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**“A LITERARY ANALYSIS ABOUT THE SHINING, BY  
STEPHEN KING FROM A SOCIOCULTURAL APPROACH IN  
COSTA RICAN MODERN SOCIETY.”**

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Extent this appreciation to my family and professors that guide me and supported me through this learning process, as they have shape me into who I am. Those who were by my side and helped me in difficult times.

## DEDICATION

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to create a literary analysis about the novel *The Shining* by Stephen King, from a sociocultural approach in Costa Rican modern society. In addition, create a comparison between the social problematics presented in the book and Costa Rican modern society. To gather the information used to create this document, a series of internet searches and a survey were performed. This exploration was analyzed through the lens of a Social Cultural approach. The material collected from this search is going to be used as the main base for this project.

As the purpose of this study, the researcher considered to gather different opinions and facts from websites that contain valuable and relevant information for this project. Different opinions were studied and analyzed for a better understanding of the social norms and some aspects related to Costa Rican culture. During this analysis, it was taken into account different important aspects such as author's perception of the novel, alcoholism and domestic violence effects on people and society, and the symbols, motifs, and themes of the novel. The study and analysis of these aspects were of great importance for the development of the research.

## RESUMEN

El propósito de este estudio es realizar un análisis literario sobre la novela *El Resplandor* de Stephen King, desde un enfoque sociocultural en la sociedad moderna costarricense. Además, crear una comparación entre la problemática social presentada en el libro y la sociedad moderna costarricense. Para recopilar la información utilizada para la elaboración de este documento, se realizaron una serie de búsquedas en Internet y una encuesta. Esta exploración se analizó a través de la lente de un enfoque sociocultural. El material recopilado de esta búsqueda se utilizará como base principal para este proyecto.

Como propósito de este trabajo, el investigador obtuvo diferentes opiniones y hechos a partir de sitios web que contenían información valiosa y relevante para este proyecto. Se estudiaron y analizaron diferentes opiniones para una mejor comprensión de las normas sociales y algunos aspectos relacionados con la cultura costarricense. Durante este análisis, se tuvieron en cuenta diferentes aspectos importantes como la percepción del autor sobre la novela, los efectos del alcoholismo y la violencia doméstica en las personas y la sociedad, y los símbolos, motivos y temas de la novela. El estudio y análisis de estos aspectos fueron de gran importancia para el desarrollo de la investigación.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY FRAMEWORK

When carrying out a literary analysis with a socio-cultural approach, multiple factors must be considered. First, when reading the book, you must look for deep topics hidden in the story, as was done during this analysis. Most of the readers may think that a terror novel such as *The Shining* only deals with fictional horror topics, but, without knowing it, many novels and stories of this genre are related to issues of our daily life.

*The Shining* has many deep socio-cultural topics that were fundamental for understanding the novel and the creation of this analysis. This novel allows the reader to compare paranormal situations with problems of modern society such as alcoholism, domestic violence, Schizophrenia, among others. Some of the main topics are alcoholism, the relationship between father and son, and Schizophrenia, because the main character of the novel deal with these situations.

Schizophrenia is a serious mental disorder whereby people interpret reality abnormally. This disease can cause a combination of hallucinations, delusions, and severe disorders in thinking and behavior, which affect daily functioning and can be disabling. People with Schizophrenia need to receive treatment throughout their lives. Early treatment can help control symptoms before more severe complications.

It is very important to understand that the novel's main character suffers from Schizophrenia and alcoholism, which is why these topics are the most mentioned during the analysis. These problems presented in the novel are real situations that happen in real life.

This fact allowed us to compare the novel and how they affect people's lives in a socio-cultural way.

### **1.1.Problem Statement**

This literary analysis aims to raise awareness of different topics present in *The Shining* by Stephen King and compare them with situations that occur in our current society. Although readers do not notice it, important issues such as alcoholism and domestic violence are presented in the novel. It is expected to realize the literary analysis with a socio-cultural approach. To obtain the information of the novel and all the socio-cultural aspects presented on it is intended to perform web research and a series of interviews.

The objective of this literary analysis is to make a comparison between the situations presented in the novel and real-life to show how to deal with these circumstances. To achieve this objective is intended to expose the problematics presented in the novel in a concrete way, such as alcoholism, and compare them with situations that occur nowadays to publicize the author's perception of socio-cultural issues. As mentioned before, a series of interviews will be done for a better understanding of socio-cultural aspects.

What is a literary analysis about *The Shining* by Stephen King with a socio-cultural approach in modern society?

### **1.2.Objectives of the analysis**

The objectives of the investigation are proposed to inform the reader about what is expected to reach and why it is important to talk about a literary analysis of the novel *The Shining* with a socio-cultural approach in modern society. Besides being a terror

novel, it deals with many themes and problems present nowadays. This allows the reader to create a critical analysis of the literary work.

### **1.2.1 General Objective**

- To carry out an analysis about the problematics presented in *The Shining* with a socio-cultural approach.

### **1.2.2 Specific Objectives**

- To show the author's perception in the novel about social problematics in the novel.
- To analyze the book's problematics in Costa Rican modern society.
- To determine the cause of the most common social problems in Costa Rica and their association to the book.
- To perform a critical literary analysis of the novel "The Shining" by Stephen King from a socio-cultural approach.

## **1.3 Justification of the Study**

This research was carried out to understand and analyze a horror novel with real-life using a socio-cultural approach. *The Shining* has many underlying problems such as alcoholism, Schizophrenia, and domestic violence. Many people in our current society deal with problems of this kind every day, and perhaps many of these people do not even realize that they are dealing with these situations. By reading an analysis like this, people can identify with the story and seek help. A socio-cultural analysis of a literary work can

describe awareness of the circumstances surrounding individuals and how their behaviors are affected by surrounding factors. In this case, the "circumstances" under study are alcoholism, Schizophrenia, and domestic violence.

To coexist healthily in a community, people develop affective, social, cultural ties, leading them to have a good relationship between individuals. However, in all communities, there will always be exceptions. People who currently suffer from alcoholism, Schizophrenia, or domestic violence break the mold of a healthy coexistence, breaking or affecting different social norms.

This research's relevance lies in comparing various situations that happen in a horror story and real-life and thus analyzing the scope or impact that these situations have had in our modern society and different social norms. Situations such as alcoholism, Schizophrenia, and domestic violence directly affect social norms, causing a healthy coexistence between individuals not to exist. "The Shining" exemplifies in a very good way how these problems can affect the lives of the people who suffer them and also the lives of those around these people. This is why it is possible to purchase the book in real life.

Literary works will always provide knowledge to their readers, regardless of the genre to which the work belongs. For example, *The Shining* can be seen as a simple horror book in which fictional and supernatural situations are discussed. On the other hand, this book is more complex than it appears to be due to its topics, which contribute to carrying out the research focusing on a socio-cultural approach.

If we talk about people suffering from domestic violence, alcoholism, and Schizophrenia, this analysis can help them be inspired and fight against their diseases. The

analysis can help you understand the importance of seeking help before it is too late. In the case of those who read this novel just for entertainment, the analysis will help them understand the background of the story and understand the meaning of multiple socio-cultural aspects present in the literary work.

#### **1.4 Antecedents**

Socio-cultural perspective is a theory used in psychology. It describes awareness of circumstances surrounding individuals and how their behaviors are affected specifically by their surroundings, social and cultural factors. According to Catherine A. Sanderson (2010), "Socio-cultural perspective: A perspective describing people's behavior and mental processes as shaped in part by their social and/or cultural contact, including race, gender, and nationality." The socio-cultural perspective theory is a broad yet significant aspect of our being.

It applies to every sector of our daily lives. How we communicate, understand, relate and cope with one another is partially based on this theory. Our spiritual, mental, physical, emotional, physiological beings are all influenced by factors studied by socio-cultural perspective theory. Various studies examine topics using the socio-cultural perspective for variability from person to person and acknowledge that social and cultural differences affect these individuals.

Then, we have Sociological criticism, which is a type of literary criticism directed to understanding literature in its larger social context; it codifies the literary strategies employed to represent social constructs through a sociological methodology. Sociological criticism analyzes both how the social functions in literature and how literature works in

society. This form of literary criticism was introduced by Kenneth Burke, a 20th-century literary and critical theorist.

New Criticism influences sociological criticism; however, it adds a sociological element as found with critical theory and considers art as a manifestation of society, which contains metaphors and references directly applicable to the existing society at the time of its creation. According to Kenneth Burke, works of art, including literature, are strategic naming of situations that allow the reader to better understand and gain control over societal happenings through art.

This complicates New Criticism's basic trend, which simply calls for a close textual reading without considering effective response or the author's intentions. While Burke also avoids effective response and authorial intention, he specifically considers art and literature as systematic reflections of society and societal behavior. Therefore, he suggests the standardization of the methods used by the artists and authors to be able to consider works of art within a social context. He understands how these artworks achieve this to be strategically employed through the work.

When doing a literary analysis using a socio-cultural approach, it is important to understand that it is intended to investigate and find the vast majority of socio-cultural aspects present in work. However, it is also necessary to understand what we mean when we mention the word "socio-cultural." According to the website "DeSignificados.com," the socio-cultural concept refers to society's social and cultural phenomena. The socio-cultural aspects of a society are always linked to traditions and lifestyles. It is these socio-cultural aspects that, at times, differentiate one society from another. Socio-cultural traits delimit and represent how a society is organized. In addition to agreeing on an organization, these

features are responsible for defining that society. The vast majority of communities differ from each other thanks to their socio-cultural characteristics.

To better understand how the socio-cultural approach works, we can take as an example some thesis work carried out by different people. Some of these works that were found on the internet will be mentioned below. Jane Harvey of the University of Florida did a thesis focused on a "Sociocultural-Theory Based Study of the Impact of Mediation During Post-Observation Conferences on Language Teaching Learning. In this investigation, Harvey studied the impact of verbal mediation on language teaching learners.

The socio-cultural approach was used in this investigation to demonstrate a growing understanding of how language teacher learning is much more social than previously thought. The student analyzed different socio-cultural aspects that may affect the learning of the language. This is a good example of what was made in this investigation because it was intended to show how circumstances such as Schizophrenia, alcoholism, and domestic violence affect the social life of people and the social norms.

Then, we have another study made by Heyder Hasan of the Salahaddin University-Erbil, which is "An Assessment of the Sociocultural Approach to Teaching Communication at Salahaddin University-Erbil." According to Hasan, his study investigates the Sociocultural Theories. It tries to confirm the extent of implementing the Sociocultural Approach in teaching and learning communication in English language departments in the College of Basic Education, College of Education, and College of Education Languages at Salahaddin University-Hawler.

The participants are twelve teachers who teach communication and ninety-five students of the first and second grades of the three departments and the researcher as an observer of the teachers 'and students' classroom performances. This is to study and approve the implementation of the Sociocultural Approach. The Sociocultural Approach is the realization of the Socio-cultural Theories. The main theories are mediation, proximal development, regulations, verbal thought, and activity theory.

Finally, there is another example of a study made by Ashleigh Boutwell of Georgia State University. The title of the investigation is "The Shine of The Shining: Domestic Violence and Deterministic Trauma "and it was made by doing a literary analysis of the novel" The Shining. " In this study, the author made a complex comparison between the problematics of domestic violence and deterministic trauma presented in the novel with the same situations but presented in real life. The author critically analyzed them before explaining them, and after the explanation, a comparison with real-life situations was made. This is a good reference for developing the comparison between the situations presented in the book with real-life situations such as alcoholism, Schizophrenia, and domestic violence.

On the other hand, our current society lives under the influence of technology every single day. Technological advances had permitted the media to communicate much information easier. On the internet, we can find many news and articles that serve as a reference to develop the analysis of the topics present on The Shining. For example, there is an article from the webpage Magnet that says that alcohol encourages violence more than other drugs, but some media do not mention it. Much news talk about illegal drugs and their effects, but they ignore how dangerous alcohol can be. In Australia, it is common that media bind illegal drugs with violent crimes such as sexual assaults and homicides.

However, a study determined that 47% of homicides in this country were related to alcohol during six years.

Therefore, an article published on the website "UNA Comunica" says that the statistics of domestic violence, alcoholism, and racial discrimination grew up during the breakdown situation due to COVID-19 in Costa Rica. This situation shows that these problems can be found in many homes of Costa Rican citizens, but not all of them recognize their suffering or are too scared to do it. It is also mentioned that as has happened in different countries of the world in this crisis- in Costa Rica, the data show an increase in inquiries for domestic and sexual violence received on the 911 line, which only in April 2020 reached 981, compared to 827 on average, between January and March.

On the other hand, there is an article on the website of El Mundo that talks about a man who has Schizophrenia, named Jose Arturo. The article says that this man did not know he had Schizophrenia. He was antisocial even with his family. However, doctors said that he was suffering from a kind of depression, but this was not true. Although he had this mental illness, he was not a violent person.

### **1.5. Scope**

It is important to mention that this investigation focuses on Costa Rican modern society to compare the problematics presented in the novel and the social problematics presented in Costa Rican modern society. This scope aims to obtain data that will determine the importance of creating a literary analysis about *The Shining* by Stephen King with a socio-cultural approach in modern society. The ultimate achievement is to make a very strong comparison between the situations present in the novel, such as

alcoholism, Schizophrenia, among others, with Costa Rican Society. Some other achievements are presented below:

- Show author's perception about social problematics in the novel: Stephen King wrote many of his books while he was suffering different illnesses caused by drugs and alcohol. For example, he wrote the story "It" while he was with the effects of cocaine. For this reason, it can be noticed that the author has a complex knowledge about this kind of social problematics and his perception in the book is very important for the investigation.
- Analyze book's problematics in Costa Rican modern society: "The Shining" by Stephen King deals with social problems such as alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence, among others. It is not a secret that Costa Rican society is currently affected by these social problems today, and that is why these real situations can be analyzed with those in the book.
- Determine the cause of the most common social problems in Costa Rica and their association to the book: As mentioned above, "The Shining" by Stephen King is full of social problems existing in our current society. That is why it is also very important to determine the causes of these problems in Costa Rican society and how they are associated with the situations presented in the horror story.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter deals with different literary theories that were used when analyzing the novel *The Shining*. It provides a series of important definitions as well as the approach and some aspects of literary analysis. In addition, the definition of themes, symbols, and motifs and the function that they fulfill in the literary work is mentioned. In addition, the biography of the author Stephen King is discussed, and the plot and characters of the novel are mentioned. Finally, the author's relationship with social problematics presented in the novel and book's problematics in Costa Rican modern society are presented in this chapter.

