

UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE LAS AMERICAS

**THE METAMORPHOSIS
BY FRANZ KAFKA: THE MONSTROSITY OF
HUMANITY FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW**

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Abstract

In this work, **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka will be analyzed from a sociological point of view. This will be done in order to discover how the monstrosity in humanity was reflected against the main character Gregor Samsa. The sociological approach was chosen because, as it will be evidenced throughout the entire investigation, Franz Kafka included plenty of aspects of his personal life and of his social background. This analysis will make the reader appreciate how the author included those aspects within the novel.

Resumen

En este trabajo, *La Metamorphosis* escrita por Franz Kafka va a ser analizada desde un punto de vista sociológico. Se hará de esta manera para poder descubrir como la monstrosidad de la humanidad en la vida real es reflejada en contra de Gregorio Samsa, el personaje principal de la novela. El punto de vista sociológico fue escogido ya que, a como se va a evidenciar a lo largo de este trabajo, Franz Kafka incluyó muchos aspectos de su vida personal y su transfondo social. Este análisis va a ayudar al lector a apreciar la manera en que el autor incluyó todos esos aspectos en la historia.

Dedication

This work is dedicated to my parents who supported me to follow my dreams and gave me all the love and care to become the person I am nowadays

Acknowledgements

If there are people worth to make an acknowledge are God, in first place, my parents, my tuthor and all the teachers that helped me throughout my major. Without their support and assistance, I would not be able to reach my goals and start with my goals.

If it was not for God, I would not be in this world and I would not be able to live nor know my goals in life. Then, my parents were in charge of educating me sinsic I was a little kid and of teaching me everything to become the person I am nowadays. They, my tuthor and university teachers were in charge of teaching me the essentials to reach my goal to conclude my career and be able to complete my second thesis for B.A in Translation.

I am truly grateful with all of them, I would not wish anything were different because I love my life and how everything turned out. This are the first steps to achieve everything I am living for.

Chapter I

Introductory Framework

In life, there are things that happen which people are not able to control. Maybe because those changes happen naturally, for example, when adolescents pass through puberty and everything from their bodies and states of mind change, or when adults start to change when entering to an elder age losing elasticity in their bodies and getting plenty of wrinkles all around their face. Also, speaking in a more serious way, some illnesses or accidents can cause a permanent change in your lifestyle and appearance. For example, when a little baby is born with cleft lip, there is a deformation in his or her face sometimes not letting her be fed properly as it can be read in an article by Mayo Clinic (2018) called cleft lip and cleft palate. There is nothing wrong with those changes esthetically speaking and, as *The Little Prince* once said, “it is only in the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye”.

In the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka, the main character passes through an unreal change yet real in the novel. In this case, that change can be represented as an illness he suffered. Due to that change, at last, he gets rejected by every single person he knows. In this work, the behavior of those people will be analyzed in order to evidence how those demeanors reflect what happens in real life against people with similar changes through a sociological approach. That way, some awareness can be created from speaking about this topic and evidence people must care about others with empathy and love for each other.

1.1 Problem Statement

In this study, the novel written by Franz Kafka called **The Metamorphosis** will be analyzed. Within the research that will be made, it will be evidenced and reflected how

people reacted to Gregor's transformation and how they treated him throughout the story until the very moment of his death. In this case, the way he was treated was unhuman even for a fantastic novel. That is why there is a need to compare it with real situations in order to make sure future readers can avoid such a demeanor and try to make this world a better place for everyone.

The question for this work is the following, how is the monstrosity of humanity in real life reflected on the novel? In order to find out, a deep analysis of the piece of literature will be done using the sociological approach. With this, the purpose of the author on choosing the style and the theme of the story can better be understood and related with real situations that people with similar conditions as Gregor as passing through and how people treat others with no care or empathy. All the research will help make sure the analysis will successfully fulfill and address the interrogation of this research with strong and reliable sources.

1.2 Objectives of the Investigation

1.2.1 General Objective

To analyze the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka from a Socialistic Approach.

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

To illustrate how people behaved after facing Gregor's condition.

To explain the consequences in Gregor's life after his family rejects him.

To correlate the plot of the story with the author's social background.

1.3 Justification of the Study

The main purpose of this research is to deeply analyze the sociological aspects present in the novel written by Franz Kafka called **The Metamorphosis**. This will be useful for future readers because they will be able to understand much better the aspects of the book and why the author decided to talk about this theme in the work.

In addition, this thesis can work as an inspiration for readers who are interested in investigating information about how the analysis was made by using the Sociological Approach. This will be supported with reliable bibliography in order to make sure the information is accurate and certain. That way, all the information from this work can be used for future works and extensions to this study made by other students who will find this interesting.

The future feedback which this investigation will be able to provide attempts to be rich and meaningful for other studies. Since the main topic is very relevant in a global society where discrimination and inhumanity arise through the years in many different and, in most of the cases, cruel ways, the need to address this behavior is very high. Everybody wishes to live in a peaceful society without prejudices and cruelty, so it is important to always create conscience over these topics to achieve this difficult goal. People should always take into consideration that by starting with a little change and going step by step a huge change can be created.

By knowing the reasons why this study was developed, a richer understanding of the main topic can be gathered. That way, it gives to the study a strong importance different from a simple investigation with no purpose. Also, a better analysis can be made since all the goals are properly set and there should not be any space for mistakes.

1.4 Antecedents

In this section of the chapter, the investigator presents some background information of various researches related to the same theme; in this case, related with monstrosity in humanity from a sociological point of view. The background that is going to be studied will be classified in historical, international and national researches. That way, a clearer view of the phenomena of the topic can be seen and the analysis can be more easily done.

1.4.1 Historical: First and Second World War

In first place, in the world there has been plenty of discord. Because of that, countries have caused tension that ended in two very destructive wars. Placed in 1914 to 1918 and 1939 to 1945, the only two World Wars caused misery in the countries involved and plenty of deaths and mistreatment. In this section, both events and their consequences will be mentioned for the sake of this research. That way, more examples and a background of monstrosity in humanity can be seen and how that affected everything around them.

The First World War was not as destructive and fatal as the second one, but surely marked a before and after in people's lifestyle. The world had not had such a warlike encounter before this one with such costs for society and involving people's integrity and so many lives loss. Stewart Ross describes all these consequences in his book *Causes and Consequences of the First World War* published on Google Books in 2011. Some of them will be mentioned to have a clearer view of what people suffered during that time and, that way, compare it for the literal analysis of the book **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka.

World War I was one of the most destructive encounters. At the end, all the countries involved had enormous changes, and many countries lost their prestige. The

reasons for the war to start was, according to Ross (2011), a very unlucky event since the current archduke of the Austria-Hungary empire was killed during a visit to Bosnia, a very troubled province back in that time, in the summer of 1914. This happened on June 28th, and all his companions were murdered in hands of some terrorists that decided to attack that zone. At first, a bomb impacted the car they were in, but they got unharmed and could survive. However, they tried to escape, but the driver took a wrong turn in an alley, which was very narrow. After this, both, Franz Ferdinand and Sophie got shot by Gravrilo Princip, a teenage assassin, killing them and starting the first World War.

Regarding the World War II, according to John Keegan's book called *The Second World War*, published by Google Books in 2011, although the purpose of this piece of literature is not intended to provide much details regarding its causes, it mentions that the first World War was a direct reason to start the second one. The countries involved were already planning a way to recover and take revenge. Also, it states that Germany was truly resentful for what happened to the country once the first war ended and caused them to seek for revenge and make sure they would clean their name or at least gain much more power.

After these, all the war events occurred. For this investigation, only the repercussions of the first and second World War will be studied. That way, much more examples of monstrosity in humanity can be given.

As Ross (2011) writes in his book mentioned before, the World War I, which started right after the archduke Franz Ferginald was murdered on July 28th, brought many repercussions to the world. In first place, there was plenty of assassinations all over Europe and America since both bands wanted to gain much more power to rule over the other. Then, the countries that composed the Triple Alliance lost the war since the U.S made the Treaty of Versailles and this generated a bigger impact for Germany. Finally,

there was a false peace period in which all people feared because there was a very big risk of another war-like problem, and many communities were definitely not ready for the previous war let them almost extinguished.

Some years after the World War I, on September 1st in 1939, the second warlike encounter hit the earth and created much more negative repercussions. According to Keegan (2011), since Germany was highly affected during the first war, the people in charge created much more destruction and, for example the Jewish in Germany were assassinated in mass, they murdered more than 30 million people . Also, the Soviet Union was demolished and the United States became the biggest world power. Finally, all countries involved had plenty of losses and the territories were even more destroyed since there were nuclear bomb explosions all over the war area.

These two wars are definitely examples of monstrosity in humanity. All the murders and racism definitely affected the countries involved. Thankfully, nowadays, even though the situation is not pleasant and there is still huge problems, there are many ways wars can be stopped. The world is not ready for another war and all people and governments must have a little respect and consideration for the others. Only then everything will be in real peace.

1.4.2 International: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombs

The next point in story to take a look into is when the two nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki exploded on August 6th and 9th in 1945. These were the two worse nuclear bombs explosions made during war time. This obviously brought with it death and destruction among the cities. Also, this is an obvious big example of monstrosity in humanity because there was no mercy in the action.

According to Sofuni et al. (1987), in a study titled Relationship Between the Radiation Dose and Chromosome Aberrations in Atomic Bomb Survivors of Hiroshima

and Nagasaki, there was much radiation left after the explosion and that caused many deaths and for the lucky people who survived had chromosomal diseases. Because of that, none of them could have normal lives afterwards. Some of them will be pointed out. That way, they had a better view of the real consequences the explosions left and the ones that appeared after to measure the way in which people from those cities were truly affected.

Within the chromosomal diseases, there were chromosome aberrations, reciprocal translocations and those were according to the amount of radiation received in each affected body. Although the results are aiming numerical data, this can evidence all the further repercussions that happened to the affected human beings from those cities. As Sofuni et al. (1987) states, the results they gathered covered from January in 1968 up to November in 1969 in Hiroshima and, as well, from January in 1968 up to March in 1969.

First, it is stated that both, people that were not in the city at the moment the bombs exploded and the ones that were, had radiation signs in their systems which was evidently harmful for them. After certain studies made with samples of their cells, it was determined their cells were not able to fulfill the mitoses rate. This because the sample cells did not reach the minimum of 30 metaphases. This was going to affect their metabolic processes which involve cells mitosis to be completed. For example, cicatrization will not be optimum for the people affected.

Then, the chromosomes that were sampled were not consistent. Some of them turned out normal, but others presented structural rearrangement. All the studies were made by professionals under a microscope, and they analyzed each sample carefully to make sure they could take all results. After the analysis, they confirmed that those chromosomes indeed suffered aberrations. This by some experienced cytogeneticists.

Finally, the study started to classify the previously mentioned chromosomal abbreviations. This in order to furtherly understand the problems caused in the people in

the cities during and after the bombs hit. Within the problems, there were asymmetric changes that involved both, discentrics and rings. Also, there were detected traslocations as well as pericentric inversions of the genetic material. The worse part was that some accentric material suffered “deletion” and, as its name states, this erased that material from the chromosomes. In the rings, there were also paracentric inversions, but these could not be detected by the used Gisema taining method. As Sofuni et al. (1987) adds, “The observed aberrrtions thus were classified into the following six trypes: discentrics, rings, reciprocal, translocations, pericentrics, inversions, acentrics and deletions.

These results evidenced that, even though there were people not present at the moment of the explotion, the remain radiation continued causing catastrophic damage. The ones in charge of sending the bombs, definitely knew the further consequences of the mountrous and unhuman destruction of the bombs. Thankfully, there have not been any bombs with the same nor bigger repercutions. Althrough that sounds very promising, there surely have been risks of belic encounters. Society and polititians of all groups must consider this in order to ensure the security of people among all nations on Planet Earth. Hopefully, with this work and with the analysis, future readers can create that concienceness to start buiding a better future for further generations.

1.4.3 International: Nietzche’s Philosophy

In this section, the way in which Nietzche percieved human beings will be mentioned. Miguel Ángel García Mercado who is a philosophy doctor, talks about Nietzche’s philosophy in his book called **Person and Metaphysics in Nietzsche** written in 2009. He starts to point out that the way in which this person’s philosophy had a great impact on people throughout the ages and even at present times. This is mentioned by García in the following excerpt,

“Man is not an individual but part of an existential continuum; the product of forces he cannot control and that are different from him. He is not a person. This particular conception derives from the absence of an authentic metaphysics” Garcia (2009)-

This is going to be essential because it will let the researcher understand how people in this philosophy behave. That way, the analysis will have a stronger and richer basis.

This Philosopher was self-taught and he lacked the crucial pieces of information from first thinkers like Aristoteles, with their fundamental scripts. This affected the way in which he exposed his excellent ideas since he was missing important concepts. Due to this, Nietzsche started to work on his own doctrine to improve the development of his thoughts. He doubted about the human existence, but with his thesis about Heraclito, he finally related humanity with an authentic reality. The ideas of Nietzsche were not only read by Hitler before World War II, they were accepted as real, and they were used as the basis of the extreme philosophy of the socialnationalism that claimed for the superiority of the Germans. Nietzsche had established some theories that were used as the perfect excuse for the ideologies that claimed for the destruction of all those races considered as inferior. For Nietzsche the destiny of man is ruled by his desires, by his power and by the non existence of any exterior forces. Man created God, man can kill God and God is already dead. Man has the power of self-determination and the capacity to look for the truth. He has created Gods through History, but they have proven even weaker to his desires, so this shows the existence of the Superman as one who can be even above all the frustrations and weaknesses of humanity through his own self determination. These two ideas about the existence of the superman and the Death of God and, consequently of all religions, were used as an excuse to kill all those races seen as inferior, Jews, Catholics, Protestants,

and even Jehova Witnesses. Nietzsche establishes as well the superiority of the Aryan race, of man and the pater familias in society, establishing in this way the idea of a society ruled by Aryan men. Kafka was a Jew, and he knew about these ideas spreading through Germany, and about how they were being used by politicians like Hitler whose power was arising and being accepted by many people as true. So, these ideas were for Kafka as a new transformation of the ideas of normality that were common in his days, and how they were changing the balance of a society that so far accepted and lived with the differences of the Others. This is the transformation of man into an insect. This is how the common man, mainly the common Jew is seen by others as an bug, an insect that has to be destroyed, rejected and obliterated by others. **The Metamorphosis** becomes in this way a metaphorical warning of what was to come in a society where man uses violence and rejection to destroy those who are “different” from him due to race, religious beliefs, and economic status.

1.4.4 National: Costa Rican Civil War

Now, it is time to address an act of monstrosity right here in Costa Rica. It is true that Costa Rica decided to eliminate its army on December 1st 1948 in order to promote peace among its citizens. However, the situation prior to this was not very pleasant. On that same year, on May 8th, the first civil war in the country took place. Obviously, it did not have the same impact as the conflicts mentioned earlier, but it definitely had a huge effect for the country itself and all its people. Molina (2017) made an article on this matter for the UCR (Universidad de Costa Rica) digital magazine. The article is called *La violencia política contra los comunistas tras la guerra civil en Costa Rica* and it definitely includes good material that will be analyzed in order to then apply the theory to this work.

