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**A Literary Analysis between Criminal Acts in Real Life and the Book the Life We Bury
from a Historical Approach Related to Non-Guilty People**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the impact which illegitimate events generate in criminals and non-guilty people as well based on the book *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens, which was taken as the main source of this research. The collection of data was necessary to create this document. Thus, a survey was performed. This study was carried out through a Historical Approach. All the material gathered from this exploration is going to be used as the focus for this project.

The researcher considered to collect opinions and facts from websites which counted with relevant and solid information. Moreover, different criteria of the interviewees were also fundamental for this analysis. The mentioned survey was executed online in the platform Google Forms. Furthermore, in this way, the researcher created a quick and easy connection with the targeted population. During this research project, it was considered the book's society as well as the Costa Rica's modern society, and criminal features for using them as a bridge to reach the proposed objectives.

Resumen

El propósito de este estudio es analizar el impacto que generan los eventos ilegales en los criminales y en las personas inocentes basado en el libro *The Life We Bury* escrito por Allen Eskens, el cual fue tomado como fuente principal para esta investigación. La recolección de información fue necesaria para crear este documento, por ende, se realizó una encuesta, además, este estudio se llevó a cabo a través de un enfoque histórico. Todo el material reunido para esta investigación será utilizado como el foco para este proyecto.

El investigador tomó en cuenta recolectar opiniones y hechos de sitios web que contaran con datos sólidos y relevantes, además, los diferentes criterios de los entrevistados también fueron fundamentales para este análisis. La encuesta ya mencionada fue ejecutada en línea en la plataforma Google Forms, de esta manera, el investigador creó una conexión rápida y sencilla con la población objetivo. Durante este proyecto de investigación se consideró utilizar la sociedad del libro así como la sociedad moderna de Costa Rica y las características criminales como un vínculo para alcanzar los objetivos propuestos.

Chapter I

Introductory Framework

The world is surrounded by millions of people with different types of attitudes, in other words, different behaviors. The human brain is an amazing organ which counts with a great influence towards our decisions as it can lead us to make good or wrong actions. If the brain is not working on its normal function, which is related to good actions and behavior, it possibly will collapse and generate some uncommon emotions. Some people with mental breakdowns may know the word crime well. It is a reality that crime is related to people who are not emotionally stable. Some emotions such as anxiety, bipolarity, anger, schizophrenia, and some others are some diseases which criminal people tend to have. In addition, there are some other people who are not guilty, but unfortunately, they pay the consequences even when they are mentally good. This previous case can be found in the book *The Life We Bury*, which will be analyzed with real facts.

According to criminologist Paul Tappan,

Crime is an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law, committed without defense or justification, and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor. Misdemeanors are nonserious, minor crimes that the government punishes by confinement in a local jail for a year or less. Examples include petty theft, simple assault, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace. Felonies are serious crimes that the government punishes by death or incarceration in a prison for at least a year. This group

includes such crimes as murder, rape, robbery, and burglary.

(n.d.)

In other words, crime is an action which is sanctioned by the local law of its respective country to an individual who may commit an illegal activity for a few or many years. Sometimes the authorities come up with the suspicious person or group many years later an illegitimate action was done; despite a crime can be serious, it can also be slight. The punishment from an unlawful act depends on the seriousness of the case as, most of times, the convict ends up in prison for several years or just a few, and even death penalty is an option; however, in a minor probability than any other damnation.

1.1 Problem Statement

The following investigation is intended to make a literary analysis on some aspects of crime related to real life and the book *The Life We Bury*. People may ask themselves many questions about this world and its criminal acts. Surrounded by millions of people, the world each time is becoming a more and more dangerous place, no matter if someone is innocent or not. The viability of this analysis counts with a huge repertory of information. The objective of this analysis is to provide the reader with a literary analysis on the criminal acts with real facts and the book *The Life We Bury*. The awareness about crime has a complicated difficulty. It is a delicate topic which must be explained and cleared almost perfectly. Despite of a lot of convicted people, it does not mean that all individuals are guilty. This is the main problem in the book *The Life We Bury*. Therefore, the investigation question of the present research paper is: What are the criminal acts in real life and the book *The Life We Bury* from a historical approach related to non-guilty people?

1.1 Objectives of the Investigation

The objectives of the investigation are proposed with the intention to inform the reader about what is expected to reach and why it is important to talk about a literary analysis on crime in real life and in the book. Crime is an action that has always existed, but unfortunately its percentage rate has increased through the last years becoming one of the most committed actions in the world. The general and specific objectives are intended to bring into analysis a rich collection of data resulting fundamental to explain the main scopes of the research in order to give the readers well-structured and logical conclusions.

1.2.1 General Objective

1.2.1.1 To synthesize the main causes of why certain individuals were convicted guilty when they were innocent from a historical approach.

1.2.2 Specific Objective

1.2.2.1 To determine the reasons why the antagonist Carl Iverson was convicted guilty in the book.

1.2.2.2 To identify the non-guilty convicts' outlook through a historical approach.

1.2.2.3 To investigate the impact of crime between the book's society and Costa Rica's modern society.

1.2.2.4 To demonstrate how solving any suspicious case correctly instead of sentencing an innocent person through a historical approach.

1.3 Justification

The purpose of this research is to analyze the influence of different features including behaviors, attitudes, and outlooks which criminal people tend to share when attempting to commit a crime. On the other hand, some other people who are innocent are analyzed and compared to the book *The Life We Bury* which is the main topic of the mentioned book. The investigation is convenient for all those people that may not be familiarized with some factors or characteristics of criminal and non-guilty people, but who were convicted anyways. This investigation is useful to understand the main and secondary factors of criminal acts and the reason why not to try a terrible or gross activity, and not becoming a horrible person. No one can change someone's attitude, the only one who can do it, is the person himself. Some medical centers can help people who are feeling a change in their thoughts and try to avoid committing something terrible. The people with mental breakdowns can be assisted before doing a criminal act; however, most of them reject any help leading to tragedy.

Despite there are centers that help people with this problem, it is almost impossible to solve it. It depends on the person, as the only one that can save someone is himself. On the other hand, when a criminal commits a bad action there are many solutions to stop it. Depending on the severity of the situation and the country, criminals may go to jail or even ordered to death penalty such as beheading. Unfortunately, crime cannot be eradicated. However, the law is in charge of protecting humanity and trying to stop the worst criminal acts around the world.

In some cases, DNA evidence established the innocence of multiple defendants who had been erroneously prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated years earlier and, in some other cases, innocent individuals were released from prison after serving many years on death row. Moreover, many prisoners have been exonerated by post-conviction DNA testing. Nevertheless, there appears to be no end to this trend, as an increasing number of wrongly convicted prisoners also have established their innocence through non-DNA means of exoneration in the last years.

The exoneration of hundreds of wrongfully convicted but factually innocent prisoners has challenged some of the most fundamental assumptions about criminal justice and procedures. The first year that post-conviction DNA testing was used to establish innocence, virtually all observers assumed that the innocent were rarely convicted, if at all, especially in capital cases. Through time, there has been a growing recognition in popular culture and among criminal justice professionals that wrongful convictions occur regularly in the criminal justice system. Although the precise rate of wrongful convictions remains unknown, now there is a growing awareness in the legal system that erroneous convictions occur more frequently than almost anyone had previously thought. The post-conviction DNA and non-DNA exonerations of hundreds of innocent prisoners in the last two decades have also had an effect on academic scholarships, generating a virtual explosion of academic writing on wrongful convictions. Despite of this, the main intention of this analysis is that the law make their job right, especially if it consists of a DNA testing for proving if the convicted is innocent or not. As mentioned before, in recent years the law has been more aware of the type of cases that ended up in a tragedy such as at the beginning of our history until the 80's approximately. In this investigation data was taken from many articles and news regarding wrongful convictions throughout mankind

history, specifically people that were judged wrongly and did not have the opportunity to prove their innocence.

Within literature there are differing perspectives on how to define ‘wrongful conviction’. Some researchers argue that an individual has experienced a miscarriage of justice even if the individual is guilty when procedures are carried out incorrectly. Some others contend that wrongful convictions involve only innocent individuals who have been erroneously convicted. This disagreement may arise, in part due to some researchers using the terms ‘miscarriage of justice’ and ‘wrongful conviction’ interchangeably. Moreover, sometimes the term ‘miscarriage of justice’ is used as a general heading, encompassing people who have experienced procedural defects as well as convicted innocents. This lack of distinction has led to definitional problems and debates, calling for the term ‘wrongful conviction’ to stand separate from miscarriages of justice.

Now, ‘miscarriages of justice’ can be defined as a grossly unfair outcome in a judicial proceeding. For instance, when a defendant is convicted despite a lack of evidence on an essential element of crime. This also may include factors such as an attorney not filing their client’s paperwork on time or a defendant was guilty, but their rights were violated at some point. In many cases, individuals have their convictions quashed based on pre-trial irregularities or by illustrating that the evidence presented in trial was illegally collected, notably these individuals have been described as the “judicially released guilty” within literature. A wrongful conviction in contrast to the term miscarriage of justice should be used when an innocent person has been convicted. An example is that convicted innocents are people who have been arrested on criminal charges, who have either pleaded guilty to the charge or have been tried and found guilty, and whose verdict is in fact innocent. Procedural defects or technicalities are being assessed within a

trial, it is not the innocence of the accused that is being determined, but rather the unfairness surrounding his or her arrest and conviction, thus, these procedural defects should not be considered a wrongful conviction.

This problem may be never solved, and these issues will remain for the rest of mankind's history, but society can make something about it. Moreover, there are many corrupted people, including policemen and individuals involved in the judicial environment; however, the problem is not as intense as many years ago. Nowadays, society is like a pressure machine, they are everywhere and speaking up for those who could not demonstrate their innocence. This is a huge advantage, now people have got social media which clearly shows fake news, and where people may generate hot or controversial topics. Nevertheless, social media have been a useful tool not only for civilization, but also for authorities and media. Most people want and deserve the truth. Justice must always reign. Consequently, if people make pressure on a case like the one under study, they will help a lot of innocent people. The intention of this comparative analysis is not to solve a problem, it is just to make conscious and compile useful information that may inform to other about the importance of wrongful convictions. Therefore, this will help others to listen and know about many tragic events. This problem will only be solved if law make the things right and let the justice win.

1.4 Antecedents

Throughout time, news has been one of the best choices to be informed about daily aspects or situations surrounding the world, including sports, politics, and crime. Nevertheless, it can also be found other sources, such as a thesis made by Isabella Blandisi, a criminology student at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. She carried out a research on the societal perceptions of wrongful convictions, and she remarked how wrongful convictions have received a considerable amount of research attention. This has awakened interest resulting in a growing body of literature that aims to investigate this criminal justice phenomenon. Moreover, she also said that the literature has been criticized for its lack of theory integration, so the results of the study have been interpreted in the context of Giddens' Structuration Theory. In this thesis she showed the variety of definitions of wrongful convictions, including the miscarriages of justice and estimating the frequency of wrongful convictions.

Another thesis made by Brittnay Lea-Andra Morgan, a science student at the Graduate School at Appalachian State University pointed out a research about wrongful convictions where the main points were the reasons, remedies, and case studies. She remarked that about 10.000 convictions handed down in the U.S. are thought to be wrongful convictions, since generally, the individual is found to be factually innocent by the revelation of DNA evidence or even a testimony which indicates flaws in the initial conviction. Furthermore, it is also important to realize that wrongful convictions may also encompass cases in which there are issues concerning culpability and procedural factors, for instance a person might have been known to perform the criminal act, but they are not culpable, or blameworthy for the act.

A thesis made by María José Quesada González, a law student at Universidad de Costa Rica, dealt with the contradiction of innocence of the State. She remarked all the constitutions of

the country and how they contradict themselves when there exist cases of culpable or innocent people; consequently, the authorities must consider and check the antecedents carefully in order to make the correct decision. The rules must be followed according to the penal codes, and justice must win. The juries must discuss and think about all the possible aspects and the information they already have.

An article research made by the Costa Rican Eugenia Rodríguez Sáenz, was about innocent victims regarding to juvenile crime and sexual abuse in Costa Rica. She remarked that just as in another Latin American countries as Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil, in Costa Rica, the liberals and others implemented series of social and health policies with the purpose of regulating and sanctioning the moral and sexual behaviors of the popular sectors. These were classified as medium and high status as dangerous sectors in which those behaviors tempted against the social direction and the family stability. The difference among this article and the previous antecedents is that in this case the innocent victims are children. Many types of abuse have been a threat and a fear factor of many families in Costa Rica. Despite of many cases and criminals caught by the law, there are many other families that do not have that luck yet. Most of the complaints in the country are made by women.

A research made by Ricard A. Leo and Jon B. Gould pointed out that there has been an explosion of legal scholarship on wrongful convictions during the last decade, reflecting a growing concern on the problem of actual innocence in the criminal justice system. They thought that the argue of the used methods would help criminal law and procedure scholars to better understand the causes, characteristics, and consequences of wrongful convictions. Moreover, they also offered concluding thoughts about improving the dialogue between criminal law and criminology about wrongful conviction. In the last twenty years, the media have reported many

cases in which individuals who had been wrongly convicted of rape and murder years earlier were exonerated and released from prison. Most of the cases of exonerations occurred after post-conviction DNA testing, which established the innocence of the defendants.

The previous antecedents were part of some students' thesis from international and national places regarding to non-guilty people or wrongful convictions, such as in the book *The Life We Bury* which will be clearly explained later in Chapter II. The news showed next are not related to wrongful convictions but somehow, they are involved with crime and were considered important to be added to show the impact of crime in modern society. United States as a powerful country is one of the most polemic countries related to criminals and criminal acts. On December 25, 2019, in Texas, one young man called Eduardo Arevalo was arrested and charged with Capital Murder because of killing his pregnant sister. This because he thought she was a shame to all his family and a family conflict. He was 19 years old, and he testified against the cops. Viridiana Arévalo, who had 18 months of pregnancy, was reported as missing on December 17. After a long try to find her corpse, she was found in a backstreet, five days later. Colombia is characterized to be one of the countries in which drug dealing is the most common thing to do. On March 2019, in Cali, the former soccer player Jhon Viáfara was accused of being part of one of the biggest drugs dealing cartels. The Colombian, 41 years old was arrested and one district court located in Texas accused him of being a member of the famous drug cartel Clan del Golfo, as well as of producing narcotics and to coordinate routes to traffic cocaine to Central America and United States. Viáfara helped his oldest soccer team, Once Caldas, to win the Copa Libertadores in 2004, and was honored as the best soccer player that same year. Costa Rica is characterized as one of the happiest countries in the world. Many wonderful views can be found in this country. Unfortunately, some tourists who visited this place anxiously became the tragedy

of the day. Arantxa Gutiérrez López, a Spanish woman who was visiting the country with her husband was murdered in Tortuguero on August 4, 2018. The murder case was a controversial topic in the streets of Barcelona and Madrid despite of some people did not meet her. Some questions made about this tragedy were: What happened with Arantxa? Who did this to her? Arantxa's case is still a controversial conversation in restaurants, pubs, buses, and shops. In addition, since it was an unexpected death, her name became unforgettable in the happiest country.

1.5 Scope

- To obtain information through an investigation that will determine the main factors of a crime.
- To understand the criminal acts of non-guilty people.
- To promote a comparison between some criminal's behaviors in real life and in a fiction book.
- To determine the impact of crime in Costa Rica's modern society to motivate people to be informed about the danger in our streets.
- To demonstrate the impact of wrongful convictions.
- To raise the voice of those who were innocent but were never listened to.
- To raise consciousness about how law or authorities must act in order to let justice win.
- To propose different solutions to inform how to avoid any wrongful conviction.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

In this chapter is added the literary theories and approaches, the importance of the use of themes, symbols and motifs, the author's biography, and the book's plot. In addition, it appears a comparative analysis between criminal acts in real life and the book *The Life We Bury* related to non-guilty people. The analysis of the objectives proposed in this research is theoretically explained including some examples of real innocent convicted people sentenced to death.

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

2.1.1 Important Definitions

Literature has been an important cultural aspect since old times. Many significant authors and writers through decades brought magnificent contributions to all readers. Literature is a form of human expression and the body of written works. Literature must be classified according to a variety of systems, for example, language, national origin, genre, historical period, and subject matter. The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary,

Considers literature to be writings having excellence of form or expressions and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest. Literature is first and foremost humankind's entire body of writing; after that it is the body of writing belonging to a given language or people; then it is individual pieces of writing. (n.d.)

