

UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS



THESIS SUBMITTED TO OBTAIN THE BACHELOR IN ENGLISH

**Literary Analysis of the book “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” by Edgar Allan Poe
through a Sociocultural Approach.**

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Abstract

The purpose of the research is to analyze the narrative techniques and thematic elements in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* to understand their contribution to the development of modern detective fiction. To achieve this, the technique of literary analysis was used as the main method, in addition, academic sources and a detailed study of the literary work were used to understand literary elements that were reflected with reality, that is, social and cultural aspects of the nineteenth century, the time when the literary story was written. In addition, the dissertation demonstrated important elements such as the characterization of the characters and the respective impact they generated in the plot, the main themes that explored an approach in which they could be connected to the reality of the nineteenth century society were identified and finally it was shown that Edgar Allan Poe used narrative resources for an eloquent construction of his story.

The dissertation succeeds in contributing to a better understanding of the sociocultural impact on the work, as well as demonstrating the value of Edgar Allan Poe's influence on the detective literary genre.

Resumen

The dissertation seeks to analyze the work of the author Edgar Allan Poe, Murders in the Rue Morgue, with a sociocultural approach. The purpose of the research is to find the narrative techniques and thematic elements to understand their contribution to the development of modern detective fiction. A literary analysis was used to concretize the evaluation of the key elements in the work. In addition, the research is also able to examine how the work reflects the norms and beliefs of the nineteenth century, to get correct and useful information, academic sources were used, as well as literary theories that reinforce the data collected. Furthermore, aspects such as the characterization of characters like the protagonist and antagonist enriched the study carried out successfully, because thanks to the study, it is possible to express issues that contribute to the story and its socio-cultural message. During the research, topics such as instinct, reasoning, and symbolism that contribute to the understanding of the sociocultural impact of this detective work were approached.

Tabla de contenido

Chapter I	15
Introductory Framework	15
1.1 Problem Statement	16
1.2 Objectives of the Investigation	17
1.2.1 General Objective	17
1.2.2 Specific Objectives:	17
1.3 Justification of the Study.....	18
1.4 Antecedents	19
1.5 Scope	21
Chapter II	22
Theoretical Framework	22
2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches	23
2.2 Literature and Theory Definitions	23
2.2.1 Definition of Literature	23
2.2.2 Definition of Theory	24
2.2.3 Definition of Literary Theory	24
2.3 Literary Theories.....	25
2.3.1 Reader Response Theory	25
2.3.2 Criticism.....	26
2.3.3 Literary Approaches.....	26
2.4 Themes, Symbols, and Motifs	28
2.4.1 Theme	28
2.4.2 Symbols	28
2.4.3 Motifs.....	29
2.4.4 The Significance of Literary Elements in Poe’s Narrative.....	29
2.5 Authors Biography	30
2.5.1 The Role of Context in Literary Analysis.....	31
2.5.2 Literary influences	32
2.5.3 Important Literary Plays.....	33
2.5.4 Influential life aspects in his work.	34
2.6 Plot of the book "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"	35
2.7 Key points.....	36

2.8 Main Issues.....	37
2.8.1 Main Characters	37
2.9 Resolution	39
2.9.1 Importance of the Sociocultural Approach.	39
Chapter III	41
Methodological framework	41
3.1 Research Approach	44
3.2 Research Design	48
3.3 Information Sources.....	49
3.4 Analysis Categories	49
3.4.1 Narrative techniques.....	49
3.4.2 Literary resources	50
3.4.3 Cultural context	51
3.4.4 Social Context	51
3.5 Data collection Instruments.....	52
3.6 Collection data process and data analysis.....	53
Chapter IV.....	55
Data Analysis	55
4.1 Approaches to the Investigation	55
4.2 Theories vs Literary Work-	56
4.2.2 Rationality vs. Instinct.....	62
4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols	62
4.3.1 Themes Chart	63
4.3.2 Motifs Chart	65
4.3.3 Symbols Chart	67
Chapter V.....	69
Conclusions and recommendations	69
5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion	69
5.2 Conclusions.....	70
5.2.1 To identify and examine the literary devices used by Poe in The Murders in the Rue Morgue and their impact on the storytelling	71
5.2.2 To explore the characterization of key figures and how their portrayal contributes to the plot and the development of detective fiction as a genre.....	72

5.2.3 To evaluate the themes presented in the story, such as logic versus intuition, and how they are conveyed through Poe’s narrative structure	72
5.3 Research Question	73
5.4 Unexpected Results	73
5.5 Recommendations	75

Tabla de tablas

Tabla 1 Reader Response Theory	58
Tabla 2 Cultural Criticism	59
Tabla 3 Sociocultural Approach	60
Tabla 4. Theme	63
Tabla 5. Motifs.....	65
Tabla 6. Symbols	67

Tabla de figuras

Figure 1	46
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Chapter I

Introductory Framework

The literary work "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is a short story by the writer and poet Edgar Allan Poe, according to the website britannica.com, it was first published in *Graham's Magazine* in 1841, and it is considered one of the first detective stories. (The Editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 2011). The Murders in the Rue Morgue is an important book in the field of literature. The story focuses on the protagonist C. Auguste Dupin, a detective in Paris, who is interested in a case in which a brutal murder that occurred in Rue Morgue. As previously mentioned, this literary work is considered one of the first stories focused on detectives. This is relevant because it was a watershed for that type of story. The work gives the concept of a brilliant detective who, with logical rigor and good observation, can solve unknown dilemmas.

According to the britannica.com website, the author of the work "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" was written by Edgar Allan Poe, born in 1809 and died in 1849, who is a fundamental pillar in North American literature (Barzun et al., 2024). Edgar Allan Poe is known for his works with dark overtones and his poetry. Poe was important for American literature; he managed to pioneer genres such as science fiction and detective nature. Poe is loved and praised for his way of creating disturbing environments and characters with diverse personalities, thus creating populations that function for a sociocultural analysis.

Furthermore, this dissertation will focus on the sociocultural part of Edgar Allan Poe's book, that is, it will explore the way of thinking and behaviors of the characters involved in the book. This approach is powerful as it can reveal the inner ideas and complexities of the

characters and manages to offer a better understanding of the actions and reactions within the narrative of the book. Studying the sociocultural aspects allows us to delve into the mind of each character, thus achieving a better understanding of internal conflicts, and emotions and providing depth to literary analysis because understanding these aspects is also related in a certain way to human experiences and behaviors.

A sociocultural approach to the novel "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", by writer Edgar Allan Poe. can allow us to explore how the values, norms and social context of the 19th century influence the characters and the plot. Edgar Allan Poe was a great writer who, with the use of psychology, managed to create environments of mystery, tension, and terror.

1.1 Problem Statement

The literary work "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", by the American writer Edgar Allan Poe, published for the first time in 1841, is recognized globally for being a great pillar for detective stories, so much as being considered one of the first modern detective works. This work, being recognized around the world, has been analyzed by many people; however, there is a lack in terms of studies focused on the psychological nuances of the characters explored in the literary work.

This study aims to address the lack of addressing sociocultural issues in the characters. The objective is to explore the sociocultural factors, behaviors, and motivations of the characters in the work to achieve a more detailed understanding of the actions that each one has within the plot. Applying a sociocultural approach to this work can reveal the internal complexities and provide a detailed view of the techniques used by the author Edgar Allan Poe to create his narratives.

To conclude with this part of the study, the research question of this area would be: how can the sociocultural approach of the characters in Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' enrich our understanding of the narrative and the motivations behind the characters' actions?

1.2 Objectives of the Investigation

The research objectives play a crucial role since they are a guide, thus achieving the goals that the investigation will be about. On the one hand, the general objective is responsible for showing a broad goal that is aspired to be achieved at the end of the project, and the specific objectives move into more specific and detailed goals that must be achieved to achieve the general objective successfully (Alonso, 2023). The specific and general objectives provide a broad and clear vision of what will be developed during the research.

1.2.1 General Objective

To analyze the narrative techniques and thematic elements in Edgar Allan Poe's The Murders in the Rue Morgue to understand their contribution to the development of modern detective fiction

1.2.2 Specific Objectives:

1.2.2.1.1 To identify and examine the literary devices used by Poe in The Murders in the Rue Morgue and their impact on the storytelling

1.2.2.2 To explore the characterization of key figures and how their portrayal contributes to the plot and the development of detective fiction as a genre

1.2.2.3 To evaluate the themes presented in the story, such as logic versus intuition, and how they are conveyed through Poe's narrative structure

1.3 Justification of the Study

This study aims to develop a literary analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's book "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" with a sociocultural approach. The importance of this study lies in exploring in detail the sociocultural complexities in the author's characters and narrative. This approach is essential to understanding things that transcend the physical plane, such as values, norms, and social context. This can give us a better vision of the narrative techniques applied by Edgar Allan Poe. This study seeks to uncover previously unexplored meanings related to the inner workings of the characters' minds. This approach enriches the way of understanding Poe's narrative by highlighting the sociocultural landscapes that make the work follow a logical course.

Analyzing "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" from a sociocultural perspective will enhance our understanding of the literary art of Edgar Allan Poe, and it will also contribute to the broader field of literary studies. It can offer new sociocultural perspectives on his work. This research can reach diverse audiences, for example, students of literature who will benefit from a nuanced understanding of the sociocultural context in Poe's books, contemporary readers interested in sociocultural aspects of thrillers and detective fiction will find value in the analysis as it will provide relevant elements embodied in the work. Educators can also use this study to enrich their teaching methods, providing students with a multifaceted view of literary texts.