According to Molina (2017), his research focuses only on the political repercussions communists suffered after the civil war. This is because that specific political group suffered when José Figueres Ferrer called for war. Within the suffering, they were brutally repressed and there were many murders. He intended to recreate the scenes with real experiences, so he used articles from national newspapers from that time to have the most accurate and real experiences from Costa Rican residents.

He starts describing that the socialdemocratic group was the one which won the war and that it was the first time in the history of Latin America a communist group was beaten. Because of this, José Figueres Ferrer became a leader and was considered a hero, and he was named “cudadano del siglo” by all the people since future generations would not have to experience another war in the country like this one. Also, the opposing leaders who were Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, president of Costa Rica, and Manuel Mora Valverde, a Costa Rican well-known politician, were considered leaders and outstanding leaders of the country.

In a country with such a dark past, peace was, probably, the last thing which people expected in the future. All that the whole nation could expect was even more misery even when they fought for their rights. However, a brighter future was awaiting for all Costa Rica. Everything got better after that tragic civil war, which ended in 1948, that marked the whole country since the armed forces were abolished in December 1st in that same year. Despite the best and most promising future for the country, through the years there has been plenty of political and social mistreatment which definitely needs to be addressed since this will just lead the country to its own destruction and with a worst future than its meanest past. According to Bjorn Kjelsad (2018) in an article for the page Insight Crime, in the first 100 days of Carlos Alvarado as the president of Costa Rica, he was not able to decrease social violence and in 2017, the country passed its homicides

record with 603 murders. Future generations must truly take this into consideration, so those statistics can get drastically reduced in order to create a better future for Costa Rica and the whole world.

1.5 Scope

Now, the goals of the investigation will be pointed out and described according to Hernandez (2014). The main goal will be to know how human monstrosity develops in the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka. Also, to evidence how those demeanors can affect both the victim and the person torturing him or her. Furthermore, one of the goals is to appreciate and learn from the work and how all the elements, symbols, story and characters created a great result.

With that analysis, some awareness of these behaviors can be made for future readers. It is not a secret that inhumanly treating others is not right at all. This evidences all the implications of monstrosity between humans in order to work as advise for future generations to achieve eradicating future violent acts against others just because they are different. Regarding the story itself, more people can get inspired by it and spread the message of treating others with no prejudices.

First, as mentioned before, one of the biggest goals will be to achieve eradicating unhuman acts against other people. Through the ages, there have been plenty of wars, assaults, and not going very deep, bullying between people. Creating conscience that people need to rather appreciate and respect others because only then we all will live peacefully without fearing being attacked by somebody else.

Then, evidence shows how families can get affected very much and generate a huge impact in somebody's self-esteem. As it happened with Gregor in the novel, many

family members constantly reject others for their differences, and this only generates problems in their relationship. More details will be developed within the study in order to know how these behaviors impact as well on the family.

Finally, something to take into consideration is the novel itself and how all the elements that the author chose to develop the story were greatly made and make future readers of the present book and this investigation appreciate the respective purposes. The characters that bring the story to life and the settings in which all the action occurs are simply wonderful. The fact that a real crisis as rejecting others just for their physical appearance is well represented with unreal things as the actual metamorphosis is evidenced that the author made a good decision with choosing the elements.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

Along the totality of this chapter, some theory about the most relevant themes within the investigation will be described. That way, all the information gathered can support all the analysis from the novel. The details to point out are regarding the analysis approach, what a critical analysis is, the content of the novel and the biography of the author with a brief summary of the work to analyze. After providing a rich variety of relevant theory, the arguments to start the literary analysis of the novel can be made as accurate as possible.

2.1 Sociological Approach

Now, the approach to base the analysis will need to be addressed. This, in order to check all the aspects to take into consideration when reading the novel and choosing which aspects to point out. For the sake of this investigation, the approach that will be described is the Sociological Approach. This since the main topic of the research is to compare how people from real life have monstrous behaviors and their state of mind with the characters of the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka. After the research of the approach's features, the analysis can be properly done.

2.1.1 Characteristics

In the book *The Modern Language Review*, Witte (1941) states some aspects about various approaches in literature review. One of them is the Sociological Approach, the same on which this analysis will be based. With these characteristics, the readers will

have a clearer background on how it behaves. This in order to succeed with the literary analysis of **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka.

As stated by Witte (1941) and based on a statement of Professor Bruford, the sociological approach is normally used when the information to analyze is related with political or social background. This because the main topic will have impact within the society and the issue is mainly related with real life situations. For this work, as mentioned earlier, Gregor Samsa's life in the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka indeed is full of social-related situations since he was a human in essence, and he was mistreated by his family just because he was different from them despite the fact he was the one sustaining the whole house.

Also, all the social background needs to be understood in order to properly appreciate the main point of the whole work. This since there will not be a need to address any social issue and the background will only remain in the novel as simple fiction. However, after a proper research of the aspects within the society is made, the comparison can take place in order to give the story a strong meaning for people and possibly generate a change for good after creating conscience. For this research, the aspects of society that will be researched is how people mistreat others in a monstrous way without carrying about the other's feelings and how that mistreatment affects both, the person who receives all the critics and the abuse as well, the person who makes it and all the ones involved.

To conclude, when focusing on the Sociological Approach, themes regarding society being impacted will be discussed. Then, these aspects will work to compare the literary piece. That way, it can be better comprehended how an author can relate problems that society faces in order to create conscience for future generations and, as it will be shown further in the research, a small apport can make a huge difference with positive feedback.

2.1.2 Most relevant studies and apports

Plenty of authors around the world have written successful books. In this section, some of the most relevant works within the sociological approach will be as well pointed out. That way, a little more of background can be obtained. Also, the authors will be mentioned to know what was their apport to this area in literary criticism.

According to Murlidhar (2014), the sociological approach has had a huge impact in the study of literature throughout the ages since it was originally studied. From the beginning, when Plato started to study this until nowadays, numerous critics have focused their theories and studies in the sociological approach. Also, it proposes literature as a social product in its very essence. This because those scholars think that literature is linked with real life since it keeps the true feelings and thoughts of people for some topics in specific depending on what the theme is about; even current intellectuals maintain the connection between literature and society supporting all the past thoughts with their own variant.

Furthermore, in the same post for the International Journal of Innovative Research & Development by Murlidhar (2014), the author states that Plato was the first person to think about social aspects in literature as a study field. He started to discuss about the relationship with literature and society and questions about the social implication in this. After him, Aristotle started to call this study the sociological approach to literature becoming more powerful and sounding during the Eighteenth Century with the rise of the novel talking about more real social situations. Later, Maxim was picturing literature as a direct representation of society and Mathew Arnold supported this by saying that no piece of literature can be well understood without the social and cultural sociological perception taken from real-life situations. However, Karl Marx, Frederic Engels and the people who followed them started to perceive literature as an economic basis in society

turning the sociology of it the other way around reflecting a new sociology for literature but without leaving the social factor.

Now, Murlidhar (2014) continues with various theories and further reports and how society is involved throughout the ages. The author makes an important observation that despite the antiquity of the sociological approach, which started with Plato, it had a great place and importance in the history of literature criticism in the Twentieth Century. Sociologists that made deep research are Lucien Goldman, Leo Lowenthal, Robert Escarpit, Alan Swingwood, Diana Laurenson John Hall and numerous other social thinkers and literary critics that focused their work on this approach. Also, it continues that it is critical to understand the evolution of how this approach was developed and how the following experts report to its theories and contributions.

After the first sociologists who brought the sociological approach to life, some new contributions started to show up as mentioned earlier. First, Jonathan Harden who was a German philosopher and literature critic who was born in 1744 and died in 1803, starts making some of his reports. He focused entirely on philosophy of history and culture. With his book **Idea for Philosophy of History for Mankind** written in 1791, he talks about the objectives of rationalism and enlightenment. As it was stated from other critics, he keeps confirming every area in society, the geography of the zone, races within an area and their customs, and their culture and politics are considered when engaging into creating a piece of literature. Meaning society as a basis for literature contradicting Immanuel Kant who instead of focusing on society, he rather focuses on the aesthetics qualities in every literature piece he studies. Murlidhar (2014) adds, in short, Herder's ideas about literature imply that there is the casual connection between literature and culture, race, customs and social institutions.”

Moving forward, the next expert of the sociological approach that Murlidhar mentions is Madame de Stale. She is a French-Swiss writer and a woman right exponent in her times who was born in 1744 and died in 1803. Also, she was the first French woman to contribute with new ideas and new methods to all French literature. She follows Jonathan Harden's ideas by relating social elements such as geography, climate and institutions by analyzing all those aspects and how they influence society on literature. All her works were based on this. For example, she wrote **On Literature Considered on its Relations with Social Institutions** written in 1800. Here, she explains how elements like race and climate are related to literature works. Later, Murlidhar mentions that her concepts on literature are pretty broad. This since her thoughts are that everything that comes into mind at the moment of writing is because of the person's climatic situation and national characteristics. Since Madame de Stale aimed to promote women rights, as Murlidhar (2014) mentions, "For example, the novel form does not get popularity in Italy because of its licentious nature and little respect for women. She believes that national character is the result of complex interactions between religious, legal and political institutions" This means that, for her, the real importance of a piece of literature is not who the author nor the publisher is or what other things they promote in reality but rather which social aspects they include in their works and how they are developed and represented.

The article continues appreciating Madame de Stale's work since all she did for literature was positive. This because she does give an importance to all women and also a strong standing to the middle class in all her literature observations, and that her ideas of that relation were empirical. Also, she thinks that these two provide plenty of value and represent liberty which are important for literature. She was considered "the spirit of the time" because of all her national character, and her emphasis was this along with climate

of society. To finish, Murlidhar (2014) adds, “She wanted that literature should portray important changes in the social order, especially those that indicate movement toward the goals of liberty and justice.” This evidenced her quility as a literature critic.

Later on the article, the aports of Hippolyte Taine, who was born in 1828 and died in 1893, are mentioned. Murlidhar mentions that he was considered father of sociology of literature because Taine brough a formula that was called “race, milieu and moment” which he used to achieve comprehending and analyzing the context of sociological approach in a writing to the study of literature in general. He addresses plenty of problems faced in each literary sociology with his **History of English Literature** written in 1871. His apports were based on his thinking of literature as the expression of all members of society instead of the way in which romanticists view and explained as the expression people’s personality, which in escence it can be as well viewed as an aspect in society since people’s surroundings can affect other’s personalities. He is also considered the first real and non-sistematic theorist different from the scholars mentioned before. That is stated for he was really natural, empirical and rationalist. Murlidhar (2014) supports this by adding, “He believes that literary works are the national monuments because they represent the consciousness of the society and the spirit of the age.”

Further into the article, Murlidhar brings the next two sociological approach experts which were Karl Marx, who was born in 1818 and died in 1883, and Federick Engels, who was born in 1820 and died in 1895. They added plenty of ideas to this area with their works **On Literaure and Art, Selected Works Vol.1, The German Ideology and The Holy Family** which were furtherly developed by all their followers. Because of them and their ideas, the sociological approach turned into a scientific method to interpret literature pieces. Different from the previous formula stated by Hippolyte Taine, Karl Marx and Federick Engels, he sees the sociological approach as a

phenomenon of social structures focusing very much on the economy and the roles of the social classes in society. Also, they set the real essence of literature was and could be agreed by linking it with the predominating society and all the aspects within it and analyzing the entire system. Later, Murlidhar adds that the both of them considered that literature, along with art, are a form of social consciousness and marks social changes as it generates variations in literature itself. Also, Karl Marx determines that there will always be a conflict between social classes and, because each social class had different states of mind, their preferences in art and literature also differ from each person's point of view on a certain topic.

Then, regarding Karl Marx and Federick Engels and their aports to the sociological approach in literary analysis, Murlidhar remarks they used material foundations to base their analysis. In other words, they intended to evidence there is a relation between the piece of literature or art and the modes of production, and these can determine each person's or social group's according to what they wrote in their **The German Ideology**. And as Dr. Arun Murlidhar adds regarding their focus on economic factors in society and their relation with literature criticism with the sociological approach, "They also state that the nature and mode of economic production create social relations in which men enter to form class relations and these class relations become the ideology of the society. Literature tries to stabilize this ideology."

All in all, since the very beginning of the sociological approach many critics have greatly focused their literary critic or analysis studies. Despite the fact all of them have different elemets to add, all of them stated that there must be a social-related topic in literature and that is its true essence. Also, when getting into writing a piece of literature, according to all mentioned before, from Murlidhar's article for the International Journal of Innovative Research & Development (2014), social aspects must be evident in literature

pieces, for this research focusing on novels, that way, readers can appreciate and relate with the plot. Also, this gives literature works a human touch and, because of that, readers can feel related with the unreal situations in the stories that have plenty of real world details. For example, the novel **The Metamorphosis**, which is analyzed in this work, talks about a young man who suffered a insectoid transformation and his family did nothing but treat him with such monstrosity. Sadly, this is very common in society as it could be proven before. However, when writers like Franz Kafka touch these topics in their literary pieces, people who read them can create conscience and try to become better people and stop these harmful demeanors.

2.2 Critical Analysis

When reading a book, in this case a novel, there are many aspects that can be analyzed. This, in order to have a better understanding of the points examined when making a deep reading and to comprehend why the author chose that writing style, and how all the aspects of the novel match with the purpose of the writer with the target audience and the story's message. According to a recent article from the page Proofed (2015), when engaging into a critical analysis of a piece of literature, the researcher must get into a deep research of the work and topics that are related.

After completing the research and comparing the desired aspects, the researcher can get into the literal analysis. All the information taken from the investigation and the elements taken from the piece of literature are the ones which will be compared.

2.3 Motifs, symbols and themes

In order to get started with the literal analysis of the novel, it is critical to know which elements of the novel will be analyzed. To get set it is critical to know that the concepts to analyze will be the motifs that authors can use to continue a specific idea within the whole work, the symbols and how these are carefully chosen to represent

specific elements, and the theme that will be used to base the main point of the story and its purpose for the reader. After setting the concepts, the analysis can have stronger points to directly understand which elements are going to be present.

As a recent post in the blog *The Master's review* (2016) shows, themes, symbols and motifs are three literary terms that take residence in one another. Since they are very similar in definition, they surely have their own use within a literary piece. After pointing out the main difference, a wider comprehension of how these contribute in literature, in this case, they will be analyzed in **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka. Now, the three will be described with the definition that the blog was providing.

2.3.1 Symbols

First, the symbol is defined as , “.... an object that is used to represent something else. For example, when we see a red light in a traffic pole, we know it means “stop”.” In real life, we know that example of symbol. However, in literature it will be somewhat distinct and the same red light or color can relate with anger, danger or, the other way around, love. As the blog examples, in a literal story, the red light previously mentioned can mean much more. Its meaning is often diversified by the reader, but the author tries to make it as evident as possible.