In other words, literature is the process where the author tries to engage the reader into a whole new world of emotions, feelings, and similar topics of interest. Literature is just part of humanity. A piece of literary work, for example, a deep analysis of the history of dinosaurs will not transmit the same message or meaning for a researcher in that field than a psychologist one. Authors must focus their writings on their audience interests. Literature is as important as language for mankind since it has become part of our history, emotions, personality, fields, and lifestyle.

Theory can be defined as an ideal or hypothetical series of facts, principles, or circumstances, often used in an argument or investigation. In theory, people can analyze a set of facts or information in their relation to one another. It is especially useful when research is being investigated. The ideas must be intended to explain something and in a clear way. Theory is an important element that may be part of every single literary analysis or whatever the project is about.

2.1.2 Literary Theories

Based on Vince Brewton,

Literary theory is the body of ideas and methods we use in the practical reading of literature. By literary theory is not referring to the meaning of a work of literature but to the theories which reveal what literature can mean. Literary theory is a description of the underlying principles, one might say the tools, by which we attempt to understand literature. All literary interpretation draws on a basis in theory but can serve as a justification for quite

different kinds of critical activity. It is literary theory that formulates the relationship between author and work; literary theory develops the significance of race, class, and gender for literary study, both from the standpoint of the biography of the author and an analysis of their thematic presence within texts.

(n.d.)

In other words, literary theory is precisely all the aspects related to literature. It involves the general discipline, constructive, descriptive, and theoretical features that literature must have. Literary theory is the tool through which readers attempt to understand literature. It counts with many approaches for understanding the role of the historical context in interpretation and the relevance of linguistic and unconscious elements of the text. Some literary theorists trace the history and evolution of the different genres, dramatic, lyric with some others recent emergence of the novels and short stories, including the investigation of the importance of formal elements of literary structure. In recent years, literary theory has searched an explanation of the degree to which the text is more the product of a culture rather than an individual author and how those texts help to create the culture

There are many theories in literature which belong to their respective category, for purposes of this analysis three are applied. These theories count with an optimal importance in literature but make more sense in this investigation because it is related to some topics of the current literary analysis. The theories were carefully chosen for a better explanation of itself and its relationship with the topic. This investigation project is carried out under three literary theories: Semiotic Theory, Reception Theory, and Sociocultural Theory.

2.1.2.1 Semiotic Theory

According to Sign Salad (n.d.), “Semiotics is an investigation into how meaning is created and how it is communicated”. In other words, the Semiotic Theory is useful to create meaning about signs and symbols surrounding the world. Individuals are involved in actions and thoughts at every moment of their lives, they all can interpret meanings and messages by their own perspective. In literary analysis, this theory brings an optimal interpretation of the meaning of elements around the characters, as they go through the story and its events. In addition, a sign or symbol is not necessarily visual, but aural or sonic as well. Furthermore, the Semiotic Theory is a crucial tool of communication if the reader does not understand the intention of a message.

2.1.2.2 Reception Theory

This theory entails those readers to prioritize the literary work’s meanings. As the readers comprehend meanings of narrative, they focus those elements based on their cultural background and life circumstances. According to Revision World,

Reception theory as developed by Stuart Hall assert that texts are encoded and decoded. The producer encoded messages and values into their environment which are then decoded by the reader. However, different audience members will decode the text’s meaning in alternative ways and possibly not in the producer’s original form. (n.d.)

In other words, this theory creates a relationship between the text and the reader in which the meaning of the text can vary based on the reader’s perspective. Some elements which may

change these definitions are age, beliefs, culture, gender, life experiences, and the mood at the time of the text interpretation. Moreover, Stuart Hall focused this different interpretation of texts on distinct social groups. Hall advocated three hypothetical interpretative codes for the reader of a text. These reception models include the dominant reading, the negotiated reading, and the oppositional reading.

2.1.2.3 Sociocultural Theory

An individual's emotional development is mainly influenced by their neighboring culture. Each culture supplies tools which may help people to adapt in society. Those mentioned tools as abilities permit young children to adjust their capacities and behaviors while growing up. According to Kendra Cherry (2019), "Sociocultural theory is an emerging theory in psychology which looks at the important contributions which society makes to individual development." In other words, this theory imposes an association connecting people and the culture in which they were raised. In a literary analysis it explores the joining between external and internal processes; moreover, it is related to how a person's mental function works; in other words, in a psychological development.

2.1.3 Approach of the Literary Analysis

The historical approach is used to contribute to a knowledge of the relationship between societies and their environment. This approach is useful for this literary analysis to demonstrate the objectives of the investigation. It also shows the impact of historical development on the current problem and the implications for policy. The approach is intended to offer an explanation on how the book's relevant topics and their relationship with real life, is a real problem occurring these days. The historical approach displays an understanding of the most appropriate techniques

to face data and sources through time periods and space. History offers a huge variety of news, posts, and articles, regarding to non-guilty convicts. Most of literary works can be analyzed in the light of historical approach. In addition, it establishes a bridge between the reader and the world of the author. From a historical approach point of view, the compilation of data will become easier to explain and to compare with the problem situated in the book. Finally, in this approach, it can be argued that knowledge relating to historical periods is extended back into earlier time and it is helpful for a comparison with the book *The Life We Bury*.

Orientalism, a book wrote by Edward W. Said, established for the first time the term “Orientalism” as a remarkable concept which describes the way the Occident produces a derogative representation of the Orient (Asia, North Africa and Mid-Orient societies and towns). As a public intellectual figure, Said argued with historians and formed academics in the field of study, specifically to historian Bernard Lewis, who described the thesis of Orientalism as “anti-occidental”. Said based his book on a historical approach point of view.

Hamad Subani based his book on a historical approach. *The World War Deception* incorporates an extensive research of the late Antony Sutton, and comes up with some unlikely answers to some questions such as: Was the Soviet Union the ultimate successor to European colonial empires? Why did Germany avoid invading the newly formed Soviet State? Why did the Nazis avoid a ground invasion of Britain? Why were atom bombs dropped on Japan? Was Hitler a crypto-Globalist? Those questions were answered in Hamad’s book where readers can associate the historical background with the author’s approach point of view which he wanted to transfer.

The purpose of the analysis is to synthesize the main causes of why certain individuals were convicted guilty when they were innocent from a historical approach. In order to recognize

the convicts' outlook, here are listed some causes of crime of people who may be real criminals. Further on this analysis, the non-guilty convicts' outlook or features will be shown including some real cases: growing up in high crime area, rapid population growth, lack of social welfare, large social housing projects, high percent of rental housing, higher density of offenders, local unemployment, political neglect, lack of social capital, social reasons, excluded from school, peer pressure, addictions, environmental reasons, abusive parents, mental illness (one of the main causes), psychological reasons, cultural beliefs, and domestic violence, among others.

2.2 Themes, Symbols, and Motifs

The theme in the book *The Life We Bury* is to make conscious about how our life can change in a flick. It makes people to be aware about the dangerous situations in life, to stay away from people who can incriminate others for a wrong activity which eventually can lead to be guilty, for instance, in the book Carl Iverson who is the convict, was accused of murdering a 14-year-old girl. In this case, he did not do that terrible act; however, he ended up in a cell for the rest of his life until his death. *The Life We Bury* is an interesting and mysterious book. Its symbols are introduced in every piece of literature, for example, in poems, short stories, or books. The symbols in this book have an important meaning, they represent an accurate and pure meaning of all the events of the story. The most important symbols are deeply analyzed in the fourth chapter. A symbol in literature represents and contains several meanings. A representation of other important and secondary aspects. Symbols use an object or action which mean something more than its literal meaning.

Motifs in literature can be represented as an object or idea that repeats itself throughout a literary work. A motif is a sound, action, image, or other figure that have an important significance and help towards the development of a theme. Both motifs and themes are linked in

a literary work, but do not have the same representation. A theme is characterized by a central idea or message, while a motif is a recurrent image, idea or symbol which explains a theme. The difference between symbols and motifs is that symbols are images, ideas, sounds or words that symbolizes something else and contribute to understand a thing or idea. On the other hand, motifs are practically the same as symbols but with the little difference that they help to explain the central idea of a literary work, in other words, the theme. A symbol can appear once or many times in a literary piece, whereas a motif is a recurring element of a literary work.

2.3 Author's Biography

Allen Eskens has been a criminal defense attorney for many years, twenty to be specific. His creative writing skills were acquired in the MFA program at Minnesota State University and took other classes at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival and the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. He has written five other books besides *The Life We Bury*. The other ones are called *The Guise of Another*, *The Heavens May Fall*, *The Shadows We Hide*, *Nothing More Dangerous* and *The Deep Dark Descending*.

Image 1. Allen Eskens



Source: <https://www.perfectduluthday.com/the-event/im-not-supposed-to-be-here/>

He was raised in Jefferson City, Missouri, United States and currently lives in Cleveland, Minnesota. On his earlier adult time, he studied at Minnesota State University and Hamline University. Allen Eskens is the United States today-bestselling author of the book *The Life We Bury*. Moreover, he is the beneficiary of the Barry Award, Rosebud Award, and the Silver Falchion Award and was a finalist for the Edgar Award, Thriller Award, Anthony Award, and the Minnesota Book Award.

Furthermore, *The Life We Bury*, has been published in sixteen languages and is being developed for a feature film. Allen has a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota and a law degree from Hamline University. After that, Allen studied creative writing in the M.F.A program. He is represented by Associates Literary Agency, and Amy Cloughley of Kimberley Cameron, and published by Seventh Street Books. Allen Eskens grew up on the hills of central Missouri, but now he lives with his wife, Joely, in out-state Minnesota where he has been studying and practicing criminal defense attorney for 25 years.

2.4 Book's Plot

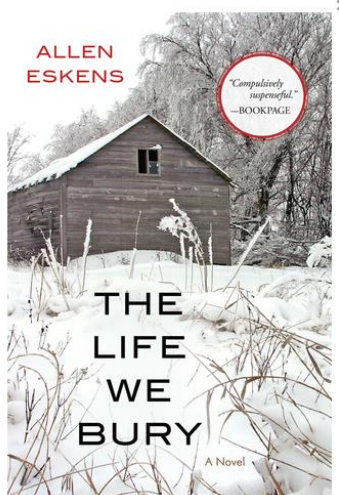
The Life We Bury is an investigative, fiction about a university student who must complete a writing assignment. His name is Joe Talbert, and his task was to interview a stranger and write a brief biography. Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing participant. There is where he met Carl Iverson, a dying Vietnam veteran and a convicted murderer. Carl Iverson had been medically paroled after spending thirty years in prison for the rape and murdered of Crystal Hagen, a 14-year-old girl. Joe dipped deep to uncover all the secrets and truths of Carl Iverson's crime. Carl's life story is much more than Joe bargained for. This story takes place in and around Joe's apartment building and Hillview Manor nursing home during the winter.

The story has an especially important moral, which is that people should not guilt others, as sometimes people are portrayed to be something that they are not or something who that person is not. In addition, it shows that people should listen to both sides of a story before taking a stand; therefore, it is important to know how wrong it is to judge someone before you know the whole story. The story's main theme is honesty and truth and there is no more valuable thing than those words together. This book is also a great reminder that the things you did in the past will eventually catch up with you.

The characters of this book are:

- Joe Talbert
- Carl Iverson
- Crystal Hagen
- Dan William Lockwood “DJ”
- Douglas Joseph Lockwood

Image 2. The Life We Bury Book



Source: <http://mrsroysreviewsandrecommendations.blogspot.com/2016/09/the-life-we-bury-by-allen-eskens.html>

2.5 Comparison Between the Life We Bury and Real Life from a Historical Approach Related to Non-Guilty People

2.5.1 Why Carl Iverson from the Book the Life We Bury Was Convicted Guilty?

Crime is an everyday topic, whenever people go out from their house despite how near or far from it, the danger sense is always awakened. There are many cases of crime surrounding the world, and people may walk in overcrowded streets while a criminal is close from them, but anyone will notice it. Crime is characterized by a huge list of horrible, gross, and terrible acts. Some are not as serious as others, but anyway still crime. Crime is also related to criminals who got convicted by something they never did just as the case of the antagonist of the book Carl Iverson.

In the book *The Life We Bury*; Carl Iverson was a convicted murderer for raping and killing Crystal Hagen. He spent 30 years in prison for throwing her corpse in a tool shed on October 29, 1980. Throughout of book, Joe Talbert, the man who helped to prove that Carl was innocent, pointed out that he was not the man who savagely killed that girl. Because of the lack of proofs, the authorities could not determine if someone else was involved in that case. Dan Willian Lockwood and Douglas Joseph Lockwood were the real criminals, who were discovered by Joe Talbert. At the end of the book, Carl proved in the public eye that he was innocent, and few moments earlier passed away by natural causes.

Carl Iverson spent almost 30 years in prison and then in a nursing home. He accepted his fate without any objection because he was too tired of life. During his past life he suffered from anxiety and post-traumatic stress because of every disgusting action he saw in the Vietnam war.

In that war he saw how his commanding chief was committing horrible acts and torturing any villager he saw. Furthermore, Carl witnessed how his lieutenant raped one girl in front of the eyes of her mother. Carl stopped him, at that moment including accumulated stress and tension, Carl killed him.

This is one of the main reasons why Carl Iverson did not fight for his life, as he was already in a time of his life where he just wanted to rest. However, the protagonist Joe Talbert fought for Carl's life, more than that he wanted to fight for his innocence. Joe used all the tools, interviews, and clues to find out the truth to finally clear Carl's case. Carl Iverson was a brave man, who fought for his nation and his values. Crystal Hagen who was the victim of the case, always referred to Carl in her diary as a mysterious man who stalked her all the time from his window, but this was not a problem for Crystal despite of she never mentioned it.

Because of Carl's strange attitude towards Crystal, the real killers of the girl guilt Carl for their actions, letting Crystal's corpse in Carl's tool shed. The authorities blamed Carl because of his description in Crystal's diary and the lack of research. The real research was made by Joe Talbert; however, many years later from the tragedy. Carl Iverson was a good and patriotic person. In fact, he always wished a daughter, so his attitude towards Crystal may explain why he was so in love with the girl, of course in a good sense.

As shown in the book, this happened in 1980. In those years, it was especially common that this type of things occurred in real life. Maybe the author wanted to release his anger on cases like this where many innocent people were convicted guilty, and many others were killed for something they did not do. A similarity between the book and real life is that at the end, when many years passed after a tragedy; that is a wrongful conviction, the authorities or media revealed and confirmed the innocence of the convict. In the book, the truth was revealed by Joe Talbert

and his girlfriend. Carl was thankful for their help, but he did not want to be recognized or being released from the nursery home. As mentioned before, he wanted to rest eternally because he was dying from terminal cancer. His last breath on Earth was a peaceful breath, he cleaned his conscience forever from the eyes of those who never strive for him to prove his innocence.

2.5.2 Identifying a Non-Guilty and Guilty Convict Outlook

It is impossible to read someone's minds. In other words, it is hard to tell what the others are thinking, and which thoughts might lead into not only bad actions, but also good ones. The human brain is a huge mass with many connections just as a computer or an artificial intelligence device. The information which the brain can process is uncountable and unlimited. A behavior in an individual depends on how much that person has lived through. It includes any problem in a relationship, family, or a personal issue. It depends on how sensible a person is, how much it takes for them to solve a problem or go on with it. Despite of people cannot guess exactly what other individuals are pondering, science can corroborate some common attitudes which are demonstrated as common features which a real criminal share with others to recognize the good and innocent, and the bad and guilty convicts. The question here is: How does an offender think?

There are several TV series and movies which deal with crime, and a common way to solve it, is with the help of a psychologist. This means, criminal psychology. Since time ago until nowadays, criminal psychology has been a fundamental part of every suspicious case of any terrorist or offender. It has become important to understand criminals, and how they think to capture them; therefore, criminal psychology has become an important tool for justice.