#### **2.1. Literary Theories and Approaches**

##### **2.1.1 Important Definitions**

During a literary analysis, it is very important to understand certain meanings that are very significant during all the analysis—the first definition in literature. The definition of literature is given because this analysis is being realized based on a literary work. According to the website [significados.com](http://significados.com), literature is an artistic manifestation based on words and both written and oral language. It can be said that literature is another way used by human beings to express their feelings and ideas in an oral or written form. Among the most prominent authors who created some of the most important literature works can be mentioned by William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, Miguel de Cervantes, Gabriel Garcia

Marquez, and Victor Hugo. In this case, it is the novel *The Shining*. In addition, some other important aspects of literature are treated below.

The second definition is theory. According to the website [significados.com](http://significados.com), the theory is a term that comes from the Greek "theoria" that in the historical context meant to observe, contemplate or study and refine rather a speculative thought. In its evolution, the term went on to designate ideas based on a given topic, which seeks to convey an overview of some aspects of reality. It consists of a set of hypotheses. In many circumstances, the theory is seen as a model of reality. A theory must be somehow verifiable. In other words, a theory is a set of rules, reasoning, and knowledge that form the basis of a science or any other area of study.

### **2.1.2 Literary Theories**

According to Elvia Fernandez Morales (2013), a literary theory is a set of rules, principles, and knowledge that form the basis of literature. In addition, it constitutes a set of laws or reasoning that try to explain a certain phenomenon. In this case, it tries to explain a literary text. A literary theory is a set of knowledge and reasoning which can be applied by readers or by other writers to understand how a literary text is formed and to be able to explain it. These theories are important and necessary when carrying out a literary analysis since they allow or facilitate the interpretation of literature and carry out literary criticism.

There are many types of theories in different areas of work, especially in the scientific area. However, there are also literary theories. Literary criticism, also known as literary theory, is a discipline responsible for analyzing and issuing a value judgment based on the content of a literary work, be it a novel, story, or poem, to guide the reader. There are

different types of literary theories. For example, the Semiotic theory is used to study signs and symbols presented in a literary work. Another theory is the Reception Theory, which establishes that readers must characterize the literary work.

In addition, this theory studies the reader's role in literature, and it says that the reading process must always be dynamic. Therefore, there is the Psychosomatic Theory, a specific method used to investigate unconscious mental processes used by the author in literary works. Finally, we have the socio-cultural theory. According to the website [verywellmind.com](http://verywellmind.com), Sociocultural Theory is an emerging theory in psychology and other fields that looks at the important contributions that society makes to individual development. This theory stresses the interaction between developing people and the culture in which they live.

Besides being a theory mostly used in the psychological field, it can be used for this literary analysis of the novel "The Shining" by Stephen King due to the socio-cultural approach used in the investigation. The socio-cultural theory grew from seminal psychologist Lev Vygotsky, who believed that parents, caregivers, peers, and the culture at large were responsible for developing higher-order functions. According to Vygotsky, learning has its basis in interacting with other people. Once this has occurred, the information is then integrated on the individual level.

### **2.1.3 Approach and Elements of the Literary Analysis**

According to William Moran (2019), literary approaches are the methods, techniques, and choices that a writer uses to create a literary work. As mentioned before, this literary analysis is being done with a socio-cultural approach. It is important to manage the

meaning of socio-cultural to understand this approach. According to the website [definicionabc.com](http://definicionabc.com), the term socio-cultural refers to any process or phenomenon related to the social and cultural aspects of a community or society. In this way, a socio-cultural element will have to do exclusively with human achievements that can serve both to organize community life and give it meaning. The analysis approach is socio-cultural because the shining deals with social problematics that affect social norms and society in general terms.

This is indeed a terror novel that deals with demons, ghosts, and paranormal aspects. However, this novel reflects many socio-cultural issues or problems that we can reflect on and compare with current society. The main character suffers from schizophrenia and alcoholism, situations that affect hundreds of people worldwide every day. The paranormal aspects can be analyzed as metaphors in the novel. For example, the main character is manipulated by the demons of the Overlook Hotel, and they want him to do several bad things, such as killing his family. This situation can be interpreted as a metaphor related to the consequences of alcoholism. When a person is drunk or has a serious problem with alcohol, it can commit violent acts such as murder a person, and in most cases, the person would do so without being aware of what is doing. Therefore, it can be said that alcohol manipulates a person and leads him to do terrible things he will regret later. This is how the situations of the novel can be compared with real-life situations.

Several aspects form a literary analysis. Most of them are mentioned in this work. First, the author's biography. This aspect talks about the author's life in a summarized way. In addition, it mentioned the author's social and literary context. Then we have the literary movement, genre, and literary subgenre to which the work belongs. In this case, the Shining

belongs to the genre of the novels, and its sub-genres would be psychological terror, suspense, and gothic novel, as in most of Stephen King's works.

During a literary analysis, other aspects that can be taken into account are the type of narrator, who can be the protagonist, witness, or omniscient—also, the main and secondary characters and their importance during the literary work. The characters are a very important aspect of the literary work because the story revolves around the characters, and without them, we would not have a story. In addition, there is the plot and main and secondary themes of the literary work and its structure. Finally, the analysis of the literary work concludes with an argument and the reader's personal opinions. An argument is how you tell the work according to your interpretation of the literary text read. In addition, the reader's personal opinion about the literary work can be expressed in an essay format.

## **2.2 Themes, Symbols, and Motifs**

### **2.2.1. Definition, function, and importance of Themes in Literature**

According to the website [masterclass.com](http://masterclass.com), a theme is defined as the main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly. The theme in a story is its underlying message or big idea. This belief, or idea, transcends cultural barriers. It is usually universal. When a theme is universal, it touches on the human experience, regardless of race or language. It is what the whole story is about. A literary work, such as a novel, can contain many themes.

These themes are divided into major themes and minor themes. Major and minor themes are two types of themes that appear in literary works. According to the website [literarydevices.net](http://literarydevices.net), A major theme is an idea that a writer repeats in his literary work,

making it the most significant idea in his work. On the other hand, a minor theme refers to an idea that appears in work briefly, giving way to another minor theme. In "The Shining" by Stephen King, this novel contains several major and minor themes that will be analyzed later. Themes are very important because they are the central focus of the story or narrative. Their main function is to express the intended lesson, conclusion, message, or point of view of the author. Themes connect all the parts of the story, such as characters, plot, problem, setting, and events.

### **2.2.2 Definition, function, and importance of Symbols in Literature**

According to the website literarydevices.net, a symbol is a literary device that contains several layers of meaning, often concealed at first sight. It represents several other aspects, concepts, or traits than those visible in the literal translation alone. A symbol is using an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning. It is very common that in literary these objects or actions have symbolism. Symbolism uses symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense.

Symbolism has great importance in the field of literature. Many authors have used different symbols for different cultures for different traditional stories, fables, legends, and religious contexts. However, symbolism rejected realism and offered a new approach that truth can be revealed indirectly. The novel "The Shining" by Stephen King has many symbols present on it that will be analyzed later.

### **2.2.3 Definition, function, and importance of Motifs in Literature**

Motifs and themes are linked in a literary work, but there is a difference between them. In a literary work, a motif can be seen as an image, sound, action, or another figure that has a symbolic significance and contributes to developing a theme. A motif is a recurrent image, idea, or symbol that develops or explains a theme in a literary piece, while a theme is a central idea or message.

Sometimes, examples of the motif are mistakenly identified as examples of symbols. Symbols are images, ideas, sounds, or words representing something else and help to understand an idea or a thing. On the other hand, Motifs are images, ideas, sounds, or words that help explain the central idea of a literary work theme. Moreover, a symbol may appear once or twice in a literary work, whereas a motif is a recurring element.

### **2.2.4 Themes present in the novel *The Shining***

Like many of Stephen King's novels, *The Shining* is imbued with paranormal elements. However, this novel also presents a series of deep and no-paranormal themes related to many situations that are happening nowadays. The first theme is alcoholism. Alcoholism is a disease that develops in a person who abuses the consumption of alcoholic beverages. This causes the person to develop a great dependence on alcohol consumption and carry out violent acts.

Alcoholism and abuse go hand in hand in *The Shining*, and together they dominate much of the novel. When Jack Torrance gets a job as the winter caretaker at the Overlook Hotel, he learns about Grady, the previous caretaker. The latter went insane and murdered his family before committing suicide. At the beginning of this work, it was mentioned that

the themes present in the novel could be compared with current situations. The main character Jack Torrance also turned out to be an alcoholic.

He becomes possessed by the evil spirits of the hotel, who incited him to commit violent acts against his loved ones. Ignoring the paranormal aspects, we could say that what incites Jack to commit these acts is his alcohol abuse, since when he is in the hotel, he falls into that vice again. Many people today have even harmed their loved ones because of alcohol. Unfortunately, this is a situation that, over the years, has become more common. Stephen King may have placed this theme in his literary work to express his thoughts about the consequences of a disease such as alcoholism.

The next theme is violence. *The Shining* is violent from its first moments and has violence on just about every page. From angry hedge animals to ghosts with the power to bruise human flesh, this story is laden with brutality. The Overlook hotel feeds on violence. This leaves Jack particularly vulnerable. Jack has been battling violence all his life, from his father's abuse to Jack, his siblings, and his mother to Jack's violent temper. Although he is far less violent than his father, extreme anger and aggression lurks inside him and threatens to destroy his life at every moment. Jack's losing battle to control his violence is touchingly painful to watch. We all know what it is like to fight for control over some destructive quality or emotion. One thing that makes *The Shining* so arresting is its take on how violence and love can get tangled up together in abusive relationships.

Finally, we have the supernatural theme. Actually, at the end of the novel, the *Shining* is not directly mentioned if everything that happened was the work of natural beings or if they were hallucinations of the main character named Jack Torrance. The supernatural theme can also be compared to a mental illness that affects many people

around the world today. Schizophrenia is a mental disease that causes the person to have hallucinations, personality disorders, and loss of reality. As far as is known, Jack Torrance did not suffer from this disease. However, it could be concluded that the supposed spirits that manipulated him could have been a product of his imagination, which led him to have a severe personality disorder accompanied by a great aggressiveness.

## **2.3 Author's Biography**

### **2.3.1 Stephen King's Biography**

American horror novel writer Stephen King, Richard Bachman, was born on September 21, 1947, in Portland. He barely lived with his father because he abandoned his family when he was just two years old. It was his mother who raised him and his older brother. As a child, he witnessed a tragic accident when one of his friends was caught on the train tracks and run over by it, and although it is suspected that this event is the inspiration for his works, the author rejects that idea. His interest in this genre was due more to reading the fiction and horror books that an aunt of hers collected.

He is the author of very popular horror novels, many of which have been brought to the cinema with remarkable success. He started writing at an early age, selling his stories to his peers, and later sending his stories to newspapers. His first novel was *Carrie* in 1974, a story about a young woman with psychic powers, which at first he threw away, but thanks to his wife, he resumed the story and later became one of his greatest successes, leading to the cinema. From this great public success, more works such as *The Mystery of Salem's Lot*, *The Shining*, *The Dead Zone*, *Cujo*, *Animal Cemetery*, *It*, *Misery*, *The Dome*, *Doctor Dream*, *Revival*, several of them also carried to the movies.

In the early afternoon of June 19, 1999, as he was strolling down the shoulder of a freeway, he was hit by a car in the direction of North Novell and then transferred to Central Maine Hospital. His injuries were very serious, and after five operations, King resumed the job where he had left it in the *On Writing* novel. In recent years, he has recovered great classics of his work, such as *The Shining*, thanks to its sequel, *Doctor Sleep*, and has entered new genres that he had only previously practiced in the story, such as the police genre, with *Mr. Mercedes*. In 2003, he received the National Book Award for his career and dissemination of American letters. In 2015, King was awarded the National Medal of Arts by the United States government to recognize his long career in the world of letters (Castillo, 2019).

### **2.3.2 Stephen King and *The Shining***

Stephen King traveled with his family to a quiet Colorado hotel where they were the only guests for a weekend. The venue was the Stanley Hotel, and he was inspired to create *The Shining*. The Stanley Hotel, which inspired the famous King novel and the Stanley Kubrick film, was already known for its ghost legends. It all started when one of the waitresses was electrocuted in room 217, leading to a series of paranormal phenomena that came later. Over the years, guests and staff alike became convinced that strange things were happening at the property. Clothes that came out of the suitcase by magic, lights turned on by themselves, and strange noises of children that had no explanation. The writer lived a night full of scares and even commented that he heard children's voices. Years later, the writer Stephen King himself has related that he heard sounds of children laughing during his stay.

## 2.4 Plot of The Shining

The Shining mainly occurs in the fictional Overlook Hotel, an isolated, haunted resort hotel located in the Colorado Rockies. The hotel's history, which is described in backstory by several characters, includes the deaths of some of its guests and former winter caretaker Delbert Grady. Jack Torrance, his wife Wendy, and their five-year-old son Danny move into the hotel after Jack accepts the position as winter caretaker. Jack is an aspiring writer and recovering alcoholic with anger issues which, before the story, had caused him to accidentally break Danny's arm and lose his position as a teacher after assaulting a student. He succumbed to cabin fever and killed his family and himself. Jack hopes that the hotel's seclusion will help him reconnect with his family and give him the motivation needed to work on a play.

Danny, unknown to his parents, possesses psychic abilities referred to as the Shining that enable him to read minds and experience premonitions as well as clairvoyance. The Torrances arrive at the hotel on closing day and are given a tour by the manager. They meet Dick Hallorann, the chef, who also possesses similar abilities to Danny's and helps explain them to him, giving Hallorann and Danny a special connection. The remaining staff and guests depart the hotel, leaving the Torrances alone in the hotel for the winter.

As the Torrances settle in at the Overlook, Danny sees ghosts and frightening visions. Although Danny is close to his parents, he does not tell either of them about his visions because he senses that the care-taking job is important to his father and the family's future. Wendy considers leaving Jack at the Overlook to finish the job by himself; Danny refuses, thinking his father will be happier if they stayed. However, Danny soon realizes that his

presence in the hotel makes the supernatural activity more powerful, turning echoes of past tragedies into dangerous threats. Apparitions take solid form, and the garden's topiary animals come to life. The winter snowfall leaves the Torrances cut off from the outside world in the isolated hotel.

The Overlook has difficulty possessing Danny, so it begins to possess Jack by frustrating his need and desire to work and enticing him with the hotel's storied history through a scrapbook and records in the basement. Jack develops cabin fever and becomes increasingly unstable, destroying radio and sabotaging a snowmobile, the only two links with the outside world the Torrances had. After a fight with Wendy, Jack finds the hotel's bar fully stocked with liquor despite being previously empty and witnesses a party at which he meets the ghost of a bartender named Lloyd. He also dances with a young woman ghost who tries to seduce Jack. As he gets drunk, the hotel uses the ghost of the former caretaker Grady to urge Jack to kill his wife and son.