2.3.2 Motifs

Then, following with the motif of a story, “A motif is a recurring element in a literary work, meaning the idea or image occurs again and again.” In other words, a motif is various symbols in a story that have something in common. For example, in a story, various symbols are constantly referring to love and passion between two characters. In that case, the motive of those symbols, maybe a rose and chocolates, have the motif of love and passion. This in order to give those symbols a special reason to be placed there.

2.3.3 Themes

Finally, heading with the theme of the story placed by the author, “Both symbols and motifs lead to a greater understanding of the story’s theme, which is the overall message generated by the narrative.” The theme will be the main message that the author wants to transmit with all the elements carefully placed in the entire novel. Every element that at the end connects with each other to generate a whole is simply pleasant for the reader; even more when the story includes unreal scenarios and characters as Gregor Samsa after turning into the monstrous insect in just a moment and the great author that writes it, in this case Franz Kafka.

To conclude, these elements previously described definitely provide an important factor of fullness in the whole story. Because all the elements have meaningful connotations for the novel or piece of literature, it is why the story itself is full of meaning, and it is very interesting for readers to consider. That also makes a difference between a great writer as Franz Kafka who wisely arranged all the elements to make sure the novels he had written had that much success and interesting stories that many people are going to enjoy and take advantage to create more researches about him.

2.4 The Author: Franz Kafka

In this investigation, the book that will be analyzed is **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka. Before going into the analysis, some information about the author will be pointed out. Here, some aspects about his life are going to be discussed, as well as other works besides **The Metamorphosis**. This will surely help understand Kafka’s way of thinking and compare a little the style from his other pieces of literature.

2.4.1 Bibliography

In this section, Franz Kafka’s life will be mentioned, and some important events within it will be specified. This will help out with the investigation since we can better

comprehend how the author got inspired to write **The Metamorphosis** and all his other works. Afterwards, some relevant works of his will be mentioned.

As the website Britannica (2021) in a post regarding Franz Kafka's biography, he was born on July 3rd, 1893 Prague, Bohemia, Austria-Hungary now called Czech Republic. Son of Julie Löwy and Hermann Kafka. He definitely was raised in a prosperous Jewish middle-class family. However, his family had some problems, and Kafka was not close to his mother since she was uncomprehensive to her son. He was a well know writer who wrote originally in German language. He had a visionary fiction. and the majority of his works successfully expressed all the alienation and anxiety that many felt in Europe and North America back in the 20th century; surely meaningful for the analysis because it is based on the sociological approach.

Then, his father was a great inspiration for negative symbols. In his life, his father just cared about the material things, and he was overshadowing Franz Kafka's work and all this success as a writer. However, he took advantage of this and applied it to his works. An example that is evident in **the Metamorphosis** was that Gregor's father hardly rejected his son when he was transformed in that monstrous creature, instead of caring about him and ensuring he felt all right in the story. *The Process* was written in 1913. He really struggled with his anxiety throughout his life and this caused him to isolate from everyone including God Himself, and showed sympathy for socialists in World War I.

After, Britannica (2021) points out that Kafka become a friend of German Jewish intellectuals. Also, it points out that he had a double life. This since his occupation was consuming his life, and he only had real time to write at night time. Despite his great studies in 1906, he was not able to develop that well in writing until after he found a new position in the Workers' Accident Insurance Institute where he was his boss's right hand

and was well esteemed by his coworkers. He then became sick of tuberculosis and had several sick leaves and retired in 1922.

Regarding his life with a woman, he met Dora Dymant. He met her at the time he moved to Berlin to really start developing as a writer in a vacation trip to Berlin that same year. Dora was a young Jewish socialist and she lived with Kafka in Berlin. However, Kafka's disease was getting worse and he then died.

Finally, he died on June 3rd 1924 in a clinic near to Vienna due to his condition after Tuberculosis hit his life. Despite some dark facts of his life, he turned out to be a great and famous writer all around the globe. We can see this in the following citation found in Britannica,

“Kafka was a charming, intelligent, and humorous individual, but he found his routine office job and the exhausting double life into which it forced him (for his nights were frequently consumed in writing) to be excruciating torture, and his deeper personal relationships were neurotically disturbed.” Britannica (2021)

However, this never stopped him to seek his dreams and become a great writer. His legacy can definitely inspire future authors. Also, his works can help society understand that human crises are not just fiction but also are very present even nowadays, as it was evidenced previously. He will surely be remembered and everything he applied to his works can be also applied to make sure life will be better for everyone.

2.4.2 Other Works

As shown before, it could be noticed that Franz Kafka was a great writer and professional. Furthermore, some of his other literature pieces will be listed. That way, more information about the author can be discovered and future readers can get much

more involved with his legacy in literature. Also, many aspects of his life will be reflected in the majority of his works as a way to escape from his problems and express all what he felt.

As seen in the website Britannica (2021) in a post regarding Franz Kafka's biography and as mentioned earlier, he focused most of his work evidencing the worries people from all Europe and North America had back in his time; even his own problems as previously stated. Since that, he created plenty of literary pieces with this theme. Also, he chose many relevant symbols that can reflect very well real-life crises in their essence and, that way, those can surely demonstrate how all people involved are affected.

Britannica (2021) keeps mentioning in the article about Franz Kafka's biography pointed some of Kafka's most relevant and known works. As said, his publications included two sections which were called *Beschreibung eines Kampfes* (1936) in English *Description of a Struggle* and *Betrachtung* (1913) in English *Meditation*. These sections included short pieces in prose. In these first publications, Kafka evidenced his maturity when writing and as a literature artist. Within the works, the ones that were more significant are **The Trial** that was written in 1912 and was published a year after he wrote it, his first long stories that were **The Metamorphosis** which was written in 1915 and **In the Penal Colony** in 1919. Also, the sections included a collections of short stories in prose which were **A Country Doctor** that was written in 1919 and **A Hunger Artist** written in 1924. All these works were popular when published, but they had not had the popularity they had after his death.

Before dying, Franz Kafka requested to destroy all of his unpublished works due to some misgivings. However, his literary executor Brod did published some of his works after Kafka died, disregarding all his wills and instructions. Among the novels he published, the most relevant were **The Trial** which was published in 1925, **The Castle**

in 1926 and **Amerika** in 1927. Also, he published some short stories in a collection called *The Great Wall of China* published in 1931. In addition, some of Kafka's early works called *Description of a Struggle and Meditation* were begun in 1904.

These works that were published after his death were not similar to the ones he personally published. As Britannica (2021) mentions, "The characters in these works fail to establish communication with others, they follow a hidden logic that flouts normal everyday logic, and their world erupts in grotesque incidents and violence." Compared to the previous ones, all characters had their voice and all the elements helped perfectly with this. In addition, they didn't have a specific purpose and they lacked identity.

Finally, in order to connect all his works, the page states that Kafka was following a relation between the normal and fantastic worlds. All the strangeness he involved could be greatly understood and interpreted with all the literal devices he used. There are surely more details to appreciate when reading all of Kafka's novels and stories. For this work, those details are important since they are deeply involved with the sociological approach since they speak about real things in fantastic worlds and circumstances.

In conclusion, Franz Kafka could manage his problems by escaping into literature. Also, everything he passed was a huge inspiration for his career as a writer. Although he had a hard time with work and with his family, he achieved to become one of the most well-known writers among the fantastic authors. Also, this information will be accommodating with the sociological analysis that will be done further in this research since now it is understood the reason why the author decided to include these kinds of elements and scenarios in his pieces of literature. Now, further details regarding one of the best Kafka's novels **The Metamorphosis** will be described to know a little more about it for the sake of this research.

2.5 The Metamorphosis

Promptly, the plot of the novel **The Metamorphosis**, one of the Franz Kafka's best-known works, will be reviewed. That way, all the analysis that will be done in the next chapter can be done. Only the main points will be shown and pointed out. This in order to make sure that the main point of the research can be linked with the events that happened within the story. Additionally, some of the aspects of Kafka's writing style will be pointed when necessary in order to enrich his work and comprehend the reason of the element in the story. This since many sociological aspects are involved since they related with real problems that will be continued to be checked in the analysis.

2.5.1 Plot

“When Gregor Samsa woke in the morning from troubled dreams, he found himself transformed right there in his bed into some sort of monstrous insect.” Franz Kafka. (Pag. 21. 2014) With this short sentence, the story of Gregor Samsa starts. At the moment he got transformed into an enormous insect, his life did a volte-face and everything became nothing but a nightmare for him and his family. He at the first instance felt normal and went to sleep after the metamorphosis he experienced. However, he started to notice something was out of place when he tried to roll and could not do so since his body got transformed. Then, he gets sickened when he tries to touch himself and notices his new insect legs. At that moment, he starts reflecting on how miserable his life as a salesman was (This relates Kafka's first work) and his real desire to quit if his family did not depend on his incomes since no one else worked. With all these circles, he then notices he slept more than he was supposed to, and now he was late for his train to work.

Some time passed, his mother and father got a little worried about him, and tried to wake him up by knocking on his door, but once he responded to his mom, Gregor noticed his voice changed and his family just thought he may have gotten sick and asked

him to open the door. For his luck, as a habit, he locked his door whenever he went to sleep. He then tried to get up with real struggle due to his new body, and in a way he was not used to it. Then, his manager reached the house to ask for Gregor since he did not go to work, and he says he will get out of the room shortly.

When Gregor's manager heads to his room, he started to tell Gregor the consequences involved when missing work, and that his performance had not been satisfactory in the last few days. Gregor immediately replied that he will be there as soon as possible, but neither of the people outside of the rooms can understand a single word coming out of his mouth. Because of that, everybody started to think something really bad was happening to him. At the moment Gregor managed to open the door in order to beg his manager not to fire him, he got horrified by Gregor's appearance and runs out of the apartment where they lived. Suddenly, Gregor tried to reach his manager, but his father forced him to return to his room with a cane and a rolled newspaper. Once he was entering, he got hurt squishing through his room's door. After this, Gregor just could fall asleep since he was exhausted.

After, everything gets nothing but worse. At the moment he wakes up, he sees his favorite food in his room, a glass of milk and a piece of bread. However, when he tried it, he found those disgusting. Gregor then hides under a coach in his rooms and starts to listen to any sound in the apartment. He listened to his family whenever they started to chat and, once, he listened that his mother wanted to visit him, but his father and sister did not let her (This can mimic Kafka's loneliness). The next morning arrives and his sister Grete comes into the room. Once she does, she noticed that Gregor did not touch his food, so she kindly switched it for some rotten food leftovers which he finds exquisite. His sister become the one in charge of feeding her brother and cleaning his room while

Gregor remains hidden under the coach, so he can avoid getting his sister frightened by his new appearance.

Through the days, Gregor achieves to get used to his new body and possible abilities its new form brought. He started to go around his room over the walls and the roof. After, Greta started to rearrange his rooms, so he could have more freedom when moving. However, Gregor did not find this good and he did what he could to save the picture of the woman he had in his room. Suddenly, his mother saw him climb on the wall and she passed out. Greta then yelled at Gregor and he runs away to the kitchen worried. At that moment, his father arrived home after his day at his new job. When he noticed the situation, he first thought Gregor attacked his own mother, so he grabbed some apples and started to hit Gregor until he got back into his room with several hurts all over his body and got locked there.

After everything gets a bit normal, Gregor's family let him leave the door opened, so he could watch them through the day. Since Gregor was the only one providing incomes to the family, he started to notice how poverty was affecting them and changing their lifestyles. Greta even starts to give him less help with his food and his room. For Gregor's luck, his family hires a cheaper maid, and she was the only one that seemed to tolerate Gregor's appearance, and finally he gets someone to interact with. However, when everything started to look great for him, his family started to take furniture out of his room. Also, Gregor started to miss eating time since he did not longer had taste to the food his sister brought to him.

In order to earn some extra money, his family started to rent the boarders lounge. However, they did not know about Gregor. The day they arrived, the maid left Gregor's door opened and Greta was going to play the violin for the guests. When Gregor heard the melody, he got out of his room to listen closer. The guests seemed not very interested.

At one point, one of them noticed Gregor and started to scream. His father tries to convince them to get back into the room to deal with his son, but the three visitors told him they were going to immediately leave without paying a single cent because of that repulsive creature they lived with.

Later, after this horrible scene, Greta suggests to his parents to finally get rid of the monster she had as a brother; otherwise, he would bring even more misery to their lives and would not let them grow. Gregor was truly sad about his sister's state of mind, but he did understand and headed back into his room. Once there, due to the injury the apples his father threw at him days before and the infection that caused, he finally died, all alone. His family noticed that Gregor died after some days, and they were surely relieved once he would no longer stop them or cause any further inconveniences to their lives or attempts to earn money.

Finally, after getting rid of Gregor, the maid gets fired, and the family decides to take a long trip. They go to the countryside in order to discuss about all the money they saved when they were taking care of the house, while Gregor was not able to work due to his condition. Thanks to the savings they had when sparing their money, they had enough money to move on and continue their lives. After, they decided to move to a better place; a bigger apartment, so they could live much more comfortably. When Gregor was still alive, Greta spent much of her time and strength in serving his brother. Once he dies, Greta recovered all her feminine beauty and all her weakness was already relieved. Her parents noticed this and started to look for a husband for their daughter.

This story is doubtlessly very rich in elements and story. Franz Kafka achieved to recreate a social issue like rejection is and some of his own life experiences. It was truly sad what happened to Gregor and even more for he did not decide that to happen. Unfortunately, many people have this same destiny and have no help from their family

nor relatives. That is why everyone needs to create conscience about this, so everyone can have a worth-living life.

2.6 History of Approaches

In this chapter the student will find a short introduction to the definition of literature. This definition will be seen from different perspectives, taking into account the origin of the word, and its cultural, social and semiotic meaning. Besides, the student will study the three main purposes of literature and how they have influenced on the production and understanding of a literary work. Those three purposes are to entertain, to enlighten and to encourage. Later on, the origin of literature is also studied from a historical point of view, emphasizing on the Greeks as the ones who contributed the most in the creation of literature and in the way how literature is studied. To conclude, the students will be introduced to what literary criticism is, and how it works in the real world. Some literary approaches are mentioned, and they are given as examples. However, none is fully developed, since the main purpose is to define what literary criticism is. The main objective of this chapter is to introduce the student into the study of literature from different perspectives, which will be also the whole purpose of the book.

1. What is Literature

Let us start by the meaning itself of the word literature. For many, literature refers to the group of books used in the study of a subject matter. Therefore, it is easy to hear professionals talking about the literature used in a specific course. For example, they talk about the literature used in Biology, Architecture, Medicine and so on. However,

literature cannot be seen only as a bibliographical reference. Literature, as a subject by itself, comes from the Latin word “littera” which means letter (The British Encyclopedia, p. 45, 1990). So, it would be the study of letters. In this case, everything that is written would be the focus of literature. This includes books and even letters written by children. In fact, there are some letters that are considered literature. Take into account the letters written by Benjamin Franklin, or by Abraham Lincoln. But literature needs more than containing letters and being written to be considered literature.