1.4 Antecedents

Edgar Allan Poe, a prominent American poet, narrator, and critic, is widely considered one of the best short story writers of all time thanks to his works which not only marked a before and after in American literature but also significantly impacted literature internationally. In addition to his importance as a storyteller, Poe was also a great poet. His poetry notably influenced many European and American writers, a notable case is that of Baudelaire's French symbolism, which was inspired by his verses and poetic resources.

The influence of Poe works according to the website *The Voice of Galicia* is that his influence on literature is deep and extensive, including authors such as Charles Baudelaire, William Faulkner, Franz Kafka, Lovecraft, Arthur Conan Doyle, Guy de Maupassant, Jules Verne, Thomas Mann, Jorge Luis Borges, and Julio Cortázar (Far, 2017).

Poe is recognized as the pioneer of the modern literary story, the science fiction novel, and the detective novel, where according to the website *The Voice of Galicia* in the latter "he achieved great popularity with the detective stories starring the gentleman Auguste Duping, such as *The Crimes of the Rue Morgue*, *The Purloined Letter* and *The Mystery of Marie Roget*" (Far, 2017). Poe's talent for creating horror stories has left a mark on contemporary literature, securing his position as one of the most universally recognized men in literature.

P.D James (2010), in his book entitled "Everything I know about crime novels" had the objective of answering the existing mysteries surrounding the "crime novel" or as it is known, the police literature with dark or mysterious themes. The information in this book was presented through chapters, which have the purpose of clarifying the doubts established in the main purpose of the book. The book concludes that in crime literature it is important to have realism,

so that readers can identify with the feeling of hope in each story. Also relevant is the presence of convincing characters that interact in contexts or scenarios where a plot develops. All these components together generate an interaction with readers where emotions are stimulated.

Barone & Amendola. (2017), in their book entitled *Edgar Allan Poe across Disciplines, Genres and languages*, determined as a purpose to preserve Edgar Allan Poe's writing because new or renewed genres and subgenres were developed from it, such as thrillers and detective novels. The was presented under two sections which were denominated as section I: Edgar Allan Poe in Language, Literature and translation studies, and section II: Edgar Allan Poe in Communication and the Arts. These sections showed that Edgar Allan Poe's influence on culture and society occurred through various publications, where his literature established itself as innovative, attracting the arts, the media and society.

Rojas and Ovares, (1995) in their work entitled “100 years of Costa Rican literature” explore the historical and cultural context of the Costa Rican nation. This book delves into how the country's literature was influenced; a great variety of authors were a fundamental pillar to express themes such as socio-political and cultural tensions. Topics such as social change and the construction of Costa Rican identity are discussed. This book gives a glimpse into the past presenting what Costa Rican literature, culture and society went through to become what it is today.

Keren Muñoz, (2020), in her thesis “A Literary Analysis About the Impact That Social Norms Generate in Teenagers Using a Socio-Cultural Approach Based on the Book Series *Divergent* by Veronica Roth During the Second Quarter of 2020” aims to inspire or motivate future students in the high school area to address social issues, especially focused on teenagers.

The research encourages an approach that analyzes social norms, being a great contribution to delve into social norms and the influence on the population.

1.5 Scope

1.5.1 Delve into the Sociocultural Analysis of the Work of Edgar Allan Poe.

1.5.2 Explore the Sociocultural Elements in Poe's Narrative.

1.5.3 Foster a Better Understanding of Characters and Sociocultural Themes in Detective Literature.

1.5.4 Contribute to the Study of Sociocultural environment in 19th Century Literature.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is a chapter of great value for the research due to its variety of informative contributions. In addition, the theoretical framework is responsible for pointing out or showing the literary theories and approaches used and the key themes, symbols, and motifs analyzed in the selected literary work. Additionally, relevant biographical details of the author and a brief plot summary are included to provide context for the analysis.

A theoretical framework is what frames, contains, locates, and makes relevant the meaning of the problem. Daros, William R. (2002) The author of the book “What is a theoretical framework?” explains that a theoretical framework does not fulfill a function in a research but rather fulfills several functions that make the reader have a clearer view of the points addressed in the research. For example, it makes it possible to describe the problems in the research. It seeks to give meaning to the facts or phenomena and to guide the organization of the same, and finally the theoretical framework has the function of being an integrating axis of the entire research process.

In the case of this research, the approach will be sociocultural, so it will address the society and culture of Edgar Allan Poe's book “Murders in the Rue Morgue” and its impact on the society of the century in which the work was written and the reflection of today's society.

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

This section has the purpose of digressing among the methodologies and definitions that the researcher will use for an accurate understanding or analysis of the work “Murders in the Rue Morgue” by Edgar Allan Poe.

2.2 Literature and Theory Definitions

2.2.1 Definition of Literature

According to the book “What is Literature? A Definition Based on Prototypes”, written by Jim Meyer (1997), literature can be defined from different approaches, depending on the criteria adopted. In his book Jim proposes a definition based on criteria, based on prototypes, pragmatic, traditional and functional criticism, each one gives a different point of view to literature; however, they end up providing diversity in the literary field, which is of great value for writers and literary critics. Literature can have different definitions depending on the approach that the person wants to give it. However, considering the above mentioned information, it is valid to consider that literature is an artistic technique to express ideas through language. It is capable of transmitting emotions and feelings with the stories and reflections existing in literary works. The existence of literature is of great importance because of its impact on culture and society. Thanks to literature, it is possible to learn and be entertained with stories and relevant information, to realize the value of literature in society just take a look at the past and notice that thanks to literature we have historical memory, that is, there are written records of the past and we can understand how the culture and society of the past worked, in addition to promoting the development of language over time.

2.2.2 Definition of Theory

John G Wacker (1998), in his book “A Definition of Theory: Research Guidelines for Different Theory-Building Research Methods in Operations Management” mentions that the definition of theory is a key concept that is clearly explained to establish the framework of the theory. In other words, it is a space in which things must be explained in detail for a better understanding during the research. Wacker emphasizes that a theory must offer conceptual clarity to be considered effective, thus generating that this framework allows for to analyze complex phenomena or concepts and to be a guide for the research and its readers. A good theory is one that is capable of answering questions that are generated in the dissertation and that enriches the content for the reader.

2.2.3 Definition of Literary Theory

Ibrahim, Almazaidah and Allawzi (2024) in their research article “Literary theory and its role in modern and contemporary criticism: A critical approach” give to understand that literary theory is defined as “all the rules, concepts and assumptions that determine the elements of the literary work, its characteristics, and the nature of the artistic sciences, in a way that tends to abstraction with the intention of extracting general rules and concepts about the origins of literature”. Literary theory is important for its contribution of tools that allow us to explore the levels, complexities and meanings of diverse literary works. In addition, its value allows understanding literature as a social and cultural phenomenon, constructing and explaining literary phenomena. “It is described as an articulated set of presuppositions, principles, criteria and guidelines that explain the nature of an object or the development of a process. In its concrete application to Literature, the term “theory” encompasses, consequently, the series of “presuppositions”, “principles”, “criteria” and “guidelines” on which the notion of “literature”

and the processes of elaboration and reception of texts are based” Hernández Guerrero, José Antonio (2022). Considering all the information provided above, it is possible to conclude that literary theory is an articulated set of principles and criteria which provide the opportunity to clearly analyze and understand literature and its various types of dimensions, providing tools to help explore the meaning of literary works. In conclusion, the socio-cultural approach based mainly on the psychologist Lev Vygotsky values the importance of social interaction and cultural context.

2.3 Literary Theories

The literary theories are the elements responsible for generating a better understanding of the reading to be analyzed. Literary theories are necessary tools for the elaboration of a dissertation with a literary nature. If they are used correctly, it is possible to reach conclusions or capture eloquently the phenomena exposed in the work, the author's ideas or explain what happened in events within the literary story (Translated with DeepL.com (free version)).

2.3.1 Reader Response Theory

This theory highlights the importance of the reader in interpreting a text. It proposes that meaning is generated through the interaction between the reader and the text (Selden, Widdowson, & Brooker, 2013). Murders in the Rue Morgue, literary work of the author Edgar Allan Poe, is full of mystery, that is to say, it requires an active participation of the reader for a better understanding of the story. Interpreting clues or evaluating the logic of detective Dupin is a task that makes each reader be able to have their respective interpretation. In addition, the work has a structure which makes the reader follow the way of reasoning of detective Dupin, which makes this theory of high value to understand the literary work

2.3.2 Criticism

Cultural criticism analyzes literature considering its cultural and historical context. It examines how cultural values, beliefs, and practices influence the creation of literary works. (During, 1999). Edgar Allan Poe's *Murders in the Rue Morgue* was written in April 1841, that is, 184 years have passed since the creation of the story until today in the year 2025. The 19th century was an era which has many different aspects compared to what we see in the 21st century. For example, in the 19th century, criminology was still in its early stages. There were not as many advances in the study of human reasoning. Understanding and analyzing these details means a lot for a correct study of the literary work.

2.3.3 Literary Approaches

The sociocultural approach has social interaction as the basis of learning. In addition to having a major role in what culture is, because it is built through the collaboration and communication of people around the world with cultural tools such as language, symbols, among other forms that generate the way in which society thinks and learns. According to authors Sarah Scott and Annemarie Palincsar in their research “Social Theory” (n.d.), Lev Vygotsky's sociocultural theory focuses on the importance of social and cultural context in cognitive development. The sociocultural approach was developed mainly by the Russian psychologist Lev Vygotsky. He laid the foundations of what would become this type of approach in the future. Vygotsky argued that language is a fundamental and precise pillar for the human beings to have critical thinking. In his research, he stated that language transcends barriers and not only has the function of communicating, but also of structuring thought and way of understanding the world. Interaction among other human beings is fundamental for cognitive development, Vygotsky used to emphasize this point of view very well, because human beings learn from interaction,

collaboration and communication with others. In addition, it is important to mention culture within this list of fundamental tools that form the sociocultural approach. Society always evolves and progresses with time; therefore, with time human beings create traditions and cultures. Vygotsky argued that learning and development are linked to cultural contexts.