#### **2.4.1 Main Characters of *The Shining* by Stephen King**

- Jack Torrance:

Jack is a writer who takes on a job as the isolated Overlook Hotel's acting manager during its winter closure. Having lost his job as a prep school teacher, Jack believes his new job will provide the fresh start that he and his family need, as well as the time and space to write, his new profession. Jack takes on a role as the story's clear antagonist, possessed as he is by the evil spirits of the Overlook Hotel, which compel him to become increasingly possessive of his writing and dangerous to his wife and son.

- Wendy Torrance:

Wendy is the fragile, timid wife of Jack and mother to Danny. She is a good mother and often presents for her son's strange bouts with telepathy instead of her often-absent husband, Jack. Although Wendy initially attempts to remain sympathetic to Jack's increasingly volatile fits of rage in response to her intrusion on his writing, she eventually comes to see him as a threat to her and Danny. She is forced to summon her strength to fight against him as her once semi-harmonious family life morphs into one of the bona fide horror stories she used to love.

- Danny Torrance:

Danny is the son of Jack and Wendy Torrance. He is gifted with powerful telepathic and psychic abilities that enable him to communicate with the Overlook Hotel's evil spirits and see visions of the future before it happens. Danny has an imaginary friend named Tony, who often speaks through Danny to warn him and his mother of danger. Danny is shy and secretive about his psychic abilities, telling only the hotel's chef, Dick Hallorann, about his powers. Much of the film is explored through Danny's point of view, and many identify him as its protagonist.

#### **2.4.2 Secondary Characters of *The Shining* by Stephen King**

- Tony:

Tony, whom Danny calls the little boy that lives in my mouth, is Danny's imaginary best friend and often the messenger of imminent danger, speaking through Danny to warn him and his mother that something bad is about to happen.

When Tony talks through Danny, Moments are distinguishable from Danny's regular speech through Tony's rough, deep voice and through Danny's use of his index finger as a puppet indicating Tony.

- Dick Hallorann:

Dick is the Overlook Hotel's chef during the regular season. He shares the ability to shine, as he calls it, with Danny and connects with him about their shared psychic abilities when Danny arrives at the hotel. Later, Dick is the one to receive worrisome visions about what is going on at the hotel, and he travels there despite the snowstorm to see if the Torrance family is in trouble. Dick is a general moral, heroic character but is still secretive about the history of violence at the hotel when confronted by Danny.

- Delbert Grady:

Delbert Grady is a butler that Jack meets at a mysterious, perhaps imagined party thrown in the hotel's Gold Room one night when Grady supposedly accidentally drops some drinks on him. Jack recognizes Grady's last name from his conversation with Stuart Ullman earlier. Ullman tells him about the old caretaker, Charles Grady, who went mad at the hotel and killed his family. Although Delbert Grady says he knows nothing about the story, he eventually pressures Jack to get rid of his wife and child just as he did.

## **2.5 Author's Relationship with Social Problematics presented in the novel.**

### **2.5.1 Alcoholism**

In many of the literary works that exist, their authors are completely connected with them, or perhaps some are not 100% connected but still relate or reflect themselves in some way in the work. In Stephen King, author of *The Shining*, he is very connected with this work and has a great knowledge of some of the social problems present in the literary work, which are a fundamental part of the novel. First, we have the issue of alcoholism. Stephen King knows the subject of alcoholism from his own experience and knows what it can do to a person and what he can lose because of this vice.

The author mentioned during the presentation of his novel "Doctor Sleep" in France (2013) that he knows the "psychology of the drunkard," implying with this that he knows how an alcoholic behaves and what he is capable of since he had problems with alcohol for several years. The author mentioned that when he was writing "The Shining," he drank too much and that in this story, he wanted to reflect on how this vice could affect people and those around them. Despite having suffered from this condition for several years, the author has not drunk for a long time and has been able to recover thanks to various treatments and meetings of anonymous alcoholics.

To learn more about the subject of alcoholism and its implications, the works of 3 authors can be taken as a reference. The first would be the book entitled "Alcoholism and its Emotions," written by Alejandra Camposeco. This book was written by a woman who took refuge in alcohol but one day understood that alcoholism is a disease and made the decision to recover. Alejandra shares her story in a sincere and hopeful way. She makes readers understand how difficult it is to live with this disease. The second literary work is

"Alcoholics Anonymous: The Story of How More Than One Hundred Men Have Recovered from Alcoholism," Written by William G. "Bill W." Wilson, one of the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The book talks about how to recover from alcoholism, and the composition process was collaborative, with drafts of the book sent back and forth between Bill W's group in New York and Dr. Bob, the other founder of A.A. Finally, there is the literary work entitled "Alcoholism in Youth" by Robert North. This book examines why teenagers drink and explain how alcohol use leads to low self-esteem, poor health, and even death. It offers advice on helping a friend with alcohol problems and provides a program for reducing alcohol abuse by teenagers.

### **2.5.2 Domestic Violence**

According to the website medline.com, Domestic violence is a type of abuse. It usually involves a spouse or partner, but it can also be a child, older relative, or another family member.

Domestic violence can include different types of abuse, such as:

- Physical violence: May cause injuries such as contusions or fractures (broken bones)
- Sexual violence: Includes sexual assault

- Emotional abuse: Includes threats, insults, put-downs, and put-downs. It can also involve controlling behavior, such as telling the victim how to act or dress and not letting them see family or friends.
- Economic abuse: Involves controlling access to money
- Harassment or stalking: Repeated and unwanted contact that causes fear or concern for the victim's safety. It can include observing or following the victim. The stalker may make repeated and unwanted phone calls or text messages.

This issue of domestic violence goes hand in hand with alcoholism. For that reason, the author also has experience with this social problem. The author mentioned during the presentation of his novel "Doctor Sleep" in France that by writing a novel like *The Shining*, he wanted to show the audience the consequences that people who are victims of alcohol abuse can have and that eventually, this abuse would lead to domestic violence.

Since Stephen King was an alcoholic for a time, he likely experienced these aggressive pictures caused by alcohol abuse, which are depicted in the novel. The character in the novel is an alcoholic, and this vice, together with the suffering of Schizophrenia, leads him to try to hurt his family, something that sadly happens today in Costa Rica and throughout the world. To learn more about the subject of domestic violence and its implications, the works of 3 authors can be taken as a reference.

The first one is "Inner Healing for Broken Vessels: A Domestic Violence Survival Guide" by Linda H Hollies. The book follows the healing process of the author as she decided to move forward with her life after being a victim of childhood incest. She outlines the seven steps she has identified as necessary for this type of healing recognition, admission, sharing, confession, reconciliation, choose to be different, and choosing daily

and parallels them to profiles of biblical women and modern-day women who have had to struggle with similar issues.

The second one is “Everything You Need to Know About Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence” by Charlotte Kinstlinger. The book is about physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, focusing on dating relationships and parental violence against children. The author assures readers that abuse is the fault of the perpetrator alone and stresses that the victim must take action since the abuse will continue unless professional intervention takes place. Kinstlinger acknowledges that deciding to leave a dangerous and negative relationship is never easy. The last one is “Surviving Domestic Violence: Voices of Women Who Broke Free” by Elaine Weiss. The book tells the stories of twelve women. Each was a victim of domestic violence, escaped from her abuser, reclaimed her dignity, reconstructed her life, and rediscovered peace. It also shows that domestic violence does not just happen "out there" somewhere. It happens in our town, in our neighborhood, on our street. It happens to women we see at work, the supermarket, the movie theater, etc.

## **2.6 Book’s Problematics in Costa Rican Modern Society**

### **2.6.1 Alcoholism in Costa Rica**

It is no secret to anyone that today people begin to consume alcoholic beverages from an early age. Regardless of what country they live in, what continent, their race, gender, etc., many people do it, and in many of these cases, they become alcoholics. The Costa Rican population is not exempt from being affected by this problem. Many young people start experimenting with these drinks when they are in school without even thinking about

the consequences this can cause. It is important to emphasize that alcoholism is a severe condition, which can lead people to completely ruin their lives and that of the people around them.

According to Oxford Dictionaries, alcoholism is a disease caused by the abusive consumption of alcoholic beverages and the addiction that this habit creates. Excessive alcohol consumption is completely harmful to human health; however, due to the nature of this research, it is important to focus on the social problems caused by excessive alcohol consumption. According to the website [medlineplus.gov](http://medlineplus.gov), families are often affected when someone in the home uses alcohol. Violence and conflict in the home are much more likely when a family member is abusing alcohol. Children who grow up in a home where heavy alcohol use is present are more likely to:

- Failing to perform in school.
- Being depressed and having problems with anxiety and low self-esteem.
- Having marriages that end in divorce.

Drinking too much alcohol or even one time could cause you to harm people physically, sexually, and emotionally. When a person is intoxicated, he is unable to act or think rationally, and this can lead him to do something that he can regret. For example:

- Car accidents
- Dangerous sexual intercourse habits, which can lead to unplanned or unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STDs)
- Falls, drowning, and other accidents
- Suicide
- Violence, sexual assault or rape, and homicide

According to the information found on the website of IAFA (Instituto Sobre Alcoholismo y Farmacodependencia), In Costa Rica, not all people consume alcohol. Of those who consume, 75% consume moderately, 18% consume alcohol in a risky way, and 6.4% practice a harmful consumption that is harmful and leads to dependence. To better understand these terms, let us see what We refer to each one:

- **Moderate consumption:** a person uses alcoholic beverages in a moderate way when he consumes them occasionally and generally does not have alterations in his behavior or presents physical problems. He also interacts with his family and friends without problems. You can consume occasionally but present intoxicated situations because each person has a different way of metabolizing alcohol, and in some cases, they have an intolerance.
- **Risky consumption:** the transition from risky to problematic consumption is almost imperceptible. In general, family and friends are the ones who worry about that person's drinking and point out about it; As a result of this, the drinker may experience vague desires to stop drinking. When the person has a repeated and systematic consumption of alcoholic beverages, he is in a phase of abuse and presents behavioral, family, and work problems as well as consequences for the failure to comply with your duties and obligations. As a result of alcohol abuse, you can be exposed to risky situations such as episodes of violence, driving while intoxicated and having accidents, using other types of drugs, getting involved, and having unprotected sex with people who sometimes do not know and run the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as the AIDS virus.

As can be seen, alcoholism is present in Costa Rican society as well as in the novel "The Shining" by Stephen King, and as well as in the novel, the excessive consumption of alcohol destroys families, people's lives and threatens compliance with social norms of a society. It is important to mention that three works carried out by Costa Ricans can be taken as a reference to know important aspects of alcoholism in Costa Rican society. The first would be one that was published in the Journal of Social Sciences of the UCR entitled "Social Consequences of Alcoholism in Costa Rica," written by Ana Cecilia Escalante along with nine other people. As the title says, this article talks about how alcoholism negatively affects Costa Rican society, preventing all people from having an adequate social life without having to bear this social problem.

The second one would be a research work carried out by Bradley Marin Picado and Jorge Esteban Prado Calderon entitled "Good Practices in the Prevention of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. In the summary of their work, they mention that 50% of the morbidity and mortality related to traffic accidents is associated with alcohol consumption in Costa Rica. During the last three decades, traffic accidents with alcohol per medium increased considerably. In this article, we carry out an analysis of the achievements and limitations in the prevention of this behavior in our country and a review of the international literature on prevention models that are effective in addressing this problem.

The last one would be a research work entitled "Problematic Alcohol Consumption in Costa Rica and its Relationship with a History of Sexual Abuse," written by Julio Bejarano Orozco and Mario Alberto Saenz Rojas. The summary of their work mentions that Worldwide, the specialized literature on the subject has established a close relationship between alcohol consumption and certain sexual risk behaviors. However, little is known in the local environment about how it is related to the consumption of alcohol with the

generation of sexually violent behaviors or such as sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence can lead to drinking problems. The objective of this study was to determine such a relationship, which is not it was possible to establish partially under methodological aspects and others that are raised and discussed in a specific way.

### **2.6.2 Domestic Violence in Costa Rica**

Previously, alcoholism in Costa Rica was discussed and how it relates to the social problems present in the novel "The Shining" by Stephen King. There is another problem present in the novel, which sadly is part of Costa Rican society. It is about domestic violence or interfamily violence. According to the website meanings.com, domestic violence is called the type of violence that occurs between members of a family and that can take place in the domestic environment or outside of it.

In this sense, interfamily violence is registered when situations of abuse or mistreatment occur between related people, either by consanguinity or by affinity. As such, we can say that an episode of domestic violence has occurred when damage has been caused to the emotional, psychological or physical integrity of a person. The most common types of violence that take place in a family are those from parents to children and those from husbands to women, although they can also occur in reverse or involve other relatives, such as uncles, cousins , or grandparents. Sadly, this social problem is increasing in the country, causing situations such as gender violence against women to increase. Gender violence is a type of physical or psychological violence exercised against any person or

group of people based on their sexual orientation or identity, sex, or gender that negatively impacts their identity and social well-being, physical, psychological or economic.

In Costa Rica, this type of violence has recently manifested itself against women, even causing the death of many young women. According to the website of the UCR University Weekly, gender violence does not give up, and its trend in Costa Rica is increasing, something that worries the related authorities. For example, the Public Force has had an increase in police reports for cases associated with domestic violence during the first semester of 2020. In 2019, 7,162 police reports were made due to the Domestic Violence Law, and in 2020, 9,206 were registered, showing an increase of 2,044 cases. In Stephen King's *The Shining*, there is domestic violence caused by alcohol abuse and the protagonist's who has Schizophrenia, since because of this, the protagonist tries to murder his family. For this reason, it is possible to compare the situations of domestic violence and gender violence that affect Costa Rican society with the problems presented in the novel.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

It is important to mention that the main objective of this chapter is to provide a better understanding of how the results were obtained and how accurate the information and the objectives of the investigation were linked. In addition, the main aspects of how the investigation was summarized and the instruments which were going to be used to obtain the data necessary to contrast with the research; are present in this chapter. Besides, it is necessary to know what data collecting tools are. According to Formplus Blog, “Data collection tools refer to the devices/instruments used to collect data, such as a paper questionnaire or computer-assisted interviewing system.” (2019) In other words, Data Collection Tools are methods that help the researcher to obtain different information on a specific topic through different techniques. Moreover, this chapter is made up of 6 fundamental elements. In this section, the method which is used to carry out this investigation is described. Therefore, the better the reader understands how these six elements are linked, the better new researches could be conducted in the future.

In literature, it is more adequate to use a qualitative method due to the nature of the investigation. For that reason, multiple aspects of the qualitative approach are mentioned in this section. The next element would be to describe the research design. In this part, the plan or strategy used to obtain the needed information of the research is also broken down. Another element is the information sources which explains where the source of information comes from.

Furthermore, in this research paper, the analysis of the categories is also added. The last elements are the data collection instruments, in which each item is indicated and why they were selected to collect the information, and the other one is the collection data process and data analysis. Here it is explained how the data is collected and how it will be analyzed. By categorizing and tabulating the results, the reader might also have an idea of how perceptions and ideas change through time. Therefore, accuracy when gathering information is required.