Psychology can use elements such as: medical history, intelligence tests, or interviews to know the acts of an offender. Each element allows to analyze the individual and tries to understand their attitudes and inclinations. There exist several factors which can determine a person's

behavior, for instance, the genetic and biological factors such as: temperament and predisposition to certain diseases. and the environmental factors, as for example, their environment during childhood, the education they received, or the individual's personal development. The social factors include their behavior while interacting with others. In other words, their relationship with other people from their environment.

Most murderers, whether they are serial or not, share some basic psychological traits. A murder is one of the most serious crimes a human being can commit. Since prehistory until recent days there have been cases of people who decided to end people's life deliberately. In fact, in these days, it is not rare to find remains of massacres from 9000 years ago. Although there are a huge number of causes or aspects which can lead to murder, there is not probable to establish a specific and universal profile for all murderers. For this reason, the criminal psychology can help to create a general psychological profile to the convict. Next, it will be added some traits and characteristics that tend to be fulfilled in a large proportion of cases:

- 1. Watch the victim as a cause of danger, threat, or obstacle:** The concrete causes can be many. As general rule the person who commit murder sees the victim as someone who has caused him harm, suppose a threat for their integrity or status, or for a loved one, and represent an obstacle to reach a determined goal. It can also be a deliberate act of violence against someone who seems like another person who has made harm to the murderer. In addition, it can be just to satisfy a necessity in which the victim does not have nothing to be part with.
- 2. High score in psychopathy:** There are cases of murders committed against other people who are not related with the murderer. Similar as when it occurs in many cases of serial killers or when the killer is a hired assassin to end up a person's life. However, most

murders are carried out by people who already met or whose environment is linked with other people. That means that the murderer has the capacity to distance emotionally from the victim, which fits in a psychological profile with a high level of psychopathy.

- 3. Discretion:** Apparently, the personality of most murderers does not have great particularities which differentiate them from the rest of the population. The act of murder is not limited to one physical structure that makes the person stand out for the type of social skills they have. It is extremely hard to find out if a person is guilty or not when the murderer is discreet like any other non-guilty individual. The lack of nerves they got is low if they have experienced doing criminal acts since long time ago. Regardless they are caught at the end, it is difficult to track a murderer if they act with discretion, but it is not impossible.
- 4. Low levels of assertiveness:** Despite that in general they have a normal behavior; in many cases the murder is produced as consequence of the anger to a specific person due to different circumstances. The murderer is not capable of managing the situation in another way than the murder. They do not think another way. They just prioritize the decrease of their future victim.
- 5. There is not necessarily a mental breakdown:** There is a social idea of identifying a murderer with the help of psychopathology. However, this is not like this. Typically, most murders are caused by people considered as mentally healthy. Most of the time, the crimes are committed out of hate, passion, or linked to economic or resources aspects. An exception can be found in serial killers, who tend to suffer from serious psychopathy, sociopathy, or different mental disorders which disturb the perception of reality.
- 6. Gender and age:** In general, murderers used to be young or medium age boys. However, many other cases of murderer girls and kids can happen. Traditionally, the boys tend to

use more aggressive methods such as knives or pistols. On the other hand, girls tend to use less visible methods such as poisoning. These tendencies seem to be less decided over time.

Studies can identify a non-guilty person's outlook by recognizing some characteristics which guilty convicts, for example, serial killers, share with other criminals of the same category. These features are related with most of the criminals of all history. It becomes easier to make a comparison between both sides. On one side there are the innocent attitudes and on the opposite side there are the guilty attitudes. These mentioned characteristics or behaviors share common elements, among them, the following attitudes are presented in people with psychopathy.

- 1. Lack of empathy:** The serial killer carries out the murder as an instrument with the purpose of obtaining a benefit either an ideological motive, or the intention to release frustration or fantasy. As general rule, they do not imagine how it will be if they were on the victim's place, leading most of the time to a lack of empathy. A great part of them is classified as psychopaths. Furthermore, among their motivations is a strange vision of reality, too far from hegemonic ideologies.
- 2. Usually show a normal appearance:** With some exceptions, generally, the serial killer does not show any strange behavior or movement in their appearance which lead to think in the possibility that they are innocent or not.
- 3. Selection of vulnerable victims:** Usually, the serial killer chooses victims who might be vulnerable in criminal acts because they consider those victims as weak or somehow easy to manipulate. This is made by the killer to remark that the situation is under control all the time.

4. **They can be manipulative and even seductive:** Many serial killers have the capacity of manipulation and seduction, using those abilities to get closer easily and without too much opposition from their victims. It is frequent for them to establish a relationship with certain easiness. Generally, those relationships are superficial.
5. **Aversive origin environment:** A big number of serial killers come from unstructured environments or families, and in many cases with a high grade of violence. Many of them have suffered various types of abuse throughout their lives. It makes difficult the obtainment of empathy and concern for the environment.

For those reasons, a recognition of an innocent person can be obvious sometimes.

Therefore, if any of the previous features does not belong to a convicted person, it will probably mean that the individual is innocent from their charges. The authorities and the law must do their best to keep innocent people away from jail and save them from penalty of death too. Some exhaustive research may be needed after judging a non-guilty individual. Science and psychology have proved that deep investigations do not fail.

2.5.3 The Impact of Crime between the Book's Society and Costa Rica's Modern Society

The crime showed in the book is just a reflection of how much impact does it have in Costa Rica's modern society as well. It may be described as compulsively suspenseful, and an intelligent and compelling story which brings the chance to make a vital comparison between both elements. The protagonist, Joe Talbert, got up in a dark task surrounding a crime which happened thirty years ago resulting in the confrontation of several ugly truths. As a way to collect clues to determine who was the real criminal, the author delivers to the literary work fascinating puzzles, clever problems-solving, and plenty exhaustive readings from evidence. Furthermore,

the main illegitimate reason is the supposed murder of a teenager by a person who was wrongfully convicted and who spent many times in prison.

Despite Costa Rica does not have a similar registered case of non-guilty convicts, crime in Costa Rica's modern society has shown a significant increasing rate. Since recent times, criminal activities involving tourists are more common than before. The government and businesses are aware of this because these actions may bring to the country negative publicity and may cost economic losses and future visits from foreign people. The illegal activity is unfortunately growing at a high rate in recreational places or other natural zones where tourists often go. In addition, in the past five years, national and international women have been sexually harassed and assaulted, including from children to adults.

A similar sensitive case occurred to Alisson Bonilla, an eighteen-year-old girl, who was raped and murdered by a man. This case is one the most controversial subjects in the country; consequently, a whole nation stood up for her justice. Corruption, theft, illicit substance, rape, sexual harassment, murder, and domestic violence are the main related crimes in Costa Rica's modern society. Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to economic crisis in some parts of the nation. Unfortunately, this issue has raised the unemployment and robbery percentages; however, the vacuum of the virus is on its way to reestablish society's normal life.

The impact of crime in *The Life We Bury*, and Costa Rica's modern society has different focuses on illegal activities. Although the book's criminal act has a problem-solving end, in Costa Rica many illegitimate actions have not. This comparison is a prime option to see the two sides of the coin no matter which type of crime it is. On one hand, there is the possibility to investigate, search for clues or important data, look up for facts, consult articles and media to solve a case, and differentiate the plenty behaviors conducting to a guilty and non-guilty

individual such as in the book or in real life. On the other hand, none of the elements mentioned before is done and crime's impact will increase over time. Costa Rica's authorities are in charge of preserving and protecting the individual's integrity, and make sure to get criminal activities straight.

2.5.4 How to Solve Any Suspicious Case Correctly Instead of Sentencing an Innocent

Person

Solving a case may result a stressing and complicating task when there are suspicious clues or if there are not at all. To prove an individual's innocence or guiltiness, exhaustive and deep investigation must be applied. Throughout human history plenty of wrongful convictions were done including the book *The Life We Bury*. To avoid these injustices, some steps must be cautiously followed as a way to bring alternative possible solutions to solve any case. Some crimes are unintentional, but others are carefully planned. In a doubtful case, there are numerous people involved in detecting and solving criminal acts, as for example policemen and forensic scientists. This process may be complex and rewarding because of working with victims and their families and interacting with criminals. However, how do these people involved in a case can solve it and how do they know who is guilty?

To solve a crime, the people involved in this task may have a small number of clues or evidence to analyze with. Moreover, it is necessary a list of skills and courage to start this process. First, it is fundamental to document everything that may be said. Depending on the situation or place, neighbors, friends, or relatives may share what they know about the victim or the suspicious person with the authorities. It is important to point out names, dates, and any vital data. In addition, a criminal psychologist may help analyzing a profile the authorities are possibly looking at. Second, some questions must be asked to the witnesses, for instance, what happened

and when. Creating a timeline helps to organize the information better. Third, it is crucial to follow a well-structured method and apply it to the investigation, the forensic evidence is needed the most for this part.

Fourth, as part of the case, the evidence means everything; moreover, the parts or elements surrounding a crime scene are always preserved. Every word stated by a witness must be recorded. A hair, a drop of blood, sweat, fingerprints, clothes, objects, and everything involved must be saved and treated in a cautiously way to prevent any mistake. Furthermore, this evidence can tell the real story, and that means it may assist in solving the case and finding the truth. Finally, this is not a fiction series or movie, so not all crimes are solved as quickly as they seem to be. Real life suspicious cases can stay there for months or years.

These steps are valuable and useful for the people involved when processing a case; moreover, there are other fundamental tools which may be helpful. Social media may determine some evidence too, for example, common friends and communicating chats which might show who was the last person the victim or the offender was talking to, even the phone's gallery may be utilized as evidence. It may exist diaries, notes, phone calls, or hidden objects as in the fictional book *The Life We Bury*. A suspicious person may be guilty or not; therefore, to avoid sentencing a non-guilty person, the previous steps must be perfectly followed and deeply investigated. In the past, numerous innocent individuals were convicted in prison and some others got the death penalty. Sometimes a case can be extremely complex, or the necessary evidence was lost forever; moreover, it is crucial to be careful with the evidence. However, if there are not material proofs, the result of the process of investigation becomes more difficult to solve. The only remaining corroboration may be the witnesses' words.

2.6 Non-Guilty Convicts Cases in Real Life

2.6.1 George Stinney Jr.

In real life there are many cases of people who were convicted to death and were innocent. This is the case of George Stinney Jr, who was born on October 21, 1929, in a racist society. He was murdered on June 16, 1944. Despite of being just fourteen years old, George was convicted to die in the electric chair. He was the youngest person executed in the XX century in the United States. Stinney was convicted for the murder of two little girls, one of 8 years old and the other girl of 11 years old in South Carolina on March 24, 1944. He was arrested the next day on charges of murder in first grade. The trial just lasted 4 hours, and after 10 minutes of discussion, the jury declared him guilty and was sentenced to the death penalty. Stinney was executed with around six thousand volts in his head. The execution was carried out in the South Carolina Penitentiary in Columbia in the morning of June 16, 1944. From the trial till his execution, the kid always brought with him a bible, claiming for his innocence. George's father, who helped to find the girls, was fired immediately and ordered to leave his house and work in the fabric. Stinney's family was ordered to abandon the town to avoid more complications. Without familiar visits, the 14-year-old kid had to deal the trial and execution alone. Seventy years later, it was discovered that the beam in which the two girls were murdered, weighed more than nineteen kilos. It was decreed that Stinney could not be capable of carrying the beam and hit with enough force the girls and kill them. One jury of South Carolina decreed in 2014 that George Junius Stinney did not had a fair trial.

Meanwhile, the proceedings did not last more than one day. The police affirmed that they counted with the adolescent's confession; even though, no one could find any written proof in the court records. His lawyer, a tax debt collector, in that moment in a campaign for his reelection,

summoned a few witnesses and only made some counter-mock drills. George Jr. was just a kid, so they had to provide him with a phone book for him to sit on the electric chair. This is one of the most terrible racial crimes in the history of United States. The story of George Stinney Jr. was the inspiration of Stephen King for the novel “The Green Mile”. Story that was incredibly adapted in theaters by the director Frank Darabont with Tom Hanks and Michael Clarke Duncan as John Coffey, a man with kind spirit that despite of his big size had has the heart of a kid.

Image 3. George Stinney Jr



Source: <https://i1.wp.com/cinefilosoficial.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/maxresdefault.jpg?resize=696%2C392&ssl=1>

2.6.2 Troy Davis

Troy Anthony Davis was born on October 9, 1968. He was an African American man. He was convicted to death penalty in 1991 for the murder of the police agent Mark Allen, in Savannah, Georgia, in 1989. There was not any material proof which linked Davis to the murder, and the crime gun was never found. The accusation against Davis was based on declarations of eyewitnesses; however, seven of the nine witnesses retracted their testimony or modified it. On June 2010, the Supreme Court studied Davis’s case, but the jury rejected his plea of innocence, affirming that the defendant should prove his innocence, not only the doubts of his culpability. On March 28, 2010, the same Court rejected his last appeal, leading a free way to the Georgia

state to select an execution date. Therefore, Troy Davis was one step closer to his execution. Troy Davis just had two opportunities: The Pardon Board and the Georgia Probation. This Board dictated a suspension in 2007, declaring that it would not carry out an execution unless the members of the Board were convinced about the defendant culpability. In the next weeks, they assembled again to decide if Davis would be executed or not. Finally, Troy was executed through lethal injection on September 21, 2011, at the age of forty-two years old in Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison.

Image 4. Troy Davis



Source: Wikipedia

2.6.3 Cameron Willingham

Another unfortunate case of death penalty was the one of Cameron Willingham. Cameron was born on January 9, 1968, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, United States. Cameron Todd Willingham could be one of the first convicts in the history of the United States, which innocence was recognized officially after his execution, since some experts demonstrated that Cameron was not the author of the events that drove him to his death. This man was executed in 2004 through lethal injection in Texas after being declared guilty of provoking a fire in his house that ended

with the life of his three daughters in 1992. That same year, he was convicted to death penalty by a jury that took the decision based on erroneous expert reports, the evaluation of a psychiatrist that never interviewed the convict and a series of unreliable witnesses that changed their statements. This chain of circumstances, linked to a poor-quality defense, convicted Willingham to the death penalty.

However, five years after his execution, a new exhaustive analysis of proofs demonstrated that the analysis of the sinister that was not rigorous, considering two reports of forensic experts filtered in 2006 by the association Innocence Project that ruled the fire as accidental. In 2011, a documentary film covering the case and its aftermath called “Incendiary: The Willingham Case”, won the Louis Black Award in the South by Southwest Film Festival, and in 2018, David Grann’s investigative article, was adapted into the 2018 film “Trial by Fire” directed by Edward Zwick starring Laura Dern and Jack O’Connell as Willingham.

Image 5. Cameron Willingham

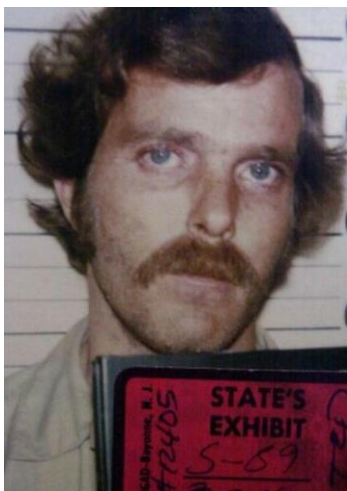


Source: The Marshal Project

2.6.4 Ellis Wayne Felker

Ellis Wayne Felker was born on June 1, 1948. He was convicted and executed in 1996 in Georgia for the murder of Evelyn Ludlam in 1981. Evelyn was a young lady who worked as a waitress while she attended the university. He maintained his innocence, and there was a huge controversy about the case. Supporters said that his conviction relied heavily on circumstantial proofs. The defense of Felker presented numerous appeals after his trial. The lower courts affirmed his conviction, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Circuit May 11, 1996. The Supreme Court denied the certiorari in 1985 and 1996. Felker's death penalty was signed on April 1996. The Supreme Court of United States rejected their petition in June 1996 by saying that he did not established new proofs to be considered in his second habeas corpus of appeal.

Image 6. Ellis Wayne Felker



Source: Tiramillas.com

Given the outstanding issues, four mass media presented a request to the court of Georgia in 2000 for the proofs of Felker's DNA against the recovered evidence from the body of Ludlam.

Felker is seemed as the first take of the United States for the court to agree to a DNA proof after the conviction of an executed person. This kind of proofs were made in 2000 under an agreement by four paid media sources for the testing and they collaborated in the distribution of news of the results. The results were conclusive ruled.