Karim Shabani in his article “Applications of Vygotsky's sociocultural approach for teachers' professional development” mentions that Vygotsky's theory explores not only the individual functions, but their interrelationships with other functions. It examines the change in interrelationships among individual functions in the formation of new psychological systems. This theory underscores the social situation of development, that is, the context in which social practices or activities occur (2016). This way of thinking or rather, approach of the Russian psychologist Lev Vygotski, emphasizes how the dynamic nature of the human being is developed in a way in which psychological functions do not only act in isolation. Lev tries to imply that the social and cultural contexts have a fundamental role in the formation of the social mentality. Moreover, Hild Elisabeth Hoff in her study “Fostering the ‘Intercultural Reader’? An Empirical Study of Socio-Cultural Approaches to EFL Literature” implies that intertextuality refers to how a text relates to and communicates with other texts. This concept causes readers to recognize the connection between different works and contexts, thus promoting a deeper understanding of literature and its cultural impact (2017). Intertextuality is an important tool within the sociocultural approach, understanding its function is of great help to obtain a better understanding of the aforementioned approach. Intertextuality provides us with connections between other works and their sociocultural environment, thus allowing us to compare aspects such as the cultural, historical, or social contexts.

2.4 Themes, Symbols, and Motifs

For a work to be evaluated correctly, its analysis must have these three literary aspects: the themes, symbols, and motifs that break up the literary work and allow for a better understanding in greater depth.

2.4.1 Theme

“Theme is the main or central idea in a literary work. It is the unifying element of a story. A theme is not a summary of characters or events. Rather, it is the controlling idea or central insight of the story.” For Stone Writing Center, (2023), the theme of a work is built around the events that the characters of the literary work go through and by their social and cultural contexts of the plot. With the use of the theme, it is possible for authors to explore the social dynamics and conflicts of society at specific moments of the story, generating a reflection of the real society in the fictional literary work. For this reason, the theme allows readers to understand not only the plot of the work, but also its social and cultural implications.

2.4.2 Symbols

“Human cultures use symbols as a means to express their specific ideology, social structures, and to represent characteristics of their specific culture. Thus, symbols carry different meaning depending upon one’s cultural background. The meaning of a symbol is not inherent in the symbol itself, but is culturally learned” RAJKUMAR M. (2019). Symbols in a sociocultural approach are important because these literary elements can reflect the cultural context, that is, they show beliefs and customs of the society, achieving a strong connection between the base text and its cultural context, having a better understanding of the messages and interpretations.

2.4.3 Motifs

Let us see how motifs are defined by the article “Repeated patterns in the story, particularly the symbolic,” by The Writing Center. (n.d.) as the repeated patterns that present symbolism that plays a fundamental role in the construction of meaning and an enhanced interpretation of the main message of the literary work analyzed. In a sociocultural approach, motifs give a positive help in understanding the values and beliefs of the society reflected in the literature.

2.4.4 The Significance of Literary Elements in Poe’s Narrative

The literary analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* from a sociocultural approach allows us to explore and understand the main function of themes, symbols and motifs. These literary elements work together to convey profound ideas about society and the human mind. In addition, literary elements can enrich the narrative, but they also reflect the social and cultural tensions of the 19th century. By analyzing these aspects, it is possible to understand how Poe uses his work to address, criticize, or develop the values, fears, and cultural dynamics of his time.

It is relevant to mention what main function the aforementioned literary elements have. Themes in a literary work represent the central ideas that structure the message of the story. Symbols, on the other hand, are key tools that Poe uses to add depth. An example of this is the orangutan, this being can symbolize the strength and irrationality of the human being. Finally, the motifs are recurring elements that reinforce the main themes, such as the constant presence of the duality between the rational and the instinctive. This is a point in favor of the development of

the plot. All three elements work to build a narrative that not only entertains, but also invites reflection on the human condition.

2.5 Authors Biography

Edgar Allan Poe, born in 1809, was an American writer, poet, editor, and critic, recognized for his mastery of the short story and for being a precursor of the horror and mystery genre. He was the son of Elizabeth Arnold Poe and David Poe, who left him an orphan when he was only two years old. After being orphaned, he was taken in by John Allan, a prosperous Richmond businessman, who took charge of his upbringing and education.

Poe began his education at the University of Virginia, but due to his addiction to gambling and alcoholism, he was forced to abandon his studies. Subsequently, he abandoned the position his adoptive father had designated for him and decided to move to Boston, where he anonymously published his first book, *Tamerlane and Other Poems*.

Before publishing his second book, Poe enlisted in the army, where he served for two years. In 1829, he published *Al Aaraaf*, his second book of poems. That same year, thanks to the influence of his adoptive father, he obtained a place at the West Point Military Academy, although he was expelled a few months later for neglect of duty. In 1835, Poe married his cousin, Virginia Clemm, who was only 13 years old. Unfortunately, Virginia became ill with tuberculosis and died of the disease. According to the article by Biography.com, Poe was overcome by grief after the death of his beloved Virginia in 1847. While he continued to work, he suffered from poor health and struggled financially. His final days remain a mystery. He left Richmond on September 27, 1849, and was supposedly on his way to Philadelphia. On October 3, Poe was found in Baltimore in great distress. He was taken to Washington College Hospital, where he

died on October 7. His last words were "Lord, help my poor soul." (2016) Poe died on October 7, 1849. The cause of his death remains unknown, although various speculations point to factors such as alcohol, drugs, heart failure, rabies, suicide, among others.

Edgar Allan Poe published 67 short stories during his lifetime. In addition, he devoted himself to literary criticism, journalism and publishing. Due to his impact on literature, he was considered the father of the modern short story, as well as a pioneer in the genres of mystery, psychological horror and detective literature. He also influenced the development of science fiction. The book provided by Tacet Books (2020) defines Edgar Allan Poe as a critic, poet and writer who centered his bases on the gothic and who acquired worldwide fame for his horror stories. He was born in Boston, United States on January 19, 1809.

2.5.1 The Role of Context in Literary Analysis

According to the book *Edgar Allan Poe: A Critical Bibliography* (1997), the writer developed during a time when the United States was in internal conflict. During this process, American literature was creating an essence of its own, different from that which had been imposed by the Europeans.

The prose created by Edgar Allan Poe has been the subject of analysis, a pioneer of contemporary literature established the main literary currents in posthumous literature. Ribera (1996) comments that the tendency to the fantastic, terrifying, pathological and enigmatic is permeated by crude realism, abundant detail and the ability to establish logic in the face of the absurd and incomprehensible, the constant defiance of the limits of reality was supported by intensive reasoning and analysis.

The interpretation of his complex and fascinating works were decisive in the development and growth of literature, the analytical approach and the implicit criticism of social causes or stigmas rooted in society and human nature were the bases that allowed the broadest interpretation of reality and psychological spectra.

Mora (2016) shows that:

With *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, Edgar Allan Poe laid the foundations in that April 1841 in *Graham's Magazine* in Philadelphia, of what would become the detective genre, a genre widely cultivated in Europe and the United States, and which would later spread throughout the world, including Latin America, where the stories have their nuances and are closer to the “Noir Novel” than to the detective one.

The acceptance and growth of the genre occurred progressively, gaining strength during periods of social breakdown due to the complex events that took place. As a result of this, society found passion in works with a crude and critical approach to society, where the darkest intrinsic realities of people who seek to obtain power are portrayed.

2.5.2 Literary influences

According to the investigation of the theoretical-formal foundations of the literary Gothic, Edgar Allan Poe is mentioned as one of the precursors of this literary genre, as well as the influence that romanticism had on the precursors of this genre.

According to the book *Complete Stories* (2020), it is mentioned that Edgar Allan Poe was influenced by writers from Germany. The multifaceted author managed to revolutionize the literary stigmas on the approach to the darkest realities, the literary expression of terror, death,

and mystery through a detailed analysis and a sublime ability to capture the reader's attention. His stories and narratives gave rise to important later literary genres and literary art in general, influencing everything from poetry to cinema.

2.5.3 Important Literary Plays

Understanding Edgar Allan Poe's way of writing is essential to appreciate the background of his work, analyzed in this dissertation. For that reason, some of his most important works will be attached. Taking into consideration other works of the author will always be a positive contribution to the study due to the diversity of his works; besides, all of them share elements that the author himself takes advantage of in each of his stories or tales. Therefore, observing the elements that encompass all his literature provides a more concrete idea of who the author is and what he wants to achieve with his works.

Poe's best-known poem, and of Gothic literature in general, is notable for its literary structure and its exploration of loss, melancholy, and obsession. These characteristics mark a milestone in poetry, consolidating Poe as a fundamental pillar in the creation of intense emotional and psychological atmospheres.

This short story, belonging to the psychological horror genre, explores an expedition into guilt and madness. Being written in the first person, it creates in the reader a distorted perception of reality and disturbed thinking. The author's goal for the reader is to generate an intense and increasing rhythm, simulating the beating of a heart. This story can be seen as an internal conflict, in which the protagonist struggles against his own demons and guilt.

One of Poe's most representative gothic tales narrates the physical and psychological decay of a family. As these feelings intensify, the house itself deteriorates, reflecting the emotional disintegration of its members. In this story, the house is presented as an additional character, closely linked to the psyche of the characters, allowing for a connection between the physical space and the emotional state in the narrative.