### **3.1 Research Approach**

It is very important to have in mind that this research was developed with a qualitative approach. According to Sage Publish, Research Approaches “are plans and the procedures for research that span the steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation.” (N.D.) In other words, the type of research is the path on which each investigator decides to give his/her work a purpose. This purpose defines where the analysis is going; therefore, each element to be considered for the investigation can now be defined.

Sage Publishing also typifies that.

Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant’s setting, data analysis

inductively building from particulars to general themes.

(N.D.)

Therefore, a qualitative research approach or research analyses are the strategies or processes used by the researcher to get data that is not related to numbers or statistics. The qualitative research approach focuses on obtaining information from opinions, experiences, and concepts. For this approach, different sources are considered to gather data since a qualitative approach allows the researcher to get the exact opinions from Costa Rican educators who teach English as a Foreign Language. Thus, these professionals who are constantly dealing with social behaviors which are present in modern society are the ones chosen for this research paper.

On the other hand, this document uses a qualitative approach due to the nature of the investigation, which is to link the book with Costa Rican modern society. To get more information about this, a questionnaire was made to get specific answers and know the opinions of different professionals in the English teaching area. Numbers, statistics, and other mathematical facts are, therefore, not relevant to this investigation. That is why it is a document that follows a qualitative strategy. The benefit for the reader is to see how opinions are relevant in any research if the appropriate approach is determined in advance.

As in many investigations, a different scale of internet sources was considered to gather data. For some time now, the internet has become one of the best sources to search for information to carry out research works. In this specific case, this tool was used to search for many definitions in virtual dictionaries. Since being qualitative research requires having different meanings of different words to acquire more information. It was also used

to search for academic articles related to the subject, literary reviews of the book, among others.

As mentioned before, a qualitative approach allows the researcher to get exact opinions from a specific population. In this case, the study population is English teachers, and to find out their opinions, a questionnaire was made with questions about topics covered by the research. Among these topics, we can emphasize the knowledge about the novel *The Shining*, social norms in Costa Rican society, situations such as alcoholism and domestic violence.

These professionals are constantly dealing with social behaviors which are present in the novel and Costa Rican modern society. Many teachers have had to deal with complicated situations when giving their lessons, whether they are situations that they are facing or that their students are facing. Many students experience domestic violence in their homes and also live with alcoholism. The fact of living with people who suffer from these problems that affect the social norms of coexistence makes English teachers a good source of information for the research.

### **3.2 Research Design**

For this investigation, a descriptive research design is used. Descriptive research design is responsible for specifying the characteristics of the population being studied. Since we are interested in knowing more about the study population as well as why they were chosen for this research, among other characteristics, that is why it was chosen to use a descriptive research design. According to the website Scribbr.com, “descriptive research design aims to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation or

phenomenon.” (McCombes, 2019) As mentioned before, its main objective is to let know characteristics about the study population of an investigation. The methodology of this research design makes it very useful to get genuine answers from the study population. As being a very effective method, it is good to consider some advantages and disadvantages when using it. According to the website QuestionPro, at least five advantages and four disadvantages of the descriptive research design may be considered. First, these are the advantages:

- **Data collection:** Descriptive research can be carried out using specific data collection methods such as the observational method, case studies, and surveys. In simpler words, in terms of data collection, the descriptive research design allows us to collect the information through different instruments, so there are different possibilities and options to acquire the information.
- **Mixed data:** Since the data collected is both qualitative and quantitative. You have a holistic understanding of a research topic. This means the data that was not planned to be collected may be varied, diverse, and comprehensive.
- **Natural environment:** Descriptive research allows research to take place in the respondent's natural environment, ensuring the collection of high-quality and honest data.
- **Quick to carry out and cheap:** As in descriptive research, the sample size is generally large, data collection is quick and cheap.
- **Forms the basis for decision-making:** As the data collected in descriptive research represents a larger population and is robust, it is easy to make decisions based on the design.

Then, we have some disadvantages of using this design:

- Confidentiality: Respondents do not always answer truthfully if the questions are too personal or if they feel they are being "watched." This can negate the validity of the data. For this reason, it is better to create neutral but useful questions.
- Possible bias: If the observer has a potential bias towards the research topic or some respondents, they can be considered invalid or false.
- The sample is not representative: Due to the randomness of the sample, it is very difficult to validate that it is an exact representation of the entire population.
- The cause is not known: Since descriptive research only focuses on the "what" of an objective or phenomenon, it does not delve into the "why or how," and that is a limitation in the learning of specific causes.

On the other hand, to understand the concept of research design a little more, we can take at least two definitions that come from academic documents. In a document written for the Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research, it is mentioned that “descriptive research design is a good method for a qualitative investigation. It is mentioned that the goal of qualitative descriptive research design is a comprehensive summarization, in everyday terms, of specific events experienced by individuals or groups of individuals.”

(Vickie A. Lambert, 2013)

Moreover, there is an article written by Helen R. Dulock for the Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing in which mentions that research design is a blueprint or plan specifically created to answer the research question and to control variance. The article also gives us some definitions for descriptive research design. One of those definitions mentioned was

that the descriptive research design is used to describe systematically and accurately the facts and characteristics of a given population or area of interest.

### **3.3 Information Sources**

The study population for this research is made up of English teachers who teach this language as a second language in Costa Rica. They are primary, secondary, and university teachers who usually, due to their work, encounter some of the social problems that are being compared with the novel and Costa Rican society. For this reason, it was decided to take them as the study population due to the answers they can provide about the subject under study. It is important to mention that primary sources, secondary sources, and tertiary sources of information were also used to collect data during the investigation.

#### **3.3.1 Primary Sources**

The virtual library of the UNSW University in Sydney, Australia, states that.

Primary sources provide a first-hand account of an event or period and are considered to be authoritative. They represent original thinking, reports on discoveries or events, or they can share new information. Often these sources are created at the time the events occurred, but they can also include sources that are created later. They are usually the first formal appearance of original research (ND, 2021).

In other words, it can be interpreted that primary sources are the more trustworthy sources of information and also highly reliable since they present original ideas proposed by the authors of that source of information and usually have years of support, which makes them even more credible. Some examples of primary sources are diaries, correspondence,

original documents, biographies, autobiographies, government documents, among others. It is also important to keep in mind that the novel “The Shining” by Stephen King is a primary source of information for this investigation. The reason why the novel “The Shining” by Stephen King is a primary source of investigation is that the entire analysis lies on it. Therefore, all the analyses and conclusions drawn are directly linked to the book.

### **3.3.2 Secondary Sources**

The virtual library of the Northcentral University mentions that.

Secondary sources describe, summarize, or discuss information or details originally presented in another source, meaning the author, in most cases, did not participate in the event. This type of source is written for a broad audience and will include definitions of discipline-specific terms, history relating to the topic, significant theories and principles, and summaries of major studies/events as related to the topic (ND, 2021).

In other words, secondary sources are responsible for giving a description or interpretation of the information provided by the primary sources. We can also say that they are responsible for evaluating and analyzing this information. As the researcher uses these sources as a second-hand illustration (point of view, analysis), these data provide commentary and valuable interpretation; however, they are not used as evidence. Some examples of secondary sources are books, articles, documentaries, synopses, encyclopedias, textbooks, reviews, and essays. Therefore, there are some articles, critical reviews, and information on media that interpret the book in some way.

### **3.3.3 Tertiary Sources**

According to the virtual library of the University of Minnesota Crookston,

Tertiary sources are sources that index, abstract, organize, compile, or digest other sources. Some reference materials and textbooks are considered tertiary sources when their chief purpose is to list, summarize or simply repackage ideas or other information. Tertiary sources are usually not credited to a particular author. (N.D.)

In other words, the tertiary sources are in charge of gathering and organizing the information provided by the primary and secondary sources. Some examples of tertiary sources are dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs, fact books, directories, guide books, manuals, among others. In this research, these tertiary sources of information were used above all to have the definition of different words and concepts, so the dictionary, whether virtual or physical, has been one of the most widely used sources. Databases and abstracts were also used for the same purpose of finding definitions for different words and concepts. However, it is important to clarify that they were not used as evidence.

### **3.4 Analysis of the Categories**

The core of this investigation is the book. Therefore, it is crucially necessary to state each factor that constitutes this research project. Moreover, to illustrate a deeper analysis of this investigation, different categories were created to provide different perspectives. The results are illustrated, creating the link between the data gotten from the teachers and the book.

### 3.4.1 Literary Analysis

The website Scribbr.com states that "a literary analysis means closely studying a text, interpreting its meanings, and exploring why the author made certain choices." (Caulfield, 2020) In other words, a literary analysis is a process by which a literary work is interpreted to acquire greater knowledge and understanding of it. This analysis can be applied to novels, short stories, plays, poems, or any other form of literary writing. Literary analysis can be very beneficial both for the person who performs it and for those who are going to read it because they can acquire new knowledge about the author, the genre of the work, the topics it deals with, among other aspects. In this specific case, a literary analysis was very useful to discover that the novel *The Shining* by Stephen King deals with issues that affect current Costa Rican social norms, such as alcoholism and domestic violence.

### 3.4.2 Social Norms

According to Oxford Reference,

Social norms are common standards within a social group regarding socially acceptable or appropriate behavior in particular social situations, the breach of which has social consequences. The strength of these norms varies from loose expectations to unwritten rules. Norms (such as those for social roles) are internalized in socialization. Functionalists emphasize that society, its institutions, and social order depend on social norms, but within a society, different social groups also have their norms. In other words, social norms are a set of unofficial rules that people must follow to have a healthy coexistence among themselves. (2021)

It can be inferred through this definition that even though these rules are not official or imposed by some entity or government, they are very necessary for good coexistence. In this research, the analysis of this category is very important since, according to the comparison that is being made with the themes of the book, these affect social norms both in the plot of the novel and in current Costa Rican society. Therefore, they cannot be ignored.

### **3.4.3 Social Behavior**

When the word social behavior is mentioned, it can immediately be inferred that it is related to the behavior that people have when interacting socially with others. However, social behavior has another focus in this research, and to understand it better, it is necessary to make known the definition of the term andragogy. Cambridge Dictionary states that andragogy is "the theory, methods, and activities involved in teaching adult learners." (2021). In other words, the term andragogy refers to all learning methods and techniques that are focused on teaching adults and young adults. It is important to clarify that these methods or techniques are completely different from those that are implemented in pedagogy because this other method focuses only on the teaching of children and adolescents.

Andragogy is very important when teaching adults as it helps stimulate their brains in different ways, and this helps them to acquire the knowledge they want and put it into practice. Knowing this term is also very important for this research since it is linked to the social behavior of people and, in this case, adults. As mentioned above, the study population of this research is English teachers, and it is for this reason that the andragogy concept is explained because teachers who teach English to adults are part of the study

population too. Furthermore, these teachers have direct contact with the social behavior of these people, as well as the problems that many of them face and that, on several occasions, affect the proper functioning of social norms.

#### **3.4.4 Culture**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, culture is defined as “the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time.” (2021). In other words, the term culture refers to the way people live according to their different customs and traditions. It is important to mention the aspect of culture in this research since it is closely related to social norms. Culture directly influences people's social relationships because the cultural traits of each person give them a characteristic way of speaking, thinking, among other things. Social norms can be affected in different ways according to people's culture because not all people have the same likes, way of thinking, or speaking, among others, and this could generate conflicts in which social relationships may be affected. However, despite the differences which may exist, all human beings live within a culture and allow it to develop, so it is up to each person to contribute to its evolution. Moreover, it is necessary to understand the aspect that culture and social norms complement each other, and that is why this aspect and the definition of this term are taken into account for this research.

#### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

For this research, different instruments were used for data collection. The most important were surveys, internet searches, and comparative charts. It was decided to look up different sources on the internet because it is easier and more accessible to search for

information on the net than in any other fount. In addition, it was decided to conduct surveys to English teachers to find out the public opinion of different individuals on the subject of this research. Furthermore, a comparative chart was created to see the relationship between the social problematics presented in the novel with the ones presented in Costa Rican modern society in a much clear way.

First, surveys are one of the most useful methods to collect information about a specific topic. It is crucial to keep in mind who the best person to be interviewed is so that gaining the necessary information about the topic of the investigation can be achieved. It is important to clarify the meaning of the survey to understand why this instrument is very useful. According to Cambridge Dictionary, a survey is “an examination of opinions, behavior, etc., made by asking people questions.” (2021). In other words, a survey refers to the process of analyzing thoughts, opinions, information, among other aspects, which can be provided by answering some questions about a certain topic.

This instrument allows the researcher to obtain the opinion of the study population about the subject of the research, and through this opinion, valuable information related to the work can be obtained. On the other hand, the comparative chart illustrates how the book can be connected to Costa Rican modern society. The main purpose of this instrument is to write down in one column the social problematics presented in the novel “*The Shining*” by Stephen King, and the other column writes down the most common social problematics in Costa Rican modern society to compare them and present them to the audience in a much clear way.

### **3.6 Collection data process and data analysis**

Three instruments were used for data collection in this investigation, which are internet searches, a survey, and a comparative chart. Thanks to the internet searches, it was possible to acquire many definitions of specific terms and also information from websites related to the main topic of the investigation. Moreover, these terms and information were used throughout the work. In the case of the survey, 14 questions about the research topic were created and added in Google Forms and then were sent to different chats and virtual groups formed by Costa Rican English teachers. Responses of each person were analyzed and grouped into a Word sheet. All the information collected was of utmost importance for the investigation, and it was very useful for answer some doubts about the work and also helped to gain more data about the topic—all these instruments complemented each other to carry out the analysis and investigation in an appropriate way. In the case of the comparative chart, it was developed in word, and as mentioned before, it was used to illustrate more clearly the relationship between the social problematics presented in the novel with the ones presented in Costa Rican modern society in a much clear way.

#### **3.6.1 Survey**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, a survey is “a set of questions people are asked to gather information or find out their opinions, or the information gathered by asking many people the same questions.” (2021). In other words, a survey consists of asking a series of questions about a specific topic to a specific population in order to obtain extra information about the determinate topic. These questions can be grouped in a document, digital application, form, among others. As mentioned before, a survey was used to gain more information about different aspects of this investigation. It was decided to survey because it

is pretty simple to perform and very useful when obtaining information. Since this research deals with social issues and conflicts, it was important to have people in Costa Rican society who deal with these situations. The best way to get this opinion was through a survey.

