

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Intrinsic Elements**

According to Abrams (1999:136), the intrinsic elements of literary work, including character, conflict, setting, and figurative language, are the elements that build the literary work itself as the foundation in essential elements.

##### **2.1.1 Theme**

A theme is a symbol concept that is sometimes employed interchangeably with using theory Abrams (2012: 32). Theme is also a broad notion or doctrine that the reader or perceiver of the literary work may see. The Theme can be challenging for viewers to come up with the task as a whole idea completed. For example, this film uses a male single-parent theme, as in the title. It describes the main character showing an action that brings up a comedy-drama genre and manner in several parts of the film with a society that supports the main character's actions.

##### **2.1.2 Character and Characterization**

Literature requires specific characteristics or elements to maintain coherence and fulfill its purpose Abrams (2012: 32). Among these, characterization is crucial in depicting individuals, animals, or entities within a literary work. These entities contribute to the narrative through

their evolution and roles. As Bennet and Royle (2004: 60) mention, characters serve as the heartbeat of literature. They evoke curiosity, fascination, affection, dislike, admiration, and condemnation. Characters propel the plot forward, infusing it with vitality and breathing life into the story.

### **2.1.3 Setting**

The setting of a movie can encompass both specific and general aspects, including its geographical location and historical time. It constitutes an environment established by the movie's author and can play a crucial and integral role within the film. According to Abrams (1981: 175), the setting portrays the spatial, temporal, and social context in which events unfold in the narrative. The setting in a story involves several dimensions: First, The place setting encompasses the physical location, encompassing details such as the environment, geography, and overall spatial attributes. Second, The time setting encompasses the chronological context, including the period, era, season, year, and even precise date the story takes place; third, The social setting provides a framework for understanding how characters navigate their world, make decisions, and interact based on their environment's societal norms, expectations, and dynamics.

### **2.1.4 Conflict**

According to Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development

(1975: 314), psychological quality has a turning point in the conflict, during which an individual struggles to attain some. Sometimes referred to as a psychosocial crisis, this can be a time of vulnerability and strength as the individual works toward success or failure. Abrams (1981: 175) uses the pattern of parenting as one of the conflicts in his "Fatherhood". Analyzing it requires some evidence in the form of the behavior of several main characters, namely children and fathers, who have limitations as a whole family.

### **2.1.5 Climax**

The climax, derived from the Greek word "climax," meaning "ladder," signifies the pinnacle of the drama's plot. It embodies the most intense conflict within the storyline, a challenge that the protagonist's character confronts head-on when the primary issue unfolds. As an essential intrinsic narrative element, the climax is a focal point of the highest tension and dramatic intensity (1981:175). In the climax, the conflicts and challenges that have evolved throughout the story's rising action culminate in a pivotal and decisive moment. This element holds significant importance for the narrative's structure, representing the turning point at which the outcome of the central conflict becomes inescapable. The climax often unveils the characters' genuine essence and motivations, laying bare their internal struggles and propelling them toward a resolution. It is a pivotal component that infuses a narrative with emotional depth and impels the story toward its ultimate resolution.

## **2.2 Extrinsic Aspect**

### **2.2.1 The American Single Parent Life**

Single-parent families represent a significant family structure in contemporary America, yet their complexities remain relatively underexplored and misunderstood. According to *Parents Without Partners* (1983:3), approximately 25.1% of all American families with children under 18 fall into single-parent households. A single parent is defined as an individual who has encountered life challenges such as separation, divorce, widowhood, adoption, or premarital birth, with these circumstances being among the most common (1985:20).