This story allows us to perceive the moral and psychological deterioration of the protagonist, caused by his own brutality and superstition. The metaphor of alcoholism and self-exclusion highlights personal difficulties, leading the protagonist to deepen his pain. The story fuses the supernatural and psychological terror, elements that Poe employs in several of his works to explore the human mind and its deepest obscurities.

2.5.4 Influential life aspects in his work.

Poe had a life marked by tragedy, including the death of his mother as a child, the abandonment by his father, and the death of his wife Virginia. These events influenced his writing, especially his themes of death, loss, and the macabre. In addition, his constant struggle with poverty and alcoholism is also reflected in the darkness of his books.

The constant exposure to suffering and catastrophe vindicates the psychology behind his works, the rawness and detail marked by a dark and shocking style, demonstrate the author's ability to understand the world from an atypical perspective. The regular presence of death in his life allowed him to generate critical reasoning attached to the search and prioritization of logic, where he urges us to understand the world from what we have around us and not to take refuge and attribute the causes of the events to the incomprehensible and irrational.

His life surrounded by fatality and endless struggles allowed him to recognize the unavoidable need to face barbarism, the continuous exposure to sacrifice gives a more realistic view of human problems, having the ability to capture in his texts various social criticisms in an implicit and subtle way, showing the duality of man in its many facets.

2.6 Plot of the book "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"

The plot of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is a detective story that centers on a murder in Paris. The main character is C. Auguste Dupin and his companion. They must investigate a strange murder that a mother and her daughter suffered in a strange crime on Rue Morgue. The story begins with a reflection related to critical and analytical thinking. His may symbolize a way in which the story of the book goes deeply into these relevant aspects throughout the development of the literary work. Once this introductory act is developed the crime scene comes into action, but not in a clear way. The entire crime scene took place in the upstairs bedroom of a building, the room was completely locked and the victims were a mother and daughter, both of whom were found, one inhumanely slit and the other roughly shoved into the fireplace with strangulation marks around her neck. The murder was described as gruesome and indescribable because there was no logic to what happened, officers wondered how and by whom the mother and daughter were murdered, escaping from a room locked from the inside and inside a building so many stories high. The officers could not find logical explanations for what had happened, and there were rumors in the building from possible witnesses that the perpetrator of the crime was a foreigner because his language was indecipherable for the guests of the building who managed to hear something, everything was incoherent.

Detective Dupin enters the scene to decipher what happened that night, Dupin has a high logical reasoning, the detective manages to reach conclusions that point to be out of place or crazy; however, Dupin consistently refutes the thoughts he has throughout the work, thus demonstrating his great ability to solve problems and crimes in an incredible way. Detective Dupin comes to the conclusion that the perpetrator of the crime was not a human, but an orangutan. He came to that conclusion because of marks, and for the fur and a sailor's ponytail he made at the crime scene. Dupin created a strategy to find the possible owner of the animal and did so by announcing that he had found the lost orangutan. This made the owner of the animal come to Dupin and give him explanations to find out if the detective was right. Finally, it is proved that detective Dupin was not wrong with his theory, and an innocent person that the police arrested thinking he was the one who committed the crime was freed.

This story is fascinating for readers intrigued by mystery, and it is considered a milestone in the evolution of the detective genre. Poe uses precise deductive reasoning that allows the reader to enter the mind of detective C. Auguste Dupin, who solves the crime through detailed observations and logical analysis. Dupin's ability to decipher the riddle from seemingly trivial clues marks a significant breakthrough in mystery literature and lays the foundation for the genre as we know it today.

2.7 Key points

The literary work contains several key points, one very important one is when contradictory testimonies occur. This is because the residents of the place identified that the sounds coming from the crime scene were voices from different languages. This generated more confusion for the detectives. because it was an anomaly. In addition, how the bodies of the victims were found, they were atrociously, brutally murdered, something that only a ruthless

monster could do. All this was essential to reach the culprit. thanks to Dupin's great skills, he discovered that the murderer was not a foreigner due to the indescribable language mentioned by the witnesses, but rather that he was not a human. The murderer was an orangutan which escaped from its owner.

2.8 Main Issues

The main conflicts of the plot arise due to a murder that occurs inside a locked room, making it difficult for the authorities to search for clues to identify the culprit and solve the case. The difficulty in finding clues or traces that facilitate the resolution of the case generates confusion in both the authorities and the population, thus awakening a feeling of hopelessness.

As mentioned, the complexity of the case arises because the events occurred in a closed room, the absence of evidence, broken doors or windows only generates more doubts and speculations about this mystery. Contradictions in the witnesses' testimonies such as voices that could not be identified because of their language added to the fact that the murder of these victims was brutally inhumane only increases the confusion of the investigators.

This case is solved thanks to Dupin's logical reasoning and individual analysis. Thanks to his ability to observe details that others overlooked, such as the type of hair found and the nature of the strange noises, Dupin recreates the scene and comes to the conclusion that the culprit was not a human, but an orangutan that had escaped from its owner.

2.8.1 Main Characters

The characters of the work develop a fundamental role due to their contribution in the construction of the work. They are the ones who get the work to have its dyes of mystery and even through actions or characteristics, it is possible to understand how its author Edgar Allan

Poe challenges the usual way of thinking, achieving a unique method of thinking in their respective characters. Therefore, this section will work on the important characters that contribute both to the plot of the story and to sustain this dissertation. First, C. Auguste Dupin is the protagonist of the work. He is a detective described as thoughtful and reserved, in the book he has a leading role due to his ability to analyze and understand the crime scene correctly with only his two tools, reasoning and observation, with only this, Dupin was able to give accurate conclusions that gave the origin of the mystery with indescribable nature by various police officers. His deductive capacity and how he solves the mysteries make him an incredible and brilliant detective, exactly what is needed for this type of crime.

The second character that is The Orangutan, the primate, was deprived of its freedom from its natural habitat and was forced to travel to an urban environment. The animal was locked up with the sailor who took him to a room in a city, when he had the opportunity he escaped and entered another room of a building, causing the murder of a mother and her daughter. The orangutan accidentally killed the women because he was scared, and it was his way of reacting to the situation; however, unfortunately he was the culprit. This character is one of the main axes of the play, since it is unusual for an animal like this to be found in an urban environment. The animal is also a reflection of the central theme of the play because in order to solve such a complex case, it is necessary to pay attention to the smallest details and think logically. Finally, the owner of the orangutan came from a navigation, and in this maritime navigation, he brought the primate to the city, keeping him in his house and depriving him of his freedom as he used to have it in its natural habitat. This is a secondary character; however, he was the one who unintentionally caused the murders by bringing the orangutan to an urban area. The confession of this character was essential to solve the case. Analyzing these aforementioned characters allows

us to go deeper into the story and to project what the author wishes to convey in a better way in the composition of his works.

2.9 Resolution

Dupin discovers the owner of the orangutan, and he confesses that the animal escaped from him and committed the crime accidentally. The owner of the orangutan was a miner who brought the orangutan by boat. Detective Dupin interrogated the owner of the orangutan, and he confessed that the animal escaped from its cage, and he could not catch it because the primate escaped through the window. The orangutan is an animal that has an enormous strength, he was in an environment which was not natural for it. It was extracted from its natural habitat, being deprived of its habitat and exposed to a strange place for it, so when it had the opportunity to escape it did it, the escape in a different environment made it enter a room in a building, killing the mother and her daughter, and finally it escaped through the window through which he entered.

The resolution of the case is completed when the animal is captured and the exoneration of an innocent man captured by the police is made. Dupin through his reasoning managed to come up with correct points and conclusions that helped solve the unspeakable crime.

2.9.1 Importance of the Sociocultural Approach.

Being a work of crime, analyzing the way of thinking of the detectives is essential. If this is analyzed, it is possible to understand how their logical reasoning and decision-making works. In addition, it is also important to take into account the gloomy and deadly atmosphere that exists at the crime scene. This generates confusion in the reader of the work because it is not identified who was guilty of the murder, but rather thanks to the witnesses. Different

interpretations are reached because they think that the culprit spoke different languages. It is important and interesting to understand the psychology of each character from the work of Edgar Allan Poe.

Chapter III

Methodological framework

This section of the dissertation has the objective or role of providing a complete understanding of the way in which the results were achieved and the accuracy of the objectives and information used for the elaboration of the research. This point of the research used tools such as, for example, data collection instruments and even summarizing essential elements for the research.

The methodological framework section has several points to develop, for example, the research approach, which is a space in which a choice is made between the qualitative and the quantitative method, methods whose objective is to adapt to what is most needed in the dissertation. In addition, it is important to differentiate what are the definitions, differences, and purposes of each of these two methods. First, to start with the qualitative method, according to the study called *Qualitative v/s. Quantitative Research- A Summarized Review* by authors Ahmad S, Wasim S, Irfan S, et al. (2019).

Qualitative research is a process of naturalistic inquiry that seeks an in-depth understanding of social phenomena within their natural setting. It focuses on the "why" rather than the "what" of social phenomena and relies on the direct experiences of human beings as meaning-making agents in their everyday lives. Rather than by logical and statistical procedures, qualitative researchers use multiple systems of inquiry for the study of human phenomena including biography, case study, historical analysis, discourse analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, and phenomenology. Quantitative methodology is the dominant research framework in the social sciences

elsewhere according to the same study by Ahmad S, Wasim S, Irfan S, et al. (2019),

“Quantitative research is a form of research that relies on the methods of natural sciences, which produces numerical data and hard facts. It aims at establishing cause and effect relationship between two variables by using mathematical, computational and statistical methods. The research is also known as empirical research as it can be accurately and precisely measured. The data collected by the researcher can be divided into categories or put into rank, or it can be measured in terms of units of measurement. Graphs and tables of raw data can be constructed with the help of quantitative research, making it easier for the researcher to analyze the results.” Both methods in one way or another are very useful for the dissertation, however, it is necessary to choose only one, the one that best suits what your dissertation needs.