The primary purpose of this survey is to obtain data from English teachers, who are the study population of the investigation. The survey was created in Google Forms and is made of 14 questions, of which 12 of them are single choice questions, and 2 of them are more complex and require a longer response. All the questions presented in the survey are related to the investigation, and the book used to create this research. To apply this survey to different English teachers in the country, it was shared through social networks such as Facebook and WhatsApp. This was undoubtedly the best option for English teachers in the country to give their opinion about different topics that this research deals with, including the literary analysis of the novel *The Shining*, the social norms, their experiences as teachers in these areas, among others.

### **3.6.2 Analysis Table**

As mentioned before, a comparative chart was created to see the relationship between the social problematics presented in the novel and the ones presented in Costa Rican modern society in a much more precise way. According to the website *Definicion.de*, “A comparative chart is what allows to create a comparison and discover similarities and differences between various elements from their analysis or observation.” (Porto, 2017) In other words, a comparative table is an instrument whose purpose is to analyze the differences or similarities of two aspects. It can also be used to compare aspects of a

literary work and the thoughts of readers and authors. A comparison table allows its creator to analyze the information more clearly and at the same time compare it as required.

For this research, four comparative tables will be carried out to analyze a series of great importance to publicize more aspects of the book and the way of thinking of the person who carries out this literary analysis. The first table's objective will be to compare the literary theories chosen for this work with quotes from the book and the perception of the person conducting this analysis. In this way, it is intended to explain the connection between the data and the book. Moreover, the objective of the other three tables will be to present and compare the themes, motifs, and symbols present in the novel with quotes obtained from the book and the perception of the author of this research. The following table is an example of the ones that will be presented in Chapter IV.

Literary theories	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA ANALYSIS

The main objective of this chapter is to analyze the book with the literary theories previously mentioned in Chapter II. The analysis is sustained with the book and the interpretation that as a researcher is given to each section. In order to show this analysis in a more precise way, a series of comparative charts will be created. The first chart deals specifically with the literary theories selected for the research quotes taken from the book related to the theories and the researcher's interpretation. In addition, themes, motifs, and symbols are going to be analyzed. For the analysis of these elements, three comparison charts will be created to demonstrate the relation between the three elements, quotes taken from the book, and the researcher's interpretation.

#### **4.1 Approaches to the investigation**

According to the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, an approach is “what helps the reader to understand the role of historical context in interpretation as well as the relevance of linguistic and unconscious elements of the text.” (Brewton, 2021) In other words, a literary approach is what enables a reader or literary critic to understand the main purpose of a literary work. In this specific case, the approach allows the researcher to reach the conclusions that are intended to obtain to achieve the research's main objective. In addition, the literary approach also helps the researcher to get a better perception of the book. It is important to emphasize that the approach of this research is socio-cultural due to the issues that are analyzed, such as domestic violence, alcoholism, and social norms.

## 4.2 Theories vs. Literary Work

In this section, an in-depth analysis of the literary theories used for the research is carried out. It is important to mention that this section provides a detailed analysis of the book. The analysis consists of creating a table where the literary theories can be compared with quotes from the book. At the same time, the author of the research interprets the theory and the quote. The most important aspect in this analysis will be the author's interpretation of the research since his way of thinking and his perception about the book and literary theories are revealed. On the other hand, this table helps readers to understand the relationship between literary theories and the book in a clearer way.

### 4.2.1 Book Analysis

<b>Literary Theory</b>	<b>Quote or Situation (book)</b>	<b>Researcher's Interpretation</b>
<b>Sociocultural Theory</b>	“This inhuman place makes human monsters.”  (Chapter 17)	The socio-cultural theory is related to the development of people, culture, and the surrounding places. Also, it is related to the social development of people, but this development does not necessarily have to be "good." In <i>The Shining</i> ,

		<p>there are complex issues that seriously affect people in real life, and the culture and places they live are related to this. With this quote, we can see that the author tells us that inhuman places create human monsters, but what does he mean by this?</p> <p>Generally, people who live in homes with alcoholic people suffer abuse, either physical or emotional, which affects their healthy relationship with society and the people around them. Even the trauma that living with an alcoholic person can cause may lead another person in that home to be alcoholic. Possibly the children</p>
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		<p>would be the most affected. This makes a home no longer a healthy home but becomes an inhuman and conflictive place that turns people into monsters, severely affecting the function of social norms and their personal and social coexistence.</p> <p>This quote can also be related to another topic of the research and the book, and that also has to do with the cultural and socio-cultural aspects.</p> <p>Domestic violence in a home can also turn a "human" place into an "inhuman" one and turn those who practice this abuse and those who</p>
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		<p>receive it into monsters.</p> <p>An abusive person will never have good socio-cultural development and will not relate correctly with people either. It can be said that abusive people lose their humanity since many can even kill their partners, their children, and other people around them. Also, many people who grow up with domestic violence sadly come to see it as usual and repeat it when they are older. All this happens because they lived in an inhuman place that turned them into monsters, and sadly, they did not receive the help they needed.</p>
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	<p>“Once, during the drinking phase, Wendy had accused him of desiring his own destruction but not possessing the necessary moral fiber to support a full-blown death wish. So he manufactured ways in which other people could do it, lopping a piece at a time off himself and their family. ”</p> <p>(Chapter 20)</p>	<p>This quote shows us the relationship of the book with social and socio-cultural aspects and the effect of social norms. As is already known, an issue that connects with the book and the current reality of Costa Rican society is alcoholism. With this quote, it can be interpreted how this problem affects a person. Jack's wife told him that he was only going to kill himself by drinking so much, and this happens in real life. Wives often have to deal with their husbands' alcoholism and what this can cause. On different occasions, the alcoholic person may not</p>
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		<p>be the one who dies or the one who is destroyed, but on the other hand, his family, his loved ones, and many other aspects of his life are the ones that may be destroyed. The quote also gives us an interpretation of how manipulative people can be and how they can drag others towards a problem that is not their own, which undoubtedly affects social norms. By mentioning that although Jack could not kill himself with alcohol, he found ways to harm himself and his family as well, he shows us how a social problem such as alcoholism can generate</p>
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		<p>even more problems. It is not fair for others to pay for the negative actions of a single person, much less their family or loved ones. An attitude like this one, in the end, only causes sadness, loneliness, and regret, but when people realize it is too late to see everything they lost and how they could have prevented it. In the end, all leads to the own destruction of the person and the ones around.</p>
<p><b>Semiotic Theory</b></p>	<p>“Don't worry, Mommy ... He doesn't shine. Nothing here can hurt him.”  (Chapter 29)</p>	<p>The semiotic theory affirms that the symbols, either graphic or linguistic, of a literary work have a deep meaning. This quote from chapter 29 of the</p>

		<p>novel gives us an example of a linguistic symbol such as the word shine. In the book, this word has several meanings. It was even mentioned that it is the ability to communicate telepathically with other people. As a result of this, it can be interpreted that this word represents having a gift or ability no matter what it is, only that it would be the gift of communicating with living and dead people in this specific case. Apart from interpreting as a gift, the word shine can also mean possession, control, or manipulation. For example, in the quote, Danny mentions to his</p>
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		<p>mother that his father will not be hurt because he does not shine. Perhaps this may mean that Jack could not be manipulated or possessed by the dark powers of the hotel because if he does not have the gift of communicating with the living and the dead, he could not be manipulated by their thoughts.</p> <p>However, Jack ends up falling under the influence of the hotel's darkness and his thoughts. Another interpretation that could be given to the word shine would be a warning since Danny had many warning visions about the Overlook Hotel when his father took</p>
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		<p>the caretaker job, so the word shine can also be interpreted as a warning that something terrible could happen.</p>
<p><b>Reception Theory</b></p>	<p>“Monsters are real. Ghosts are too. They live inside of us, and sometimes, they win.” (Chapter 17)</p>	<p>As mentioned in Chapter II, reception theory is related to the interpretation and perception that a reader has towards a literary work. This quote taken from the novel the Shining allows us to develop a clear example of a reader's interpretation of the work, in this case, the researcher's interpretation. In fact, by this table and the tables of themes, motifs, and symbols, the importance of this theory for the investigation is demonstrated. In this</p>

		<p>quote, it is mentioned that ghosts and monsters are real and that they live within us and often beat us. Nevertheless, what does the author mean by this? It can be interpreted that many people face personal situations and that eventually, these situations turn into a monster or ghost that grows little by little within them, affecting themselves and the people around them. Analyzing it from this point of view, the author's thought is correct. If the book guides us, it is clear that Jack Torrance has a great monster of him, which is alcoholism. This monster has affected the</p>
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		<p>relationship with his family, his work, and his health, just as it happens in real life with people who suffer from this addiction. Many times people try to fight their ghosts or monsters, just like Jack did in the novel. When he accepts the job at the hotel, he does it to try to leave his vice behind and reform his life. Sadly, the monster inside him beat him, and everything went wrong. Another monster that can be mentioned and that we can interpret to exist within many Costa Rican homes is the monster of domestic violence. Like that of alcoholism, this monster lives in secret</p>
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		<p>from other people in our homes, affecting the healthy coexistence of all family members. Many people fight day after day against this evil, but many others do not achieve it and surrender to it. There is no doubt that when interpreting this small section of the story in this way, it can be said that the background that this quote has is quite deep, and without a doubt, we all have our monsters and ghosts within us, and we fight every day not to beat us. The monster of greed, selfishness, hatred, the ghost of fear, anxiety, stress are just a few examples of what our</p>
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		<p>people in our society face.</p> <p>Many people fight day after day against this evil, but many others do not achieve it and surrender to it. There is no doubt that when interpreting this small section of the story in this way, it can be said that the background that this quote has is quite deep, and without a doubt, we all have our monsters and ghosts within us, and we fight every day not to beat us. The monster of greed, selfishness, hatred, the ghost of fear, anxiety, stress are just a few examples of what our people in our society face.</p> <p>The most important thing here is to become aware</p>
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		<p>and see what monsters and ghosts affect us in our lives, and once we know what they are, face them and fight against them and not let them win, or else everything would be more complex in our lives.</p>
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*Fragments or quotes from the book The Shining alongside themes of the book and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation*

### **4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols**

In this section of the research, three analysis tables similar to the one presented previously are performed. The tables will analyze the themes, symbols, and motifs present in the book and will be compared with quotes taken from the book, the perception and interpretation of the author of this research. These three literary elements are essential when carrying out a literary analysis because they help the reader understand the main objective of the literary work and other aspects of it. The main objective of this section of the investigation is to present to the readers the themes, symbols, and motifs present in the novel the Shining in a clearer way and, at the same time, to make known the perception of the researcher about them.

### 4.3.1 Themes

According to Cambridge Dictionary, them is “the main subject of a talk, book, film, etc.” (2021). In other words, a theme in literature is what a literary work is about. The themes are pretty important and necessary when writing a literary work of any genre. If a work did not have at least one central theme, it would not make any sense, and it would not be worth developing. In the case of the novel the shining, there are several themes that will be presented through the following analysis table.

Theme	Quote or Situation	Researcher’s Interpretation
Alcoholism	"All your old drinking habits, too. Chewing Excedrin. Wiping your mouth all the time. Cranky in the morning. And you haven't been able to finish the play, yet, have you?"  (Chapter 29)	One of the most dominant themes in the novel is alcoholism, which is represented through the protagonist of the story Jack Torrance. This is perhaps one of the problems that most affect Costa Rican society today, and it is one of the topics in the book that is most related to real life. Maybe this is a horror story with evil spirits that make people lose their minds, but there is no doubt that the real "ghost" that haunts the protagonist and many people today is alcohol. Throughout the story, it can be noted how

		<p>the subject of alcoholism is present in each of the chapters, and the author also shows us how it affects the Torrance family long before Jack is "possessed" and tries to murder his wife and son. This quote that was taken from Chapter 29 is a sample of how a wife never forgets the experience or never loses the fear that she has felt when living with an alcoholic person. When Wendy tells this to Jack in the story, he had stopped drinking and no longer had such an addiction to alcohol. However, you can see how she continues to complain about his bad habit, and she also mentioned another addiction that Jack had, which was the high consumption of pain medication. The claim that Wendy makes is fair, and she had every reason to do so. It is quite possible that at this point in the story, she</p>
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		<p>still feels upset and scared just by remembering what happened when Jack drank. These same fears are those suffered by romantic partners in our society when their spouse has an addiction like this. It is interesting how the author of the work presents us a relationship between love and addiction in the novel since even though Jack drank, he loved his wife and vice versa, but clearly, he should never have put alcohol first then his family and his job as a writer. It can be interpreted through this quote that people who have lived with an alcoholic person hardly forget or lose their fear of that person. In the novel, we are even shown how the protagonist's son has suffered because of his father's addiction and that he even refers to alcohol as "The Bad Thing." In our current society, this</p>
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		<p>situation also occurs. Many children suffer and are traumatized by living in a home that is dominated by an addiction such as alcoholism. Many even follow in the footsteps of their father or mother and become alcoholics, as eventually happens with Jack Torrance's son. There is no doubt that this topic is perhaps one of the most "common" in our society, which sadly affects different people's lives. This first topic and this quote explain the relationship that this novel has with today's society. It also teaches us that there are hundreds of evil spirits or bad things around us that are not necessarily supernatural, but nefarious addictions alcoholism.</p>
Violence(Domestic Violence)	"He murdered his little girls with a hatchet, his wife with	Another theme presented in The Shining is violence. In this novel, alcoholism and violence are closely related

	<p>a shotgun, and himself the same way" (Chapter 1)</p>	<p>since one leads to the other, as it happens in today's society. Many people who suffer from alcoholism become violent and act in ways that no one ever imagined, and on many of these occasions, their loved ones end up being hurt or worse. In the novel, this is represented very clearly, as we can see in this quote. This short snippet of the story alludes to the moment before Jack accepts the job of caretaker at the Overlook Hotel and is told that the former caretaker murdered his entire family and then took his own life. Coincidentally, the previous caretaker was also an alcoholic and an aggressive person because of this vice, just like Jack Torrance, so we can interpret that alcoholism was the true cause of the violence represented in the story. Also, we can talk about domestic violence since the</p>
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		<p>people who are abused throughout the novel are Jack's family. Before Jack lost his mind, he already was a violent and aggressive person, especially when he drank, and many times he mistreated his wife and son. Here we can notice another relationship of the story with our current society. Domestic violence affects hundreds of people today and sadly has led wives, children, and even other family members to their deaths. Day after day, we can see and read in the news articles of abusive husbands who murdered their families or their partners, and it is even emphasized that the people who commit these acts of aggression suffered from alcohol or drug problems. Another interesting aspect that the author presents is how abuse, violent</p>
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		<p>behavior, and alcoholism can be transmitted from generation to generation, which also happens in our current society. In the novel, it is mentioned that Jack's father was a violent and alcoholic man who beat his mother and him.</p> <p>Growing up in a violent home, Jack acquired all these attitudes and repeated them with his family, becoming a copy of his father. This can be seen in modern homes today, and it has even been shown that the majority of people who suffered some of these youth abuses or grew up with them as if they were normal to come to reproduce these same</p>
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		<p>behaviors. However, this does not justify the violent or aggressive attitude of a person.</p>
<p>The Supernatural</p>	<p>“It was the place he had seen in the midst of the blizzard, the dark and booming place where some hideously familiar figure sought him down long corridors carpeted with jungle. The place Tony had warned him against. It was here. It was here. Whatever Redrum was, it was here.” (Chapter 8)</p>	<p>The third dominant theme in the novel is the supernatural. Being a horror novel, the paranormal, supernatural, and dark elements cannot be absent. As mentioned above, through the supernatural theme presented in the book, a message will be given to the reader about monsters that affect families in our current society, such as domestic violence and alcoholism. However, the supernatural also allows the novel not to lose its horror genre and makes everything very interesting. The author</p>