2.6.5 Lena Baker

This case is interesting because she was the first ever woman executed in Georgia's electric chair. In 1945, Lena Baker, an African American woman and mother of three, was electrocuted at the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville. Lena was convicted for the fatal shooting of E.B. Knight. She died at the age of 44 and her story was inspected by a jury of twelve men. There were some rumors that she was in a relation with the victim E.B. Knight. Such rumors did not help her.

Her murder trial just lasted a day, without any witnesses backing her up in the court. She was convicted and sentenced to death. However, John Cole Vodicka, who was the director of an Americus-based inmate advocacy program known as the Prison and Jail Project, mentioned that Knight had kept Lena Baker as his "virtual sex slave". In other words, Lena was his paramour, his mistress, and his drinking partner. In those years, a Black-white relation was often subject to sexual whims of their white masters, bosses or any other man who had control over other lives, including their families lives.

Lena Baker said publicly her innocence minutes before being executed. She stated: "What I done, I did in self-defense, and I have nothing against anyone. I am ready to meet my God". Knight menaced Lena to death with a gun, Baker in a moment to save her life struggled with Knight and shot the gun with no intention, shooting E.B. Knight.

Image 7. Lena Baker



Source: De10.mx

2.6.6 Nie Shubin

More than two decades after Nie Subin was executed for rape and murder, his mother, Zhang Huanzhi, could prove his son innocence. In 2005 other man, Wang Shujin, confessed that he was the author of the crime which Nie was executed for ten years before in 1995. Nie would be celebrating his 46 birthday that year. After Nie's execution, his father Nie Xuesheng tried to commit suicide, but survived.

The trial was carried out closed doors, without the presence of witnesses, and his parents were not allowed to enter the court. However, Nie told a lawyer hired by his family that he was beaten until confessing during the sixth day he spent in jail. Seven months after being arrested, the government executed Nie without telling his parents. He was executed because the lack of proofs and false accusations of raping and murdering a woman.

The Chinese system was criticized, as this country sentences more executions because of judicial sentences. In 2013, the most important court in China prohibited the use of torture as a

tool to extract information. For many years no one wanted to hear Zhang, but suddenly she found an ally in People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Communists ruling party.

Image 8. Nie Shubin



Source: cnnespañol.cnn.com

2.6.7 Derek Bentley

The sad but incredible story of Derek Bentley was one of the most disgraceful moments in the Britain justice. He was detained few moments after an intent of robbery in a Croydon deposit the night of November 2, 1952. His partner Christopher Craig, who was 16 years old, brought out a revolver and opened fire against a group of cops. A bullet hit the agent, Sidney Miles. As Craig was too young to be convicted to jail, the jury enraged with Derek Bentley. The jury acted against Bentley without knowing that he had a mental breakdown. A boy of nineteen years with a mind of a kid of eleven years old, according to the specialists that tried in vain to save his life. His mental breakdown was caused by the terrible nights that he spent in the shelters of London during the World War 2. A bomb destroyed the exit of the shelter and Derek stayed buried two days. Nobody knew about this, and any of the members of the jury was touched even when they had time to safe Derek's life. Even though, he did not participate directly in the murder, he was convicted, and sentenced in a hasty trial that only lasted three months. Finally, Derek was hanged in the Wandsworth prison on January 28, 1953, and Craig was released from jail ten years later.

Bob Jaggs, the cop who captured Bentley mentioned that one of his friends, before dying alcoholized, said that the bullet that killed Miles did not come from Craig's revolver, but from the gun of one of the cops who tried to stop Craig and Derek.

Image 9. Derek Bentley



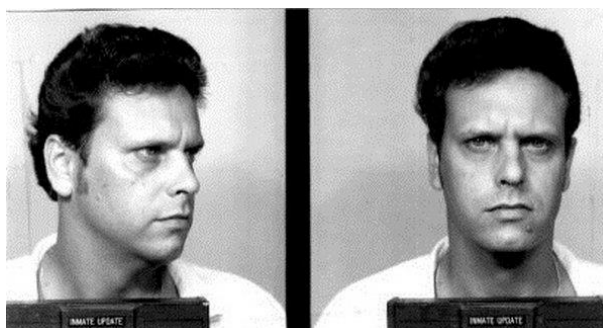
Source: Wikipedia

2.6.8 David Spence

In 1982, there were found the stabbed corpses of two seventeen years old girls and an 18-year-old boy. The corpses of the girls showed signs of rape, and the throats had been cut. The police started a large investigation and arrested Muneer Mohammad Deeb, the owner of a shop. According to an informant, Deeb had confessed the crime. However, the police submitted him to lie detector, which he successfully passed, so they released him. Later, the police arrested Deeb again, this time with three alleged accomplices. One of them was David Spence. The hypothesis was that Deeb hired David to kill a girl, David had killed the wrong person and the other two were murdered as they witnessed the event.

Spence and his alleged accomplices, the brothers, Gilbert, and Anthony Meléndez already in prison for various crimes. Some other convicts accused Spence in exchange of favors such as conjugal visits, cigarettes, and some other benefits. The Meléndez brothers admitted culpability and accused David. Muneer Mohammad Deeb and David Spence assured to be innocent, but they were sentenced to death. Both appealed, but only Deeb's reason was granted. The court sentenced David Spence to death by lethal injection in 1997. After his death, two of the six convicts that had testified, retracted their statements, and explained that their declarations were suggested by the police officers, who offered them various benefits in exchange of accusing Spence. An expert panel also dismissed the proofs given by the police, but nobody could bring David back to life.

Image 10. David Spence



Source: elciudadano.com

2.6.9 Gary Graham

This case generated a lot of controversy in the public opinion, and media. Graham was executed with lethal injection in the Huntsville prison in Texas. His story was part of the electoral campaign of the United States and his death was transmitted minute per minute by the national television in the United States. Supposedly Graham killed an employee of a supermarket, Bobby Lambert, in Houston, in 1981. However, the gun that the police found the day of his arrest did not belong to the bullet the victim received. Graham's files ran over nineteen years in all the appeal

courts, but each one of them got rejected, dictating that it was too late to consider the case. The condemned always kept his innocence and tried to resist until the end. The witnesses of the execution told that the guards fought with him till the electric chair, and they even were forced to tie his head to stop the convulsions. Since the moment Graham kept tied, he started a long speech, in which he repeated his accusations. In addition, Graham remarked some phrases of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King towards his racial profile. Since a while before many hundreds of people were already outside the court with posting signs saying: “You kill innocents here in Texas”, but the police could control rapidly the situation. Many of the jurors that sentenced him to the death now regretted the decision they took.

Image 11. Gary Graham



Source: noticieros.televisa.com

2.7 Death Penalty in Costa Rica

Costa Rica formally abolished the death penalty in the government of Tomás Guardia (1877-1882), who stated that the human lives are inviolable, and that reality contradicts this constitutional mandate. Nowadays, the state is not the one who kills; however, the cartels and criminal organizations do, as they decide who dies and who lives. What the death penalty could not do, the organized crime have done it. Unfortunately, the data shows that daily and annually,

more people is executed in our country than the ones who remain sentences of death penalty.

According to Revista Dominical La Nación,

Arabia Saudi is one of the countries with Singapore where people is executed and hanged almost every day. Even the United States have the fifth place between the countries with more executions, and Texas is the main state where penalty of death is applied. Since 1982 until 2015 there had been 500 convicts. (2015)

Costa Rica was the third country in the world which abolish the death penalty. One hundred and thirty-eight years later, it can be stated that it was a visionary and right decision. The values of every single human in the country are above any type of death penalty, as the latter is considered as an inhuman punishment that degrades the person and his or her family. Consequently, its abolition contributed to a better protection of the human dignity and the right of life.

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

This chapter details the instruments to be used in this investigation to obtain the necessary and useful elements to help the researcher to contrast the theory and data to accomplish this part of the analysis. In addition, it brings a clear and accurate understanding of the objectives and results of the investigation.

3.1 Research Approach

Regarding methods of investigation, there are two vital scopes, the quantitative and qualitative. Both are used to get knowledge by systemic and empiric processes. Even though they sound likely similar, they are used in different research situations. A mix between the two of them is a probability in an investigation. However, for purposes of this analysis the qualitative approach is the one which fits the most according to the investigation's objectives.

Based on Pritcha Bhandari,

A qualitative research involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data (e.g., text, video, or audio) to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences. It can be used to gather in-depth insights into a problem or generate new ideas for research (2020).

In other words, the qualitative research is the opposite of the quantitative research. It can be used to comprehend people's experiences or thoughts of any situation in a personal or general aspect. Moreover, it collects important data on a topic of interest, and it may be gathered in a social group which participates together. The qualitative approach is a prime option to understand how people get involved in a topic or try to make agreements in common experiences or ideas, or

how they just may disagree on topics by pondering about them as problems which must be solved. It is important to point out that the data obtained through a qualitative approach might be in an open-ended and conversational communication; however, for this analysis, a multiple choice is applied.

The reason why it is necessary to utilize this method is not only about extracting what people answered in the survey, but also categorizing in a comprehensible strategy why they provided those responses. It is fundamental to get a better understanding on the behavior and perception of the audience based on a specific topic. Furthermore, the qualitative research method is expected to be more descriptive, which might lead to cautiously analyze the interviewees' responses. The researcher attempts to understand their motivation and feelings toward their responses. By articulating why, the audience shares such opinions and take certain decisions, so organized and logical conclusions could be drawn.

Based on Statistics Solutions,

Well-designed qualitative research is highly systematic requiring that researchers carefully record both their observations and their experiences in collecting the data. A related concern is that qualitative research tends to confirm researchers' own understanding of phenomenon. (n.d.)

In other words, researchers must explain and develop their original thoughts, experiences, or perceptions of the audience as accurately as possible. Maintaining the naturalness of the responses given by the audience would allow the researcher to give a detailed and fluent description of the specific situation or experience. Statistic Solutions also mentioned that

researchers' must gather the data and transfer it in their own understanding but in a logical and original way in which the audience share it despite of the variety of opinions or even answers that the audience come up with.

Moreover, the qualitative approach seeks to understand meaning from the audience's data which help to understand social life through the study of the population being targeted. It allows the researchers to deeply interpret the meanings people attribute to their behavior and interactions. It is the researchers' task to investigate the accurate meaning, symbols, and interpretations, which may be constantly involved in social interactions, media information, and acquired data through their lives. Moreover, this method focuses on daily life people's experiences and opinions and allows to develop several ideas and theories using an inductive method; in other words, it is also known as inductive reasoning, which is a result of a combination of the searching between observations and the development of the audience's explanations. The researcher can induct their responses to generate meanings and end up with a well-reasoning conclusion. Thus, regarding to the "why" it is important to know people's reasoning or opinions and not only focus on the "what". Therefore, it relies on the importance of any interaction which eventually may help the researcher to expand and develop a good analysis based on the topic under study. Furthermore, it can be said that it contributes to bring the investigation to an in-depth perception and descriptions of the targeted population as well as the importance of their feelings and thoughts towards the topic.

The relation between this type of research approach and the factors mentioned in this investigation are relevant. The approach presented in this analysis is oriented on a literary comparison of the convicted people in the book *The Life We Bury* and in real life. Its intention is to show the truth behind the convictions and the innocent souls of those who died via this

horrible punishment. In this project, the analysis was carried out through a qualitative method because of its interpretative nature. However, how many people are informed about this topic? Have they ever been told or seen a case like this in their lives or in another person's environment? The importance of their experience and opinions on the topic are extremely relevant for this investigation because it provides wide and well-reasoning supporting ideas which are helpful throughout the analysis process.

In addition, the qualitative method allows this project to be simpler and clearer to understand. In other words, the qualitative approach is used because the information needed is adapted to this method of gathering information, experiences, and points of view which cannot be quantified to be considered as feasible data collection. The qualitative observation is also important in this approach to understand the context in which the interviewees and the researcher see the natural environment of the object of study. The methodology and structure used in this work is based on the criteria of the individual and the society. With an interview to collect data from the audience according to the qualitative approach method, the participants can express themselves about what they know concerning innocent criminal acts, the impact of crime in Costa Rica's modern society, and the feelings that non-guilty convicts have. In addition, it is relevant to find out if they have ever read the book or if they know someone who has done this. Within sociology, the qualitative research is typically focused on the micro-level of social interaction which composes everyday life. The link between the book *The Life We Bury* and the non-guilty people in real life is that people can express opinions and share them in an open-response way. In the book the convicted Carl Iverson died because of natural causes and not through a cruel horrible death like some people in real life do. The descriptive responses by the interviewees are expected for the researcher to be flexible, in real-world contexts or naturalistic ways, detailed

descriptions, and open-ended responses based on the questions related to the fictional book and the objectives of the investigation.

3.2 Research Design

As the qualitative approach shares common procedures with the descriptive research method when conducting investigation, the researcher has made the decision to carry out the analysis with this type of research design. Moreover, the intention of the descriptive research is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. Although the descriptive research can utilize elements of both qualitative and quantitative approach, it still being a prime option to conduct the analysis. Based on Shona McCombes,

Descriptive research aims to describe a population, situation, or phenomenon accurately and systematically. A descriptive research design can use a wide variety of research methods to investigate one or more variables. (2019)

In other words, a descriptive research is used by the researcher to observe and measure variables. It is helpful to collect the data from the population to thoroughly analyze it. The researcher must find out “what the population ponder about the given topic’s questions” to obtain a coherent analysis.

A descriptive research design in a qualitative research must involve a rich collection of information from most sources as possible to obtain a deeper understanding of the interviewees, including their perspectives, experiences, attitudes, and opinions. It is important to know what the participants’ opinions are because from those responses is where the process of the analysis can be accomplished. This often includes inductivity of the given data to obtain a better

understanding about concepts or ideas to start describing and interpreting those variables. In this investigation, the purpose of a descriptive research design is not only to describe individuals and events by analyzing them naturally, but also to know other's reasonings and opinions, which are the most important for the researcher. The descriptive research design looks at characteristics of a population and identifies problems that may exist. Descriptive researchers may be completely descriptive, or comparative, for instance if the participants' responses get divided according to their gender, age, or education.

According to Business Research Methodology (n.d.), a descriptive research design is aimed at enlightening on current problems through a process of data collection which enables them to cautiously define the situation that was possible without employing this method. In other words, the researcher uses this strategy to integrate the different opinions from the data in a logical way solving any existing problem. In its essence, the descriptive research is utilized to describe several characteristics of the phenomenon. The use of a descriptive study for this investigation brings the researcher the possibility to analyze non-quantified topics or problems, counting with the opportunity to observe the phenomenon in a purely natural environment. It is a time-saver process rather than a descriptive research design in a quantitative focus.

In psychology, the descriptive research is available to understand, describe, and explain behavior and biological processes involved in a human being. Moreover, this analysis process is closely related with it. Some methods involve observation and interactions between the researcher and the participants from easy to hard questions or in-depth interviews. This type of research design in qualitative research assists researchers to examine the observations and the implications of the findings. In addition, other people define the descriptive research differently, but with the same meaning, for instance, based on Eunsook T. Koh, Willis L. Owen, the

“Descriptive research is a study of status and is widely used in education, epidemiology, and the behavioral sciences. Its value is based on the premise that problems can be solved, and practices improved through observation, analysis, and description” (2000).

In other words, the way in which a descriptive research can and must be done in this investigation, can also be accomplished in any other scientific or educational field’s aspect or analysis, thus its problems can be solved too. For example, the description of the elements of the periodic table has allowed scientists to give an explanation about chemical reaction and make predictions when elements are combined. Other examples are when a company wants to evaluate the values and accuracy of work of its staff members. The main head of the company will observe, analyze, and finally describe each worker’s characteristics and work experiences to obtain better results for the company.

There are three methods which may be used to reach the objectives proposed for descriptive research design: case studies, observational method, and survey research. For purposes of this analysis, the survey research was selected. With this method, the participants answer through a survey, and thus, data is collected easily from the respondents. The survey has multiple choice questions so in that way the researcher is able to analyze and describe the answers accurately according to the participant’s responses. This method has a great impact to this investigation because it provides a way to collect the data cheaply and quickly. The development of the design of the interview attempts to resolve the identified necessities in the research to determine the ideas and self-thinking of all the participants and its impact on the current analysis. It is important to point out that all the questions will be formulated with the intention of proportioning a good answer by the participants involved in the analysis.

