

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Intrinsic Aspects

2.1.1 Setting

As defined by Holman, a setting is where the narrative's action takes place or where the story's conflict take place: it can be both physical and spiritual in nature (Holman, 1960: 413). Not only does it refer to location, but also refers to time and place in which the episodes occur, as well as the social conditions and the mood atmosphere of the story. The location has the ability to make the reader feel what the characters are feeling, and the reader can become carried away by emotion. Also, Abrams (2009;284), setting is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which it is events happen, there are three types of settings, such as time, place, and social circumstances. Setting display the details about event in the story.

2.1.2 Character

Character, in the context of intrinsic elements, refers to any entities such as human being, animals, or figures that are being represented in literary work. Character carries the ideas of story in which the plots and the conflicts depend on the character itself. In order words, character is used to extend or develop the plot of the story (Danahy, 2020: 15). The development of a character can be recognized on how the progress of this character. If the character deals, experiences, or embraces more entities throughout the story, it means that a certain character is said a highly developed.

According to its type, character is divided into two groups namely protagonist and antagonist characters.

2.1.2.1 Protagonist

Protagonist character refers to certain character that generates the action of the story. It, sometimes, also attracts the interests and empathies of the readers. The protagonist characters, for instance could be a hero or antihero (Danahy, 2020: 19)

2.1.2.2 Antagonist

Antagonist character us the opposition of protagonist. The values of antagonist are against what the protagonist believes. Thus, when protagonist character encounters antagonist character, it would later create conflicts that will be developed throughout the story (Danahy, 2000: 20).

2.1.3 Conflict

Conflict is defined as the disagreement between two or more opposing forces. Conflict also the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in plot. Conflict provides the elements of interest and suspense in any form of fiction. Whether it be a drama, a novel or a short story (Holman, 1960: 105). While Abrams (2009: 265) says that conflict is the most important part of the plot of the story, conflict can be defined as anything happened or experienced by the characters in the story.

2.2 Cinematography

Cinematography is the technique of capturing photographic image, which focuses in photographic aspects of the shots the character, the framing of the shot, and

the duration of the shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 2006: 162). Then according to Brown (2012:10), cinematography can be defined as the art of film making. It helps people to be more enjoy the film. It also increases the quality of the film because when the film has good quality of cinematography, it would be gets high score from audience.

2.2.1 Character Shot

Different words are used to describe various depictions of a single of a single character. The majority of films, including short films, revolve around individual characters, making character shots a fundamental element in filmmaking. This technique is also prevalent in the creation of music videos and commercials. (Brown, 2011: 12)

2.2.1.1 Full Shot

The character is entirely visible to us in one shot, head to toe. This makes it possible to use it represent objects as well; for example, a complete image of a car would comprise the entire vehicle. (Picture 2.1)

2.2.1.2 Two Shot

The two shots combine to form a frame with two different characters. The discussion that takes place between two characters in a scene is one of the most important elements of narrative, and a result, the shot that you will utilize it most often is the one in which they are speaking to one another. (Picture 2.2)

2.2.1.3 Medium Shot

As with the wide view, the middle shot has some connection to the topic at hand. It is evident that a full shot is not necessary at this point. People who are purchasing a beverage or sitting at a restaurant table could be featured in the medium pictures, which are taken from the waist up. (Picture 2.3)

2.2.1.4 Close-up Shot

In cinema, close-ups are among the most essential types of shots. Typically, a close-up focuses on the upper part of a person's head, often showing only from the top of the head to just below the shirt pockets. While there are various variations, a medium close-up is generally defined as a shot that captures the subject from the top of the head down to the waist, or anywhere in that range. (Picture 2.4)

2.2.1.5 Over-the-shoulder Shot

A variation of the close-up is called the over-the-shoulder (OTS) shot, where the camera shifts from one actor's shoulder to capture a medium or close-up shot of another actor. This technique creates a connection between the two characters and helps the audience engage more effectively with the scene. (Picture 2.5)

2.2.2 Dialogue

Dialogue is a tool to deliver the information to the viewer that reproduced and record clearly. Therefore, dialogue is essential to build connection between the film and the viewers (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008:269).

2.3 Extrinsic Aspect

2.3.1 American Dream

The American Dream represents the aspirational goal that individuals strive for in pursuit of a better and more fulfilling life. As stated by Martin (1967: 42), the American Dream symbolizes the pursuit of success, encouraging individuals to take advantage of opportunities that lead to prosperity. This dream profoundly influences people's lives, guiding them toward their objectives.

In his book *The Epic of America*, James Truslow Adams defines the American Dream as a vision of a society where life can be improved, enriched, and made more fulfilling for all, with success determined by individual abilities and achievements (Adams, 1931: 404). Adams emphasizes that the American Dream is not solely about material wealth but also encompasses personal fulfilment and happiness. It promotes the idea that, regardless of one's background or social status, anyone can succeed through perseverance and hard work.

According to Burns and Cronin (1989: 424), the American Dream shares common characteristics with the aspirations of most people, particularly the pursuit of freedom and prosperity. It is based on the belief that individuals are free to pursue their goals, accumulate wealth, and choose their desired lifestyle. These ambitions inspire people to work hard and strive for both financial success and personal satisfaction.