The outmost component of literature is beauty. In other words, a letter, a story, or a book has to be beautifully written to be considered literature. This is the reason why the **Constitution of The United States** is considered an example of American Literature, even though it is a political text. Besides beauty, literature is a social text. What is a social text? Again, many people think that a text is a book. In this case, it would be a great number of pages bound together by two hard covers. But the word text goes beyond that. A text is a cultural product (Amoretti, p76,2000). A cultural and social manifestation that shows the feelings, desires, attitudes and history of a group of people, a town or a whole country. So a text can be a story, produced orally or in written form, it can be a play, a song, a photograph, or a painting. Nowadays, literature studies all these forms of cultural texts as part of its content.

So far we have established that literature has to be written beautifully and be part of a cultural text. However, there are more elements to be found in literature. Fiction is one of the most important elements of literature. Fiction refers to the fact that something is possible and coherent to our reality, but it is not real or it never happened at all. It is

practically used to make the reader realize about a situation confronted by his society so he may be critical about it or react against it. There are some cases in which a story may contain many historical facts. The creation of the Historical Novel in Latin American Literature is a good example. A book like **El General en su Laberinto** written by Gabriel Garcia Márquez contains many historical facts; however, it continues being fiction because the writer modified certain issues to make them fit with his aesthetic views. Writers can use reality, but it will never be totally our reality. Since the moment it is happening in a book, it becomes fiction.

Nevertheless, we have to take into account that the word fiction has to be seen also as being possible and coherent to be accepted by the reader. In fact, there seems to be a kind of social contract between the reader and the book. The reader accepts the book as long as he can consider it as possible. So the book has to use a language the reader understands, background explained by the narrator, situations that are understandable and possible.

This is the reason why even Science Fiction may be accepted as part of literature, just because it is coherent with our social and logical expectations.

2. What is the purpose of literature

What is literature for? Literature fills our mind with illusions, with unreal things. It creates non-existent worlds and takes us to dangerous states of ecstasy that may keep us away from the real needs of society. This was the famous opinion of the great philosopher Plato in his book **The Republic (Plato, p.53, 1989)**. In fact, Plato recommended to prohibit

the production of literature as away to make citizens be more active and independent in society. Other important politicians like Marx and Lenin considered literature as being dangerous for the people of their countries. But, is this true? Discussing about purpose of literature is not a new issue. It has been a topic of discussion since The Ancient Times. Longinus, for example, determined that literature has to entertain people. People read because they want to have fun. In this case literature would not be dangerous, but it would distract us from the real world. Aristotle, on the other hand, said that literature is a good way to inform us about the world (Barthes, p.79, 2005).

Through literature, we can learn about the past and the present, we can know different cultures, and the history of our own culture. Literature is knowledge; it is enlightenment. However, if literature only entertains and gives culture, why is it that tyrants like Hitler disliked literature so much, and made their soldiers burn thousands of books. The reason is because literature is also dangerous for those who promote injustice and pain to others. Literature also makes us react. Literature encourages to change to world and not be passive or indifferent before human injustice. To illustrate, famous books like **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**, **Uncle Tom's Cabin**, or **Los Cuentos de mi Tia Panchita**, to mention only some, were not written only to entertain and teach people about certain situations. They made people realize about the injustices of human exploitation through slavery. For example the suffering of Uncle Tom is the suffering of all the black people. One of the most important parts in Huckleberry Finn is when Huck expresses to Jim that slavery must not be bad because it is common and seen as good by everybody. Then Jim answers him that there are things in life that may be bad even though they are practiced and seen as good by the majority. It is in this moment when Huck realizes that nobody has the right to determine and own the life of another human being.

These novels were in fact part of the Transcendental Movement that sought to obtain liberty for those who were oppressed by slavery. At this point, we realize that literature has been the source of many other movements that seek for liberty by criticizing those who oppose it. Literature makes us react. It encourages to achieve new goals in life. So the purpose of literature is contained in the following three words: entertain, enlighten, and encourage.

3.The Origins of Literature

Literature has its origin in man's need to express his feelings and record his experiences. So we can say that literature has its origins since Prehistoric Times, when man needed to paint his hunting experiences on the walls of the caves where he lived. These paintings are to be found mainly in Albarracin, Spain, Mexico, Peru and Altamira, and they are called cave painting. These cave paintings are more than art, they tell stories of how men and women lived in those days. Later on in time, when men created more sophisticated forms of communication, they created poets and narrations that were told orally by specialized singers known as scopos in England and Trovadors in France(EMcMillan, p,123, 2000). They used musical instruments to recite from town to town their poems and stories. This was a way to keep alive those stories and poems till they could be kept in a written form centuries later. These singing poets accompanied their poems with the playing of a musical instruments, most of the times a lyre or a lute. To trace the history of the origins of literature may be a difficult task, since many countries use literature in one way or another. For example, literary works are common in India during the XII Century B.C with the creation of fables in books like the Pachatantra. In Babylon explorers have found great collections of stories that belong to the X century B.C The

same happens in Egypt, a culture that also used poetry and narratives that have been found. The Bible is a good example of the production of literature by the Hebrews in Ancient Times.

However, the most important references in the origins of literature are to be traced in the V Century B.C in The Greek Culture. The complexity of the Greek culture brought with it also the necessity to create a writing system to record not only their historical facts and their philosophical thinking, but their literature as well. The Greeks created first different types of poetry. Epic poetry is represented in the Greek culture by books like **The Illiad** and **the Oddesey**, both written by the poet Homer. In these books the reader finds the narration in verse of some supposed historical facts like the war between Athens and its allies against Troy in the Illiad, and the adventures of Ulyses in his return from this war to his homeland Itaka. Both are long narrative poems that used elegant language and in them the reader finds important kings, princes, even Gods that participate in long battles to show their valor and braveness. In both poems, even fantastic events, monsters and beings appear. These kinds of poems are what specialists call epic poems. The Greeks also created short poems that dealt with love, home life and sex. They were sung and used music. These poems are known as lyrical poems.

Besides poetry, the Greeks also created more complex narrative forms known as plays or drama. In this way, they not only narrated a story, they also performed the story in front of an audience. The first performances were created by Aeschylus, known as “Father of Tragedy”. He created poems about the life of a God or a King that was to be recited by one or two actors in front of an audience on a stage. The actors had to wear a big mask called “persona”, a long robe and really high heel shoes called coturns. These

plays called tragedies were at the beginning very simple. Then, the writer Sophocles continued with this tradition but he included more actors, even female characters in the play. He divided the tragedy into parts known as acts and scenes, and dialogs were more complex. This actor created great plays like Oedipus the King. Finally, Euripides got to the top of tragedy creation when he also included more characters and he won the contests of Dionysus four times. His plays were more complex and they included some special effects like the use of the *deus machina*, which as an intervention of the gods.

The Greeks not only contributed in the origin of literature with tragedies, they are also the fathers of the Comedy. At this point it is important to mention Aristophanes as the most relevant creator of comedies during the Golden Age of Greek Literature. The comedy is different from the tragedy because its characters are simple people confronting simple situations in a gross manner. They use vulgar language instead of the elegant and elaborated language they used in tragedies. The purpose of the tragedy is to bring people to a state of Catharsis or expulsion of feelings; instead, the purpose of a comedy is to make fun and criticize important people. This makes this type of play be even more dangerous than a tragedy, since it may encourage people to react against a governor. To conclude, the Greeks are important in the origins of literature not only because they contributed with poetry and drama, they also contributed with the creation of narratives like the first novel in the Greek world **The Golden Ass** written by Apuleyo, which is a good example of the beginnings of narrative in literature. Finally, the Greeks also contributed to the origins of literary Criticism when Aristotle (384-322 B.C) in his book **Poetics** establishes the characteristics of a good tragedy and the elements of poems, classifies types of literature and establishes definitions that are necessary in literature.

After the Greeks, it is worth while to mention the Romans as part of the origins of literature. The Romans mainly imitated the Greeks, but they also created rules to write good literature and created excellent stories, plays and poems. Roman writers like Cicero, Vergil, Ovid and Horace served as examples of efficient and orderly writing for later writers like Chaucer and Boccaccio. It is in fact, in the Middle Ages when narratives grow as a genre. With Geoffrey Chaucer in England with his creation of the Canterbury Tales and Geovanny Boccaccio in Italy with the Decameron, the first rules to write short stories appear, but at this time they call them tales. In the Renaissance, narrative reaches its perfect creation with the writing of one of the first novels Don Quixote, written by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (McMillan, p.200,2000). Plays and poetry reach their golden age in England with Shakespeare, Bacon and Marlowe. It is in the Age of Reason when novels are being written all over the world, including the creation of poetry and plays, and other forms of narratives. Oscar Wilde and Charles Dickens, for example, wrote poems, short stories and novels. As time passes by, specialists start considering that not only written works may be part of literature. They expand the concept of a text, as it was developed at the beginning of this chapter, and they started considering the idea of the cultural text. Therefore, in the modern world movies, paintings, photographs and other forms of cultural production are considered as being part of literature, and specialists use the same mechanisms or approaches to criticize them.

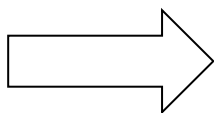
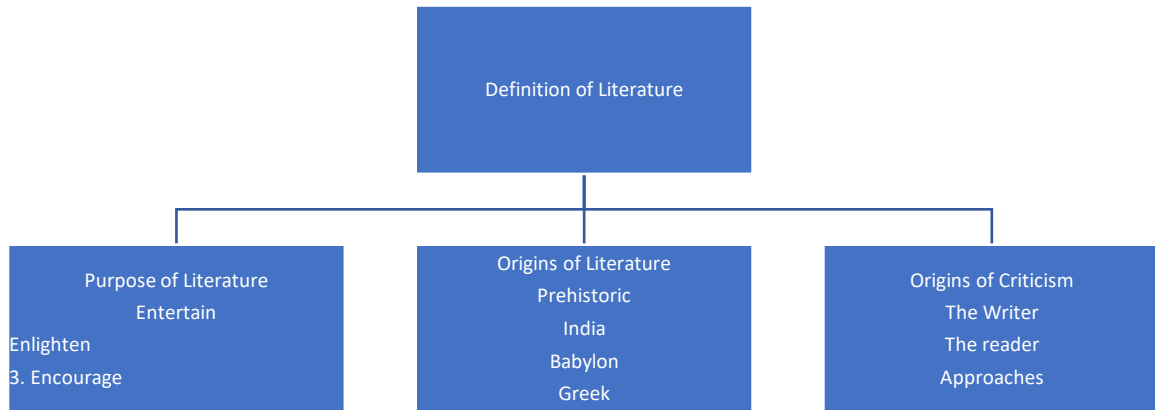
4. Purposes of Literary Criticism

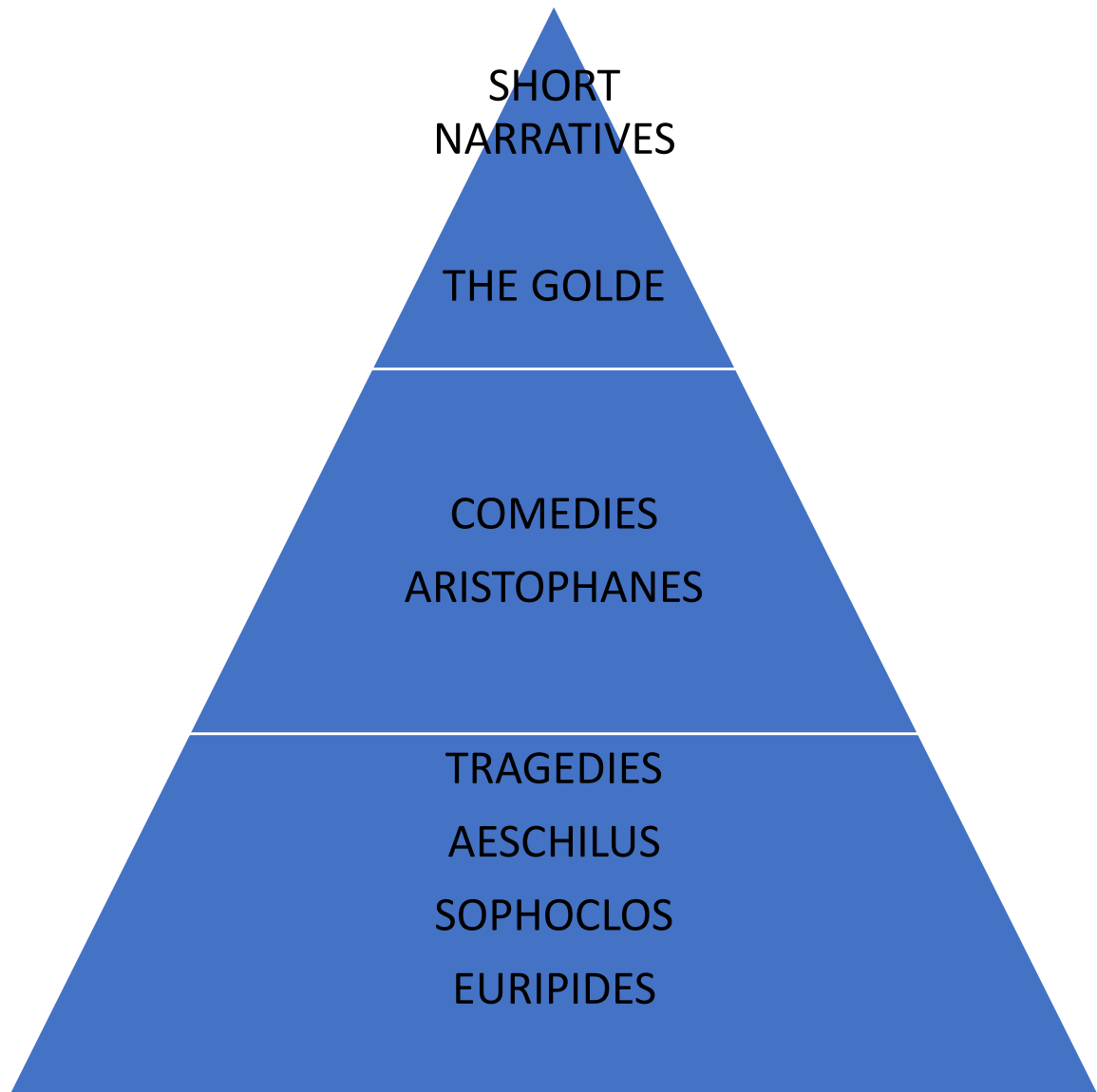
What is Literary Criticism? Different from what many people may think, a critic is not a person who destroys or finds the defects of a play, short story or a novel. A Literary Critic is a specialist who uses a series of strategies or approaches to help others

to understand the possible meaning of a work of literature. Each work of literature may be seen from different perspectives, and there is not only one meaning. Literature in fact is polysemantic, and it has as many meanings as readers giving those meanings. So, the literary critic does not impose one meaning to a literary masterpiece. The critic's role is to explain why that meaning is obtained if the reader uses one specific approach, or if the reader considers other specific elements in a story. Good literary criticism destroys the tyranny of the writer to give meaning to his work. The literary critic makes the reader be also a writer while he is reading. In this case, reading is production, and each reader creates his own meanings to the text. This is what Julia Kristeva called the death of the writer. In the past, professors and even specialists would interview the writers to ask them about the meaning of their works. What the writers said was considered in those days the ultimate truth about the analysis of a text. As literary analysis grew up with specialists like Edmund Cross, Claude Duchet and Roland Barthes, and thanks to literary movements like Semiotics, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism and the Socio Critique approach, the writer was considered as one more reader and his opinions were seen as respectable, but not as the ultimate truth. These specialists and these movements open new doors to see a story from many perspectives. The reader becomes a creator, and it is the reader the one who decides from which perspective he will analyze a literary work. In this way, the reader may decide to take into account the theories of feminism and analyze a story taken into account the roles of gender. Another reader may decide to use the same story to analyze it from deconstructionist point of view, so he may use the theories of Roland Barthes. Another reader may decide to use the theories of Sigmund Freud and Lacan to analyze the story from a psychoanalytical point of view. Another can take into account the use of specific words, phrases and even punctuation to analyze the story from a semantic point of view. In fact, literary Criticism opens us doors not to limit

ourselves to re tell a story, but to create a complete analysis that will be well supported based on the theories of competent researchers. Good literary criticism always starts with the taxonomy of literature. The reader has to determine what kind of literary work he is reading. Is it a poem? What kind of poem? Is it a short story or a novel? Is it a Play? Once the reader has determined the type of work, he can decide which literary approach he wants to use to analyze the literary work. At all moments it is essential and important to read the whole text at least twice and to be sure you understand all the vocabulary. Finally, the literary critic chooses the approach he wants to use. Equally, he has to be sure he understands and handles correctly all the theory of the approach. Once the poet Thomas Stern Eliot said that the best critic is the one who also writes and has fame for writing. The best critic of a novelist would be another novelist. The best critic of a poem would be a poet. And the best critic of a play would be a play writer. In this book, we are going to change this perspective. In this case, the reader is also a writer, so all readers can also criticize a book as long as they use their social, cultural background and support themselves with the specific theories of a literary approach.