3.3 Information Sources

As a way to gather data, the information sources are helpful tools which allow to organize the sources where the information come from. The population or interviewees of this analysis are professors from Costa Rica's universities living in different areas of the country. They seem to be kind and willing to answer the questions given by the researcher. All of them belong to different social classes that extend from mid-class to high-class. This people have been selected because they have different characteristics that make them unique, alongside with their background and more importantly, they have diverse thoughts about the topic. The survey was online; therefore, in this way, the interviewees may feel more comfortable and confident with their answers, giving them the opportunity to share their thinking without any pressure. The research includes the mentioned survey to determine the different opinions the population share, regarding their own thoughts about the problematic stated within the objectives and given questions.

When people think about the term “population”, they usually think of people of a town, region, state or country, and their respective characteristics such as age, marital status, gender, ethnic membership, religion and so forth. Based on Pritcha Bhandari,

A population is the entire group that you want to draw conclusions about, in a research, a population does not always refer to people. It can mean a group containing elements of anything you want to study, such as objects, events, organizations, countries, species, organisms, etc. (2020)

In other words, a population is the element needed to obtain a specific result of a survey or interview, most of the times, an opinion of interest to develop a research and analysis of the proposed objectives. The responses of the population are the outcome of the questions made to

collect the necessary and specific data, which is a fundamental part of the investigation, as it is what other people besides the researcher ponder about the topic under analysis. Populations are utilized if a research requires data from an individual of the population, when an entire population is small, accessible, and cooperative it results even better to go forward with the collection of data. On the other hand, if it is a larger and more dispersed population, it is usually more complicated to gather information from all the interviewees. The population is well-known as a collection of alike characteristics of the individuals, including experiences and critical thinking resulting in the interest of a researcher, in statistics that include all members of a defined group under study or defined as collecting information for data driven decisions. In this investigation the information sources are classified in primary sources, secondary sources, and tertiary sources.

3.3.1 Primary Sources

As this is a literary analysis, the main and only primary source to take information from is the book *The Life We Bury* which is used to collect data for the entire investigation throughout every research point. According to Northcentral University Library,

A primary resource contains first-hand information, meaning that you are reading author's own account on a specific topic or event that s/he participated in, they are used to obtain a first-hand account to an actual event and identify original research done in a field. (n.d.)

In other words, using a primary source is a requirement for any research to find the main and important data needed to write a complete analysis about a topic or event. Moreover, the primary sources represent original thinking and experience from the original author. Some

examples of primary sources are original documents such as diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, records, eyewitness accounts, and autobiographies. Empirical scholarly works such as research articles, clinical reports, case studies, and dissertations. Creative works such as poetry, music, video and, photography. *The Life We Bury* book represents a primary source for this investigation because it counts with the main characteristics of a non-guilty person used to reach the proposal of this analysis. Most of the information gathered to make a literary comparison between the book's topic and the real life were taken from the mentioned book which resulted in the most important source because of the category of analysis.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources

Based on Northcentral University Library (n.d.), "Secondary sources describe, summarize, or discuss information or details originally presented in another source; meaning the author, in most cases, did not participate the event." In other words, secondary sources bring definitions and an overview or summary about events of a related topic. In addition, they are also useful to identify and get a better understanding of primary sources. They offer an interpretation, commentary, or evaluation to convince the reader about the argument. As the researcher uses these resources as a second-hand illustration such as point of view or analysis, such data provide commentary and valued interpretation; however, they are not used as evidence.

As mentioned previously, the secondary sources try to describe or explain primary sources. Some examples of secondary sources are publications such as textbooks, magazine articles (journal that comments on or analyzes research), book reviews that interpret and analyze, commentaries, criticism, and newspaper opinion pieces. Therefore, there are some articles, critic reviews and information on media which interpret the book in some way. According to a National Geographic online magazine publication by Phillip Morris,

Many people through the pass of the decades were sentenced to death, but innocent. In addition, there is a list of stories of justice gone wrong, since 1973. More than 8.700 people in the U.S. have been sent to death row. At least 182 were not guilty – their lives upended by a system that nearly killed them. Sabrina Smith, Albert Burrell, Shujaa Graham, Joaquín José Martínez, Kirk Bloodsworth, Perry Cobb, Damon Thibodeaux, and Kwame Ajamu are some names of the extensive list given by the National Geographic magazine published on February 18. (2021)

In other words, this magazine represents an outsider point of view with commentary about what the primary source of this investigation is, and it is related with what is being analyzed and gathered from the book. A source like media or news result extremely useful to support the original author's thinking of the book *The Life We Bury*.

3.3.3 Tertiary Sources

Based on University of Minnesota Crookston,

Tertiary sources are the sources which index, abstract, organize, compile, or digest other sources. They are considered tertiary sources when their chief purpose is to list, summarize or simply repackaging ideas or other information. Tertiary sources are usually not credited to a particular author. (n.d.)

In other words, tertiary sources are a collection of primary and secondary sources. Moreover, they are so far from first-hand information, but they are helpful to read quick reviews

of a publication instead of digging deep for the information, usually there are only necessary to know something general of a topic such a concept or background information. Some examples which are typically utilized as tertiary sources are almanacs, dictionaries, textbooks (sometimes considered as secondary sources too), encyclopedias, manuals, guidebooks, directories, indexes, and bibliographies (Wikipedia included). In tertiary sources the dictionaries, databases and abstracts give the chance to search information simultaneously and quickly to find data with higher relevancy than others. This type of source was used in this investigation to find relevant concepts of new words and meaningful information about the topic in study. Thus, these secondary sources were used as third-hand illustrations, these data provide definitions and indexes; however, they are not used as evidence.

3.4 Analysis of the Categories

The core of this investigation is the book. Therefore, it is crucial to state each factor which 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 interviewees and the book. This analysis was carried out with a qualitative focus, that is a process of collecting and analyzing information which is not based on quantitative elements.

3.4.1 Literary Analysis

The literary analysis comprises the most important part for this investigation, as a way for readers to comprehend better this research related to the characteristics presented in the book, some of which were taken to propose the objectives. It is intended to create an exciting environment where the reading could be enjoyable and at the same time interesting to embrace the readers into the main scopes and characteristics of the analysis of the book applied on this

investigation. Based on McEssay (n.d.), “A literary analysis is defined by essay writers as the studying of parts of a literary work to define how they correlate with each other and what influence they make on it.” Therefore, such a structured analysis deals with literary devices which the author uses to create the underlying message of the work, the main characters, plot, theme, etc. In other words, a literary analysis is an exploration of a literary work for a specific reason which include a deeper analysis of the characters, to find out the meaning of the theme and its symbolism, some historical, societal, and personal connections, the point of view and the setting.

Moreover, the literary analysis comprises a piece of work’s similarity or difference to some social, political, or economical feature of the real world, and it depends on what aspect of life the original author wants to express. Through this analysis the readers can obtain the theme of the book of one of the protagonists of *The Life We Bury* in a comparison from real life cases; moreover, they can understand how the symbolisms such as the behaviors of non-guilty convicts differ from guilty convicts and how much impact that may have in Costa Rica’s modern society according to a historical and social context and approach. In addition, there is an important message about life which the researcher wants readers to understand. If the researcher can express a relation to the book through this analysis, the reader can better catch the main purpose of the investigation including the author’s perspective applied to the researcher’s analysis.

3.4.2 Social Norms

According to Your Dictionary (n.d.), “Social norms, or mores, are the unwritten rules of behavior which are considered acceptable in a group or society. Norms function to provide order and predictability in society.” In other words, social norms are the norms expected by people to be followed by others to maintain society functioning without any legal paper indicating what is forced to do or how to behave. It depends on the individuals to perform and act formally according to these rules imposed by society. However, social norms might change depending on the situation; and/or culture. Thus, social norms may be modified over time. Some examples include social norms regarding public behavior in order to give a good impression, while using the phone as for greeting and saying goodbye, or not using it while in movie theaters or dining. Other examples are when eating outside in a restaurant, when attending school, or any other educative institution, in the workplace, or in elevators. Based on The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, “A social group is any set of human beings who either are, recently have been, or anticipate being in interrelation. The term ‘social group’ has been used to designate many kinds of aggregations of human” (2010). In other words, a social group includes people involved in relationships where their opinions and common interests can be shared freely either with more than five or ten people, even a whole part of a nation.

These social groups follow their own social norms according to their culture; however, not all social groups may share the same elements with the rest. For instance, in a primary group an individual may have personal interactions which may be intimate. On the other hand, there are secondary groups where the information is expressed more formal than is used to be with closer friends or families. According to Merriam-Webster,

Social science is a branch of science which deals with the institutions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society or a science dealing with a particular phase or aspect of human society. (n.d)

In other words, the social science oversees the studying of human behavior which is essential to be analyzed too. Not only it comprehends the behavior, but it also deals with economy, social institutions, and politics. Its purpose is to investigate how individuals or social groups interact with other people including how their behavior and attitudes work. Throughout the analysis of social sciences, the interpretation of how the individuals behave in society eventually helps to learn more about the human world. In addition, this investigation used a qualitative approach, and social sciences may use this approach to deeply study the mankind behavior too, giving some inductive and descriptive responses to an analysis.

3.4.3 Social Behavior

To comprehend how social norms impact adults, it is important to analyze what social behavior is. Based on Cornerstone University (2017), typically andragogy means the understanding of the science and practice of adult learning. In other words, it is the way in which the adults may get knowledge from new things such as an environment they were never in before, a habit or the learning of a social stereotype or manner. The way which an adult fit in social norms depends on some factors such as if there exist new social norms they were not used to practice on the past, or how much maturing self-confidence to adapt in a new social norm they have, including experience. Adults' behavior depends on the place and circumstances they were

raised, so if they try to fit in modern's society, they must acquire new roles to get new knowledge.

This can be seen while learning new skills in the workplace or at any social group with unknown social norms. An adult must find motivation towards social standards to know how to behave in oncoming situations if they want to grow in-self-development. The adults' behavior will be determined by their attitude towards society; however, it is also known that as people go from young children to adults, they may feel some differences in their social behavior as they get older. Adults must share openly their feelings to throw out any bad or uncomfortable situation. An adequate adult education will gradually help adults to comprehend themselves clearly and objectively in society. They must think about motivations, interests, capacities, needs, confidence, and goals to achieve a good fitting in the social norms.

3.4.4 Culture

According to Merriam-Webster, "Culture is the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group, also the characteristic features of everyday existence (such as diversions or a way of life) shared by people in a place or time" (n.d.). In other words, it refers to a series of traditional characteristics which belong to a social group or ethnical race from different regions of the world. They can be seemed like a set of values, or social practices related to a particular activity or societal feature. For instance, the Asians' cultures are not the same as the ones in Latin Americans because in both continents people were raised differently and according to their religious beliefs. Culture represents the way of life for an entire society surrounding the world.

For an adult to fit in culture, it is crucial to comprehend that culture requires an understanding of several characteristic features such as language, beliefs, attitudes, knowledge,

sometimes religion, and behaviors. Adults understand that culture is part of an important, significant, and symbolic root of every region and individual comprising the world. Culture allows adults to generate experience and behavior in society. It is important to point out that social norms play a fundamental and likely similar role in culture. They both have social norms on how to greet and say goodbye. For example, in Costa Rica, people shake hands or kiss each other to carry out that action; something that does not happen in some Asian countries. Culture as social norms share various traditions, whose relation depends on the country which is being associated.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

According to IGI Global (n.d.), “They are the tools used by researchers to actually collect data in the research process. The common data collection instruments in research include interviews, questionnaires, documentary analysis and observation.” This quote means that data collection instruments play a fundamental role in the analysis of the research process. Whatever the instrument is, it is crucial to use them to study the interviewees or population’s responses. It can be applied on a small or large population. For this research project, the selected instruments were assigned to reach the target respondents reasoning for its due data analysis.

For research purposes, the use of instruments is carried out to gather the responses expected from the proposed objectives. A fundamental part of this study is to develop a link with the target audience. This provides the researcher more direct and complete answers. This data collection of instruments allows to collect data from identical items of more than 10 people. The instrument for collection of information included a survey with closed questions for the participants and an analysis table.

3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

The data collected in this study is primarily obtained from the instrument used for this investigation. The collection was carried out with the answers of the respondents which were kind and honest with their answers. The survey was useful to know the target population perspective and criterium. In this way, their responses will allow future readers to meet different point of views. The researcher pondered and formulated the questions based on the objectives of the analysis; furthermore, the participants were in charge of answering those questions through an online platform. The book *The Life We Bury* is also used as main source of information. It is utilized for extracting quotes and fundamental meanings to develop the investigation.

As a way to propose optimal and valuable elements, and conclusions, the book was an inevitable source. Not only those aspects were needed, but also the inspection of the characters, their actions, or characteristic features. The use of all the factors of the book resulted useful to comprise different analysis. Some external sources were consulted to provide inventiveness to the researcher. Articles and documents including points of view, perspectives, and studies were consulted as reference for the process of the analysis. Despite of this investigation is carried out mainly by external sources, other references as the book *The Life We Bury* and the responses from the survey, are crucial, as well.

3.6.1 Survey

As the first objective is to synthesize the main causes of why certain individuals were convicted guilty when they were innocent in relation with common crime features, it was necessary to create a connection between the thinking process and non-guilty convicts; therefore, a survey is carried out. According to Qualtrics (n.d.), “A survey is a method of gathering information from a sample of people, traditionally with the intention of generalizing the results to

a larger population.” This means, a survey takes significant information from the target audience which is a small population. Not only data is gathered from them, but also opinions, feelings, and reasonings resulting from the interviewees.

The mentioned survey is necessary to be applied as an instrument for this research. It is structured to be as multiple choice criterium; moreover, it is selected because it allows an easier and faster way to interact with the participants. In addition, because of its format, the group of professors answered freely. The survey is design in a virtual way using Google Forms platform, then shared in Facebook, in the group English professors, San José, Costa Rica. The creation of the survey is intended to be undemanding and quick to follow. Furthermore, it can be answered from a computer or cellphone. The answers from the survey are kept in the researcher’s account to easily extract the information.

3.6.2 Analysis Chart

As an instrument for this project, the analysis chart creates a connection between the information gathered from the analysis of the book and the theories used to prospect the book. The main purpose of this instrument is to demonstrate how the theories chosen for the analysis constitute certain situations in the book *The Life We Bury*. It is intended to prove the target audience that the elected book, as many others fiction books, are influenced by society manners and cultural aspects. Consequently, the researcher expects the information and theories used to explain the book analysis, reflect the real meanings about real life in modern’s society.

According to beautiful.ai “A comparison chart draws a comparison between two or more items across different parameters. It may help to look at similarities and differences between items” (2020). In other words, this chart is utilized to compare two items of interest for research purposes. As the study of those elements is crucial, the researcher developed an analysis chart

where in the first column is the literary theory. In the second column, it can be found the quote or situation gathered from the book. The third column encompasses the investigator's interpretation of the quote. It is intended to embrace the readers into distinct perspectives of the fiction book and real life, using a differentiation connecting the book and literary theories which investigate non-guilty convicts including behaviors and characteristic features, and crime in Costa Rica's modern society.

Literary Theories	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

The data analysis chapter is focused on the investigation of the book, and it includes the previous literary theories developed in this research project. Furthermore, the approach of this study is briefly commented. The book *The Life We Bury* is analyzed through the literary theories and perspective gathered from the instruments. In addition, the researcher's interpretation is incorporated, as well as a deep explanation of the themes, motifs, and symbols concerning the book.

4.1 Approaches to the Investigation

“An approach is a theory about language learning or even a philosophy of how people learn in general” (2015). This means, an approach assists the researcher to obtain the expected results from the investigation's objectives. As another definition, approaches are crucial when analyzing an author, a book, or even a genre. Moreover, they may be focused on some psychological aspects as cognitivism or behaviorism. It is also related to the individual's perspective. In addition, each book or literary work counts with several approaches which lead readers from every part of the world to interpret the information in their own point of view. For research purposes, a historical approach was selected because it was the most appropriate based on the requirements of the analysis in order to acquire the necessary results.