		<p>knew how to handle the supernatural and create panic in the readers. This quote, for example, is a fragment of the story which shows us how the psychic powers of Danny Torrance were crucial for the development of the novel. Danny had had a vision in which he was in a dark place in the middle of a blizzard and that he was being chased down a corridor by someone he knew, and on one of the doors in the corridor was written the word REDRUM. It can be interpreted that through the vision of this character, the author was giving us clues about the imbalance of the</p>
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		<p>story. Basically, a supernatural aspect or power was used to advance the story since the place was the Overlook Hotel which Danny recognized when he arrived, the person who was chasing him was his father, who was trying to assassinate him, and the word REDRUM is actually MURDER written in reverse. Throughout the work, we can find many supernatural elements, among them the topiary animals that come to life, the spirit of the woman who committed suicide in the bathtub of one of the hotel rooms, the corps of a boy that chases Danny in the playground, and the hotel</p>
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		<p>itself is a supernatural element. On the other hand, it is pretty interesting to see how the supernatural is related to current society since if we relate this quote to the issues and situations of alcoholism and domestic violence, many times people receive "warnings" that something wrong can happen because of those situations. However, many times it is too late, and nothing can be done to change people's destiny.</p>
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*Fragments or quotes from the book The Shining alongside themes of the book and the researcher's*

*interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation*

### **4.3.2 Motifs**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, a motif “is an idea that appears repeatedly in the work of an artist or in a piece of writing or music.” (2021). In other words, a motif can be seen as an image, sound, action, or another figure that has a symbolic significance and contributes toward the development of a theme. Motifs are often confused with themes, but

they are different. It is important to clarify that motifs reinforce themes through the repetition of a narrative element. Like other literary works, the Shining has some motifs that reinforce the themes presented in the novel. Those motifs are presented and analyzed in the following table.

Motif	Quote or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation
Red	<p>“The place Tony had warned him against. It was here. It was here. Whatever Redrum was, it was here.” (Chapter 8)</p>	<p>The first motif present in this novel is the red color. Clearly, if this work is a horror novel, you immediately have to keep in mind that the red color will play an important role in it. This color is emphasized throughout the work, especially when the word "REDRUM" is presented, which is mentioned in the quote taken from the book. The color red has a direct relationship with violence, homicide, and aggression, which is why it reinforces the theme of violence and</p>

		<p>domestic violence presented in the novel. According to this fragment taken from the book, it can also be interpreted that the color red refers to a warning, especially with the word "REDRUM" in Danny's vision, which tried to warn him about the place they would go and what could pass if they went.</p>
Alcohol	<p>“Dear God, he could use a drink. Or a thousand of them.” (Chapter 3)</p>	<p>Another motif of great importance to the novel is alcohol. As previously discussed, one of the most important issues in the story is alcoholism since it can be compared with situations in our current society. In addition, alcoholism is represented by the protagonist of the story.</p>

		<p>However, this topic would not be 100 percent complete or important without the constant mention of alcohol or alcoholic beverages throughout the novel. For example, in this quote, we can see a fragment of a conversation that Jack has with a person, and he tells him that he needs a drink or more than one to be more "relax." When reading the novel, you can find different fragments like this one, and that reinforces the importance of the subject of alcoholism for the story. On the other hand, the constant mention of alcohol also reinforces the theme of violence since, as can also be read in the book, the</p>
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		<p>constant consumption of alcohol by the main character contributed to the development of violence towards his family.</p>
Weather	<p>“The sky had been completely clouded over by two-thirty and it had begun to snow an hour later, and this time you didn't need a weatherman to tell you it was serious snow, no flurry that was going to melt or blow away when the evening wind started to whoop. At first it had fallen in perfectly straight lines, building up a snow cover that coated everything evenly, but now, an hour after it had started, the wind had begun to blow from the</p>	<p>Weather plays an important role in the development of the Torrance family's story. The meteorological conditions are mentioned repeatedly in some chapters of the novel. In their early weeks at the Overlook, the Torrance family is relatively happy and hopeful. The weather is sunny and unseasonably warm as Danny senses his parents loving each other. However, this all started to change once the snow arrived. In chapter 24, the</p>

	<p>northwest and the snow had begun to drift against the porch and the sides of the Overlook's driveway.”</p> <p>(Chapter 24)</p>	<p>climate plays a very important role since we can interpret that it seals the fate of the family. Before this chapter, the family decided to leave the hotel, but they could not do so due to a strong snowstorm that blocked all exits and the road, forcing them to stay. From this moment, you can notice a great change in the hotel's atmosphere, which generates a radical change in Jack. It could be interpreted that the coldness and darkness that covered the hotel at that time covered the protagonist, fueling his aggressive attitude and manipulating his thoughts. While a strong storm was unleashed</p>
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		<p>outside, another even stronger and full of anger began to develop inside that evil place.</p>
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*Fragments or quotes from the book The Shining alongside themes of the book and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation*

### 4.3.3 Symbols

According to Cambridge Dictionary, a symbol is “a sign, shape, or object that is used to represent something else.” (2021). In other words, a symbol is a literary device that gives meaning to an object, animal, color, among other things, within a literary work. It is always common for literary works to have symbols that help the reader get more hooked.

Moreover, the symbols help give context to the whole story. In the novel, the Shining, different symbols are presented. Those symbols are presented and analyzed in the following table.

Symbols	Quote or Situation	Researcher's Interpretation
The Roque Mallet	<p>“And now he was crouched in a dark hallway, crouched on a blue rug with a riot of twisting black shapes woven into its pile, listening to the booming noises approach, and now a Shape turned the</p>	<p>The first symbol that we can get from the novel is the roque mallet. First of all is important to have in mind that the Roque is an English game similar to croquet, and the roque mallet, has</p>

	<p>corner and began to come toward him, lurching, smelling of blood and doom. It had a mallet in one hand and it was swinging it (REDRUM) from side to side in vicious arcs, slamming it into the walls, cutting the silk wallpaper and knocking out ghostly bursts of plaster dust." (Chapter 4)</p>	<p>one soft end and one hard end. This artifact appears for the first time in the vision that Tony presented to Danny in Chapter 4. That is why it was taken a quote from that chapter. Danny's vision occurs before his family moves into the Overlook Hotel, and in it, a dark figure with a mallet chases Danny down a strange hallway. "Come and take your medicine!" the figure yells, swinging the mallet at Danny over and over. Later, when Jack gets home, Danny sees a bloody mallet in the front seat of the family car. Blink, and the mallet turns into a grocery bag. It can be interpreted that the person</p>
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		<p>who was chasing Danny in the vision was Jack and the mallet was the weapon that Jack uses later in the story to hit Wendy and then go after Danny. It is clear that Danny was receiving another warning of what was going to happen to his father and the mallet later in the story, and this warning goes hand in hand with that of the word REDRUM. The mallet clearly symbolizes violence and aggression as well as anger, since when Jack loses his mind and takes the mallet, he lashes out very aggressively against his wife. On the other hand, it could also be interpreted that the situation with the mallet is another</p>
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		<p>clear example of a situation of domestic violence that occurs in our current society. Many times when people lose control in troubled homes, they will take anything and lash out at their family members, causing injury or even fatal injury. This is precisely what the protagonist of the story does when, in his uncontrolled anger, he takes the deck and lashes out at his loved ones. There is no doubt that this is one of the most violent and bloody symbols in the novel</p>
The Scrapbook	<p>“For instance, you show a great interest in learning more about the Overlook Hotel. Very wise of you, sir. Very noble. A certain</p>	<p>While checking the boiler in the basement of the Overlook Hotel, the protagonist finds an old scrapbook, which serves</p>

	<p>scrapbook was left in the basement for you to find.” (Chapter 44)</p>	<p>within <i>The Shining</i> as a symbol of the hotel's rich and sordid history; However, the scrapbook also symbolizes the strange power the hotel has over Jack to influence his actions and drive him insane. The scrapbook is made of thick white leather, and the pages are bound in gold string. When Jack opens the scrapbook, an invitation to the masked ball celebrating the hotel's grand opening in 1945 falls out. Each page of the scrapbook is full of old newspaper clippings about the hotel and its former owner. There are clippings about the various deaths at the hotel and the "gangland-style shooting" outside the</p>
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		<p>Presidential Suite in 1966.</p> <p>All of the Overlook's history, both good and bad, is inside the scrapbook. The protagonist does not know whom the scrapbook belongs to, and he scours the basement and attic, trying to find clues about the owner. Jack spends hours alone, searching for evidence, and he begins to slip further and further into insanity. He gets the idea to write a book about the Overlook after finding the scrapbook, but when he tells Ullman about his idea, Ullman threatens to fire him. When Jack is finally driven completely insane by the evil forces of the hotel, he hallucinates a</p>
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		<p>conversation with Grady, the former caretaker who went insane and killed his family and himself, in which Grady tells him that "the manager" left the scrapbook in the basement for Jack to find. It can be interpreted that by "the manager," Grady does not mean Mr. Ullman. He means to say that the evil forces of the hotel, the same forces that are slowly driving Jack insane and convincing him to murder his family and himself so they can become ghosts in the hotel. In this sense, the scrapbook represents the Overlook itself and the magnetic, maddening effect it has on Jack. Alone and</p>
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		<p>isolated, Jack is more vulnerable to the hotel's forces and his worsening insanity, and the scrapbook draws him to this self-imposed isolation. For this reason, it can be said that the scrapbook also symbolizes insanity, a possession.</p>
<p>The Clock</p>	<p>“I don’t want to see,” he said low, and then looked back at the rubber ball, arcing from hand to hand. “But I can hear them sometimes, late at night. They’re like the wind, all sighing together. In the attic. The basement. The rooms. All over. I thought it was my fault, because of the way I am. The key. The little silver key.” (Chapter 29)</p>	<p>On the mantle of the Overlook Hotel's ballroom, there is a clock under a glass dome, and the clock symbolizes the relativity of time in the novel. It is mentioned in the story that the watch was gifted to the hotel by a Swiss diplomat years ago, and although Danny is sure it is something he probably should not touch, he winds</p>

		<p>the watch. The clock starts ticking, and a waltz sounds and two mechanical ballet dancers step out of a door and spin around. The clock begins to chime, and as he approaches the twelfth chime, Danny hears shouts of "Hooray!" and "Unmask!" Danny looks around the empty ballroom. The clock marks the time simultaneously in the era of Danny in 1975 and in 1945 during the masked ball that occurs perpetually in the haunted hotel's ballroom. When Danny winds the clock near the end of the novel, all of the hotel's past eras converge into one, all except the present, which lies outside of time in the</p>
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		<p>hotel. Of course, once Jack kills himself and his family the way the hotel wants, the present age will join the others. As climax approaches, the clock ticking can be heard along with echoes of "Unmask! Unmask! "And when Wendy sneaks into the hotel trying to evade Jack with the sounds of the clock ringing, Jack comes out of the shadows at the stroke of midnight, clearly insane and holding the rock mallet, just as mentioned. Earlier in the discussion of this other symbol. A moment before the boiler explodes, killing Jack and destroying the hotel, Halloran looks at his watch and notices it is one</p>
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		<p>minute to midnight. When the boiler explodes a minute later, the dome The glass is shattered, and the clock shatters, presumably putting an end to the Overlook Hotel's evil. The clock may time the hotel's many eras but is eventually destroyed in the "Torrance Era," thus putting a symbolic end. To the horrors of the Overlook that have continued to unfold over the decades.</p> <p>One could say that the clock is a symbol of evil as well since by understanding all these aspects when reading the work, it is implied that the clock is It is one of the leading causes of the supernatural things that happen in the hotel. Also,</p>
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		<p>the clock can symbolize innocence, but with a double meaning, since Danny sees it as an interesting and harmless object at the beginning, but it turns out to be much more complex and evil.</p>
<p>The Boiler</p>	<p>“She creeps, Watson said. You tell that fat little peckerwood Ullman, he drags out the account books and spends three hours showing how we can’t afford a new one until 1982. I tell you, this whole place is gonna go sky-high someday, and I just hope that fat fuck’s here to ride the rocket.”  (Chapter 3)</p>	<p>The Overlook Hotel burns to the ground at the end of the novel after the boiler explodes. It can be interpreted that the boiler represents Jack Torrance’s building insanity and murderous rage throughout the novel. When Jack is first hired as the winter caretaker at the hotel, Watson gives him special instructions to check the boiler twice a day. Jack develops a routine of</p>

		<p>checking the boiler twice each day, and he soon begins spending most of his time in the basement after he finds the scrapbook. Like the boiler, Jack's insanity begins to creep as the evil forces of the hotel influence his thoughts and actions, manipulating him through his alcoholism and commitment to his family. By the time Jack goes completely insane, hallucinating people and martinis, he starts forgetting to check the boiler and once lets the pressure build all the way up before finally hitting the damper. Jack forgets the boiler again at the end of the novel, just like Tony says he will,</p>
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		<p>during a psychotic break in which he tries to kill Wendy and Danny. When Danny reminds Jack, and he finally checks the boiler, the gauge is buried in the red, and it is spitting steam and sparks. Jack dumps the boiler, and the gauge begins to fall. He screams, "I WIN!" and then the boiler explodes, just like Jack's murderous insanity, killing Jack and destroying the hotel. At the end of the novel, what is mentioned in this quote taken from chapter 2 happened, the whole place exploded, and the pieces of the hotel flew like a rocket.</p>
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*Fragments or quotes from the book The Shining alongside themes of the book and the researcher's*

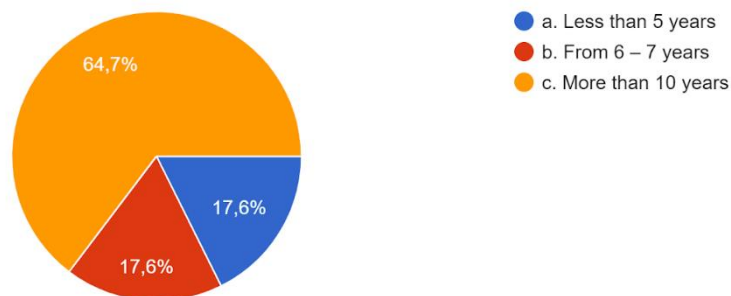
*interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation*

## 4.4 Survey Data Collection

In this section, the analysis of the collected data from the survey is presented. Seventeen teachers answered the survey, and all their answers were helpful in the research. To illustrate the analysis of the responses to the survey that was addressed to English teachers, a series of graphics were made. These graphics reveal the percentage of people who answered a question and how they answered it. In addition to these graphs, the researcher's interpretation is given to know his opinion about these answers provided by the study population.