In the following chart, we can see how the definition of literature has changed through time:





I. The Purposes of Literary Criticism

What is literary criticism? The Webster's Dictionary defines it as,

“... the study, evaluation, and interpretation of literature. Modern literary criticism is often influenced by literary theory, which is the philosophical discussion of literature's goals and methods. Though the two activities are closely related, literary critics are not always theorists.

The John Hopkin's *Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (1988) establishes also a definition when it compares literary criticism with literary theory. It mentions that there is,

...no distinction between literary theory and literary criticism, and almost always uses the terms together to describe the same concept. Some critics consider literary criticism a practical application of literary theory, because criticism always deals directly with particular literary works, while theory may be more general or abstract. (p. 67)

Different from what many people may think, a critic is not a person who destroys or finds the defects of a play, short story or a novel. A literary critic is a specialist who uses a series of strategies or approaches to help others understand the possible meaning of a work of literature.

Each work of literature may be seen from different perspectives, and there is not only one meaning. Literature in fact is polysemantic, and it has as many meanings as there are readers. So, the literary critic does not impose one interpretation to a literary master piece.

The critic's role is to explain why that meaning is obtained if the critic uses one specific approach, or if he/she considers other specific elements in a story.

Good literary criticism destroys the tyranny of the writer to give meaning to his work. The literary critic allows the reader to become a producer. In this case, reading is production, and each individual creates his own meanings to the text. This is what Julia Kristeva called *the death of the writer*. In the past, professors and even specialists would interview authors to ask them about the meaning of their works. What they said was considered in those days the ultimate truth about the analysis of a text.

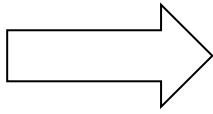
As literary analysis grew up with specialists like Edmund Cross, Claude Duchet and Roland Barthes, and thanks to literary movements like Semiotics, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism and the Socio Critique Approach (María Amoreti -Sociocrítica p.51) the writer was considered as one more reader and his opinions were seen as respectable, but not as the ultimate truth.

These specialists and movements open new doors to approach a story from many different perspectives. The reader becomes a creator, and is he/she who decides from which approach the literary work will be analyzed. In this way, the reader, for example, may decide to take into account the theories of feminism and analyze a story considering the roles of gender. A person may choose the the deconstructionist approach of Roland Barthes. Somebody else may analyze the story from a psychoanalytical point of view based on the theories of Sigmund Freud and Lacan or use specific words, phrases and even punctuation to study it from a semantic position.

We have stated so far that it is the reader the one who decides what approach to choose. Literary Criticism gives different options that are supported by well recognized authors. For example, the most classical approaches are the biographical, the historical and the moralistic approach. They were mainly used from the Age of Reason to the end of the Victorian Age. Later on, New Criticism and the Formalistic Approach appear to focus more on the text itself, its theme, purpose and effect on the reader. They are used mainly from 1915 to 1970's.

With the rise of new visions about the world, the Mythological, Psychological and Feminist approaches become famous. They tend to be more theoretical and permit the reader to use specific theories from other fields to explore literature, and they were used

mainly during the decades of 1970's to the end of the 1990's. From the 1990's to the 2010's New Historicism arises accompanied by other literary approaches like Deconstructionism, The Socio Critique perspective. Later on, we will see how each of these movements is born and the characteristics they possess. In some cases, the analyst can combine more than one approach to accomplish a kind of eclectic point of view. Here we have some of the elements to take into account when we start a new analysis:



Literature as a social text

Plot: **w**hat is the story all about

Theme: **w**hat is the objective I perceive in the story

Setting: **W**here does the action take place? Why is it important for the whole meaning of the story.

Characters: **d**o they change throughout the story.? **t**hey can be flat or round, and their role depends on the theme of the story.

Ending: **T**he way the story finishes can determine the meaning of the story.

Literary periods: here it is important to summarize the different periods of literary history and types of criticisms found through them:

Pre history	Symbols and images are used to create stories.
Ancient times	Poetry is recited orally.
Middle Ages	Short stories and poems are written using characters like wizards, fairies, creatures of the forest, dragons, etc.
Renaissance	The peak of literature is manifested through poetry and plays. The main writer is Shakespeare.
The Age of Reason	Writer follow rules and the themes of stories deal with social and political structures.
The Romantics	The perfection of man, nature and God are sought through the use of language.
Victorian Period	Novels and stories are very common in this period. There is a sense of satisfaction for social issues, but also a new

	visualization about human exploitation is also presented.
New Directions	The fear caused by wars leads people to live in a world of emptiness and futility.
Modern Times	From 1970 to 1990, writers present a world of new hopes and advances.
Post Modern Times	From 1990 to 2010. Writers present topics that are connected to high technology

List of Literary Approaches

1. Biographical: Emphasizes on the author's biography.
2. Historical: takes into account the period when the text was written.
3. Moralistic: pinpoints the ethic and moral teaching of a book.
4. New Criticism: Emphasizes on the effects of the text.
5. Formalistic: analyses each part of the text.
6. Mythological: uses theory from mythological patterns to study literature.
7. Psychological: Uses the theories of Freud, Lacan and other psychologists to study a text.
8. Feminist: Uses the theories of feminism to analyze a text.
9. Deconstructionism: Changes elements of the text to study the opposing effects of the book to see it from another perspective.

10. Social Critique: studies language and how society constructs the meaning of the text.

To entertain	People read book because they like it.	Texts give relaxation and eliminate stress
To enlighten	People read because they need information.	Texts are full of data and knowledge.
To encourage	People react against injustice when they read.	Books show people how others are treated in other places.

Purposes of Literature : Read the purposes of literature written above and create your own.

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

Along this chapter, the characteristics of the technical details in every investigation will be pointed out and described. Those aspects that are going to be analyzed will help the investigation for the literary critic with the sociological approach since they will relate with the instruments that are available to investigate, gather information, know what information to search and how to correctly apply it to the investigation, and how to arrange the study for further steps. That way, those details can correctly be applied to this research and into the novel analysis and achieve great results in the final procedures after comparing the sociological factors of monstrosity in humanity from the novel with real life situations.

3.1 Research Approach

In the first section of the Methodological framework, there will be three different research approaches and the characteristics of each one will be given. There are three different research approaches that an investigation can focus on: qualitative, quantitative and mixed (this last one is a combination of the qualitative and quantitative approach). This way, future readers will be able to identify the approach this research will focus on in order to complete the objectives set.

3.1.1 Qualitative Approach

The first research approach is the qualitative approach. This approach is used whenever we establish the characteristics of people or of the study subject. As Beutlich (2020) adds in a recent post for the website e-notes, “Qualitative research is descriptive in nature, because it generally deals with non-numerical and unquantifiable things. A biologist studying symbiotic relationships in nature, for example, would use qualitative

research, because the scientist would more often than not be describing behaviors of animals. There might be some numerical data in that the researcher would document the number of observations; however, the observations themselves would be descriptive of what the animals do. Anecdotally, when students of mine are first learning about wave interactions, they have to do an experiment that asks them to qualitatively describe what happens when a wave trough meets a wave crest.”

Unlike the other approaches, the qualitative will just care about characteristics rather than numerical data. Even though the previous example is about a research based on animal behavior, it can be applied to plenty of other topics. For example, for the sake of this research, behavior of humans will be studied to compare it with the ones in the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka. There is no need to review numerical data since the goal of the research is to see how monstrosity in the novel is reflected from what people in real life suffered and keep suffering.

3.1.2 Quantitative Approach

Now, in the quantitative approach, the numerical data does matter. Continuing with Beutlich’s (2020) post for e-notes, he also describes this approach with his own example to illustrate it, “Quantitative research is much more numbers-driven. The emphasis is on the collection of numerical data. The conclusion then makes inferences based on that data. A biologist studying population numbers would use quantitative research. Using the same anecdotal lab of mine, students eventually change the frequency of waves to manipulate the wavelength. They can qualitatively describe what happens, but they are also taking quantitative numerical data about the wavelength, amplitude, and frequency of various waves.”

As mentioned on the qualitative approach, this example can be applied to many other topics depending on the usage of the numerical data needed to fulfill the objectives

and address the problem of the investigation in general. If the researcher were to apply this approach with this novel, many statistic results of people affected to conclude a number must be done. As it had been said, the quantitative approach will work for investigation with a goal of numbers.

3.1.3 Mixed Approach

Finally, the third research approach is the mixed approach. It might seem obvious its meaning since, indeed, it is a mix between the qualitative and the quantitative approach. However, something to take into consideration is that in order to base a research on this approach, there must be a focus or one having more impact than the other. This will mayorly depend on the investigation objectives and how information will be gathered.

3.2 Research Design

The research design is all the strategies and plans that the researcher will use in order to address the main question of the problem set for the research, according to Hernández (2014) in the research design section on his book **Metodología de la Investigación**. Since this research will be focused on analyzing a book, the method that will be used is the descriptive research. Here, the method will be checked in order to know how it will be developed within the research. This will fit the methodology, the problem of the investigation, and the main purposes that the researcher has set to use in order to get the analysis completed with total success and accuracy.

3.2.1 Descriptive Research

In this section of the chapter, the descriptive research will be described. as “a statement of affairs as they are at present with the researcher having no control over variable. Moreover, “descriptive studies may be characterized as simply the attempt to

determine, describe or identify what is, while analytical research attempts to establish why it is that way or how it came to be”[1].” Dudovskiy (2022)

As it could be seen in the previous reference from John Dudovskiy from the page Business Research Methodology, whenever a person performs a descriptive research, he or she needs to achieve describing a certain aspect from the subject or topic protagonist of the research. That way, the researcher can be more familiarized with it. Also, depending on the purpose of the research, that information described can be used for further steps into the investigation.

For the sake of this work, the descriptive research design is essential since it is a book analysis. From it, all the information that will be taken is going to be analyzed from the sociological approach. That way, the future readers can know how and why the author, in this case Franz Kafka, chose all the elements including themes, motifs, symbols and also some topics from real life from his personal experience and how the world was behaving back then. Also, this will fulfill the stated objectives in the first chapter.

To make sure Dudovskiy (2022) provides some advantages of this research method. The first one is its effectiveness with data which is not quantitative; this work is totally qualitative because it analyzes the characteristics of the characters and the background of the book and author. Then, it states that the topic or the information that will be studied can be seen in an environment that will not change; different from numbers that can vary as the research is been done. Thirdly, since the qualitative aspects are not very variable, it takes less time and effort to perform a descriptive research. Finally, in his business point of view, it is a great way to analyze the data gathered to make decisions. For this research, it can be translated to the actual analysis and which information will be taken from **The Metamorphosis**.

3.3 Information Resources

Now, the information source types will be mentioned and described on this section of the third chapter in order to know how the information in this whole research was gathered. The information sources used will let us know the background history and also all the theory of the main title of the investigation and the contents. For this research, there are going to be four kinds of information sources: primary sources, secondary sources and tertiary sources. In order to get into all the details, some aspects of the resources will be described with the info from the website LIS BD Network (Sources of Information, 2016). The sources in use will relate with the theme of monstrosity in humanity from a sociological point of view and to the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka.

3.3.1 Primary Sources

“Primary sources are original materials. They are from the time period involved and have not been filtered through interpretation or evaluation. Primary sources are original materials on which other researches are based. They are usually the first formal appearance of results in physical, print or electronic format. They present original thinking, report a discovery, or share new information. The definition of a primary source may vary depending upon the discipline or context” LIS BD Network (Sources of Information, 2016). As mentioned previously, the primary sources will be the most relevant in order to base future researches. The examples that are shown about primary sources are website are diaries, newspaper articles, and works of other people.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources

“Secondary sources are less easily defined than primary sources. Generally, they are accounts written after the fact with the benefit of hindsight. They are interpretations and evaluations of primary sources. Secondary sources are not evidence, but rather

commentary(141) on and discussion of evidence. However, what some define as a secondary source, others define as a tertiary source. Context is everything. The definition of a secondary source may vary depending upon the discipline or context” LIS BD Network (Sources of Information, 2016). These sources are commonly used to gather all the theory needed to make sure the analysis of the book in study will be as accurate and able to be validated with strong bases.

3.3.3 Tertiary Sources

“Tertiary sources consist of information which is a distillation and collection of primary and secondary sources” LIS BD Network (Sources of Information, 2016). The final resource type will be a combination of the primary and secondary resources and are instruments which will be very helpful in order to gather all the information needed for the investigation

3.4 Analysis Categories

In order to analyze all the variables of the investigation, the researcher will focus on the qualitative point of view previously described on this chapter. The variables to analyze will be entirely conceptual. That way, the main aspects and themes of this work can be better described, so the instruments in order to complete the literary analysis of the novel relating it to the monstrosity in humanity from a sociological point of view.

3.4.1 Monstrosity in Humanity

In the story of humanity, there have been plenty of monstrous behaviors against other people. These behaviors have not provoked anything but misery for those who are victims of the acts, and for the people who treat others with no mercy for their feelings nor for their integrity. Just something that may seem harmless as a simple negative comment about somebody’s physical appearance and clothing style or a critic about how

that person performs an innocent task that is not meaningful at all for the bully can mean so much misery for the one who is being bullied.