The statistics mentioned above specifically pertain to single parents as the primary caregivers for their children. "individualism" and "collectivism" offer educators insights into comprehending their cultural background and the broader cultural landscape within US schools. Educators can adapt their cultural understanding by gaining insights into the diverse families they engage with, thereby influencing their perspectives and professional interactions with parents. Consequently, these interactions can enhance parental involvement within the school environment. A noticeable diversity in adopting innovative strategies becomes evident even within a limited subset of teachers. This variance reflects how cultural, personal, and other contextual factors shape teacher behavior and impact parental engagement Trumbull et al., E., (2003: 45). Conversely, single parent often encounter a range of challenges,

including:

### **2.2.1.1 Problem of children and parents at school**

In the context of the impact of single-parent situations, parenting plays a crucial role. It can give rise to several new challenges, particularly within education and schools. This circumstance frequently leads to a breakdown in communication between parents and children, leading to specific issues. To address this, effective communication is essential, fostering the adoption of an unconventional and culturally responsive approach. The parenting process can be directed towards empowering parents and schools, as exemplified in the film "Fatherhood" (2021). This cinematic portrayal illustrates an approach that confronts challenges yet can also be embraced by communities invested in American children's education. Such an approach entails collaborative efforts between schools and families, leading to transformative change through enhanced programs and pertinent policies. This collaborative process, in turn, fosters an ongoing dialogue between schools and families, thereby establishing a cooperative relationship.

Consequently, parents become better informed about their children's educational progress and overall well-being. Research, as underscored by Bloom (1985: 1717), underscores the pivotal role of parental involvement in driving children's success within the educational sphere. On a contrasting note, sociologists studying educational matters,

such as Hansen (1988: 917), have illuminated disparities in how parents from diverse social strata interact with schools. Aligning values between middle-class families and educational institutions often results in greater compatibility.

Nevertheless, families from varied ethnic backgrounds and navigating challenging economic circumstances frequently encounter cultural isolation within the school context. This isolation can breed misunderstandings between parents and schools, potentially leading to negative outcomes. Such systemic isolation of families and groups from mainstream cultural participation can fuel animosity, indifference, and, ultimately, detachment from a positive and influential environment.

### **2.2.1.2 Lack of full parental supervision of children**

In this context, challenges in parental social interactions hold a pivotal role. For instance, in the film "Fatherhood," Maddy evolves into a tomboy due to her social engagements. However, delving deeper into research reveals that American single-parent families exhibit a profound concern for the welfare of their only children and possess the capability to advocate for their rights.

Throughout raising children, a "power" underpins the knowledge parents require to navigate these responsibilities. According to Delgado Gaitan (1990: 298), power, in this context, refers to the capacity to create intended, anticipated, and sometimes unanticipated effects on others to

achieve outcomes advantageous to oneself. How this power is wielded determines the extent to which individuals or organizations can access valuable resources, terms previously characterized by the involvement of parents from diverse language and cultural backgrounds. Nevertheless, more profound research underscores that American families raising only children exhibit a profound concern for their children's well-being and possess the ability to champion their cause.

### **2.2.1.3 Disruption of significant family relationships caused by parents dating and entering new relationships**

Parents frequently impose consequences on their children in a spontaneous manner. However, in specific circumstances, the relationship dynamics of single parents require validation, such as when discussing a child's expressed discomfort with the introduction of a new parental figure. In the "Fatherhood," Matthew strives to provide the best for his children by introducing a motherly presence, Lizzie, recognizing the importance of maternal and paternal aspects for children's development.

The stages of parental involvement in romantic relationships also exert an influence. How parents engage with their dating partners, their level of commitment, and their traits collectively shape how they endeavor to shape their partner's perspective of the relationship. As relationships become more serious, young adults actively attempt to influence the dynamics of the relationship. Nevertheless, the degree of

parental support does not consistently predict changes in levels of engagement within premarital relationships. Bates (1942:99) emphasizes the pivotal role of parents in selecting life partners for their children. Evidence indicates that parents play a substantial role in such decisions, extending beyond the conventional notion of "free will" in choosing partners.