It is also important to highlight the roles and objectives of the other points to elaborate a clear and concise methodological framework. It is time to mention the Research Design, which has the value of awarding significant tools for a comprehensive realization of an analytical description of the literary work, which offers several opportunities to optimally develop research that meets the descriptive requirements of the approach in question.

Moreover, this is the information sources tool, this part of the methodological framework oversees explaining the bibliographic references used during the research, their search process and how they were obtained. Basically at this point, it must demonstrate and clarify exactly what was previously mentioned.

In all types of research, it is essential to have the categories of analysis in the foreground, since these are pillars in the complete formulation of the questions and enigmas that the research seeks to answer. In this way, it is very important to understand the importance of the categories

of analysis since they carry an importance at the level of the objectives, so it is a more developed follow-up with essential foundations of what is to be described with the data collection already carried out.

Now, it is very important to mention the relevance of the categories of analysis in this research, since they generate a series of fundamental tools that emerge as axes on which to rely to solve, explain, and describe the various concepts brought by the research. “In the first place, the categories of analysis refer to a methodological strategy. Their main function is to describe the object of study or phenomenon we are investigating. Thus, it is recommended that the categories of analysis be no more than five in a research process” (Asesores Asesoría de Proyectos, 2013).

The section on data collection instruments focuses on inquiring into information that clearly provides the thoughts, experiences and feelings of people or, in this specific case, and because it is a literary analysis with a sociocultural approach, fictitious characters. This type of tool seeks to fully understand the how and why behind the ideas to be developed or analyzed in the dissertation. According to Bhat, A, in the web article *Qualitative Data Collection Methods: What it is + Process*, “The data collected through qualitative methods are often subjective, open-ended, and unstructured and can provide a rich understanding of complex social phenomena.” (2024) This tool is usually subjective and open-ended; however, this does not mean that there is a possibility to put whatever it is, it must be grounded and meaningful; this generates that there is an understanding of complex social phenomena. Bhat, A. (2024). And finally, Collection data process and data analysis, this section describes the importance of data collection tools, so that in a qualitative research data collection is essential to choose tools that emerge as a fundamental support when implementing a research, also, steps such as the approach, design, and objectives,

is how this step of data collection takes shape, and therefore, much will depend on how the respective analysis is performed. “Qualitative data collection tools can refer to traditional research methods or to the set of specific techniques and materials that facilitate and enrich the data collection process” (Velasquez, 2022).

There are important steps to take into consideration in the crucial characteristics of these qualitative data collection tools, one of which differs from the other approach, which is quantitative. In that qualitative data collection data is primarily descriptive and not numerical as quantitative data is.

In addition to this Velasquez (2022) mentions “These tools are used to help describe a context, an event, group of people or a specific relationship in a broad way, trying to understand the underlying reasons for behavior, thoughts and feelings”.

Data collection tools with this qualitative approach are characterized by including a more descriptive aspect as mentioned above, so it is essential to keep in mind that the numerical value is practically null. Thus, it is emphasized that the data obtained in this way should be analyzed with more subjective aspects and that the themes of the data collection should be organized in an orderly manner.

3.1 Research Approach

After an arduous analysis of the research and its various points developed, it was concluded that this dissertation should be handled with the qualitative approach, but first we must understand the reason for this choice for the research method and why the quantitative method will not be used. According to the research methodology conducted by the authors

Hernandez-Sampieri and Mendoza Torres, “Quantitative approaches to the problem can be directed to various purposes and there is always the intention to estimate magnitudes or quantities, and generally to test hypotheses and theory.” (2018, p. 3;40) Considering the definition extracted from Hernandez-Sampieri and Mendoza Torres' book on quantitative method, this method despite being a very useful tool for conducting a dissertation, does not adapt effectively for this research of literary analysis with sociocultural approach of the book “Murders in the Rue Morgue” by the American author Edgar Allan Poe. The reasons why this quantitative method will not be useful for this research are that the aforementioned method among its main purpose is to explore phenomena, populations, variables, events, or facts, for the function of accounting for their existence, level or presence. In addition, this method captures evidence that aids in the development of the research, in that voting trends are analyzed to conclude with numerical data from population criteria.

On the other hand, there is the qualitative method. This method has a different approach. It can even be proclaimed as a subjective method since it focuses on understanding and interpreting the phenomena or events from a participant's perspective, i.e., there is no objective of obtaining exact numerical results as, for example, happens in the quantitative method. According to Hernández-Sampieri and Mendoza Torres in their methodology, “Research from the qualitative route focuses on understanding phenomena, exploring them from the perspective of the participants in their natural environment and in relation to the context” (2018, p. 11;390). This provided us with a clear and concise definition of what the qualitative method is. Explaining it in another way, the qualitative method is used when the purpose is to understand or analyze the way in which some individuals understand and experience events that happen in their

environment. This is of high value due to the fact that with that information we can delve into various aspects, such as meanings, interpretations and points of view.

This dissertation focused on the methodological method because it has tools that positively benefit the research, for example,

Figure 1

Figure 11.2. Comparison between quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Tabla 11.2. Comparación entre planteamientos cuantitativos y cualitativos.

Planteamientos cuantitativos	Planteamientos cualitativos
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precisos y acotados o delimitados. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Más abiertos.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enfocados en variables lo más exactas y concretas que sea posible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansivos, que paulatinamente se van enfocando en conceptos relevantes y promisorios de acuerdo con la evolución del estudio.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direccionados. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direccionados en su inicio.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentados en la revisión de la literatura. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentados en la revisión de la literatura, pero igualmente en la experiencia en el contexto y la intuición.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Se aplican a un gran número de casos que sean representativos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Se aplican al número de casos con que se pueda trabajar hasta comprender el fenómeno o responder al planteamiento.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El entendimiento del fenómeno se guía a través de ciertas dimensiones consideradas como significativas por estudios previos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El entendimiento del fenómeno es en todas sus dimensiones, internas y externas, pasadas y presentes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Se orientan a probar teorías, hipótesis y/o explicaciones, así como a evaluar efectos de unas variables sobre otras (los correlacionales y explicativos). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Se orientan a aprender de experiencias y puntos de vista de los individuos, valorar procesos y generar teorías fundamentadas en las perspectivas de los participantes.

Note: The image expresses and explains a comparison between both types of methods, quantitative and qualitative, in order to understand the different functions of each one of them.

Taken from Research Methodology. Las rutas cuantitativa, cualitativa y mixta. conducted by Hernández-Sampieri and Mendoza Torres (2018, p. 11;396).

Additionally, as analyzed in the image shown above, quantitative and qualitative methods have differences that make them unique concerning the way of approaching the dissertation, the quantitative method tries to show through exact numbers evidence that supports the data provided during the research, while on the other hand, the qualitative approach is more flexible. That is, this method is open to providing a detailed or deep understanding of situations from an experiential and contextual approach or perspective. For research with a sociocultural approach, the qualitative method is the most appropriate, since it is possible to analyze literary works with their content that reflects cultural contexts, social realities, and meanings that readers have attributed to the work that are of value for the research, the flexibility of the qualitative method is able to provide these useful tools to enshrine research with foundations.

According to Hernández-Sampieri and Mendoza Torres “You can make use of qualitative research in order to systematize and deepen it, and above all to answer the whys. This tool will give you a complete and detailed picture of what everyone in the company thinks (if they are motivated to change, if they are skeptical if they have specific suggestions for improvement, etc.) and will make it easier for you to make your concrete recommendations more realistic and relevant” (2018, p. 11;390).

In conclusion, the qualitative method was chosen for the elaboration of this dissertation due to its enormous contribution in interpreting in depth the literary resources, narrative techniques and sociocultural contexts in the work.

3.2 Research Design

With the implementation of a research design several key points are considered for its formulation in research. It is considered that this research is properly a literary analysis with the use of bibliographic material such as the work “Murders in the Rue Morgue” on which it is performed an exhaustive literary review which falls to manage all the information and essential points of the work, so that in this way the enigmas of the work can be solved with a sociocultural approach in an interpretive and subjective way. “The term design refers to the plan or strategy conceived to obtain the information you want in order to respond to the problem statement” (Hernández-Sampieri y Mendoza, 2018, p.150).

The approach that will be developed in this research is a non-experimental and descriptive design. Since it is significantly focused on developing a literary analysis without any type of intervention or experimentation (modification) in it, in this way it seeks only to develop a description that provides crucial foundations to answer the various research questions.

Similarly, it is focused more on developing a collection of information, creating an analysis and therefore an interpretation of data whether theoretical or literary, since a non-experimental design allows the opportunity to observe natural phenomena such as the sociocultural aspects and behaviors, social context, norms, culture, without direct intervention because this research deals with bibliographic material. “Non-experimental research is systematic and empirical in which the independent variables are not manipulated because they have already happened. Inferences about relationships between variables are made without direct intervention or influence, and these relationships are observed as they have occurred in their natural context” (Hernández-Sampieri y Mendoza. 2018. p.175).