First, right at the beginning of times, as it can be read in the Holy Bible, many people were used to criticizing others because they thought they were holier and more perfect than others. In an even more relevant matter, Jesus was crucified because people from Israel thought he was just pretending to be the Messiah. These behaviors can be noticed in numerous passages. For example, in 1 Kings 18:4, “For when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.” In this passage, Jezebel was killing Jesus’ prophets in mass and that does not stop there. In Mathew 2:16, Herod killed plenty of male children 2 years old and under. The intention to point this out is not to disparage the scripts since all people despite their biggest sin are all forgiven but to evidence that even when the society was beginning, there were monstrous behaviors.

Then, through out the ages, there have been many civil wars between rival countries and two world wars that brough nothing but misery for the people affected. According to Eikenberry and Kranser (2017), there have been over 200 in the entire globe. The most shocking part of this data is that there were 30 ongoing at the moment the post was published. The U.S military is deeply involved in these conflicts. In worse words, there have been two world wars leaving many innocent people dead, nations destroyed and cultures tainted with judgment and fear from others. Thankfully, there are organisms such as the United Nations which watch and ensure there will no be any other war conflict. This surely maintain general order among the nations of this world in which all people have rights.

Finally, nowadays cruelty is still present in people’s daily life. Even a simple disrespectful manner against somebody that did not deserve it, even if that person did,

can mean a huge impact in someone's life. All human beings have rights and everybody must be treated with respect and empathy. However, some others still not understand this, and mistreat people just because of their appearance, skin color, culture and many other made-up reasons just to be as mean as possible.

As a conclusion, in human history there have been many uncountable acts of monstrosity against others. People sometimes show no mercy, maybe because they think they are better than the rest, when the truth is that we all have the same rights just with the simple fact of being humans. Even though there are people that mistreat others, some conscience needs to be created. That way, future acts as the ones mentioned earlier can be avoided and as soon as a person starts a conflict without any sort of meaningful reason.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

In this section of the Methodological Framework, the instruments that are going to be used to gather all the information needed to start the analysis will be described. Since the investigation is 100% focused in analyzing a novel based on a specific approach, the researcher will need to analyze the plot of the novel relating it with the theory gathered for it. Also, in order to connect it with the novel directly, the author of this investigation is going to create various analysis tables where the theoretical aspect, the reference from the book and a comment will be placed.

3.5.1 Analysis Table

In first place, in order to organize the ideas and points of the book that will be analyzed and the different theories and approaches, an analysis table will be made. That will help create an organized area where the elements to be analyzed can be set and commented in order to establish a relation with the selected approach. Furthermore, the different tables will be planned in order to know in which category to use them and which

information to include. The different categories will be approaches and the different themes, motifs and symbols in the novel.

All the tables will include a reference from the book. That way, any information that will be set in the analysis can be backed up with actual content from **the Metamorphosis** to make sense. Further to that, a comment from the researcher will be done. It is critical to place the comment, so the link with the theoretical aspect can be made.

3.5.2 Plot Analysis

The next instrument that the researcher will use in order to analyze will be the plot analysis of the novel. This analysis will come handy in order to provide a brief description of the parts of the novel that are going to be explained . That way, more detailed description with the actual reference can be given. To be more specific, the plot description will only be used in the sections in which the themes, motifs and symbols will be pointed out. All because it will be more comprehensible for both, future readers and the researcher since this will give more feedback about how each one of them appears and interacts with other elements of the story.

The aspects to take into consideration for the plot analysis will be quite simple. As mentioned before, this will describe how the theme, motif of symbol is intergrated in the story. Also, besides mentioning it, more details on how each one of them is used in literature in general. By doing so, there can be a wider comprehension in the context, since all of them appear to enrich the reading of the actual novel.

3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

Right now, the researcher will show how all the information needed for the analysis and the completion of the work were gathered. First, the main source of information is the book **The Metamorphosis**. The goal of this investigation is to analyze

the novel written by Franz Kafka focusing on the sociological approach. That means that the researcher needs to take references from the book in order to give sense to the rest of the elements involved in the analysis.

Also, the author's life and all his social background and his society will be a key in the development of this work. This is because, as mentioned in the theoretical framework and as its name suggests, the sociological approach mainly studies the social background of the author and how his life affected the way in which the author wrote. Also, it was noticed that Kafka indeed created conscience about mistreating people, so those aspects will be analyzed in the novel the best.

Finally, in order to support all of the arguments of the researcher and the ideas to get all the conclusions, there were plenty of references included all over the script. Those references that were included since the first chapter to the third and even further, give more relevance to all the word and also liability that all the data included will be accurate and right. In addition, researches from people that focus on the same investigation area can be appreciated and brought into life. That way, all the community can be involved in other works.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

4.1 Approaches to the investigation:

In literature, in order to give the literature piece more meaning besides the understanding gotten from reading it, literature critics use different approaches to explain and give knowledge to pretty all relevant elements in a novel, poem, short story, among others. In this work, the goal is to analyze the novel **The Metamorphosis** written by Franz Kafka. In order to perform the analysis, the researcher will use the sociological approach.

As mentioned in the theoretical framework, the sociological approach mainly focuses on the social background of both, the author and the story itself. With the sociological approach, the researcher stated some secondary approaches to this that will definitely assist the whole analysis which are the moral, biographical, formalistic, psychological and mythological. As it could be evidenced in previous chapters, Kafka's social environment, including family and political aspects, were truly challenging and hard. This means that the selected approach and all the secondary approaches will greatly fulfill the objectives set for this investigation.

4.2 Theories vs literary work

In order to do the entire analysis, the researcher will use both instruments chosen in the previous chapter. That way, the purpose of the whole investigation can be fulfilled and have a relation between the novel and the chosen approach. As mentioned before, there are some approaches that complement the sociological view because of the

aspects their founders considered when they use them to analyze or criticize literature pieces.

In order to complete the analysis, the researcher uses some references from the book that best support the idea from the theory next to it. After setting the quote from **The Metamorphosis**, the author of this investigation will write a comment. That comment will relate the reference with the respective approach it belongs to. That way, there will be not only a relationship with the approaches and the book in study but also it will give a meaningful background to all of the scenes present in the novel.

Approach and Theories	Reference from the novel	Comment from the researcher
Biographical Approach	-“Naturally his father, in his present mental state, had no idea of opening the other wing of the door a bit to create a suitable passage for Gregor to get through.” (Chapter 1, page 16)	-In this section of the first chapter of the novel, readers can notice that Gregor’s father was the one who hated Gregor the most after his transformation because he only saw him as a charge and a danger for the rest of the family members. When going back to Franz Kafka’s biography, the situation of his father was very similar. His father constantly rejected him and treated him very hard since they were Jewish. That is why he wanted to expose his reality and escape from it placing the father’s role as a rejecting and strong.

<p>Moral Approach</p>	<p>-“Only the sister had remained still close to Gregor, and it was his secret plan to send her next year to the conservatory, regardless of the great expense which that necessarily involved and which would be made up in other ways.” (Chapter 2, page 23)</p>	<p>-If there could be a moral for The Metamorphosis is that people must not judge others just because of their physical appearance. Within the story, many of the characters unhumanly rejected Gregor just because he looked like an insect. However, as seen in this reference, only his sister stood with him the most, besides of his mom until the point she passed out, and made sure he got all the cares he needed to be comfortable and somehow loved.</p>
<p>Formalistic Approach</p>	<p>-“Thus, he refrained from looking at his mother this time and was just happy that she had come. "Come on; he’s not visible," said his sister, and evidently led his mother by the hand.” (Chapter 2, page 27)</p>	<p>-This reference is a great example on how Franz Kafka was writing The Metamorphosis. He included in the story aspects that showed that Gregor was no longer a human on the outside but in the inside with fantastic aspects that are not present in real life. Also, he marked a barrier between Gregor and the rest of the humans in the house that, as his mother and sister, loved him, but they were not able to reject him. This led into a</p>

		mental breakdown for Gregor until the very last time of his existence.
Mythological Approach	-“who was already holding tight onto the handrail with both hands on the landing in a ridiculous way. But as he looked for something to hold onto, with a small scream Gregor immediately fell down onto his numerous little legs.” (Chapter 1, page 15)	-As mentioned numerous times, in Franz Kafka’s stories, he tried to evade his reality and social background in his story. In the case of The Metamorphosis , he incorporated aspects that are not real; in other words, mythological characteristics. Gregor was evidently the only representation and in this reference, the readers can notice how he had insect body parts instead of human due to a transformation out of nowhere.
Psychological Approach	-“And so he began, amid constantly anxious sideways glances in his father's direction, to turn himself around as quickly as possible, although in truth this was only done very slowly.” (Chapter 1, page 16)	-Throughout the story of The Metamorphosis , Gregor Samsa suffered plenty of psychological complications due to everybody rejecting him and treating him with monstruosity. As evidenced in this reference, At the moment Gregor gets out of the room for the first time, his father wanted him to go back immediately. However, due to his new body he was not so accustomed to, he

		<p>was not able to immediately go back to his room and his father kept pressing him until he managed to enter to the room. Because of this, his anxiety continued to grow stronger.</p>
<p>Sociological Approach</p>	<p>-“As he heard his mother's words Gregor realized that the lack of all immediate human contact, together with the monotonous life surrounded by the family over the course of these two months, must have confused his understanding, because otherwise he couldn't explain to himself how he, in all seriousness, could have been so keen to have his room emptied. Was he really eager to let the warm room, comfortably furnished with pieces he had inherited, be turned into a cavern in which he would, of course, then be able to crawl about in all directions without disturbance, but at the same time with a quick and complete forgetting of his human past as well?” (Chapter 2, page 28)</p>	<p>-In Franz Kafka’s social background during his career, as it could be evidenced in Nietzsche’s philosophy and the human perspective he had, Jews were considered an inferior race and other nations considered themselves stronger and powerful than others by denying them from their human status. As noticed in this reference, Gregor was finally realizing he lost, by the eyes of everyone but his, his human status and characteristics. For himself, he was also questioning himself as being not a human being anymore because all what he had passed throughout the entire story. Connecting this with the rest of the approaches, Kafka also felt this way at some point in his life, the moral of other</p>

		characters affected Gregor mental status, his insect-like body traumatized other and this mentally affected him.
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4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

In this section of the analysis, other important elements of the novel will be analyzed and described. Whenever a reader gets into a story, there are some elements that, at a glance, can be omitted. These elements are the themes, motifs and symbols. All these will be mentioned and developed as the researcher interprets them. In order to do so, a brief explanation of how each one of them are present within the story. In order to do so, the instrument of plot analysis will be used. That will help the researcher create a general idea of the data gathered from the book and from previous chapters to start generating the conclusions of the relationship between the novel *The Metamorphosis* and the sociological approach.

Also, the analysis charts of the theme, motif or symbols will backup the reason why each one of them was carefully chosen by the researcher. After, there will be a description of the novel reference in order to provide more background on how it matches and follows the theme, motif and symbol.

That way, all the analysis can be structured, organized and set. As well, almost all the elements, the ones that will fit within these categories, will be gathered, so the breakdown can be successful and even more understandable for future readers who may be interested in this field.

4.3.1 Themes

As mentioned in chapter two, every novel orbits around a theme that will give personality and sense to the story depending on what the author wants to transmit. For this work, some possible themes for the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka will be pointed out. In the novel **The Metamorphosis**, there are three main themes noticeable from the beginning to the end of the work. The three themes stated are the burden of responsibility, isolation and alienation, and sacrifice. In this section of the chapter, the researcher will focus on those themes and how each one develops within the story and how the characters fulfill them. That way, they can be further included into the analysis for a better overall understanding.

4.3.1.1 Burden of responsibility

First, talking about the burden of responsibility theme, this can be found almost at the very beginning of the story. Gregor was the main provider for his family since he worked very hard as a traveling salesman to bring money while the other members focused on other, not as important things. However, as he transformed into a monster, he was no longer able to assist to work. The days pass and Gregor was becoming a much bigger burden for the entire family. They had to take care of him because he could not perform as a normal person and some of his tastes changed; like enjoying bugs and spoiled meal instead of fresh milk as he used to love.

Even at one point of the story, his family was thinking of renting their house in order to gather some income in order to live out. For their misfortune, once the guests noticed Gregor's appearance, they immediately ran out of the house ruining their possibility to get money from that business. As that happened, his family began to take

less care of him until he died because of an apple stuck in his body. After his death, all his relatives had to seek for new jobs to help one another and move to another house, smaller than the one they could afford before with Gregor's income, in which they could live. This can show that the burden Gregor took the burden which he was causing to his family to the grave and that caused a huge turn-around to the family's situation.

4.3.1.2 Isolation and alienation

In this case, as the article mentions, the isolation and alienation make the characters get affected, mainly by a transformation, lose their human characteristics to the eyes of others isolating him or her from the rest. Gregor Samsa, as a human being, despite the fact of not being treated as greatly as he deserved for his effort, was at least recognized as a human by his family. He maybe ate with them, although it is not mentioned in the story, they talk to each other, even he had a healthy relationship with his sister since she helped him after his transformation.

Everything was very normal, as it could be in his socio-family situation, However, after his transformation everything changed for bad. Starting with everyone looking at him with horror and disgust, Gregor was totally excluded from the family and doomed to stay locked in his room for the rest of his short and miserable existence. Before his life punishment, Gregor Samsa used to work as a salesman, as mentioned before. Even though he was not performing as good as he did, he was the one who stood for his family. However, after he turned into an insect-like monster, Gregor was no longer "useful" for his family but a burden as stated in the previous point. This led into mistreating and actually missing his existence. The only ones who cared just a tiny bit was his sister, which by the time forgot about his poor brother, and the maiden of the house; the rest of the members of the family just ignored him until the very moment of

his death, finding out days later just because his pudrid body gave off an odor that could not be missed by anyone in the house.

Obviously, and with the fact Gregor was not a human any more, nobody treated him like such. Inside, however, he was still a human being and, of course, he felt lonely, mistreated and depressed. This is considered a monstrosity, speaking about how he was treated and not about his condition, because he still needed attention from his relatives and loved ones. In real life, if a person suffers a deformation, there are people that follow this chain of mistreatment and can be noticed day by day in society, so it was greatly evidenced throughout the novel, although it is a reprehensive demeanor.

4.3.1.3 Sacrifice

The last theme that can be taken from the novel is sacrifice. Gregor was evidently suffering deep depression, he thought that every- one 's problem will be solved if he died. In this section, a general view on how actually this thought was present throughout the entire novel. That way, the data can be further analyzed in the chart to specifically point out the parts with references from the novel.

First, at the very moment Gregor was transformed into a insect-like monster, his family started to reject him and, unconsciously, making him understand he was nothing but a charge for them, and his death would be "beneficial" for them. As previously mentioned, his family had to somehow get some income in order to live. However, Gregor sometimes frustrated his family plans to get a little money. That meant in order to continue, Gregor needed to whether somehow disappear or die to let them live; Gregor needed to be sacrificed to allow the rest of the family members to survive.