### 4.4.1 Item Interpretation

1- How long have you been an English teacher?  
17 respuestas



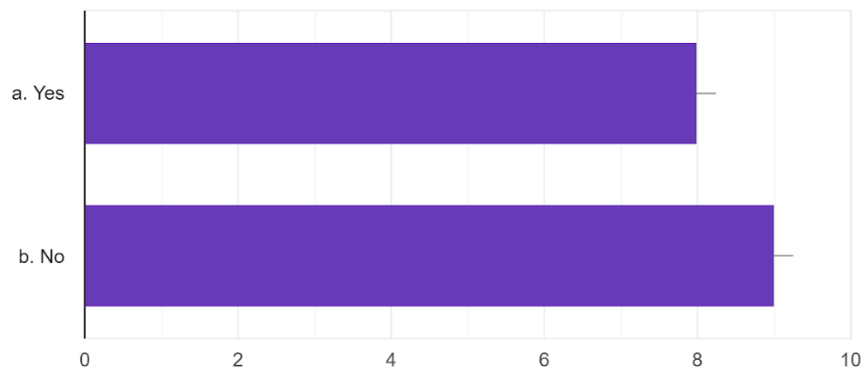
*Source: researcher's survey*

As can be seen in the first question, 64.7% of the interviewees answered that they had been English teachers for more than ten years. Through this answer, it can be interpreted that the interviewees have great knowledge in the field of teaching this language, so their answers in this survey are even more valuable for the research. It is important to mention that 17.6% of the interviewees answered that they have less than five years of teaching or

between 6 and 7 years of teaching. It is important to clarify that this does not make their answers less valuable for the investigation.

2- Have you ever read any of Stephen King's works during those years teaching English? If you answered "No" go to question # 6

17 respuestas

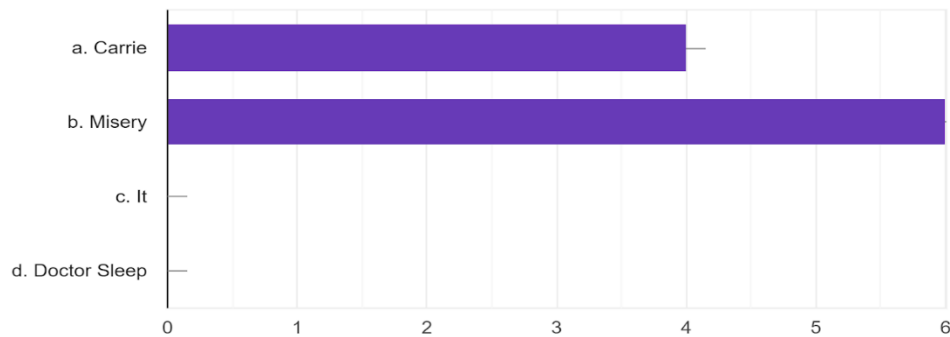


*Source: researcher's survey*

From this graph, it can be seen that approximately 47,1% of the interviewees have read one or several literary works of the writer Stephen King. This is of great importance since the literary analysis carried out in this research is based on a novel written by this writer. On the other hand, it is interpreted that 52,9% of the interviewees have not read a work by this author. The Shining could be a good option to begin to delve into the literary works of this great writer due to all the themes it deals with that make the story of the novel develop in an interesting way.

3- Which ones of the following stories have you read?

8 respuestas

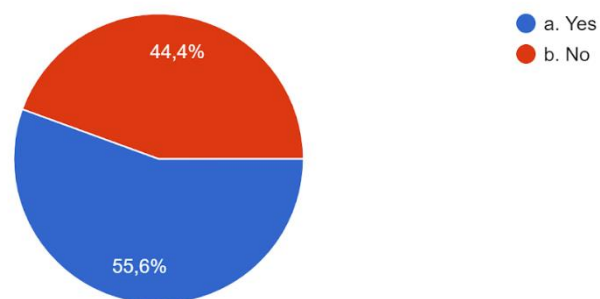


*Source: researcher's survey*

According to the graph presented in this question, 75% of those interviewees have read the novel *Carrie*, by Stephen King, while 50% have read the novel *Misery* by the same author. On the other hand, the other two novels obtained a percentage of 0%. The fact that the interviewees know at least two of the options given in the question suggests that they know the author and his work.

4- Have you ever read *The Shining* or at least watched the movie?

9 respuestas



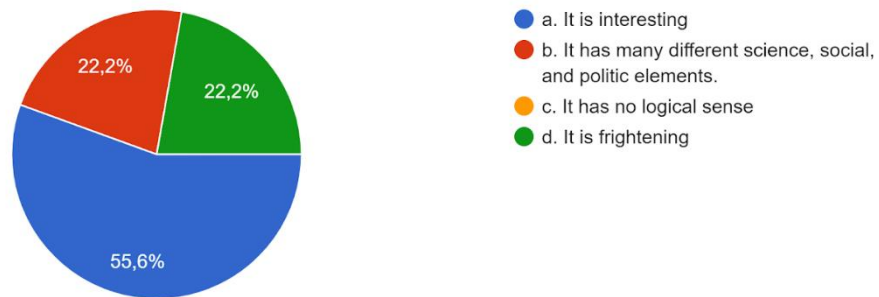
*Source: researcher's survey*

On this graph, we can interpret that 55.6% of the interviewees have read or seen the movie novel *The Shining*. On the other hand, 44.4% of those interviewed have not seen the

movie or read the book. These percentages show that the novel is known to most of the people who answered the survey.

5- What is your opinion about this novel?

9 respuestas

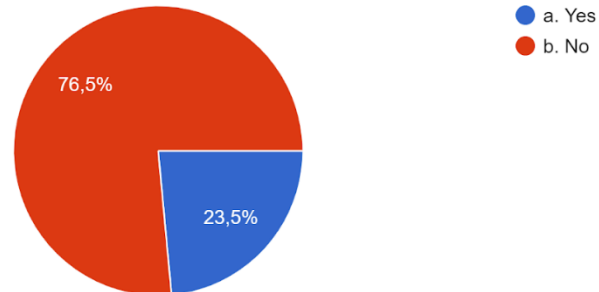


*Source: researcher's survey*

In this question, the answers of the interviewees varied a little, but it makes sense since they vary according to the perception of each person towards the novel. The graph shows that 55.6% of the interviewees consider the novel to be interesting. On the other hand, 22.2% of those interviewed consider that the novel contains elements that can be related to real life. Among them, political, social, and scientific elements were placed as options. Moreover, 22.2% of those interviewed consider that the novel is terrifying, something that is not surprising since it is a horror novel. As additional data, 0% of the interviewees considered that the novel does not have logical sense.

6- Do you think that a horror story can be related to everyday situations that are not horror or fiction? If you answered "No" go to question #8

17 respuestas



*Source: researcher's survey*

This question is quite interesting because, as can be seen in the graph, 76.5% of the interviewees answered that they do not believe that a horror novel can be related to situations that happen nowadays in our society. It is curious since, as has been shown in this research, it is possible that a horror novel can be related to issues or problems of our current society, such as alcoholism and domestic violence. On the other hand, 23.5% of the interviewees believed that a horror novel could be related to situations that are currently happening in our society.

7- Justify with your own words why you think that a horror story can be related to everyday situations that are not horror or fiction.

-Because we can use symbolism to reflect how life can make an impact according to situations.

-It is related to the horror that any kind of victim goes through (assaults, robberies, kidnapping, war, drugs, sexual attacks).

-Not to everyday situations, but there might be times when we can relate.

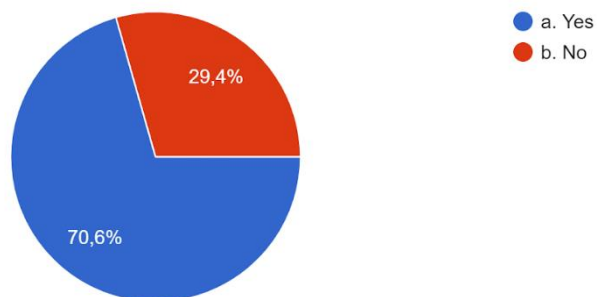
-The scariest things are the ones that we can relate to the everyday life because that means they could happen to anyone at any time.

Question # 7 of the survey was short-answer and requested the personal opinion of the interviewees. They had to mention why they believed that a horror story could be related to real life and situations present in our current society. Two of these four responses that were provided caught the researcher's attention. In the second answer, it is mentioned that "It is related to the horror that any kind of victim goes through (assaults, robberies, -kidnapping, war, drugs, sexual attacks)." This is interesting since this answer is closely related to the interpretation that the author of this research gave about how the monsters and ghosts of the novel could really be vices and addictions such as alcoholism and situations such as aggression and domestic violence. When talking about the horror of a victim, we can interpret that the interviewee could even be talking about a person who suffers from domestic violence or is going through a difficult situation such as the ones he gave as an example.

Another interesting answer was the fourth one. In this answer, the interviewee mentions that "The scariest things are the ones that we can relate to the everyday life because that means they could happen to anyone at any time." This is something that is completely true since anyone could suffer from vice-like alcoholism directly or indirectly. Also, anyone could suffer from domestic violence and assault, and sadly this is something that happens every day in our society, and it is frightening.

8- Do you have any experience with books or novels that deal with social problematics?

17 respuestas

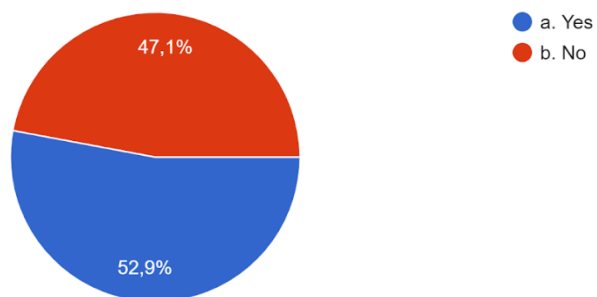


*Source: researcher's survey*

According to the information presented in this graph, 70.6% of the interviewees have read or are familiar with novels that deal with social issues. It can be inferred that this percentage of interviewees are knowledgeable about these issues. On the other hand, 29.4% of the interviewees do not have excellent knowledge about literary works that deal with social issues since they claim not to be familiar with this type of literary works.

9- Have you ever done a literary analysis of a work whose main theme is social norms? If your answer is "No" continue to question #11

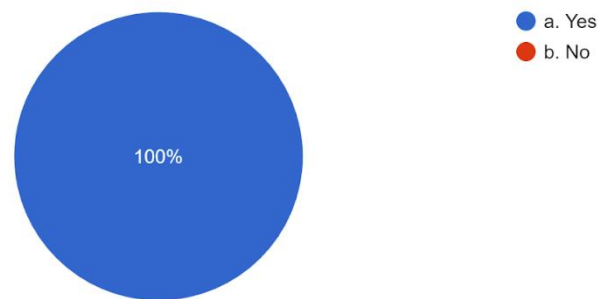
17 respuestas



*Source: researcher's survey*

Through this question, it is revealed that most of the interviewees have carried out literary analyzes of works in which social norms are present. Knowing this is very important since social norms played a very important role during the literary analysis of *The Shining* that was made in this research. If we talk about percentages, 52.9% of the interviewees answered that they have carried out a literary analysis of a work in which social norms are present. On the other hand, 47.1% of the interviewees answered that they had not done it.

10- Does the Analysis helped you understand better the literary work?  
9 respuestas

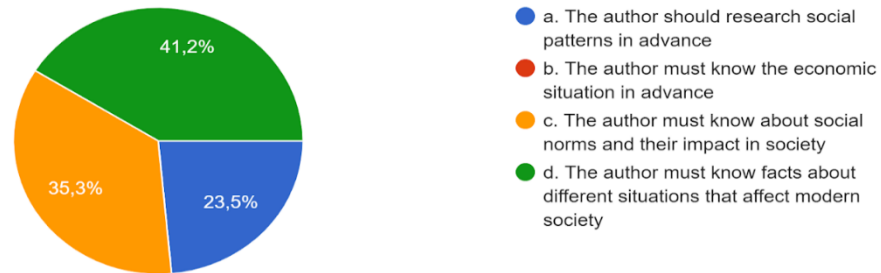


*Source: researcher's survey*

There is no doubt that in question #10, all the interviewees agreed. They were asked if a literary analysis helps to understand a literary work better, and with a percentage of 100%, all the interviewees agreed that literary analysis does help to understand a literary work. Interestingly, this was the only one of the 14 survey questions in which the interviewees fully agreed. This undoubtedly shows that literary analysis is a fundamental tool that cannot be neglected when conducting research like this.

11- What do you think an author can do to make a comparison between social problems depicted in a story with social problems that are experienced today?

17 respuestas

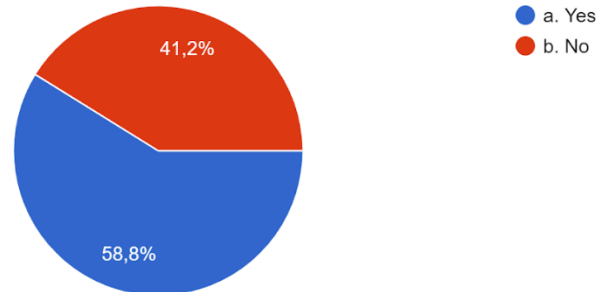


*Source: researcher's survey*

Unlike the previous question, this time, the opinions of the interviewees were divided. This question is quite important as it could help a future author of a literary analysis or author of an investigation. 41.2% of the interviewees answered that in order to make a comparison between the social problems present in a literary work and the social problems of our current society, the author must know facts about different situations that affect our modern society. On the other hand, 35.3% of the interviewees consider that the author should know more about social norms and their impact on society. Moreover, 23.5% of the interviewees believe that the author should research social patterns in advance. As additional data, 0% of the interviewees believe that the author must know the economic situation in advance.

12- Do you think that authors who write about topics such as alcoholism and domestic violence have suffered from these abuses in their lives?