3.3 Information Sources

With the realization of this research, the different points that must be touched in principle are reflected, as well as the different sources of information that must be used to maintain an order and a foundation with literature of the same. In this way, the research takes different paths or sources of information through which many points of view are compiled to reach a common goal. Therefore, different sources of information were used to gather information that essentially supports the research, such as:

The literary work “Murders in the Rue Morgue” was used as the main source of information. Also, an exhaustive review of the literature on sociocultural theory, as well as of the historical-cultural context, was also used. In addition, an analysis of different research and didactic materials that explain the existing narrative techniques and a review of pillar material such as the research methodology is carried out. Finally, in the various steps of bibliographical sources that were selected with a review that transfers those data according to their relevance, credibility, and significantly direct relationship with the objectives set out in the research.

3.4 Analysis Categories

The dissertation focuses on 4 categories of analysis. Among them are narrative techniques, literary resources, cultural context and social context. These will be defined below to relate them to the data collected in a precise and clear way.

3.4.1 Narrative techniques

Narrative techniques were selected for this dissertation because with this type of analysis category, it is possible to get a literary work presented in a logical manner. According to the web

article, *Narrative and visualization techniques for researching and communicating our findings*, “Narrative techniques refer to the methods and structures used to develop and present a story in a coherent and compelling manner. These techniques include elements such as plot, characters, conflict, point of view, and narrative structure” (Zorrilla, 2023). Narrative can follow various forms, such as linear and nonlinear narrative, the linear form should be organized in an orderly fashion, while the nonlinear form is presented in a fragmented way, without a specific order. Having this category provides benefits for the dissertation. In the case of the literary work “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” the non-linear narrative form is used, the work begins with a reflection focused on reasoning. In addition to the fact that although the work is building the way to discover the mystery of the murderer, in this one it is necessary to return to the past to analyze situations of the crime scene, so it is not kept in a linear chronological order.

3.4.2 Literary resources

In the present investigation, it is denoted as the genres, or better said, the literary resources employ a crucial role in the same, since being a literary work various ways of classifying the literary works are used which allow, with its general characteristics, to realize a better correlation of the different categories of analysis that are mentioned of the investigation; In its main characteristics we can mention its formal structure, its content which is essential for the research and the purpose of each literary resource in the work, since there are different genres or literary resources such as narrative, dramatic or lyric, many ways to analyze each work can be developed, unlike the work “Murders in the Rue Morgue, which uses a specific one which is the police, which is referred as a resource not so much traditional which is very striking.

As mentioned in UNIR, “Literary resources are a tool or strategy used by the author to provide greater expressiveness and aesthetic power to a text, both in poetry and narrative. Therefore, it is not usual to find them in everyday language.” (2023).

It can be mentioned and emphasized how the author makes this work with an emphasis on the police literary resource, so in this way, he can explore in different ways themes that go beyond reading as such, but an analysis that correlates the irrational with the rational, but taking into consideration this research takes the qualitative perspective where it is more subjective and emotional so that with this sociocultural analysis reflects the various key points to take.

3.4.3 Cultural context

Megale Altieri, A. in his research, *What is culture?* explains that the definition of this concept is, “Culture, according to its verbal-etymological definition, is, then, education, formation, development or improvement of the intellectual and moral faculties of man; and in its objective reflection, culture is the world proper to man, as opposed to the natural world, which would exist equally even without man”(2001, p.15), with the category of analysis focused on cultural context, it is possible to identify the cultural background of the nineteenth century, in a more detailed way, to develop concepts such as the culture of rationalism, colonial expansion and urbanization. Moreover, with this category of analysis it is possible to analyze symbols from the book murders in the Rue Morgue that have cultural weight.

3.4.4 Social Context

This category is able to explore points that are necessary to develop for a better understanding of the work as Sapiro (2016) mentions in the work of Montero (2020), “From this

perspective, the sociological approach to the literary fact is conceived as the study of the mediations between the works and the social conditions of their production” (p.16), for example the inquiry about the society of the nineteenth century. This is because this century was the one in which the literary work was based and written. Moreover, a mentioning for the setting of the work, which is based on the Paris of the 19th century. In addition, understanding the social classes with the book's own characters is a correct way to take advantage of the social context category. It is also necessary to mention the social themes such as violence, fear and the search for order. Edgar Allan Poe's book explores the aforementioned themes, and the category can be used to wander accurately between these areas.

3.5 Data collection Instruments

For the structuring of this research we used the case study technique, which offers a set of tools that allow us to establish a very exemplified and ordered data collection in the different sections of the research.

As mentioned by Duràn (2012), “The Case Study (CS) is a way of approaching a particular fact, phenomenon, event or situation in depth and in context, which allows a greater understanding of its complexity and, therefore, the greatest learning from the case under study. It uses multiple sources of data and methods, is transparadigmatic and transdisciplinary”. (p.121).

Likewise, it is understood that this strategy also offers many essential characteristics for its execution, such as the various skills, assumptions and subjectivity that can be used as the research makes sense, so that in this way measures are used that allow to describe and to be able to respond in different ways the paradigms that have been created as the case study or in this case

of the literary work advances, likewise it is essential to take into account that these analyses that are carried out in the qualitative research are with materials and in an empirical way or better said subjective, having no matter what a literary sustenance where the mentioned is verified.

3.6 Collection data process and data analysis

With the different means used to collect data for this research, we can emphasize the use of bibliographic sources, since it was the main axis, so that in different ways we can reach a concise end, also the case study of the literary work completes the material that was used since in this way the theoretical and bibliographic materials help to support the proposed approach which is qualitative with emphasis on a sociocultural approach, thus allowing a range of opportunities for analysis.

Likewise, it should be emphasized how the procedure was designed with an exhaustive literature review to achieve an analysis that is deep, concise, and striking, which reflects how each process of utilization of literary resources is linked to each other and how the correlation of the categories of analysis was meaningfully entered.

Some of the steps of the data collection process were:

The core material used was the literary work “Murders in the Rue Morgue” by Allan Poe, which was an essential source of review and analysis in order to determine and identify the categories of analysis and the approach to be achieved. Other sources of literary review were also used, such as articles, books, and other literary materials that provided useful references for the relationship that exists between the approach of literary resources and the categories of analysis coming from the context of the narrative. On the other hand, search tools in libraries and

platforms that provided studies familiar with the literary work analyzed, the approach, and the research methods as such, were used in the same way. And finally, the analysis of the historical and sociocultural context was a significant pillar in this research since it allows the compilation of the historical elements as well as the sociocultural ones and in this way, the main focus can be satisfied and thus the literary dynamics can be exemplified in an optimal and effective way.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

The purpose of this section of the dissertation is to present an analysis of the previously collected information to better understand and make sense of the research, especially to reach conclusions and answer questions presented during the previous chapters' elaboration. All the conclusions are based on the approach of the study, which is a sociocultural approach.

4.1 Approaches to the Investigation

The approach selected for this dissertation had a vital value because it was not only able to analyze the crime but also helped to decipher the social dynamics of the work. This is really significant for the research because this was not the main idea of the author at the time of narrating his story, but it was an aspect of the story which happens in the background, but with this approach it can be significant, and it make the reading public notice aspects that from the beginning seem to be irrelevant in the work but actually have an eminent background, for example of this can become the social dynamics. These previously mentioned influence the perception of crime and justice within the story.

Understanding the cultural environment enriches the understanding of each of the characters with their motivations, personalities and way of acting. The environment is a key piece for a clear understanding of the narrative and interpretations of crime within Poe's story, **Murders in the Rue Morgue** takes place in a city of Paris full of mystery, a growing city, an aspect that is no longer shared today. All the aforementioned aspects generate a complete panoramic vision of the literary work that with the sociocultural approach emphasizes the social environment.

4.2 Theories vs Literary Work-

The objective of this section is to compile, relate, and compare different aspects of the theories and the literary work, focusing specifically on the social values of the 19th century, since the work was written during that period. The work revolves around the resolution of a crime that was deciphered based on social stigmas of the time. By doing this, it is possible to eloquently manage the information of the work, effectively showing the discoveries found during the research. Theories and approaches oversee forming the dissertation without them it would not be possible to elaborate the research because they are the bases to achieve a concrete objective. With the elaboration of the study of Edgar Allan Poe's story with the theories of the reader's response, cultural criticism, and sociocultural approach, it was possible to find several interesting points or factors in the story **Murders in the Rue Morgue**. For example, cultural criticism is fundamental to understanding the way in which the author used the crime of the Rue Morgue because with this theory, it is possible to appreciate a representation of the collective fears of society in the nineteenth century, among those fears are the fear of the unknown and even not understanding other cultures. This can enrich the interpretation of the work and also evidences the fact that the social environment is fundamental for the construction of the plot in Poe's literary work, in this specific case of **Murders in the Rue Morgue**, creating a gloomy environment.

Each of the tables has a different purpose, but they fulfill the role of providing the researched information in an orderly, summarized and complete clarity. For the dissertation three tables were created, two of theories and one for the approach, the first table deals with the Reader Response Theory, this theory has the role of highlighting the interaction between the reader and the work itself. It enriches the analysis because it gives an individual reasoning

experience to the reader because it shows that it is a literary work that does not offer the answers directly, but it invites the reader to have critical thinking and to have personal interpretations regarding the events occurred during the written story. Edgar Allan Poe was responsible for creating a protagonist character that defies the obvious conclusions and invites the reader to question the logic in the events indirectly with only the narrative of the book.

The second theory that was discussed was Cultural Criticism. This theory explores mainly the values and social prejudices of the book. In addition to this, it reflects the society of the nineteenth century. For the selected excerpts, the focus was on the witnesses' descriptions of the crime that occurred since most of them had perceptions related to the fear of the foreigner. This part of the research focused on demonstrating evidence of the power of the cultural environment as it can affect or condition the interpretation of events. This point fulfills the role of demonstrating that this literary work is not only about solving a mystery, but it also implicitly criticizes the society of that time; aspects such as prejudice and xenophobia are indirectly portrayed in Edgar Allan Poe's story.