Later in the story, his family was no longer paying much more attention to him and, after his death, they could move on without carrying about Gregor frightening others and not letting them progress in their lives. However, when Gregor finally dies, they could move on. They planned selling the house and now they could. Everything was turning great for the Samsas.

Theme	Reference from the Novel	Comments from the Researcher
Burden of Responsibility	-“If I didn't hold back for my parents' sake, I'd have quit ages ago.” (Chapter 1, page 4)	-As it could be seen in the previous reference, Gregor was the one in charge of the family when he was working even though he barely was comfortable with his position. After his transformation, he could not continue, so the responsibility he had fallen into the other members of the family.
Isolation and Alienation	-““What's happened to me?” he thought. It was no dream. His room, a proper room for a human being, only somewhat too small, lay quietly between the four well-known walls.” (Chapter 1, page 3) -“During Gregor's speech he was not still for a moment but kept moving away towards the door, without taking his eyes off Gregor, but really	-This is the first time the alienation occurs since Gregor was no longer a human but a big and horrible insect. -Also, Gregor has lost all human abilities to the eyes of others.

	<p>gradually, as if there was a secret ban on leaving the room. He was already in the hall, and given the sudden movement with which he finally pulled his foot out of the living room, one could have believed that he had just burned the sole of his foot.” (Chapter 1, page 14)</p> <p>-“Then his father gave him one really strong liberating push from behind, and he scurried, bleeding severely, far into the interior of his room. The door was slammed shut with the cane, and finally it was quiet.” (Chapter 1, page 17)</p>	<p>-In order to isolate that monster from the other members of the family which were human beings, Gregor’s father decided to lock him into his room.</p>
<p>Sacrifice</p>	<p>-““O God," he thought, "what a demanding job I've chosen! Day in, day out, on the road. The stresses of selling are much greater than the work going on at head office, and, in addition to that, I have to cope with the problems of travelling, the worries about train connections, irregular bad food, temporary and constantly changing human relationships which never come from the heart.” (Chapter 1, page 3)</p>	<p>-Gregor, before his transformation, needed to fulfill the role of the main provider of the house. Because of this, he needed to do his best to be great at his position. Also, he needed to sacrifice sleep hours that he could use to get even better rest in travelling. This evidently was very hard for him and even more because all that sacrifice was for others rather than for</p>

	<p>-“But he never could have guessed what his sister out of the goodness of her heart in fact did. She brought him, to test his taste, an entire selection, all spread out on an old newspaper. There were old half-rotten vegetables, bones from the evening meal, covered with a white sauce which had almost solidified, some raisins and almonds, cheese which Gregor had declared inedible two days earlier, a slice of dry bread, and a slice of salted bread smeared with butter.” (Chapter 2, page 20)</p> <p>-“And it was something of a confirmation of their new dreams and good intentions when at the end of their journey their daughter got up first and stretched her young body.” (Chapter 3, page 48)</p>	<p>himself.</p> <p>-His sister, being in that moment just a growing girl, had the willingness to take care of his brother when everyone else turned their face away of him. She did it just because she was empathetic with her brother, but, despite that, she needed to sacrifice hours of her life to help Gregor with little help from her mom and none from her father.</p> <p>-This is one of the last scenes of the entire novel. Once Gregor dies (seen as a sacrifice), his family could finally leave the house and have a brand new start with their lives as if he was a charge that needed to be eliminated somehow.</p>
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4.3.2 Motifs

The next aspect to analyze are the motifs. In this section of the fourth chapter, the researcher will discuss the different motifs present in the novel. In order to do so, a general

description of each motif will be given alongside a brief explanation on how it is present in the book. With the analysis of the motifs, various of the elements, the most repeated and concurrent ones can be related with one another and why the author decided to use them.

4.3.2.1 Transformations

Evidently, the greatest transformation in the novel is Gregor into a big and monstrous insect. This change was mainly physical since it changed his human appearance, his tastes in food and abilities. However, these changes were also mental. He used to be a person who worked to take care of his family, spent time with his family, maybe hanged out and had a kind of normal life. Once he transformed, he had to abandon it all and stay in his room. This evidently turned his life upside down and brought plenty of other transformation in him. He felt anxious for not being able to shift for himself and because of the loneliness he felt and lack of connections, he started to feel depressed until his very last breath.

In this miserable story, Gregor is not the only one going through changes. Although he is the only one turning into a monster, there are also other characters who suffered personal transformations. One of the worth-mentioning changes is his sister Greta. At the beginning, she did not have much responsibilities, and she was just a little girl. As the story goes, she needed to take care of his brother since the rest of the family could not care a bit for him. This created in her a need to early mature. He worried about his brother, so she started taking care of him and it is noticed how she grows and turns into a woman. Actually, at the end of the story, they are thinking about her to get married.

Finally, there is a change. As mentioned before, Gregor brought with his transformation a poverty period to his family since he was the main provider. This definitely was a huge change for them since they passed from having at least the main meals on the table to almost nothing at all with just a little help of some savings. During Gregor, they struggled to even get something out of their house since Gregor would scare any new guests. However, once he dies, his family could bloom and finally start to plan their future plans and seek for better opportunities.

To conclude, almost all of the main characters of this story go through transformations. Whether a physical as Gregor turning into a monster and Greta going from a young girl to a woman or mental as Gregor with his depression and loneliness, Greta with her need to mature in order to take care about his brother or state with the family passing from poorness, due to the metamorphosis, to a better situation with Gregor passing.

4.3.2.2 Economic situation

The next recurrent motif that can be found in the novel is the economic situation of the Samsas and how it evolves during the narration. Since the beginning of the novel, readers can start noticing the financial condition of the whole family was not very good. Gregor was the only one working at the point the story began. However, once his metamorphosis arrives, his manager finds out and obviously he will not be able to continue working. This leads into an economic fail for the family.

In terms of Gregor Samsa's job position, it was very demanding and, although he really enjoyed planning his travelling schedules as we can read at the first chapter of the novel when his manager reached his house. Gregor Samsa kept complaining about his boss.

his position and the job in general stating that if it was not for his parents, he would not be there any longer in repeated times. Even though he hated his job, actually having the position as a travelling salesman meant that he could pay for his parents's debt, provide food for his family and plenty of other goods money can bring. When Gregor transformed into the big cockroach, he was not able to assist to work. Due to that, his manager went personally to his house to in order to check why he was not at work. Within the morning madness with the family and the manager trying to convince him to open the door, and after Gregor finally reaches out of the room, the manager freaks out and runs away letting the reader know he would not be any longer accepted in this job.

Because of the constant dependence on Gregor's income, they could not start working right away. The narrator also remarks that each member of the family was not that useful in terms of work; his mother had asthma and Grete was still pretty young to go out and look for a job, but Mr. Samsa did return to his old job as a bank messenger. This surely aggravated their situation.

The family was using the savings, and, in order to gather money in order to survive, they sold their jewelry and even tried to rent the house, but, as mentioned before, Gregor interfered by accidentally exposing himself to others. He was captivated with Grete's play and this caused the boarders to see him. This made the Samsas lose any opportunity to let anyone else stay at their house. At that point of the story, Gregor's family was truly upset with him and any chance he had to be accepted, if only there were any, got completely ruined.

4.3.2.3 Lack of rest

Among the various issues and challenges the Samsa family went through, there have been various moments in which some of the characters struggle with resting enough

to gather enough energy for the day. As all the other motifs in **The Metamorphosis**, Gregor Samsa is the main character who will suffer the worst. In the case of lack of rest, he was the one who started this misery. As a person, he could find himself comfortable in his bed and sleep well. However, as he transformed into a monster, he really struggled to fit into his bed; even when he rearranged himself, Gregor would not be able to rest as he desired, so he had to choose the hard and cold floor. Another reason he could not sleep properly was because of his anxiety and mental wars. Everyone in his family see him as a monster and treats him badly, that led into serious mental issues for Gregor. Finally, when he started feeling sick and dying, he struggled even more with his sleep and that might have shortened his time.

As the story goes, there is another Samsa whose rest and sleep was affected and disturbed. Gregor’s father usually skipped his sleep hours and took naps, as his son mentioned in the story, but did not have enough rest as he was supposed to. Also, as he got back to work, he would rather stay up at night and falls asleep in his chair with the whole uniform. That went to the very end of the story.

To wrap-up this motif, in the novel, these two characters had a lack of good rest. This definitely affected their mood paying attention on how they behaved and how their mental status constantly changed. Kafka of course took special attention when he included this element in the story to compare it to some aspect in his life.

Motif	Reference from the novel	Comment from the Researcher
Transformations	-“One morning, as Gregor Samsa was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that in bed he had been changed into a monstrous vermin.” (Chapter 1, page 3)	-This reference shows the most important transformation of the novel; Gregor from a human being into the big and inhuman insect, called by Granz Kafka a vermin which impacted all people in the house including Gregor itself.

	<p>-“And it was something of a confirmation of their new dreams and good intentions when at the end of their journey their daughter got up first and stretched her young body.” (Chapter 3, page 48)</p> <p>-“When she quickly realized the true state of affairs, her eyes grew large, she whistled to herself. However, she didn't restrain herself for long. She pulled open the door of the bedroom and yelled in a loud voice into the darkness, "Come and look. It's kicked the bucket. It's lying there, totally snuffed!"” (Chapter 3, page. 45)</p>	<p>-During the whole time Gregor was alive, Greta was still a girl. However, the months pass and once the author denotes Gregor died, she is now a young woman with long term goals and adult thinking.</p> <p>-This is when the cleaning woman discovers that Gregor died in his bedroom. This marks the end of an era of misery for the Samsas because the only bump that prevented them to continue was already gone. Finally, they could sell the house and look for something they could afford and get arraged once again with the money.</p>
<p>Economic situation</p>	<p>-“If I didn't hold back for my parents' sake, I'd have quit ages ago.” (Chapter 1, page 4)</p>	<p>-Gregor was in charge of maintaining his family income since his father was too old, his mother was sick and his sister too young. At this moment, they were earning good</p>

	<p>-“the money which Gregor had brought home every month—he had kept only a few florins for himself—had not been completely spent and had grown into a small capital amount.” (Chapter 2, page 24)</p> <p>-“But now he was standing up really straight, dressed in a tight-fitting blue uniform with gold buttons, like the ones servants wear in a banking company.” (Chapter 2, page 32)</p>	<p>money since his position was great.</p> <p>-Once Gregor transformed into the monster after the metamorphosis, he could not get back to his job. That meant his family needed to use the savings they had from Gregor’s income and they even sold valuable things they appreciated.</p> <p>-Gregor’s father started to work once again to make sure that economic impact can be reduced.</p>
<p>Lack of rest</p>	<p>-“One saw from the bed that it was properly set for four o'clock. Certainly it had rung. Yes, but was it possible to sleep through that noise which made the furniture shake? Now, it's true he'd not slept quietly, but evidently he'd slept all the more deeply. Still, what should he do now?”</p>	<p>-Gregor used to be able to sleep well when he was a human. However, as it can be seen in this reference, his new body brought plenty of mental issues for him as anxiety, so everything was starting to boom inside his head avoiding him to find real and effective rest besides napping.</p>

	<p>-“The father groped his way tottering to his chair and let himself fall in it. It looked as if he was stretching out for his usual evening snooze, but the heavy nodding of his head, which looked as if it was without support, showed that he was not sleeping at all.”</p>	<p>-Gregor’s father was also skipping his sleep. As noticed here, he had so much in mind that sleeping was turning into a secondary thing in his life. Him, as an old person, needs much more this rest opportunities to gather energy for the day, but he could not.</p>
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4.3.3 Symbols

Finally, for the analysis, the symbols of the novel will be mentioned and analyzed. Franz Kafka did a great job placing important symbolism in his novels. The Metamorphosis was not the exception, so a more than afforded description will be made to each one of them. That way, even the most insignificant looking object within the story that can have a rich background and an important role.

4.3.3.1 Room’s door

In every scenario within the novel in which Gregor is mentioned, the door of his room is also pointed out. He is always hiding behind his door since the beginning of the story. Not because he wanted, but because every member of his family was trying to hide him and they really repudiated his new appearance. That meant that the door was the only way in which anyone from the outer world could access to him.

These previous observation takes even more sense when the meaning of doors in literature is understood. According to an article from The Psychology Centre & Ta Moko Services (2012) called **The Symbolism of Doors**, “A door is often used to symbolize the passage from one world to another in religion, mythology, and literature. A doorway may

be used in lore and literature to symbolize a short transition, while a hallway might be used as a contrasting longer transition.” In this first case, this can represent the gate to hell since Gregor was considered a monster to all of them, and, from Gregor’s point of view, the door was his only path to the beloved human world where he used to live.

In the final chapter of the story, there is also the mentioning of the door located in Gregor’s room. However, this no longer has the symbolism represented before. Unfortunately, Gregor definitely was a charge and a living hell for his family, so when they finally find out he was gone, that door, as The Psychology Centre & Ta Moko Services (2012) continues stating, “An open door has been a long-time symbol of a new beginning. An open door shows that there’s a way out and can also provide a view of what lies ahead.” This means that Gregor’s door could give the entire Samsa family a new beginning away from the monster that used to live under the same roof as them.

4.3.3.2 Father’s uniform

At the beginning of the story, Franz Kafka let the reader know that no one in the Samsa’s family was working at the time of the metamorphosis but Gregor. After all the madness with the supervisor takes place, that job is lost. If they did not do something to reduce the impact of that loss, they must do something. However, none of them was in condition to work.

At one point during the story, Gregor’s father was in the need to, once again as he did in the past, to take the role of the main provider and the one in charge of the entire family. In the past, he was a banker and wore a uniform that was detailly described in the story. Now, he needed to return to his old job.

As the uniform was being described, Gregor looked amazed by it. When taking a look at the social background of Europe when the novel was being written, men’s role was very strong and respectfull. Because of this, that specific uniform surely represented

that respect his family had to him. Also, the fact he returned to his job, he recovered the “main” role of the house considered during those years.

4.3.3.3 The portrait of the woman

One of the items in Gregor’s room that causes more intrigue is a portrait of the woman which is mentioned within the narration of the story. This important item appears right at the beginning. At first sight, readers can imply that maybe that girl seemed pretty to Gregor and he decided to hang her picture. However, as this analysis goes, readers can understand how and why Franz Kafka included this item to give more character to the scene and a wider background in meaning.

When he was alone in his room, the picture of the woman was the only human connection he had. He, as a man, probably liked that woman, and that is why he is so obsessed in leaving the picture in the room. Gregor even tried to hide the picture when his sister, Greta, and his mother were taking away all the furniture from Gregor’s room. If he lost this, that will mean he will feel even more as a monster.

4.3.3.4 The violin

Similar to the picture of the woman, the sound of Greta’s violin also connected Gregor back to his human state. As a human, he is able to appreciate music and let himself go by it. After plenty of time being alone, when Greta started to play the piano for the guests, he really wanted to watch her closely. However, that did not turn out any good for him.