According to Jelma Perico, the “Historical approach sees literature as both a reflection and product of the times and circumstances in which it is written” (2017). In other words, this approach embraces an understanding about events and experiences which happened around the creation of a literary work. It is almost focused on the life of an author, as some features are used

to interpret the work in the literature. Allen Eskens, who is the novelist of the book used in this investigation, was inspired by his profession as a criminal attorney to compose *The Life We Bury*. The main topic is the solving case of a non-guilty man who was convicted into prison for almost thirty years. Eskens may have used this topic because a possibly life experience. Moreover, the historical approach is one of the oldest and most used approach in literary interpretation and analysis.

4.2 Theories vs Literary Work

At this point, relevant elements of the book as the quotes or situations are analyzed with their respective literary theories selected in Chapter II. Theories play an important role not only in real life cases, but also in the literary piece. It brings a more complete analysis of the book. This analysis is accomplished through numerous analysis tables, in which the literary theories, fundamental quotes or situations from the book, and the researcher's interpretations are included. Furthermore, this section of the chapter provides the readers with a comparison chart between the book and the literary theories.

4.2.1 Book Analysis

The following analysis tables provide specific quotes or situations concerning the book. Moreover, the researcher has chosen three literary theories to accomplish this part of the investigation project. In addition, the researcher's interpretation is included as it is crucial to create a bridge between the literary theories and the book. It is fundamental to point out that these tables are the root of the analysis of all the literary work aspects. The first table belongs to the Semiotic theory, the second to Reception theory, and the third to Sociocultural theory.

Table 1.

Literary Theories	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation
Semiotic theory	<p>“Residents live here because they cannot take care of themselves. Most of them are suffering from Alzheimer’s or dementia or other neurological condition. They can’t remember their own children, much less the details of their lives,” (Chapter 1, page 18)</p>	<p>The world is surrounded by people living in a society in which some individuals may suffer a mental breakdown or a tragic event. Most of them live in a nursery home where nurses must take care of them all the time. People recognize and associate this type of person as they behave. Madness is often linked to this people. If an individual is at a place like this, it is usually because they went through something tragic and unforgettable. Dementia is not the only neurological aspect to end up in a nursery home. As it is</p>

		<p>stated, people who suffer Alzheimer are abandoned by their own relatives which is extremely regrettable. In the book Carl Iverson ended up in a nursery home because posttraumatic war events and a wrongful conviction after spending almost thirty years in prison. Later, he was moved out to the nursery home because he was dying of cancer. Carl spent his last years wondering if someday anyone would reveal the truth concerning his case. Despite of he was in a nursery home, he never got any serious neurological illness.</p>
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	<p>“I spoke on the phone quickly and quietly.</p> <p>“Officer, I’m sorry about all this, but I have a brother who’s autistic. He lives with my mom. I need to know if my mom’s getting released today because if she’s not. I gotta go take care of my brother””.</p> <p>(Chapter 1, page 24)</p>	<p>Many people must deal with a relative or close friend who must receive a different and special treat from others. As stated, an autistic person must be in the care from their family not because this is an illness or disease, but because their brain works in a distinct way from other individuals.</p> <p>Therefore, it is necessary for autistics to be in constant surveillance as they need people to assist them with certain situations.</p> <p>It really depends on the person if they need little support or not much at all.</p> <p>Joe Talbert’s brother was a kid, so he would need help most of time. However, despite of he was just a</p>
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		<p>child, he was extremely intelligent; consequently, he contributed to discover the truth about Carl's conviction case. People in society immediately associate a person with the autism spectrum disorder with a person who needs help in certain situations, as they cannot develop well.</p>
	<p>“No sin could be greater than a sin that cannot be rectified, the sin you never get to confess. So, this... this conversation with you...this is my dying declaration. I don't care if anybody reads what you write. I don't even care if you write it down at all.”</p> <p>Carl pursed his lips, his stare searching for</p>	<p>It seems difficult for someone to trust in others. People's perspective on other individuals sometimes may not be the best. However, meeting people closer may change their first impression about that person. As stated, Carl took the opportunity to tell the truth concerning what happened in his darker</p>

	<p>something far beyond the immediate scenery, a slight quiver in his words. “I have to tell someone the truth about what happened all those years ago. I have to tell someone the truth about what I did.”</p> <p>(Chapter 5, page 81)</p>	<p>years, which was the Crystal Hagen case. He saw Joe’s attitude towards him as honest and kind. As Carl’s interpretation of Joe was as a good boy, as he was able to talk about all the lies on his conviction instead of sharing them to other people who may wanted to earn money with his story. Moreover, Carl mentioned that he did not care what Joe was going to write down about the conversation. This is a proof of Carl’s last confession which showed that he trusted in Joe as to finally talk about his conviction case.</p>
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Life We Bury alongside the Semiotic Theory and the researcher’s interpretation. Source: researcher’s own creation.

Table 2.

Literary Theories	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation
Reception Theory	<p>“You are interviewing this psychopath?” Lila Said.</p> <p>“What’s wrong with that?” I asked.</p> <p>“Everything”, Lila said. It amazes me how prison scumbags can sucker people into paying them attention. How could he not be in prison after what he did to that girl?”</p> <p>“He’s dying of cancer at a nursing home. He only has few months”, Joe said.</p> <p>“And you are interviewing him because...”, Lila said.</p> <p>“I’m writing his biography.”</p> <p>“You’re writing his story?” she said with more than a hint of condemnation.</p>	<p>The “Negotiated Reading” as part of the reception theory establishes that people may find wrong and disgusting an action or event and based on their points of view. However, if that wrong action provides a valid reason behind it, they must accept that it is fine despite of their personal convictions. As stated, Carl was wrongfully convicted remaining as a bad person for everyone, including Lila who freaked out about Joe’s decision. Despite of Carl was convicted as guilty, Joe believed in him and took his case to discover the truth.</p>

	<p>“It’s for my English class,” I said, almost as an apology.</p> <p>“You’re giving him notoriety”, Lila said.</p> <p>“It’s an English class,” I said. “One teacher and maybe twenty-five students. I’d hardly call that notoriety”</p> <p>(Chapter 7, page 85)</p>	<p>There was a reason behind a disgusting story to fight for his innocence which remained public for many years.</p> <p>Lila was terrified and worried for Joe. She thought it was a bad choice to make a biography about a man who supposedly murdered a fourteen-years-old teenager. However, she calmed down when Joe talked about the conversation he had with Carl Iverson. That was the main reason Lila accepted Joe’s decision as fine.</p> <p>In real life, a choice like that seems complex to handle. Even though Lila was not completely sure if Carl was innocent, she</p>
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		<p>trusted in Joe’s words, so they moved on into the case investigation.</p>
	<p>“It’s hard to tell the truth with guys like Carl Inverson”, said Collins. “Guys like Carl?”, said Joe. “He’s a pedophile, and nobody can tell a lie like a pedophile. They are the best. There’s no con artist alive who can lie like a pedophile.”</p> <p>I looked at Collins with a blank expression which urged him to explain.</p> <p>“Pedophiles are the monsters walking among us. Murderers, burglars, thieves, drug dealers, they can always justify what they have done. Most crimes occur because of</p>	<p>The “Oppositional Reading” as part of the reception theory dictates that an individual may totally disagree over an idea or event concerning its point of view. As stated, around the world, there are plenty of criminals who most of time can justify their actions except for pedophiles. Emotions or behaviors are an optimal factor to take into consideration in criminal cases. People in society consider a criminal act as horrible and unacceptable whichever the event it is, at least the ones who are</p>

	<p>simple emotions like greed or rage or jealousy. People can understand those emotions. We do not condone it, but we understand it.</p> <p>(Chapter 10, page 124)</p>	<p>conscious about the huge impact that these events can cause to mankind. There is no way to change that point of view in real life cases.</p> <p>Carl was called “pedophile” because he was also convicted for raping Crystal Hagen just before killing her. This is acceptable because no one knew the other side of the story yet, except for Joe Talbert.</p> <p>People may not know the truth of cases like this. In addition, they might call them monsters and liars.</p> <p>Without proofs anyone would believe someone is a criminal and would have a bad perspective about that person.</p>
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	<p>“Virgil looked at me for the first time since he started telling his story. Have you ever seen those old movies where the sidekick gets shot and he tells the hero to go on without him, to save himself?” “Well, I was that sidekick. I was as good as dead, and I knew it. I opened my mouth to Carl to save himself, but what came out was “don’t leave me here.” “I was scared, more scared than I had ever been in my life. Carl was saving my life. He was willing to die for me.</p> <p>“Carl Iverson is a hero, a true god-damned hero. He was willing to lay down his life for me. He is not a</p>	<p>The “Dominant Reading” as part of the reception theory establishes that the audience completely agrees with an action or event happening at any time. It is what it is, it usually it brings logical points of view as a way to convince the audience that events happened just for a well-founded reason. As stated, Virgil who was Carl’s partner at war, mentioned he honestly believed that Carl was not guilty. In fact, he was sure Carl was a good guy. Virgil as an individual can be compared with a real-life person. If a person completely knows a close friend or relative, and he understands his personality,</p>
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	<p>rapist. He didn't kill that girl.'”</p> <p>(Chapter 13, pages 157, 159)</p>	<p>behavior, and actions based on how good or bad they are, it is guaranteed that the individual may be convinced about what kind of person he is. In the book, it is mentioned a difference between killing and murdering. They both killed because they were at war. It is like there is an agreement between armies that killing each other is okay. On the other hand, murdering is not an agreement. It is just for satisfaction or any other evil purpose. Virgil was grateful with Carl for being his hero, he knew that he had to kill men as a command. However, if a person like Carl is willing to sacrifice himself to save</p>
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		another's life, it is worth to believe that he is innocent despite of a serious conviction.
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Life We Bury alongside the Reception Theory and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation.

Table 3.

Literary Theories	Quotes or situations	Researcher's perspective
Sociocultural Theory	I could see the energy drain from Carl's face as he spoke, his words falling loose and frayed from his lips. He took another sip of water and waited until his breath stopped trembling. "I thought that by going to prison, I might silence my ghosts, bury that part of my life, those things I did in Vietnam. But in the end, there's no hole deep enough". He looked up at me. "No matter how hard	As social norms are currently unwritten rules imposed by society, there are different ways to deal with them. Not all countries have the same social standards, but wrong actions and correct actions are completely divided from each other. Sometimes people make undesirable acts which are not good, and there may regret about them. However, as Carl's situation, through the years,

	<p>you try, there are some things you just can't run away from."</p> <p>(Chapter 31, page 330)</p>	<p>some events cannot be buried. The social norms are imposed in order to create a solid society where numerous traditions and beliefs can work together. In other words, they are introduced to obtain good behaviors and manners. They might represent the necessary values everyone must have and fight for. As stated, Carl Iverson was regretful because his actions at Vietnam War. He killed his own commanding chief and other men. Despite of the war is like an agreement for honor, he felt guilty for those moments. In fact, he was in prison because of the wrongful conviction against Crystal Hagen's murder. He</p>
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		<p>became a hero for many people at Vietnam, but this was immediately forgotten after Hagen's case. The book shows how a man can become nothing in just a moment, Carl's social norms were good, as he was a kind and respectful person. Nevertheless, because of a wrongful conviction his standards fell to the ground. Moreover, in the girl's diary, Crystal defined him as mysterious and kind of creepy; however, he was trying to protect her and make her feel happy. The main reason was because her issues with her father and fling.</p>
	<p>"But we do have control of how much of our soul we</p>	<p>People as a society may regret wrong past actions.</p>

	<p>leave behind in this mess.</p> <p>Don't ever forget that. We do still have some choices.”</p> <p>(Chapter 23, page 240)</p>	<p>Humans usually make mistakes because no one is perfect. Those actions may lead into a whole mess which an individual would not easily forget.</p> <p>However, there is something people can do as a way to amend those events. It is crucial to move forward and be better than before. There is always time to ask for forgiveness. Each day is a new opportunity to grow up as a person and prepare for oncoming events. As stated, Carl Iverson made huge mistakes through his life. He stayed in prison and in a nursery home to supposedly bury his past. However, it did not work until he met Joe</p>
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		<p>Talbert who finally deciphered and revealed that Carl was not the real murderer. Iverson moved on and talked about his past with Joe despite of his dark and perturbing life circumstances.</p>
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*Fragments or quotes from the book *The Life We Bury* alongside the Sociocultural Theory and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation.*

4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

Besides the literary theories, other fundamental elements are analyzed to develop a deeper explanation concerning the themes, motifs, and symbols which are shown in the book. The analysis of those factors comprises the most relevant ones. Moreover, they are explained to create an analysis chart alongside quotes or situations included in the book. In addition, this chart incorporates the researcher's interpretation as well as in the literary theories' analysis chart. The themes, motifs, and symbols are displayed in its respective order.

4.3.1 Themes

According to Writing Explained, "A theme is a message or abstract idea which emerges from a literary work's treatment of its subject matter" (n.d.). In other words, a theme is the element or concept which explores a literary piece. It is a crucial belief about an excerpt of the literary work which the author attempts to convey in any type of writing. Furthermore, it is what the story means, and it includes all the ideas and relevant characteristics of the book. The themes

in a book provide the main idea of it. However, it is not explicitly mentioned, as it obtained through the reader's interpretation at the end of the reading; moreover, it is intended to create meaning.

Table 4.

Themes	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation
Honesty	<p>“I wanted to ask him about the diary and the code. I wanted to know why such an important part of the prosecutor's case went unchallenged. I wanted to see his face when he told me whether or not he knew what Crystal Hagen meant when she wrote in her diary that it “stops today”. I wanted to test his honesty”</p> <p>(Chapter 18, page 196)</p>	<p>There are two main themes in the book, one of them is honesty. As the book's story develops a mysterious path through Carl's case, Joe Talbert oversees it as eventually revealing those mysteries. To prove Carl innocence, Joe analyzed Crystal's diary in which it was written fundamental information concerning Hagen's social environment. However, it was not for sure that all those events were accurate, so, Joe decided to ask Carl</p>

		<p>what he knew about it. Carl was about being tested by Joe, to verify if his answers were the same as the ones in the diary. In this way, Joe could test Iverson's honesty. It is crucial to point out that Carl was constantly watching Crystal through his window. Nevertheless, his words were always honest.</p>
	<p>“So, what I’m saying is this: I’ll be truthful with you. I’ll answer any question you put to me. I’ll be that proverbial open book, but I need to know that you are not wasting my limited time. You have to be honest with me as well, That’s all that I ask. Can you do that?”.</p>	<p>As Joe is at the nursery home talking to Carl. He decided to interview him concerning his case. Iverson was dying of pancreatic cancer, so, his time was limited. He promised Carl to be honest with all the details and events he knew, but Joe must be honest to him as well. Carl had</p>

	(Chapter 6, page 78)	<p>nothing to lose so he decided to speak out loud. As the conversation was progressing both seemed to be comfortable with each other. Moreover, they both had personal situations to be honest about. On Joe's side, he was sharing his family's issues concerning his alcoholic mother, his autistic brother, and his grandfather's tragic death. On Carl's side, he was expressing all those suffering years from war and most important, Crystal Hagen's case. As Carl was dying, he chose to be honest with his conviction. His idea was to declare in order to bring Joe a consistent and good evidence. Evidence</p>
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		<p>like this resulted fundamental to make believe the authorities that a person who was dying would not want to die with a lie upon his lips.</p>
<p>Truth</p>	<p>“I am well aware of the evidence, Joe,” Carl said, speaking his words with the patience of a glacier. “I know what they used against me in court. I’ve relived the telling of that story every day for the past thirty years, but that does not change the fact that I did not murder her. I have no way to prove that point to you or anyone else. I’m not even going to try to prove it. I’m going to tell you the truth. You can</p>	<p>As stated, Carl was convinced to tell the truth to Joe; therefore, he even told him the story he had in the Vietnam war. The truth remaining in Carl’s words assisted as the main link between Carl and Joe. Talbert was on his own to believe what he wanted. However, besides honesty, Carl Iverson was a truthful man. These declarations made Joe to go back home and wrote every single word Carl told him. Each</p>

	<p>believe it or not. It does not matter to me.”</p> <p>(Chapter 22, page 233)</p>	<p>story helped to mark a turning point in Carl’s life. Later on, Joe Talbert was convicted concerning Carl’s words. As they created an honest and truthful bridge, they started to become closer.</p>
	<p>“I know the truth!” I yelled the words. I wanted to stop any protest he had before the words formed in his throat. I wanted him to know that it was over. “I know the truth about what happened to Crystal”.</p> <p>(Chapter 33, page 353)</p>	<p>Throughout the story, Joe finally discovered who was the real murderer of Crystal. It resulted to be that a man called Doug Lockwood was the one who forced Crystal to have sex with him and eventually, he murdered her. In her diary, she said that Carl Iverson stared at her plenty times and that she wrote codes about her stalker. Therefore, the authorities convicted Carl as the main suspect. Crystal</p>

		<p>was Doug's stepdaughter.</p> <p>This theme is a great reminder that eventually the truth will catch people up at some time in the future and they will be punished. It is fundamental to point out that Carl Iverson remained his words truthful through the story. To create a truthful link, both characters, Carl and Joe, were forced to work as an honest team.</p>
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Life We Bury alongside themes of the book and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation.