Finally, the last table demonstrates the focus of the study, which is the sociocultural approach. This element was key to understanding the characters and the mystery from the influence of the social context. For the collection of extracts, priority was given to moments in the work where there is evidence of interaction between the characters and their environment. In addition, fragments where the clash between reason and instinct are represented by both the protagonist and the antagonist who function as counterparts were valued. This approach provided a vision capable of analyzing the work of **Murders in the Rue Morgue** as a reflection of the social dynamism and culture of the nineteenth century, demonstrating that it is not only a

detective story, but it also provides various approaches, in this case sociocultural, thanks to the exquisite writing style of the author of the literary work.

Tabla 1 Reader Response Theory

Theory	Excerpt from the book	Explanation and interpretation	Utility in research
Reader Response Theory	<p>“These things are unusual, indeed; but they are not deep mysteries. We should not ask, ‘What has happened?’ but ‘What has happened that has never happened before?’ In fact, the very things that the police think cannot possibly be explained are the things which will lead me to the</p>	<p>This excerpt highlights how the reader's interpretation is critical to understanding the story. Poe leaves it up to the reader to deduce his meaning through the events of the story as he does not provide direct answers. Each reader can construct his or her own perception of Dupin's logic and the</p>	<p>It helps to analyze how Edgar Allan Poe works the story so that the reader plays an active role in the interpretation of the mystery.</p>

	answer” <i>(Page: 49).</i>	way he solves the crime.	
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Table 1 illustrates the Reader Response Theory as found in the book. Researcher’s creation

Tabla 2 Cultural Criticism

Theory	Excerpt from the book	Explanation and interpretation	Utility in research
Cultural Criticism	“The strange thing here is that when an Italian, an Englishman, a Spaniard, and a Frenchman tried to tell what the voice was like, each one said it sounded like the voice of a foreigner. How strangely unusual that voice really must	This passage demonstrates how witnesses, influenced by their cultural beliefs and prejudices, interpret the unknown as foreign or alien. The witnesses' inability to identify the language suggests a fear or distrust of the “other,” reflecting	It allows us to explore that cultural values influence the perception of crime and how xenophobia implicitly affects the interpretation of events in history.

	have been!” (Page: 50).	nineteenth-century society's view of foreigners and their role in crime.	
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*Table 2 illustrates the Cultural Criticism Theory as found in the book.
Researcher's creation*

Table 3 Sociocultural Approach

Approach	Excerpt from the book	Explanation and interpretation	Utility in research
Sociocultural Approach	“No. They were not. I am almost certain that they were made by the hand of an orangutan, one of those man-like animals that live in the wild forests. The great size, the strength, the wildness of these animals are	This fragment highlights the importance of social context. During the 19th century, the fascination with the exotic and colonial exploration brought the importation of wild animals to European cities,	It allows to analyze the social and cultural factors of the time (colonialism, exotic animal trade, development of criminology) come to influence the plot and outcome of the story.

	<p>well known. Now. Look in this book by Cuvier. Read. Look at the picture” <i>Page: 58.</i></p>	<p>which in this case indirectly led to crime.</p>	
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Table 3 illustrates the Sociocultural Approach as found in the book. Researcher’s creation

4.2.1 Fear of the Unknown

The play presents a particular situation, in which, when the people who witnessed the crime were interrogated, each one said that the noises they heard were from foreigners. Some even said that they could distinguish a specific language, but since they did not master it, it was purely supposition. This is evident when the narrator explains that, “The strange thing here is that when an Italian, an Englishman, a Spaniard, and a Frenchman tried to tell what the voice was like, each one said it sounded like the voice of a foreigner. How strangely unusual that voice really must have been!” (Poe, 1841, p. 50). At the end, the alleged foreign killer was an orangutan who was deprived of his freedom and exposed to a civilized region. The inability of the witnesses to recognize the language symbolizes social anxiety about the unknown or what comes from abroad.

4.2.2 Rationality vs. Instinct

The protagonist and antagonist of the play manage to play opposite roles. Detective Dupin, the protagonist, represents reason while the antagonist (the orangutan) represents in its entirety the instinct or rather the primitive and uncontrollable forces of nature that society fears so much. This duality is exemplified when Dupin deduces that, “No. They were not. I am almost certain that they were made by the hand of an orangutan, one of those man-like animals that live in the wild forests. The great size, the strength, the wildness of these animals are well known” (Poe, 1841, p. 57). Both characters can be seen portrayed in today's society, on the one hand, Detective Dupin represents the figure of a rational and analytical person in society, can be seen today with people with critical thinking; for example, in areas such as criminology. On the other hand, we have the orangutan representing irrational impulses that can be reflected in the part of society that fears the unknown and acts with distrust towards a foreigner. The struggle between reason and instinct is a universal dilemma posed in **Murders in the Rue Morgue**, a time of the nineteenth century, which even today is still present, so the contrast between these two characters, protagonist and antagonist, is an interesting way in which Edgar Allan Poe captured the dilemma concisely and accurately.

4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

This section of the dissertation focuses on identifying and examining the themes, motifs, and symbols present in the literary story of “**Murders in the Rue Morgue**” by Edgar Allan Poe. The literary elements enrich the narrative by focusing on it in a sociocultural manner within the work. For a successful application of the literary elements within this dissertation, tables will be used to organize, categorize, and present various aspects found within Poe's story that go hand in

hand with the sociocultural approach with their respective excerpt from the book that was selected to support the information found during the research. The excerpts are intended to offer interpretations that go beyond the implications of themes, motifs, and symbols.

4.3.1 Themes Chart

The table of themes has the function of being a collection tool that organizes and analyzes the themes found during the research present in **Murders in the Rue Morgue**. The tables are made up of the theme found in the study, a brief explanation of why it was selected and finally an excerpt of the story with its respective page that is responsible for supporting the theme analysis.

Tabla 4. Theme

Theme	Explanation	Excerpt from the book
Rationality vs. Irrationality	Dupin represents logic and analytical thinking, while the orangutan symbolizes irrationality and uncontrolled instinct. The play shows the struggle between order and chaos.	“No. They were not. I am almost certain that they were made by the hand of an orangutan, one of those man-like animals that live in the wild forests. The great size, the strength, the

		wildness of these animals are well known” (Page 58).
Fear of the Unknown	The witnesses' fear of what they cannot understand (the unknown language of the murderer) reflects the xenophobia and distrust of 19th-century society towards foreigners.	“The strange thing here is that when an Italian, an Englishman, a Spaniard, and a Frenchman tried to tell what the voice was like, each one said it sounded like the voice of a foreigner. How strangely unusual that voice really must have been!” (Page 50).
Social Justice and Inequality	The judicial system is portrayed as deficient and influenced by prejudice. It is quick to blame an innocent person, which is	“The Paris police work hard and often get good results; but there is no real method in what they

	evidence of inequality in the application of justice.	do. When something more than simple hard work is needed, when a little real method is needed, the police fail” (Page 48).
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Table 4 illustrates the themes found in the book. Researcher’s creation

4.3.2 Motifs Chart

The purpose of the motifs table is to highlight aspects such as contrasts and literary resources embodied in the book of “**Murders in the Rue Morgue**”. The motifs play the role of narrative threads that tie the story elements together, effectively enriching the reading experience and adding deeper layers of meaning. In addition, the motif tables present excerpts from the book that support the points found in the research.

Tabla 5. Motifs

Motifs	Explanation	Excerpt from the book
	The story presents a duality between reason and instinct through the contrast between	“I soon noticed a special reasoning power he had, an unusual reasoning

<p>Duality Between Reason and Instinct</p>	<p>Dupin and the orangutan. Dupin represents logic and analytical thinking, while the orangutan symbolizes uncontrolled impulses.</p>	<p>power. Using it gave him great pleasure” (Page 40).</p>
<p>Mystery as a Narrative Drive</p>	<p>Mystery serves as the driving force behind the narrative, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty that captivates the reader. The seemingly unsolvable crime heightens the need for Dupin's analytical skills, emphasizing the importance of logic in unraveling hidden truths.</p>	<p>“No, I think you are wrong. A mystery it is, yes. But there must be an answer. Let us go to the house and see what we can see. There must be an answer. There must!” (Page 47).</p>
<p>Confinement and Claustrophobia</p>	<p>The locked room where the crime occurs intensifies the feeling of entrapment and helplessness. This confined space not only heightens the suspense but also mirrors the psychological tension experienced by the characters.</p>	<p>“The door and the windows were all firmly closed, locked on the inside; there was no way for anyone to go in or out” (Page 51).</p>

Table 5 illustrates the motifs as found in the book. Researcher's creation

4.3.3 Symbols Chart

The table of symbols is responsible for identifying and interpreting the symbols embodied in the literary work of Edgar Allan Poe, who in the story “**Murders in the Rue Morgue**” created symbols with significant weight that even represent abstract concepts and fears of the society of the century in which the book was written. The table has several excerpts from the book that support the criteria to value the symbols in the way it was done during the dissertation.

Tabla 6. Symbols

Symbol	Meaning	Excerpt from the book
Orangutan	It represents brutality, irrationality, and society's fear of the uncontrolled and primitive.	“It was that animal! The orangutan! ... About a year ago our ship sailed to the Far East, to the island of Borneo. There we saw this orangutan, a big animal” (Page 62).
Rue Morgue	It symbolizes death, mystery, and the feeling of confinement.	“Murderers had come to the old house on the street

	It is the central scenario where the crime takes place.	called the Rue Morgue! Murderers had come and gone and left behind the dead bodies of an old woman and her daughter” (Page 51).
C. Auguste Dupin	He symbolizes reason, meticulous observation, and the scientific method as tools to discover the truth.	“Dupin was the last member of a well-known family, a family which had once been rich and famous; he himself, however, was far from rich. He cared little about money. He had enough to buy the most necessary things of life — and a few books” (Page 38).