Besides Gregor, also the visitors were fascinated by her performance. Not only the instrument itself but also Greta’s ability to play it gave the meaningful background Kafka wanted to give the instrument. There was only a problem with Gregor and this instrument. The goal of the story was to isolate Gregor from any human manifestation and music has been very relevant for him this was not an exception.

4.3.3.5 Apples

Apples have been a symbol of something bad within the ages in literature. In the Bible, Adam and Eve got themselves doomed to a life away from God's paradise because they ate the fruit from the only tree He told them not to because of the Devil's temptation. That fruit is considered to be an apple by rabbids throughout the ages . Also, in other stories like the German tale Snowwhite written by the Grimm brothers, the apple that the main character eats after an "innocent" old lady offered it to her was poisoned and she felt into a spell .

In **The Metamorfosis**, apples will have a similar cognotation. Franz Kafka included apples in this novel when Gregor Samsa's father started to throw some directly to Gregor after he found his wife backed out and his daughter worried. By throwing apples at Gregor, his father managed to make him get back to his room as if he was a monster. One apple even got stuck into his back and worsened his sick condition with a great backache.

4.3.3.6 Weather and Season

The climate is a very present element in the whole story of the novel. This definitely gives a vivid background to the scenes where it is mentioned. As Krueger (2016) states in her vlog, "Weather plays an extremely important role in a novel. It provides atmosphere, helps set the tone and setting, foreshadows plot, and indicates a character's emotions." As well, she implies that not only in the novel creates an impact on the reader, but also in real life the different meteorologic conditions can affect people's personality and some other aspects including survival abilities in more severe scenarios. This definitely gives a richer all-around surrounding to the event.

The best example is at the moment Gregor Samsa discovers that he was turned into the monstrous "vermin". That event was acclimated with a storm that could be seen

outside the window and the omniscient narrator was in charge of describing it. With this information, the researcher could conclude that Franz Kafka inserted this element on purpose to create an atmosphere of desperation and worry as rain can cause in a person in real life. The rain keeps on and on whenever there are some circumstances in which Gregor's condition plays an important role.

The next meteorological condition is a season. The season that is mentioned in Spring. This scenario was presented moments previously to when the Samsa family discovers that Gregor has finally died in his room; as if his death brought a new beginning. In Spring season, as Taylor (2022) from LIFESCIENCE explains, "the natural world revives and reinvigorates after the colder winter months. During Spring, dormant plants begin to grow again, new seedlings sprout out of the ground and hibernating animals awake." In **The Metamorphosis**, this means that the Samsa's were about to get a new start and a big bloom. After spending all those months with Gregor, the monster, in their house, they could really finally start all the plans they had but could not perform because of him.

Symbols	Reference from the novel	Comment from the Researcher
Room's door	-“and already his father was knocking on one side door, weakly but with his fist. "Gregor, Gregor," he called out, "what's going on?"” (Chapter 1, page 5)	-In this scenario, something was occurring at the other side of Gregor's room door. The door was the only thing that separated him from the rest of his family. As if there were two different worlds about to collide.
Father's uniform	-“But now he was standing up really straight, dressed in a tight-fitting blue uniform with	-While Gregor's father was wearing his uniform, that showed that he was ready top

	gold buttons, like the ones servants wear in a banking company.” (Chapter , page 32)	take care of his family as the main provider.
The portrait of the woman	<p>–“It was a picture of a woman with a fur hat and a fur boa. She sat erect there, lifting up in the direction of the viewer a solid fur muff into which her entire forearm had disappeared.” (Chapter 1, page 3)</p> <p>“He quickly scurried up over it and pressed himself against the glass which held it in place and which made his hot abdomen feel good. At least this picture, which Gregor at the moment completely concealed, surely no one would now take away.” (Chapter 2, page 30)</p>	<p>-The fact that the picture was that detailed, it already deduces that it is important in the background of the story. This is the only connection Gregor has with the human world and represents his desires for a woman as a man.</p> <p>-At this moment when his mother and sister were taking furniture out of Gregor’s room, he tried his best to keep that with him as if he did not want to separate from his human nature by losing the picture of the woman.</p>
The violin	–“When the violin started playing, they became attentive, got up, and went on tiptoe to the hall door, at which they remained standing pressed up against one another.” (Chapter 3, page 40)	-Grete’s violin captivated everyone by it’s sweet and harmonious melody. This was a direct conection from the ears to the heart as beauty from the eyes.
Apples	–“As he now staggered around in this way in order to gather all his energies for running, hardly keeping his eyes open and feeling so listless that he had no	-When Gregor’s father notices what Gregor “did” to his mother, he started to throw apples as a way to despise him and make him go back into his

	<p>notion at all of any escape other than by running and had almost already forgotten that the walls were available to him, although they were obstructed by carefully carved furniture full of sharp points and spikes, at that moment something or other thrown casually flew down close by and rolled in front of him. It was an apple.” (Chapter 2, page 32)</p>	<p>room. Also, one of the apples got stuck into his back making him even more sick and leads him to death.</p>
<p>Weather and Season</p>	<p>-“The rain was still coming down, but only in large individual drops visibly and firmly thrown down one by one onto the ground.” (Chapter 1, page 13)</p> <p>-“One day in the early morning—a hard downpour, perhaps already a sign of the coming spring, struck the window panes—when the cleaning woman started up once again with her usual conversation, Gregor was so bitter that he turned towards her, as if for an attack, although slowly and weakly.” (Chapter 3, page 30)</p>	<p>-When the rain was falling, all what happened in the Samsa’s house was desperation and this climate was a great complement to the scene because it definitely increases that feeling and extend it to the reader.</p> <p>-After the whole madness with Gregor and when his death was near, the weather took a complete turn around. Different from the loud and constant rain, the Spring season was colorful and enjoyable and it marked a new beginning for the Samsas.</p>

Chapter V

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

In the last chapter of this work, the conclusions of the analysis made in the previous section will be described according to the objectives set in the Introductory Framework. Also, the research question, how is the monstrosity of humanity in real life reflected on the novel?, will be answered according to the outcomes obtained in order to give a more complete close to the work. That way, future readers can obtain more information on the relationship between the novel **The Metamorphosis** and the sociological approach and how the aspects are present vividly within the novel.

5.2 Conclusions

In this section, all the conclusions of the analysis and the investigation will be described. Thanks to all the references that gave support to all this work all along the theoretical and the methodological framework, the researcher was able to acknowledge all the outcomes of the novel **The Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka. In order to perform the conclusion, the researcher will show how the specific objectives were fulfilled with meaningful feedback directly from this work. Then, as previously stated, the research question will be answered according to the analysis done within the previous chapter.

In addition some unexpected results will be shown; evidently, besides all the results gathered, there are some findings that went a mile ahead and worth mentioning. Following the unexpected results, there are other parts that could be improved if there was more time and if the research was a little wider like a proper thesis. These recommendations will be also noted, so if future readers would like to continue with further researches with this topic and novel, all of them can follow the mentioned

guidelines to get the best out of their researches to continue the legacy that Franz Kafka left with his book and other literature pieces.

5.2.1 Illustrate how people behaved after facing Gregor's condition.

In first place, one of the goals of this research was to know how the actual metamorphosis of Gregor Samsa impacted on others when they witnessed him and their inhuman reaction from a real point of view. Gregor's aspect, since he is transformed into an insect, could be repulsive to others and even more because he was enormous compared to a diminutive insect. Those reactions are critical to the novel and the background Franz Kafka wanted to represent for his writing style, as noticed in previous chapters, was a way in which he evaded and complained about his reality.

From the beginning of the story, Gregor himself was surprised by its new body because he evidently was used to his human body and this unexpected metamorphosis. He wanted to stand up and go to his job, but he could not. He struggled to move and considered himself a monster, so he did not want anyone from outside his room to see him. Also, he noticed his voice changed and even he was struggling to communicate in the correct tone of voice.

Besides Gregor, any person who saw him was astonished by his repulsive look and the fact he could not communicate himself made everything worse because everyone thought he wanted to attack them. At the very first moment anybody saw Gregor, he tried to explain why he was late for work, but the only thing he achieved was everybody screaming and his supervisor running away out of the main door. Regarding his family, they all first rejected Gregor's looks and his father more than the others. The only ones that at some point felt empathy for him was his sister Greta and his mother, which backed out when seeing him directly.

Everything was bad enough that they wanted him to die, so they could remake their lives. The only thing that stopped them from selling the house was Gregor because his family could not take him with them. That means that the overall transformation was causing them rejection to Gregor. Not only physical rejection but it was also reaching their economic, social and moral status.

5.2.2 Explain the consequences in Gregor's life after his family rejects him.

After his transformation to the giant insect, Gregor's life was never the same. Besides all the struggle he had just to manage with all the changes he was going through, his family also rejected him and isolated him from the rest of his family. As mentioned before, Gregor may have seemed as a big monster that could hurt somebody as people usually see insects that are totally harmless, but he was still a human that needs love and affection from his relatives. However, after his transformation and after losing his job, they all started to reject him as if he was nothing even when they did not want to.

Some of the issues Gregor Samsa had because of the rejection will be mentioned. In first place, he started to suffer anxiety because he was not able to successfully communicate with other and the only thing he achieved was the others to frighten. Due to the anxiety, he got worse because he was not able to stand irritating sounds. Also, because his father thought he was harmful, he did not only make Gregor stay locked in his room by force, but also he harmed Gregor badly since his new body was way more sensitive than normal skin. This was a mediate cause of his death because, little by little, his wounds made him weaker and unhealthier. Nothing but bad things happened to Gregor because of all that rejection.

5.2.3 Correlate the plot of the story with the author's society background.

As seen in the entire development of this work, what happened in **The Metamorphosis** with Gregor was that he was the main victim of all the miseries that

happened along the whole story. Within the miseries, facts of real life that happened at the same time its author Franz Kafka was alive and on in his career. When the story was written, between the first and second world war, the situation all around the world was very severe and in Europe, Franz Kafka's home continent this conflict was far from worse. As evidenced in the antecedents of the investigation with the end of the second world war, the beginning of the second and Nietzsche's philosophy, everything was about one group or country considering them bigger or more powerful than others. One of the biggest issues from that time is that Hitler was rising and Kafka was part of the Jew people to whom Hitler hated. In the story, this can be seen when the Samsa's felt they could exclude Gregor that, despite his physical appearance, he was still a human being inside and when they started to blame Gregor for everything of the bad things that were happening.

Also, Kafka's personal life was as well a martyrdom speaking about family as his biography in the theoretical framework explained. He was never enough for his family and his father was not the best parent example, so he decided to express those feelings in **The Metamorphosis**. Gregor, when human, his relationship with his family was not that bad besides the great respect he had for his father. However, when the mutation happened, he became everyone's problem. He stopped bringing money to the house, he was scaring everybody and he was avoiding the family to progress, but it was due to his condition and the lack of communication and not because he did not want to help.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

For this investigation, the researcher stated a question which gave sense to the work. The question to answer was to explain **how the monstrosity of humanity in real life is reflected on the novel**. With the help of all the research and the final analysis this inquiry could be addressed. In this section of the conclusion, that answer will be reviewed and pointed out.

One of the main focuses of Franz Kafka's writings is to escape from his reality and all his suffering that, as noticed in his biography, was very strong and even because his religion was persecuted within those ages. All people deserve to be treated with respect no matter his religion, ethnic, sexual orientation nor any other aspect that could mark a difference between each other; that is what we as human beings deserve and any other way will be monstrous. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. As evidenced in First and Second World Wars, Costa Rican Civil War, and Nietzches's philosophy monstrous aspects, people from different regions suffered from extreme racism, genocide and all types of discrimination just because one region felt superior than the others.

In the novel, a very similar way of monstrosity is manifested within the Samsa's family, Gregor and even his previous job position. Before the metamorphosis, Gregor's job position as a traveller salesman was very demanding and, even though Gregor was a very hardworking and responsible man and sacrificed himself for the good of the family since anyone else was in the capacity or will to work, his boss and supervisor thought bad about him and at some point exploited him. In his family, everything was pretty normal, Gregor did not argue about bad behavior from his parents or her sister. Yet, when the metamorphosis hit with no warning, everybody started to reject him and stopped seeing him as a human. Even through Gregor changed his physical appearance, he was still a human inside. That means he could feel every monstrous demeanor against him and that affected him mentally.

Besides all the mental breakdown this could cause him, he was also forced to be isolated from the rest of his family. In order to avoid seeing him and making sure he will not escape to the rest of the world, his father decided to lock him in his room. Even when his sister was helping him, his door needed to remain locked to avoid any inconveniences.

That means that he stayed there as a prisoner just because he looked different from the rest.

5.4 Unexpected Results

Talking about unexpected results, there is one in specific worth mentioning. This reaserch was meant to purely analyze the novel **The Metamorphosis** along the sociocultural approach since, as evidenced all throughout the study, these two share human behavior within a society; in this case, Gregor's family ecosystem. Despite this, a sense of conscience can be done about the way people feel when they are rejected and how it affects all parties involved, even the ones who reject for bad.

As it could be evidenced before, Franz Kafka also had a difficult lifestyle full of negative thoughts from his father and other people. With his works and writings, he managed to escape from his reality and, with the analysis done in this investigation, empathy for those who are rejected can be achieved.

5.5 Recommendations

Surely, the elements gathered for the completion of this research were carefully selected in order to make sure the work had great quality. However, due to the timeframe, just the goal could be reviewed and analyzed. Going through Franz Kafka's life and his social background during his enitre existence and specifically his career, it could be noticed his style of writing and the titles of his oher works could give the researcher a hint.

However, getting deeper into his pieces and compare **The Metamorphosis** with the rest could mean a huge improvement. Having a different point of view on Kafka's mind when writing could possibly bring other question when analyzing a single work because there could be elements in common that will help understand why those were

written that way. Also, when the researcher relies on other works from the same author, better analysis from the book are currently reviewed with greater arguments.

Moreover, another recommendation could be to analyze the book with a second main approach. As it happens with getting further feedback from other books from the same author, getting into an analysis from different approaches can provide richer conclusions and closure. In this investigation, the researcher managed to compare some approaches such as the biographical, formalistic, mythical and psychological to the sociological since the sociological includes aspects from the other approaches and it greatly fits with the purpose of the investigation. Even so, getting deeper into a secondary approach can give the whole investigation a second pillar to make the arguments even stronger than they already turned out to be.

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Annexes

7.1 Tables for Chapter 4

7.1.1 Table for Theories vs. Literary Work

Approach and Theorie	Reference from the Novel	Comments from the Researcher

7.1.2 Table for Themes

Theme	Reference from the Novel	Comments from the Researcher

7.1.3 Table for Motifs

Motif	Reference from the Novel	Comments from the Researcher

7.1.4 Table for Symbols

Symbol	Reference from the Novel	Comments from the Researcher

7.2 Physical Book used for References

A NEW
TRANSLATION BY
SUSAN
BERNOFSKY

WITH AN
INTRODUCTION BY
DAVID
CRONENBERG

THE
METAMORPHOSIS
OF
A
BUG

FRANZ
KAFKA