2.3.2 Characteristic of American Dream

Adam, Truslow (1931: 404), Explain that the American dream is not only about attaining a better life, but also about the individual qualities that help people reach that dream. These characteristics represent the personal values and attitudes that individuals demonstrate as they pursue success, growth, recognition. The American Dream encourages individuals to rely on this effort, perseverance to achieve meaningful accomplishment and personal satisfaction in life.

Loia (2022: 287-288) notes that in modern culture, the American Dream can also be reflected in one's desire to leave a lasting impact, contributing to society or inspiring future generations. Cullen (2003: 7-8) highlights upward mobility and material success as a key motivation, where individuals strive to improve their economic status through hard work and ambition. Sasso (2018: 13) adds that the dream must also include justice and equality, particularly for marginalized groups, where the goal is not just success but fair opportunity for all. Meanwhile Hogg and Vaughan (2010: 5) point out the importance of personal agency—the ability to make independent life choices—as central to self-actualization within the dream.

2.3.2.1 Hard Work

The value of hard work is a central trait of the American Dream. According to Adams (1931: 404) emphasizes that success in life should come not from privilege or inheritance, but from one's own labor and discipline. This characteristic reflects the idea that effort that everyone should have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential

though dedication and enterprise. Hard work enables individuals to rise above challenges, seize opportunities, and progress toward their goals. The American Dream supports a culture where commitment and responsibility are rewarded.

2.3.2.2 Determination and Perseverance

Determination and perseverance refer to the ability to continue pursuing a goal despite obstacles or failure. According to Adams (1931:405) achieving the American dream is not guaranteed, it requires individuals to endure hardship and persist even when progress is slow. This reflects a belief that success is possible for those who do not give up. Perseverance transforms setbacks into learning experiences and allows people to keep moving forward until their goals are achieved.

2.3.2.3 Individualism

Individualism in the American Dream emphasizes the freedom to create one's own path. Adams suggests that each person should be allowed to pursue success in a way that aligns with their identity, vision, and capabilities. This characteristic values independence and personal choice. Rather than conforming to society's expectations, the American Dream encourages individuals to think for themselves, take initiative, and follow their unique dreams (Adams, 1931: 406).

2.3.2.4 Self-Improvement

Self-improvement is an essential aspect of the American Dream. Adams (1931: 407) describes the dream as an opportunity for every person. This includes personal development in knowledge, skill, attitude, and moral character. The American Dream

is not only about financial or social achievement, but about becoming a better, more capable version of oneself. Continuous growth and learning are seen as a lifelong pursuit.

2.3.2.5 Recognition Based on Ability

The concept of recognition based on ability highlights the meritocratic nature of the American Dream. Adams believed that people should be rewarded for their talent, effort, and contributions — not judged by social class, wealth, or background. This characteristic ensures that individuals have the chance to prove themselves and gain respect through their achievements. It reinforces the belief that fairness and merit should guide personal success (Adams, 1931: 404).

But on this thesis the writer only focuses on two specific characteristics of the American dream as reflected in the character of Jan Mardenborough in *Grabn Turismo* (2023), which is **recognition based on ability** and **self-improvement and growth**. These two aspects are chosen because they are most prominently and consistently represented in Jan's journey from a gamer to a professional race car driver. His struggle to gain respect based on his skills, and his continuous personal development throughout the film, clearly reflect the spirit of the American Dream as defined by Adams.

2.3.3 Forms of American Dream

2.3.3.1 Equal Opportunity

The concept of equal opportunity within the American Dream is based on the belief that every individual should have a fair chance to succeed, regardless of their

background, ethnicity, gender, religion, or social status. Adams (1931: 404) describes the American Dream as a vision of a society where opportunities are accessible to all, based on merit and personal achievements. This concept underscores the importance of creating an impartial system where individuals can access the same resources, education, and opportunities to pursue their goals.

2.3.3.2 Personal Happiness and Fulfilment

The concept of personal happiness in the American Dream is rooted in the belief that individuals should be able to seek not only material success but also emotional and psychological satisfaction. Adams (1931: 405) emphasized that the American Dream is not solely about wealth or status, but about “a better, richer, and fuller life” for all. This includes the right to find joy, fulfillment, and meaning in one’s personal life and pursuits. Personal happiness, therefore, represents the idea that success is also measured by internal contentment, relationships, purpose, and well-being — not just external achievements.

Fulfillment within the American Dream refers to the achievement of one’s highest potential and the realization of individual purpose. According to Adams (1931: 407), the American Dream is about the opportunity “to grow to fullest stature of which they are innately capable.” This means individuals are encouraged to pursue paths that align with their talents, values, and passions, resulting in a life that is both productive and meaningful. Fulfillment stresses long-term satisfaction over immediate gain,

supporting the notion that true success is found in living a life of purpose and contribution.

2.3.3.3 Freedom

The concept of freedom within the American Dream centers on the individual's right to make life choices without oppressive restrictions. Adams (1931: 214) defines freedom as the essential condition that allows people to pursue their goals, express themselves, and take control of their own destiny. This form of the American Dream highlights the importance of personal liberty — including freedom of thought, opportunity, and movement — as a foundation for self-determination and success. It reflects the idea that every person should have the autonomy to shape their own life according to their values and passions.