Table 6 illustrates the symbols as found in the book. Researcher’s creation

Chapter V

Conclusions and recommendations

This chapter is represented in the form of a summary of the findings deciphered during the research to capture or demonstrate the relevance of the study conducted. It is also important to mention that the chapter will provide recommendations for future research based on or related to Edgar Allan Poe's literary approach or work.

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

The main purpose of the conclusion is to demonstrate that the sociocultural approach is essential to achieve a better understanding of the work of Edgar Allan Poe because with this approach it is possible to understand the motivations of the characters and to decipher the crime in the work, since that is the main axis in the story. Furthermore, during the elaboration of the

research, it was concluded that the social context of the 19th century and the characters influence aspects such as justice, fear of the unknown, and rationality.

The study showed that the characters of **Murders in the Rue Morgue** fulfill the function of symbols, for example, Detective Dupin with the role of reasoning or the orangutan with irrationality and impulses. Aspects such as these enrich the research because thanks to the sociocultural approach, it is possible to represent aspects that are not clear at first glance during the literary work and rather must be unraveled when analyzing in depth. Likewise, this approach works to appreciate the fear of the foreign or unknown. Throughout Edgar Allan Poe's story, it can be seen that the witnesses of the crime do not identify the language of the alleged murderer, which shows that they begin to give their verdict based on assumptions, prejudices and even xenophobia reflected in the nineteenth century, the time when Edgar Allan Poe wrote the work. The type of interpretations mentioned above is only possible to achieve with the sociocultural approach. This approach helps to analyze the work broadly based on the values, fears, and even social norms, specifically of the time.

To conclude, it is important to mention that the study shows that literature, besides being a means of entertainment, also functions as a reflection of the thoughts, values, and norms that govern society. Thanks to literature, we can have an idea of most social aspects that used to happen in the past, thus being able to compare with today's society and analyze what aspects are still in force or have changed over the years.

5.2 Conclusions

This section presents the conclusions reached at the end of the dissertation, which focus on compiling the findings from the analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's "**Murders in the Rue**

Morgue” with a sociocultural approach. Furthermore, this section aims to give an overview of the results obtained in the research, along with that to demonstrate that literary analysis generates a better understanding of social and literary aspects through the written account.

5.2.1 To identify and examine the literary devices used by Poe in *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* and their impact on the storytelling

The dissertation used the analysis of the narrative techniques and thematic elements of ***The Murders in the Rue Morgue*** to clearly understand the author's contribution to modern detective fiction. In addition, with the in-depth research of the literary work, conclusions were reached such as that Edgar Allan Poe contributed with a methodical framework that influenced the structure of the detective fiction genre. This happened because of the way in which the author builds mysterious environments with suspenseful trimmings. His way of approaching logical reasoning was also fundamental since it was a watershed for future authors of literary works. An aspect of great value is that Edgar Allan Poe laid the foundations of the archetype of the rational thinking detective, where deduction and critical thinking become the key tools to clarify the mysteries presented. In addition, Poe, in this work, used resources such as symbolism and premonition to give a deep approach to the mystery of the crime and also guiding the reader in the process of analysis of the detective Dupin. These elements make the reader play an important role, being an active participant in solving the crime, thus enriching the narrative and creating a link between reader and literary story.

5.2.2 To explore the characterization of key figures and how their portrayal contributes to the plot and the development of detective fiction as a genre

The characterization in **The Crimes of the Rue Morgue** is fundamental to the detective genre. The protagonist, C. Auguste Dupin, embodies logical reasoning and meticulous observation, positioning himself as a precursor of future literary detectives. Moreover, his ability to analyze details that were overlooked by the other characters lays the foundations of the archetypal detective in fiction. On the other hand, the orangutan serves as a representation of instinct and uncontrollable force, contrasting sharply with Dupin's rationality. This juxtaposition reinforces one of the central themes of the story: the struggle between reason and primal instinct. Detective Dupin was a key element for this section because this character stands as a prototype for future literary detectives. Dupin is depicted as a genius who, with his analytical mind and unconventional methods, is able to deduce and uncover mysteries that not even the police system itself manages to clarify and decipher; thus reinforcing the central theme of the narrative: Rationality versus instinct.

5.2.3 To evaluate the themes presented in the story, such as logic versus intuition, and how they are conveyed through Poe's narrative structure

The study found that the narrative of **Murders in the Rue Morgue** is driven by the interplay of logic and fear. In this case the protagonist Dupin represents methodical reasoning, while the crime itself and society's reaction to it reflects the anxieties of the time, especially in relation to the unknown. Another event that was important to evaluate was the assumption of the witnesses that the murderer was a foreigner. This underlines the xenophobia present in the 19th century. In addition, Poe's narrative structure, which emphasizes deductive reasoning, subtly

critiques these social fears and prejudices as the plot progresses. The research found that the story depicts the struggle between rational thought and fear, symbolized by both the protagonist Dupin and the orangutan in the role of antagonist. In addition, the story evidenced the social prejudices of the nineteenth century because the witnesses of the crime assumed that the murderer was a foreigner because they did not understand the dialect uttered by the alleged culprit. Finally, the analyzed elements can make a subtle criticism of fears and society, besides driving the plot. The fear of the unknown is not only a fictional problem, but also reflects a real problem of the nineteenth century, embodied in the work of **Murders in the Rue Morgue**, where the foreigner was associated with something dangerous.

5.3 Research Question

The research question **was posed** to reaffirm the findings discovered during the elaboration of the dissertation. The research question for the paper **was**: “To what extent does sociocultural analysis allow us to interpret the construction of the narrative and the resolution of the mystery in *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*?” About the question, it **was shown** that the approach used for the study **was** fundamental to achieve an understanding of the value of aspects such as beliefs, collective fears, or values in society in general. The analysis of the literary work “*The Murders in the Rue Morgue* by Edgar Allan Poe **was** of vital help in identifying that the perception of a crime or crimes and justice **were** conditioned by cultural factors.

5.4 Unexpected Results

While the research was being carried out, it was evident to notice findings that were not planned to be identified at the beginning. Several aspects were identified, such as, for example,

that the perception of crime can be different depending on the perspective of the reader and his cultural context. The work of Edgar Allan Poe plays with the minds of readers, shaping in it an aura of intense mystery in which the alleged murderer is presented as something indecipherable and even supernatural. The author of the story manages to create diverse scenarios in the minds of his readers because he gives a freedom of interpretation for the murder mystery. For example, readers can have different points of view and speculations to identify the murderer, just as it happens with the witness characters in the literary work. Readers of **Murders in the Rue Morgue** may come to interpret the work in many ways, including that the work is an exaltation of critical thinking, which is addressed by the protagonist Dupin, while other readers may interpret the work as a critique, for example, of the fragility or inefficiency of justice, or society due to prejudice and assumptions.

Another important aspect that was found during the research was the fact that the method of investigation of the protagonist Dupin was effective for the fictional justice that worked in the mystery story, which can be considered as a criticism to the exclusion of other types of knowledge. If we review what happens in the work, it is possible to notice that the justice system at the beginning does not support detective Dupin and his way of solving mysteries. Finally, it is worth mentioning how Edgar Allan Poe, author of the work analyzed in this dissertation, created a form of writing in which the reader is completely immersed in the resolution of the murder mystery. Poe sets his work completely uncertain which creates complex situations to understand, which makes readers have an active role during the resolution of the mystery as Poe makes the clues formed gradually. This reinforces the interaction between the story and the audience that is enriched by the work.

5.5 Recommendations

The findings discussed throughout the dissertation suggest aspects of research for future studies. A clear example of research aspects for future studies is the comparison of the protagonist of **Murders in the Rue Morgue**, Dupin with other literary detectives to analyze or understand similarities and differences they share from a sociocultural approach.

In addition, it is suggested to explore the influence of Edgar Allan Poe on the detective literary genre. Discovering whether the work of the American author Poe was influential for literature focused, specifically on detective works, is important because it is possible to understand the impact this author had on society and other authors of this same literary genre, and it may also be possible to understand whether Poe's work implied an evolution of the narratives of his respective era. Analyzing other works of the author Edgar Allan Poe with this sociocultural approach would also demonstrate to a great extent how this author reflects in his works the values and social structures in his various stories, demonstrating, in consequence, that with his literature he shows a parallelism with aspects of real society.

Finally, for future colleagues or students who are going to do a dissertation of this nature, the realizations of this type of analysis with various approaches can capture and find elements that are not easy to appreciate at first glance, or that not being the main focus that is intended to be shown in the work, often go unnoticed, but that once analyzed can enrich the story itself and even help others with the value in terms of content, either to compare fiction with reality, a work with another or simply to understand the literary approach. A clear example of this is this same research, the sociocultural approach analyzed aspects which were palpable and visible within the work of **Murders in the Rue Morgue**, but which went unnoticed because it was not the main element of the work. Another important aspect to mention is the fact of selecting a theoretical

framework that gets adapted to the literary work chosen for the respective research. In this case, it was a sociocultural approach, so the best option was to delve into the areas of social dynamics and historical context. For the elaboration of the research, thorough reading and constant reflection was required to select passages that would contribute positively to the dissertation approach. Another important aspect is the theories because based on them the analysis will be successful, and if they benefit from the work it will enrich the research.

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