4.3.2 Motifs

According to Literary Terms, “A motif is a symbolic image or idea that appears frequently in a story” (2015). In other words, motifs represent the necessary elements often presented by the protagonist to give meaning to the themes showed throughout the story. They can be symbols, events, sounds, or words. Moreover, they contribute toward the development or explanation of a theme. The comprehension of the motifs is originated by the readers as they advance through the book. Moreover, they bring more depth and sense to the story's themes.

Table 5.

Motifs	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation
Documents	<p>“I called Virgil Gray and invited him to join us when we went to visit Carl that day. I thought about framing the order but decided against it, as that did not seem the kind of thing which Carl would have wanted. Instead, I simply handed him the document, explaining what it meant, explaining that in the eyes of the world it was now official, he did not kill Crystal Hagen. Carl rubbed his fingers across the raised seal on the bottom of the first page, closed his eyes, and smiled a melancholy smile.”</p>	<p>Through the story, the protagonist is characterized by having his own documents concerning clues and evidence on Carl's case. They are presented as fundamental collection of data to solve the case. The documents represent the peace that Carl needed to leave this world with a clear conscious. It was spread throughout the world. No matter what, he won despite of his eventual death. Carl was completely and officially innocent. Carl passed away hours later, it was like his death was as peaceful as any other human had ever seen.</p>

	(Chapter 53, page 492)	
Diary	<p>“He did,” Lila said. Lila pulled a piece of paper out of the file and handed it to me. It was a copy of a letter to the Department of Defense. The date on the letter showed that it was written two months before the trial. It had been signed by Carl’s attorney, John Peterson. In the letter Peterson was asking the Department of Defense to help decipher the diary code.”</p> <p>(Chapter 17, page 194)</p>	<p>One diary in the story, which belonged to Crystal Hagen, was the most accurate evidence to attempt solving Carl Iverson’s wrongful conviction. Lila and Joe tried to decipher the codes in the diary as Carl’s attorney was trying to do it years ago as well. However, the Department of Defense never went deep into it because the codes were not simple to solve. The diary represents the perfect evidence to discover the truth. Crystal was never clear about the person she was protecting with the codes. The only person who was mentioned was Carl</p>

		Iverson. Furthermore, the truth about the case was carried out throughout the whole story.
	<p>“Well,” Sanden said. “We have the diary, the pictures, Lockwood’s flight from justice and burning his house down. That might be enough to get us back into court.”</p> <p>(Chapter 40, page 410)</p>	<p>As Lila and Joe finally deciphered the codes in Crystal’s diary, they discovered the real murderer. The collection of all the evidence as the pictures and the murderer’s DNA resulted crucial to solve the case. In addition, the lack of these objects would make the story end in a different way. The moral of the story is that people do not have to judge a book by its cover, they should not guilt others; moreover, it shows that people should listen to both sides of a story before assuming. In</p>

		<p>addition, it is important to know how wrong it is to judge someone before knowing the whole story.</p>
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Fragments or quotes from the book The Life We Bury alongside motifs and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation.

4.3.3 Symbols

According to Literary Terms, “A symbol is any image or thing which stands for something else. It could be as simple as a letter, which is a symbol for a given sound” (2015). This means that a symbol is an interpretation of the elements or ideas about what a literature piece stands for. It gives meaning to a story; moreover, symbols can represent deeper aspects concerning the object. It is used to symbolize an object or action which means something more than its literal meaning. Despite of the meaning of a symbol, not all the readers may understand the messages in the same way. People may perceive them different from others. Furthermore, the author of the book may utilize explicit but crucial elements to define them as important symbols for purposes of the story.

Table 6.

Symbols	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation
Joe's Apartment	<p>“We went to my apartment and started digging through the box, which held a few dozen folders of varying</p>	<p>Joe's apartment represents his freedom from his mother and his past, as well as his intent to build a new</p>

	<p>thicknesses, each with the name of a different witness or a label like forensics, or photos, or research. I remembered the prosecutor's warning in his opening statement about the intensity of the photos.</p> <p>(Chapter 16, page 177)</p>	<p>life. He allowed his autistic brother Jeremy to live with him.</p> <p>Moreover, this apartment symbolizes the place where Joe discovered most of the important evidence of the case, including the writings, he did when Carl revealed plenty fundamental information to him. In addition, this place also represents the relationship between Joe and Lila which helped him to decipher the codes in the diary and eventually solve the case</p>
	<p>"Thirty years ago, he raped and murdered this fourteen-year-old girl." "I read all about it in his file. After he was done killing her, he tried to hide the evidence by</p>	<p>The main evidence to convict Carl was Crystal's burnt body hidden in his tool shed. This symbol represents the primary proof of Carl's wrongful</p>

<p>Carl's tool shed</p>	<p>burning her body in his tool shed.”</p> <p>(Chapter 1, pages 19-20)</p>	<p>conviction. It is the beginning of a long judgment in prison and the nursery home for Carl, as this mysterious case was not solved but thirty years later. At the time of the murder, Iverson was described as a former veteran and creepy man who stared Crystal, at least that what she said in her diary about him.</p>
<p>Crystal's Fingernail</p>	<p>“Crystal fought for her life. We know this because one of her false fingernails broke off during the struggle. That fingernail was found on the steps leading out of Carl Iverson's house. It fell there as Carl dragged her body onto the floor of that shed</p>	<p>Throughout the story, it is always mentioned Crystal's fingernail as a fundamental and secondary evidence. This fingernail was false, and it may have fell in the murder moment. Moreover, it represents a proof which was used at first as another evidence against Carl, but</p>

	<p>as if she were just a piece of garbage.”</p> <p>(Chapter 11, page 137)</p>	<p>later as a proof that Carl’s DNA was not underneath the fingernail.</p>
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*Fragments or quotes from the book *The Life We Bury* alongside symbols and the researcher's interpretation. Source: researcher's own creation.*

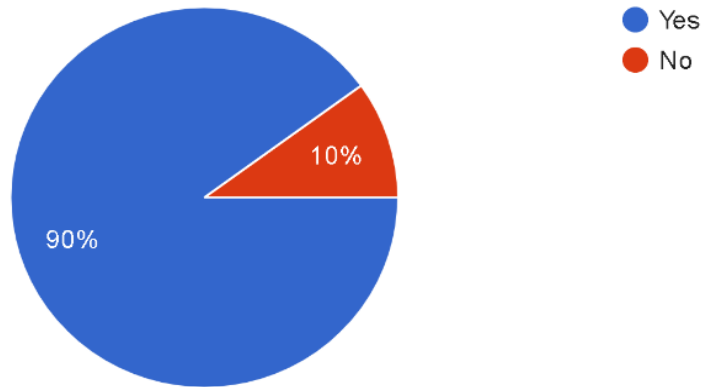
4.4 Survey Analysis

This part of the chapter is intended to analyze the results gathered from the survey made in the platform Google Forms. This survey was answered by a population of 30 English professors from Costa Rica. There is a total of 10 figures which correspond to the questions made by the researcher. They are proposed based on the fictional book *The Life We Bury* and Costa Rica’s real-life situations. Furthermore, the researcher attempts to make a little interpretation of the interviewees’ responses as accurate as possible.

4.4.1 Figure 1

1. Do you know what a “non-guilty convict” is?

30 respuestas

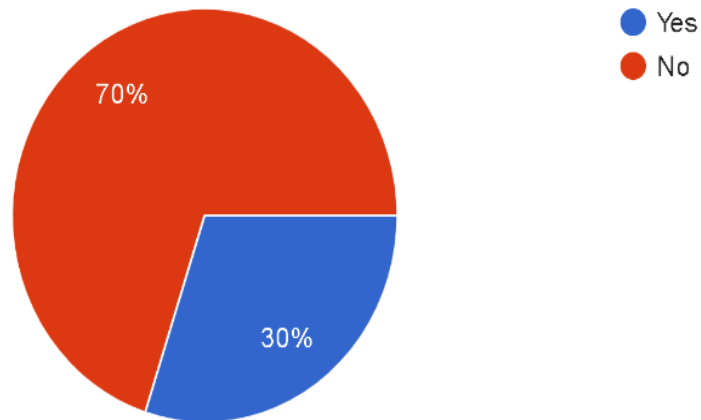


The 90% of the interviewees know the definition of what a “non-guilty convict” is. On the other hand, a 10% do not know what this means. This question was crucial to answer this survey. Probably, people who disown the term, immediately went to look it up at in the dictionary.

4.4.2 Figure 2

2. Do you know any person who was innocent but still went to prison?

30 respuestas

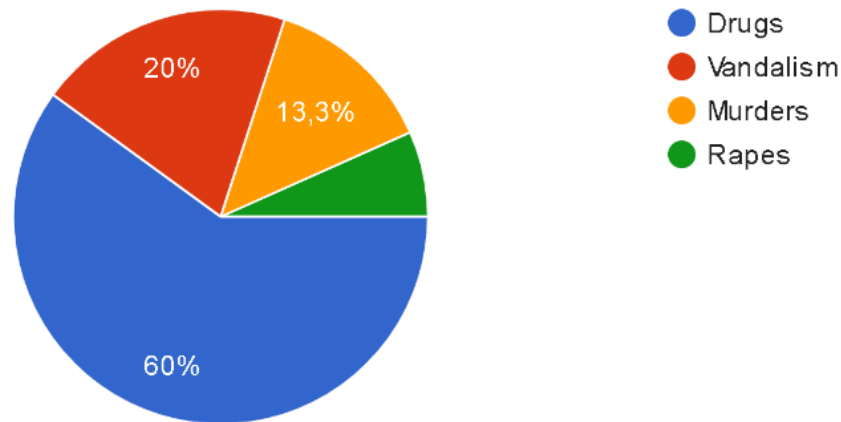


The 70% of the population do not know an innocent person in their lives who went to prison for his supposed actions. On the other hand, a 30% of the interviewees know a person like this. Moreover, it is interesting how a considerable part of the audience may know a close friend or relative as well who went to prison for unfair reasons. It is an optimal proof that these cases not only happen in fictional stories.

4.4.3 Figure 3

3. What do you think is a common feature in criminals?

30 respuestas

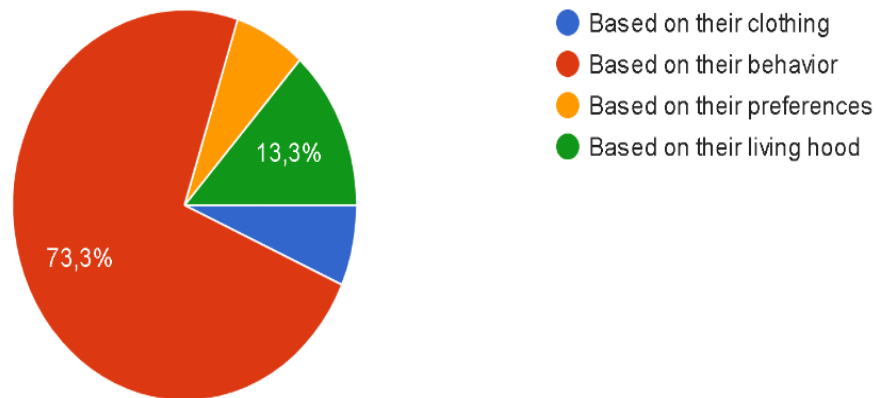


Despite of all type of crimes can be committed randomly, the interviewees have their own criteria about which is a common feature in criminals. 60% agreed that drugs are the most common feature. In second place, 20% selected vandalism. Third was murders with a 13.3% of the votes. Finally, 6.7% chose rapes as their decision. In the book *The Life We Bury*; the non-guilty person was convicted for raping and murdering. However, the questions were focused on real life criminals and their most common feature. It is a reality that drugs are the main problematic these days; moreover, it does not mean that all the other problems are not happening in modern society.

4.4.4 Figure 4

4. How do you think you can differentiate a criminal from a non-guilty convict?

30 respuestas

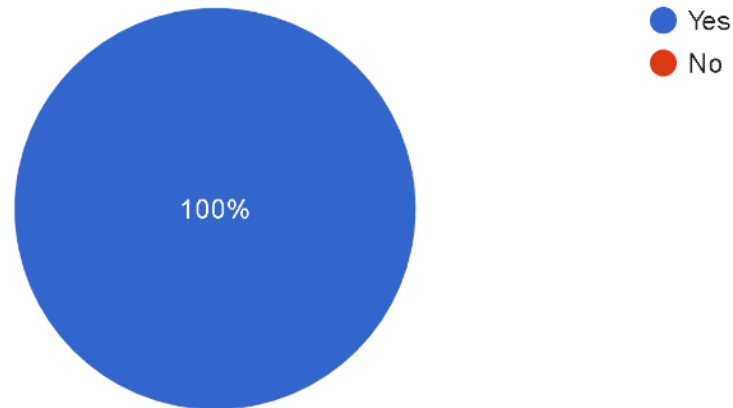


The 73.3% of the population agreed that people can differentiate a criminal from a non-guilty convict based on their behavior. 13.3% based on their living hood. 6.7% of the votes were based on their clothing, and the remaining 6.7% based on their preferences. It is crucial to realize that behavior expresses most of people's feelings. It is the most accurate way to tell how people may feel as in *The Life We Bury* book. The other options are not always true. A person may have different preferences, or live in a low-class hood and still being a good person. The clothes which a person is wearing do not make them bad or good people. It has to do with how they really are as their attitude or aspirations.

4.4.5 Figure 5

5. Does crime have a great impact in Costa Rica's society?

30 respuestas

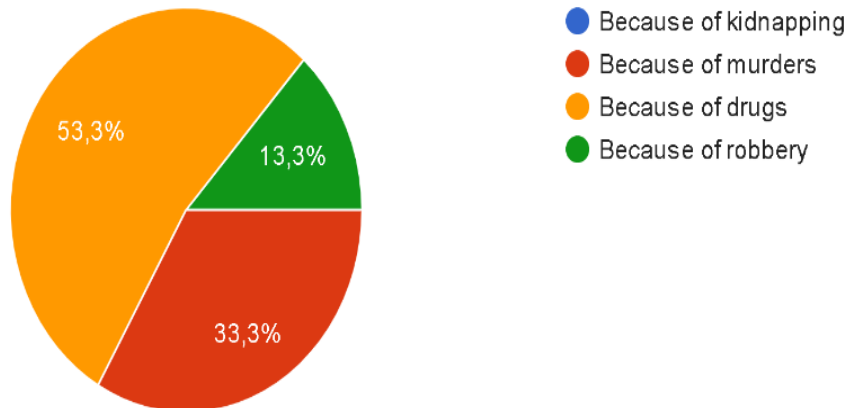


The 100% of the population agreed that crime has a great impact in Costa Rica's society. It has been proved as time passes by, that Costa Rican people is surrounded by criminals and illegitimate activities in any province. Social media and the news generally spread this information to the country.