17 respuestas

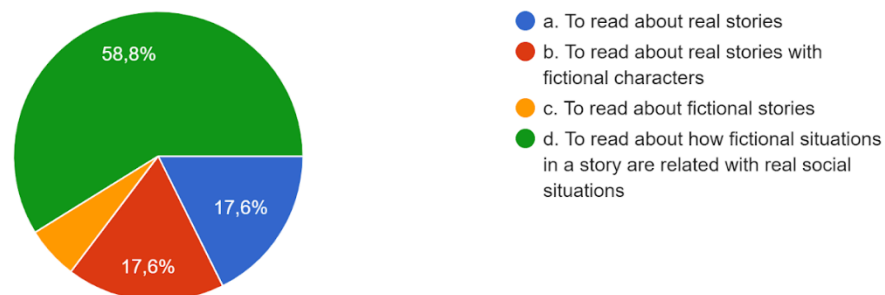


*Source: researcher's survey*

The main purpose of this question was to make known the opinion of the interviewees about the background that literary works have and the topics they deal with and how on many occasions, the author of these works is deeply related to them. As can be seen on the graph, 58.8% of the interviewees agreed, while 41.2% of the interviewees did not agree.

13- What would you expect to see in a literary analysis of a horror work whose main objective is to compare social problems presented in the book with those in real life?

17 respuestas



*Source: researcher's survey*

In this question, the answers of the interviewees vary a little again. The objective of this item is to know what they would expect to see in a literary analysis such as the one

carried out in this investigation to the novel *The Shining*. 58.8% of the interviewees answered that they would expect to read about how fictional situations in a story are related with real social situations. On the other hand, 17.6% of the interviewees answered that they would expect to read about real stories with fictional characters. Other, 17.6% of the interviewees answered that they would like to read only about real stories. Finally, as additional data, 5.9% of the interviewees responded that they would expect to see something related to fictional stories.

14- What would you advise to a person that is developing a literary analysis about topics such as alcoholism, domestic violence, and social norms?

-It would be very useful if one research those topics and how they are part of a society, think about the possible causes and effects, and find solutions or recommendations for people who suffer from any of those problems.

-To search about a small group of the population affected about those topics and provide statistics.

-To consult reliable sources like professionals in these areas and victims, too.

Get much information related to those topics.

-First, the author should present the whole scope of a situation. That is to provide as much information as it is needed, talking about the background, considering the situational approach, the philosophy, or social standards. From there, the readers will understand what drove the characters to behave in specific patterns. It is to understand the motives that helped the characters to unfold in such away.

-To get well-informed in advance

-That talk freely and show the realia of the theme because most of the time, characters in some printed work does not show real cruel things that many see in their daily routines.

I Would advise you to meet any person who is facing these social problems...They really can let us know the real impact that they are living at the moment.

-Be as honest as you can and develop the topic the best possible

-Compare the work with the context it is based on.

-Research and comparison on topics

-Get in touch with people that have experienced those problems and also with people related to them, sometimes they can give a more objective opinion.

Reading strategies for analysis like character Charts, sequence Charts, elements of the story chart, contrast and comparison facts, and others.

In the last question of the survey, the interviewees were asked to give advice to a person who is developing a literary analysis about topics such as alcoholism, domestic violence, and social norms. In this item, 15 responses were given in which the interviewees advise what can be done when carrying out a literary analysis of work with these specific themes.

One of the most important tips was to get in touch with people who have suffered from these problems, as they could give the author of the analysis a more objective opinion. At least three interviewees agreed that this would be a good option to carry out in a future analysis in order to obtain a first-hand opinion or reference about problems such as those mentioned above and that were analyzed in this research.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this chapter, the conclusions obtained through the investigation are going to be provided. Moreover, an analysis of the specific objectives presented at the beginning of this document is also illustrated. In addition, the research question stated in Chapter I of the research would be analyzed to explain how the researcher obtained the answer for it. Finally, the investigator provides the reader some recommendations that are going to be very useful for future thesis readers or researchers.

#### 5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

The purpose of this conclusion is to close the investigation and state what was achieved with it. In addition, it is intended to make known what was learned through the analyses carried out and if the researcher's main objective was achieved, which was to carry out an analysis about the problematics presented in *The Shining* with a socio-cultural approach. Having used a socio-cultural approach allowed the author of this research to achieve the desired results. On the other hand, one of the great objectives of the researcher was to leave a precedent through this investigation and verify that a horror story can present deep themes, which can be compared with situations affecting social norms in the current society. Moreover, the author wanted to leave this research as an example for future students who may carry out a thesis with a similar approach.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

In order to have a guide for this investigation, one general objective and four specific objectives were established. These objectives represent the intentions the investigator had when he first started this research. They describe the processes and actions that the investigator intended to accomplish. These objectives found in chapter I will be mentioned again to let the readers know how they were developed through the investigation and if the researcher could accomplish its purpose with them.

### **5.2.1 To show the author's perception in the novel about social problematics in the novel**

As is known, when conducting a literary analysis or research involving a literary work, the author's perception of his own work is very important in order to understand more about it. If you understand the author, it will be easier to understand the literary work. *The Shining* may be a horror novel, but it is not like any other horror novel because it gives us a comparison with real-life, which may not be present in many other literary works of this genre. Stephen King, through this novel, taught that he has a somewhat negative perception of the world but that it is not a wrong one. It presents ghosts and spirits that ruin the lives of people but that, in the end, they are not supernatural since they end up being vices, acts of violence, serious mental illnesses, among others. Stephen King himself lived a difficult childhood due to an alcoholic father, so it is not surprising that he has this perception of the world and shows it to his readers through this novel.

As a strategy to understand and analyze the impact that the author's perception may have on the book and for the purpose of this research, internet research was carried out. Through these searches on the internet, it was possible to understand more about the past of

the author of the novel and why it dealt with subjects such as alcoholism and domestic violence. As mentioned above, the author went through these situations when he was a child. Knowing these facts allowed the researcher to reread the literary work on different occasions in order to try to find these elements. Before doing this, it was discovered that they were present in different chapters of the novel. This was very useful for the researcher and allowed him to make the comparison with the Costa Rican modern society, as well as to find the quotes used in the analysis of Chapter III.

### **5.2.2 To analyze the book's problematics in Costa Rican modern society**

One of the purposes of this research was to compare a horror book to real life. When determining what would be compared, it was decided to compare the social problems of the novel with the problems present in Costa Rican modern society. In order to make this comparison and prepare an analysis of these problems, the book had to be read carefully to be able to locate these problems. In the end, it was determined that the situations to be compared would be alcoholism and domestic violence. As is already known, these two problems are very important for the development of the story of the book, and they are also presented in Costa Rican society in a very alarming way, and both directly affect the healthy social coexistence of people and compliance with social norms.

In order to carry out this analysis, different strategies were used. The first one was to use a socio-cultural approach for the research since Costa Rican society's social and cultural issues had to be taken into account due to the nature of the issues to be analyzed and compared. The second strategy was to carry out a deep literary critical analysis of the novel in order to find quotes, symbols, themes, and motifs associated with these themes. In addition, this led the researcher to use the last strategy, which was the analysis tables in

which the comparison of these problems of the book with Costa Rican society was shown, supported by quotes taken from the literary work.

### **5.2.3 To determine the cause of the most common social problems in Costa Rica and their association to the book**

As mentioned above, in order to carry out this research, social and cultural aspects of Costa Rican society had to be taken into account. On the other hand, to take these elements into account was necessary to investigate social norms and how they are affected by the most common social problems of our current society. Alcoholism and domestic violence are among the most common social problems in the country, and knowing this made it easier for the researcher to make a comparison with the book. These situations affect hundreds of Costa Rican families every day, causing irreversible damage in many cases. Articles and news about domestic violence against women unfortunately have become common to see every day in the country's press and communication media.

In order to find the possible cause of these problems that affect Costa Rican society, one strategy was used. An exhaustive search for articles, studies, among other documents on the internet that talked about alcoholism and domestic violence, was carried out. If we talk about alcoholism, it can be interpreted that there are different causes for a person to suffer from this condition, including extreme stress, psychological aspects, alcohol consumption from an early age, among others. Another cause of this condition may be having lived with an alcoholic person since childhood, as presented in the novel *The Shining*. In the case of domestic violence, articles and studies found on the internet indicate that the causes may vary, and some of them are intolerance, the inability to solve problems or face difficult situations, and the use of alcohol or drugs. When determining these causes,

it can be seen that alcoholism and this type of violence are related in our society, just as they are in the novel.

#### **5.2.4 To perform a critical literary analysis of the novel “The Shining” by Stephen King from a socio-cultural approach**

To understand the novel in a better way and to be able to make a comparison between it and Costa Rican society, it was necessary to carry out literary analysis. In order to carry out this analysis, two fundamental tools were used. The first procedure was to create a series of analysis tables. A total of four analysis tables were made, which were presented in Chapter IV of the document. The objective of the first table was to show the relationship between the literary theories used in the research. To show this relationship, quotes taken from the novel were used, and the interpretation or analysis of the author of this research was also added.

The objective of the other three tables was to analyze the themes, symbols, and motifs presented in the story and compare them with Costa Rican modern society. As in the table of literary theories, quotes from the novel were taken, and the author's interpretation of this research was made known to show the relationship with today's society. The second strategy used to achieve this last objective was to apply a survey through social networks to the study population of the research, which was made up of teachers who teach English in Costa Rica. The survey consisted of 14 questions related to all the topics and subtopics of this research. It is important to mention that the main objective of carrying it out was to obtain different opinions from different experts in the field of teaching this language. The survey was shared in WhatsApp and Facebook groups, and 17 responses were obtained. All of them were very supportive and helpful when carrying out the analysis.

### **5.3 Restatement of the Research Question**

As stated in Chapter I of this document, the research question that was established since the beginning was "What is a literary analysis about *The Shining* by Stephen King with a socio-cultural approach in modern society?" During this investigation, the researcher analyzed the headspace on how a literary work can be related to real-life and how social problematics affect people's lives and social norms. These analyses were also accompanied by the help of seventeen English teachers who provided the researcher with valuable inside information about their experiences with social problematics and their experiences in the English literature field. From this analysis, the investigator could conclude that there is a direct relationship between the novel *The Shining* and Costa Rican modern society, and this aspect also provides a restatement of the research question, which is "What is a literary analysis about a novel that deals with social problems presented in Costa Rican Modern Society? ". The social problems that are shown in the novel are present in the lives of many Costa Ricans today, and this causes many serious social problems, which affect the good compliance of social norms.

The desired connection between the book and reality was achieved by dealing with social and cultural issues. Having had a socio-cultural approach in this research was of great help since the researcher managed to find the answer to how and why these problems affect people. On the other hand, the researcher was able to understand that by literary analysis, this relationship could be demonstrated, which according to the answers of the applied survey, many of the interviewees did not think that it was something feasible to do. However, through the analysis, it was shown that a horror novel can be more profound than

it seems and does not necessarily deal with ghosts, monsters, or paranormal beings, but instead deals with complex situations faced by people in our society. Moreover, being able to know the author's perception thanks to this literary analysis was of great help because it was possible to understand that these social problems were a vital part of the novel and that the author's message was to make his readers understand that the ghosts and monsters exist in many of us, but they are actually vices and acts of violence that sadly damage our society nowadays.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

After finishing this research work, it is important to provide a series of recommendations that may be useful to future thesis authors. For the researcher of this work, it is very important that this research may be an example for future students who wish to analyze the novel that was chosen for this project or work with a socio-cultural approach. As usually happens in works of this type, the researcher of this project faced some not very favorable circumstances that affected the development of the project at some point, but in the end, this did not cause much damage, and the desired objective could be achieved. This work was carried out during a global pandemic situation which caused some changes in the research methodology. However, this situation provided another perspective for the researcher that allowed him to move on. In the following paragraphs, at least four recommendations for future researchers will be made known.

The first element would be to be clear about what approach you want to give to the investigation. When starting a work like this, it is vitally important to have an appropriate approach to be able to develop the analysis in the best way. It is always good to have several options for approaches and discuss them with the thesis mentor so that you can

decide which one would be the best one to apply. When making this decision, it is important to keep in mind what is intended to investigate or analyze since the main topic of the investigation must be wholly related to the selected approach. This is very important to take into account since if a wrong approach is chosen and it is not corrected in time, it could seriously affect and delay the development of the work. In addition, it would be good to look for information about different research approaches that exist, since once you know more about these approaches, it would be easier to choose the one that is perfectly related to the research topic.

The second recommendation would be to search for information on the net useful for researching trustworthy sites. For a research project, there is a lot of information that must be taken into account, and that can be found on the internet. However, it is vitally important to verify that the information taken from websites is correct and preferably not from sites where anyone can manipulate the information. Due to the global pandemic situation, this thesis was developed only in a virtual way, so most of the information was collected from websites reviewed before using information from them. Moreover, information can also be obtained through tools such as surveys and interviews that can be created and applied virtually.

The third aspect would be to have good communication with the thesis mentor. When conducting research, it is always important that someone guide the students in their work processes. This is the purpose of the thesis mentors, to guide the students in the process and make everything turn out in the best way. It is essential to have contact with the tutor from the first day you start working and always follow the instructions and recommendations

that he provides about the research. The feedback provided by the mentor will always be very useful to be able to advance in the project.

The last recommendation would be to have good planning when carrying out the project. Each week a different chapter will have to be done, and many of these chapters are long. Having good planning and good order of what has to be done is critical for the project to go smoothly. In general, when a chapter is delivered, it must be corrected, and if these deliveries are delayed or postponed, all the work would be accumulated. Keeping a binnacle like the one kept in this research is a good option to keep track of what is being done and what is pending to be done to finish the work before the assigned delivery date.

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## ANNEXES

### TABLES

Literary Theories, Quotes, and Researcher's Interpretation table

Literary theories	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Themes, Quotes, and Researcher's Interpretation table

Themes	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Motifs, Quotes, and Researcher's Interpretation table

Motifs	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Symbols, Quotes, and Researcher's Interpretation table

Symbols	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

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## SURVEY QUESTIONS

- 1- How long have you been an English teacher?
- 2- Have you ever read any of Stephen King's works during those years teaching English?
- 3- Which ones of the following stories have you read? (Carrie, Misery, It, Doctor Sleep)
- 4- Have you ever read The Shining or at least watch the movie?
- 5- What is your opinion about this novel?
- 6- Do you think that a horror story can be related to everyday situations that are not horror or fiction?
- 7- Justify with your own words why you think that a horror story can be related to everyday situations that are not horror or fiction.
- 8- Do you have any experience with books or novels that deal with social problematics?
- 9- Have you ever done a literary analysis of a work whose central theme is social norms?
- 10- Does the analysis helped you understand better the literary work?
- 11- What do you think an author can do to make a comparison between social problems depicted in a story with social problems that are experienced today?
- 12- Do you think that authors who write about topics such as alcoholism and domestic violence have suffered from these abuses in their lives?

- 13- What would you expect to see in a literary analysis of a horror work whose main objective is to compare social problems presented in the book with those in real life?
- 14- What would you advise to a person that is developing a literary analysis about topics such as alcoholism, domestic violence, and social norms?