations and try to find enough information to support the theories of the research. Furthermore, knowing how to cite properly another author's work is crucial in order to achieve a clean and honest investigation.

Lastly, once the researcher has a full understanding of the book under study, it is important to decide which approach the investigation will be centered on. Without a concrete approach, the reader would find the paper pathless and incoherent. Therefore, deciding the approach before starting to write the investigation is extremely important. Another principal aspect is to choose a justifiable approach that makes sense with the story of the book under study. With this, the reader will not get lost and will be able to follow along the main points the researcher is providing in the investigation.

By taking all of these recommendations when conducting a literary analysis, it will help the researcher to achieve a satisfactory investigation. Consequently, the ideas and objectives will be presented clearly. Therefore, the reader will feel comfortable reading the paper since, it is understandable and well structured. In conclusion, it is crucial to be well prepared and informed when conducting an investigation on any subject. In this way, the researcher will enjoy the process and the reader will be satisfied with the work.

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