4.4.6 Figure 6

6. If you answered “yes”, why do you think it is:

30 respuestas

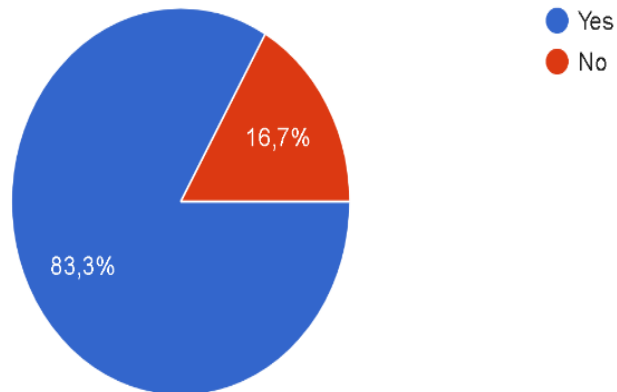


As 100% of the interviewees chose “yes” in the previous question, they were asked to state the reason of their responses. The majority which was 53.3% voted because of drugs. Second, a 33.3% chose because of murders. Finally, a 13,3% answered because of robbery. From the entire population none voted because of kidnapping. In Costa Rica, it is usual to watch news regarding these four criminal activities. However, drug news are more common to hear about.

4.4.7 Figure 7

7. Do you think non-guilty people who end up in prison can eventually be released?

30 respuestas

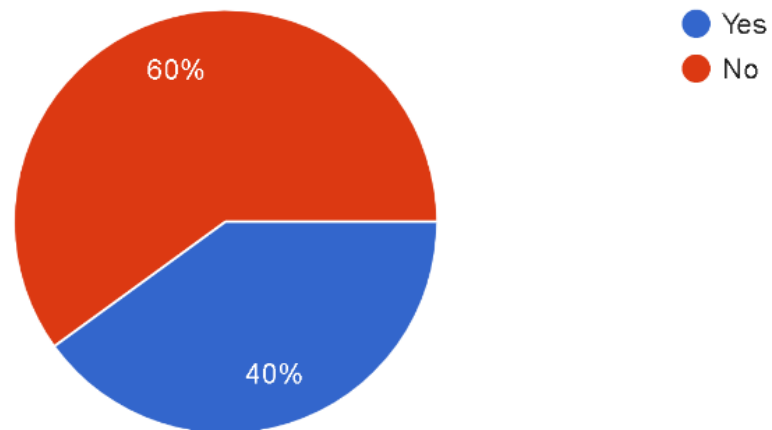


The 83.3% of the population agreed that non-guilty people who end up in prison can be released someday. On the other hand, a 16.7% think they will remain in prison forever. In the book, Carl Iverson was released from prison, but he went to a nursery home because of his illness condition. In other words, he was never released at all. However, the truth of his case proved that he was innocent. Most of the interviewees seemed to have hope for all those innocent people just as Joe Talbert; the protagonist, in *The Life We Bury* book.

4.4.8 Figure 8

8. Have you ever read a book related to non-guilty people?

30 respuestas

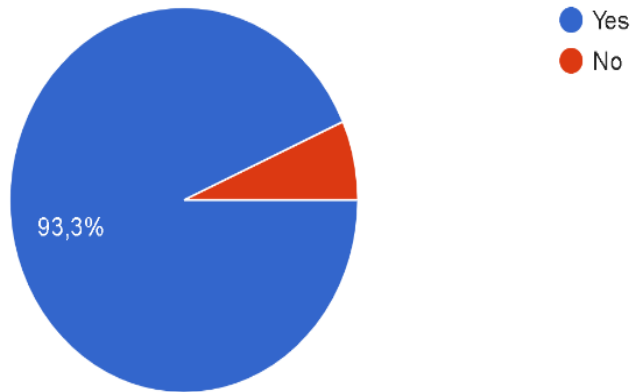


Most of the interviewees' responses, which was a 60%, answered they have never read a book related to non-guilty people. On the other hand, a 40% have read a book concerning innocent people. The *Life We Bury* book is a good option to start reading about this topic. This book is not as famous as any other modern book, but it has an important moral.

4.4.9 Figure 9

9. Do you think behavior is an important factor to consider in cases like guilty and non-guilty convicts?

30 respuestas

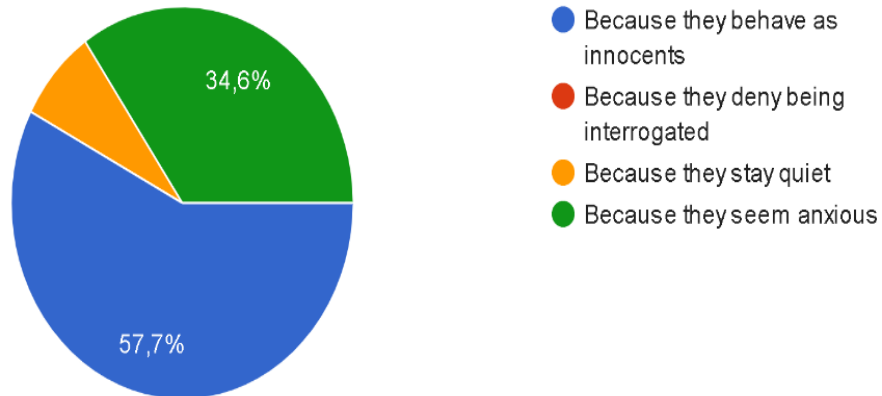


The 93.3% of the population agreed that behavior is an important factor to consider in cases like guilty and non-guilty convicts. On the other hand, a 6.7% answered the opposite. It is fundamental to consider behavior as a primarily factor when solving cases and interrogations. The interviewees who responded “yes” have their criteria for their answer.

4.4.10 Figure 10

10. If you answered “yes”, why do you think it is:

26 respuestas



As most of the population answered “yes” in the previous question, the reason why to that response is attached in this question. First, a 57.7% of the interviewees agreed that behavior is an important factor to consider in cases like this because the convicts behave as innocents. Second, a 34.6% voted for “because convicts seem anxious”. Finally, a 7.7% voted for “because they stay quiet”. None of the audience voted for “because convicts deny being interrogated”. It is interesting how the majority of the participants agreed that authorities and people involved in crime scenes may consider that convicts behaving as innocent people, is the main cause to declare them as guilty or non-guilty. The characteristics when behaving as innocent may include to cry, to persuade, or to explain the situation.

Chapter V

Conclusions and Recommendations

The following chapter includes the conclusions gathered through the process of investigation. In addition, the research question stated in Chapter I is analyzed to demonstrate how the researcher obtained such results. Along the literary work, many important elements as the goals of this study are carefully explained to achieve the expected results, which includes the objectives as well. Furthermore, the recommendations are provided to be used as an optimal reference for future readers or writers.

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

The purpose of this conclusion is to point out the research with deeper literary illustrations. This analysis was carried out under a historical approach, which supplied the literary study with the necessary guidelines to reach the expected results. The non-guilty people such as in the book and in real life were considered as an interesting and uncommon topic. The answers provided by the interviewees helped to enhance the opinions and common thoughts about convicted people throughout history and their behavioral features. The main intention of the researcher was to provide a perspective of how innocent people were convicted to prison and how to identify the outlook from real criminals and the population who completed the survey and future readers. Moreover, it is not intended to criticize; on the contrary, it is intended to make conscious about the wrongful convictions and its impact on modern society.

5.2 Conclusions

The conclusions provided this investigation with a well-structured and logical outcome. It was extremely useful to determine one general objective and four specific objectives. They were intended to give a complete and descriptive study in which the researcher could accomplish these objectives as accurate as possible. These objectives as in Chapter I are stated again. However, they are used here to create a conclusion of the results which were carried out for this investigation.

5.2.1 To determine the reasons why the antagonist Carl Iverson was convicted guilty in the book

As the first specific objective stated, this investigation dealt with the main reasons of wrongful convictions, but on a fictional character. The book provided an excellent example of a non-guilty solving case. It is a reality that this problem negatively affects the individual. Furthermore, this issue is more common than it sounds. Sometimes it does not seem like an important event; however, the impact which a wrongful conviction has, is delicate and complicated. The main causes for the conviction of the antagonist Carl Iverson were analyzed including his background and evidence.

For this objective, the researcher created several analysis charts to explain the events within the book. These tables provided relevant situations from the book, the literary theories, and the researcher's interpretation. It was mentioned that the antagonist was convicted for raping and killing a fourteen-year-old girl, and he was sentenced for an action he never did. It was fundamental for the analysis to study all the evidence and the environment surrounding him throughout the years to solve the case. It was said that Carl was a soldier and was dying form

pancreatic cancer. His life was a complete chaos, and he was alone. Through the analysis, it is understandable how someone else guilted Carl because of his creepy and crazy appearance. Moreover, the victim's diary helped as the main evidence to first convict Carl, but then to uncover the truth about who killed the teenager. From this, the researcher concluded that even a little and lost piece of evidence may lead individuals to prison even though they are innocent. It is vital to point out that a crime may affect everyone, and the lack of proofs or a suspicious object such as the diary in the book may result in a tragedy for innocent people.

5.2.2 To identify the non-guilty convicts' outlook through a historical approach

Plenty of times, it was mentioned how the individual's behaviors are fundamental when solving a case. In addition, behavior is the main aspect to consider when differentiating a criminal from a non-guilty person. Through the analysis, the convicts' outlook followed a series of common characteristics which helped to determine if they were guilty or not. The behavior of a person may be affected by their environment or their life experiences. Moreover, psychological effects play a fundamental role in behavior. People's parents are in charge of shaping their kids with the correct education, values, and personal development. In this way, their outlook towards society is a well-looking one.

For this objective, the researcher carried out a survey with some English professors from Costa Rica who were surveyed through social media. The participants were asked about how much impact a convicts' outlook has when solving cases and what feature they thought was the most common in judicial procedures. From this, the investigator concluded that most part of the population agreed that they can differentiate a criminal from a non-guilty convict based on their behavior. Besides the attitude of convicts, the researcher also concluded that some features such

as clothes and preferences are sometimes the elements to consider when identifying non-guilty convicts' outlook. Furthermore, a recognition of an innocent individual can be obvious; however, people's appearance may not be trusty. Science may result a truthful tool to deeply examine a convict's outlook.

5.2.3 To investigate the impact of crime between the book's society and Costa Rica's modern society.

Throughout the analysis, it was mentioned how much impact crime shares between the book's society and Costa Rica's modern society. Crime is part of every individual's life. Its impact on modern society is a non-stop daily situation, not only in a fictional book, but also in real life. The book's topics just as a crime, are a reflection of society's current or past events. Moreover, surrounding the world, in any part of any country, crime represents a complicated problem to solve or struggle with. The ultimate cost is the loss of a life. In addition, hundreds of people are murdered by criminals or innocent people like the one presented in the book. Crime not only affects Costa Rica's society, but also economic productivity through the loss of tourism and retail sales. The country is full of people with different childhoods, behavior, and values. Crime will increase either drug habits, or lack of resources or money. Crime impacts the world with low or high intensity, but it is still a problem.

As a way to interact with Costa Rican individuals, the survey was also utilized for this objective. The researcher asked the target population if they considered crime has a huge impact on Costa Rica's modern society and why. The investigator concluded that 100% of the interviewees agreed that crime has been part of their lives. Most of them think it is because of drugs. In this analysis, it was compared the impact of crime along some of its common causes.

Furthermore, it was also concluded that not only drugs are the main reason of illegitimate activities in Costa Rica, but also murders and robbery are affecting the country and its society.

5.2.4 To demonstrate how solving any suspicious case correctly instead of sentencing an innocent person through a historical approach.

As a conclusion for this objective, the characteristics of criminals are quite different from any other person who is free of guilt. Some criminals are driven to crime by overwhelming external circumstances. In addition, other criminals are driven by an irresistible impulse but by unconscious forces such as struggling with their personality, or the ones who express their anti-social attitude, and those whose behavior is the result of mental deficiency or illness. In cases like this, when the crime is done, authorities must act and choose the correct decisions when solving any suspicious case. Moreover, based on a series of steps for solving a case, the evidence and DNA testing are useful to make a final decision.

The researcher concluded that solving a case requires determination and sacrifice. This means that a case can be complex but rewarding. The correct decision when trying to find the truth and not sentencing an innocent person must go through an exhaustive process of evidence. The number of clues is also fundamental to analyze. Furthermore, the people involved in these procedures may be brave and effective. These steps including evidence and DNA testing are valuable as the social media in these days. In addition, the lack of material proofs may make the investigation more difficult to solve. Moreover, if this happens, the remaining corroboration will be the witnesses' words.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

As established in the first chapter of this investigation, the research question which was “What are the criminal acts in real life and the book *The Life We Bury* from a historical approach related to non-guilty people?” resulted a crucial aspect for the development of the analysis. Throughout the paper, the researcher was capable to cautiously study comparisons and contrasts between illegitimate activities and innocent individuals’ cases which occurred in a fictional book and within modern society. These elements were also assisted by English professors who provided the researcher with relevant data concerning their criteria and knowledge. From this, the researcher could conclude that the impact of illegal events may extremely affect a part of a population, or a person caught in a suspicious act. These people may be involved in the evidence but remain innocent. On the other hand, someone else can be blaming another individual to cover their crime.

Furthermore, these wrongful convictions and criminal activities created a helpful path as a link to not only analyze the evidence of a case, but also it was fundamental to understand certain characteristics regarding criminals and non-guilty convicts. The target population from the survey have shown they could apply their knowledge. They agreed that this topic represents a huge and difficult issue on modern society’s environment as robberies, murderers, and among other unlawful events which have evolved and increased its percentage rate. In addition, the interviewees are experienced and well-informed people concerning any dangerous circumstance. Moreover, they could form reasonable opinions and accurate choices. The researcher was aware that the interviewees were as mature as possible to obtain better and shielded results.

5.4 Recommendations

The conclusion of this investigation project is developed as part of all the literary analysis and collected research data. It is particularly fundamental to supply some recommendations for future researchers. Its intention is to provide them with valid and solid information while doing their future research analysis. The researcher wrote this investigation while living through a global pandemic. It was necessary to create an online survey to facilitate the communication with other people without any close-up interaction which may put up at risk their health. In addition, in this way, any future researcher could create an easy and timesaver series of questions for the target population. Moreover, some recommendations can be found in the following paragraphs.

First, a main element when doing a research project is the source of the data. There is plenty information in many websites and articles. However, it is important to consider the most relevant and unique for the selected topic. This information must be taken to provide clear and concise ideas. The reading process must be an exhausting and slow step; however, once the data is analyzed, it will be helpful when writing concepts and meanings for the investigation. To know the limits and save time during the day, it is recommended when working on the analysis, to schedule what is going to be done in that specific day to become more efficient.

Second, it is fundamental for future researchers to pay attention when writing their texts. It is common to make grammatical mistakes. Moreover, this can represent the restructuring of a whole paragraph or even changing an idea. It is recommended to stay away from distractions such as smart devices or places where they can constantly be required. A quiet place and without people are fundamental to take into consideration for avoiding a block on your ideas. As the researcher wrote this project during a global pandemic, it was crucial to carefully compose the

analysis in a noiseless environment with nobody surrounding the room. Besides if there is a global pandemic event or not, the concentration is always an optimal aspect to take care of.

Third, the topic for the research must awake your curiosity, as well as the book or subject. It is vital to point out that future researchers must be familiar with the topic which is being analyzed and to completely know the literary piece. Furthermore, when the researcher is passionate about the topic, it results beneficial as every word and idea can be developed in their mind while writing. In addition, the searching of information will create a bridge between their knowledge and composing skills as it will help to support the work. In this way, the future researchers will acquire more information when reading and learning something new at the same time. Moreover, the collection of data may generate plenty points of view and different perspectives.

Finally, this investigation will also be useful for the target audience the future researcher chooses. Moreover, the researchers must bring their work to the next level. In other words, they must place their project as the most important one they have ever done to create interest on future readers. The hours of sacrifice and spilled sweat which a researcher must dedicate are plenty. However, this project may result favorable for many readers such as a single person or a social group. This investigation's topic may be useful for many other national or international researchers to compose their thesis, and even to read more books as *The Life We Bury*.

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Annexes

Literary Theories	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Themes	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Motifs	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Symbols	Quote or situation	Researcher's interpretation

Survey Questions

1. Do you know what a “non-guilty convict” is?
2. Do you know any person who was innocent but still went to prison?
3. What do you think is a common feature in criminals?
4. How do you think you can differentiate a criminal from a non-guilty convict?
5. Does crime have a great impact in Costa Rica’s society?
6. If you answered “yes”, why do you think it is?
7. Do you think non-guilty people who end up in prison can eventually be released?
8. Have you ever read a book related to non-guilty people?
9. Do you think behavior is an important factor to consider in cases like guilty and non-guilty convicts?
10. If you answered “yes”, why do you think it is?