Table 1.  
*Two Parent and One Parent Family Groups as Proportions of All Family Groups with Children Present: 1970 and 1984 (Numbers in Thousands)*

	1970		1984	
	Number	PERCENT	Number	PERCENT
<b>TOTAL</b>	29,631	100.0	33,246	100.0
2 Parent	25,823	87.1	24,701	74.3
1 Parent	3,808	12.9	8,544	25.7
Mother Headed	3,415	11.5	7,599	22.9
Never Married	248	0.8	2,102	6.3
Spouse Absent	1,377	4.6	1,762	5.3
Separated	962	3.2	1,505	4.5
Divorced	1,109	3.7	3,174	9.5
Widowed	182	2.3	561	1.7
Father Headed	393	1.3	945	2.8
Never Married	22	0.1	166	0.5
Spouse Absent	241 (a)	0.8 (a)	187	0.6
Divorced	N/A	N/A	496	1.5
Widowed	124	.4	97	0.3

(a) Includes divorced

**Picture 2.1: Table of Two Parent and One Parent Family (1986:3)**

These findings are discussed from a systems perspective indicating the importance of viewing young adult relationship development not only in the context of interpersonal influences but also in young adults' social light. In this study, the Male American single parent is an ideology in society, and the pattern is still debated between divorce and separation. From the table one and two above, describe of total numbers of single parents in the US over time from 1950 to 2020. This has a significant emotional impact on children and their parents and reduces

the family's economic, parental, and social resources. On the other hand, American single parents are again in the spotlight of social research using the structural functionalism theory by Robert K. Merton (2010:143-162). It assumes that society is a system comprising functionally related system elements. This theory views the single parent as an interconnected and interdependent systematic form and describes the needs of the underlying system or function. There are many reasons for parental separation that can place all the responsibility on the single parent. One of the main reasons for parting is young death. Therefore, it is necessary to make preparations before marriage. This film presents the experience of single parents in America through the character Matthew, who is interpreted as a parent, both father and mother, who carry out and assume the responsibility of raising children without the presence of other parents.

### **2.2.2 Influence of Gender Issues and Equality on the Character**

Masculinities constructed within the context of gender and equality represent social configurations that have evolved over historical processes with global implications, affecting men as profoundly as women. The lives of specific groups of men are molded by global economic and political dynamics, even though this aspect often remains overlooked. The author draws upon the theory proposed by R. W. Connell (1998: 3) to analyze the reform of gender and equality. The focus is on assessing the potential of reform strategies involving men, as men's role in promoting

gender equality gained prominence in international discussions during the 1990s. Critical policy documents about gender equality, such as the UN Convention on Discrimination Against Women (United Nations, 1989) and the Elimination of All Forms, serve as essential references.

In practical terms, the experiences of a man and an American single parent navigating household responsibilities and gender role attitudes, such as those of the character Matthew, prompt considerations about the distribution of children's aspirations. This role extends beyond traditional home roles to encompass the pursuit of less gender-stereotyped occupations.

A prevalent characteristic in global communities, according to Piburn the transformation in gender issues and equality are encapsulated in childhood programs that herald social transformation as an avenue toward achieving gender equality among the youngest generation (2006:18). Furthermore, Fulcher revealed that gender stereotypes and occupational aspirations in families where parents held progressive attitudes were more flexible among children aged 4 to 6 years (2008:330). The groundwork for this change starts with children's early awareness. Research suggests that parental distribution of household responsibilities and gender role attitudes significantly influence children's perceptions. Caregivers often play roles as disciplinarians and guides, establishing parameters for the evolving dynamics between men and women in a rapidly changing social landscape.

### **2.3.1.1 Gender Discrimination**

Gender encompasses the social status that shapes one's identity through socially constructed norms and role expectations that become integral to the core social institutions of society, influenced by factors such as family dynamics, economic structures, cultural influences, religious beliefs, and legal frameworks; collectively influence the formation of this gender-based social order within this construct; the dynamics of power and control are evident, often resulting in the dominance of one gender over another. Notably, this is particularly observable in the subordination of man.

In various societies, arrangements of gender discrimination often assume that women are primarily responsible for child care, while men are expected to engage in more hazardous occupations such as firefighting and policing. Conversely, men are frequently assigned roles that involve protection and economic support. Recognizing the significance of diverse social positions and perspectives, gender rebel feminism challenges the rigid categories of women and men, deconstructing them into a spectrum of nuanced identities.

### **2.3.1.2 The Misandry of Cultural Values and Concepts**

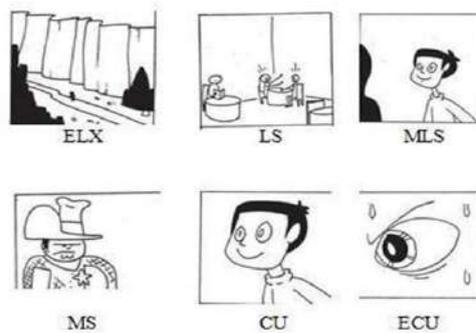
The Misandry of cultural values and concepts encompassing societal beliefs, norms, and attitudes promoting or normalizing a negative

bias or prejudice against men; these values and concepts can vary in intensity and expression across diverse cultures and contexts. It is essential to clarify that misandry, similar to any form of prejudice, is not universally prevalent in all cultures, and its manifestations can differ significantly. Nevertheless, when misandry does exist, it reflects a skewed and detrimental perspective that contributes to gender inequalities. It is worth noting that some feminists have stereotyped men as inherently violent, aggressive, insensitive, or incapable of displaying emotions or vulnerability Nathanson, P (2001).

Importantly, misandry, akin to any form of prejudice, contradicts the principles of equality and fairness. Addressing misandry necessitates a commitment to fostering respectful and inclusive dialogue among all genders. Similar to how addressing misogyny is crucial for advancing gender equality, tackling misandry is vital to cultivating a more equitable and harmonious society. Promoting understanding, empathy, and cooperation among individuals, regardless of gender, remains essential for driving positive change.

## 2.3 Cinematography Aspect

### 2.3.1 Camera Angle



**Picture 2.2: Camera Angle (Bordwell, 2008)**

#### 2.3.1.1 Extra Long Shot

Extra Long Shot Camera showed the subject from a distance or the area in which the scene is taking place. Bordwell & Thompson, (2008: 191) elaborate objects are shot very far from the camera as bird's eye view of cities and farming for landscape. The character doesn't necessarily have to be viewable in this shot so this of shot is particularly useful for establishing a scene in terms of time, place and relationship to the environment and elements with it.

#### 2.3.1.2 Long Shot

Long Shot showed the subject from top to bottom focused person, this would be head to toes, though not necessarily filling the frame. Bordwell & Thompson, (2008: 191) noticeable the object while the background is still dominant. Long Shot also serve as an Establishing Shot and the character becomes more of a focus than an Extreme Long

Shot, but the shot tends to still be dominated by the scenery.

### **2.3.1.3 Medium Long Shot**

Medium Long Shot is shows  $\frac{3}{4}$  between Full Shot and Medium Shot for

intermediate subject from the knees up Bordwell & Thompson, ( 2008: 191).

### **2.3.1.4 Medium Shot**

Medium Shot is shows part of the subject in more detail. In the film, this shot is a most common seen, as it focuses for a person, a medium shot typically frames them from about waist up and shows character also environment.

### **2.3.1.5 Medium Close-Up**

Medium Close up is a shot falls between a Medium Shot and a Close- Up, Bordwell & Thompson, (2008: 191) describe generally it framing the subject from chest or shoulder up character in the movie.

### **2.3.1.6 Extreme Close-Up**

Extreme Close-Up emphasizes a small area or detail of the subject, and uses part of the human body such as the eye(s) or mouth. Bordwell & Thompson, (2008: 191) In Italian Western Sergio Leone's popularized an Extreme Close Up of just the eyes in the scene movie.

## **2.3.2 *Mise-en-Scene***

*Mise-en-Scene* took from the French languages in theater "mise-en-scene" in 1950 it means in literary words that "placed on the scene" Bordwell & Thompson, (2008: 112) elaborates that film scholars,

extending the term to film direction that basically anything that you might imagine from the film that would translate into a theatrical production. If it placed in the film, then it will refer to all the visual aspects that appear in the film, such as actor settings blocking, lighting, costumes and so on.