

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a way of documenting, conserving, and conveying knowledge and enjoyment, as well as providing a social, psychological, spiritual, or political function (Goody, 2017). Marlina (2018) describes that literary work as a reflection of the author's inner experience and can be used for pleasure or inquiry by the community. It is created through the author's creative process that is plucked from the concerns of social reality in people's ways of life. Literature has an imaginative nature, which has a strong association with the socio-cultural reality at the time when it was created.

Literary works are tied to society and possess broad significance. The sociology of literature investigates how people adapt to their circumstances. Literary works are frequently associated with people's ways of life, and people can frequently estimate the significance of a literary work.

Novels are extensive works of fiction that explore human experiences, emotions, and ideas (Burgess, 2022). They can range in length and are published as standalone works or as part of a series. Furthermore, the novel under consideration and presented in this undergraduate thesis is *Return of The Nerd* by Ruth Stevens. Ruth Stevens is an independent serial fiction writer. Ruth Stevens' works are very intriguing to read and study as she uses mainly daily speech, making it simple for readers to read;. *Return of*

The Nerd delves into the intricate processes of culture, offering insight on the envisions, concerns, and issues that define the lifestyle of society.

Sociology of literature provides a useful lens to analyze *Return of The Nerd* to gain a deeper understanding of the protagonist's challenges and the role of literature in shaping the lifestyles (Ratna, 2004). This research focuses on Ruth Stevens' work *Return of The Nerd* which gives a nuanced description of character in society. The study use sociology of literature to examine the depiction of Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in the novel, giving for a more in-depth knowledge of the socio-cultural aspects and the characters' ways of life.

The purpose of this study is to contribute discussion about the relationship between literature and society by examining the description of lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' novel *Return of The Nerd* through the perspective of literary sociology. By investigating the social and cultural context of the narrative and assessing the ways in which it portrays Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyles, it will acquire insights into the complex dynamics of culture and help to a better understanding of the issues that society faces. Based on that background of the study, the writer conducting to do study with entitled: *Adrianna Rodriguez's Lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' Return of The Nerd*

1.2 Research Problems

With references to the description above, the problems formulated in writing this study are as follows:

1. What are the lifestyles of Adrianna Rodriguez contained in Ruth Stevens' novel *Return of The Nerd*?
2. What are the factors that shape Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' novel *Return of The Nerd*?
3. How does socio-cultural aspects influence Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' novel *Return of The Nerd*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Regarding the problem formulated above, this study has the following objectives:

1. To explain the lifestyles of Adrianna Rodriguez contained in Ruth Stevens' novel *Return of The Nerd*
2. To explain the factors that shape Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' novel *Return of The Nerd*
3. To explain how socio-cultural aspects influence Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' *Return of The Nerd*

1.4 Literature Review

The literature review contains an overview of previous studies which are relevant to the problem under study, as well as explaining the position of the research to be carried out. Literature review serves to prove the authenticity of this study. The studies that are relevant to this research are:

Davide Sguario (2023) conducted an undergraduate thesis on the sociological analysis of *Return of The Nerd* by Ruth Stevens. The findings reveal intrinsic elements such as themes, characters, plot, setting, point of view, life lessons, and sociological aspects, classified into three categories: kinship, economy, and education. Davide Sguario's thesis is different from this study as this study specifically uses the theory of sociology of literature to find a depiction of lifestyle of the the main character in the novel, whereas Sguario's thesis does not intended to find depiction of lifestyle as it focuses on discovering sociological aspects on the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel.

Rowaida Ahmadi (2021) conducted a study in the International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies entitled *Sociology of Literature*, which focused on social relations, culture, and contemporary and literary conditions on a product of literature, which can be comprehended that lifestyle depictions in literary works are related to sociological elements. Rowaida Ahmadi's research aims to demonstrate that literature is an outcome of society, while this study uses a literary sociology approach to discover depictions of lifestyle on main character in a novel.

Ben Chermiside's thesis in 2021 entitled "Analysis of Literary Sociology and Educational Values on *Mirror Image* by Sandra Brown" examines sociological factors such as kinship, economy, love, education, and morality in *Mirror Image* by Sandra Brown. The similarities are found in the analysis of the sociology of literature, while the differences are in the relevance of aspects of the sociology of literature with the moral education in Ben Chermiside's thesis, where this study aims to find a depiction of lifestyles. Another difference is that Ben Chermiside examines *Mirror Image* by Sandra Brown, while this study examines *Return of The Nerd* by Ruth Stevens.

The next study is a thesis conducted by Mursalim in 2019 entitled "A Sociological Approach of Literature In Novel *The Eternal Smile* by Korrie Layun Rampan". The study examines socio-cultural aspects in the novel *The Eternal Smile* by Korrie Layun Rampan and the explanation of interdependency between literature and society. Mursalim's thesis examines socio-cultural aspects and conditions in the structural elements of Korrie Layun Rampan's novel *The Eternal Smile*. It explains that literature is a dialectical relationship between literature and society, while this study analyzes the novel *Return of The Nerd* by Ruth Stevens.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer intends to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the novel *Return of The Nerd* by Ruth Stevens in order to discover the description of lifestyle in the novel. Intrinsic elements, in the form of character, characterization, and conflict are examined based upon M.H. Abrams' concepts in *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (2009).

Meanwhile in examining the extrinsic elements, the writer will adopt Rene Wellek and Austin Warren's *Theory of Literature* (1994) which examines literature as a socio-cultural document that records the socio-cultural reality of a society, as well as the aspects of lifestyle in Nico Wilterdink's *Social Structure and Social Interaction*, in which the writer will use to find the depiction of Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in the novel.

1.6 Writing Organization

1. CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

Consists of background of the study, research problems, objective of the study, literary review, scope of the study, and writing organization.

2. CHAPTER II – THEORY AND METHOD

Consists (1) Theoretical frameworks necessary to analyze the narrative in accordance with the research problems and objective of the study. The theoretical frameworks include; (a) intrinsic aspects, which contain character, characterization, and conflict, (b) extrinsic aspects which consist theories of sociology of literature, sociology of literary works, lifestyle, within it includes personal identity, family life, friendship, and romantic relationship, as well as lifestyle formation and socio-cultural influences, and (2) Research method, contains research approach and data collection method.

3. CHAPTER III – ANALYSIS

Consists the analysis of the thesis in accordance with the theoretical frameworks. The chapter divided into: (1) Intrinsic elements, consisting of (a) Character, (b) Characterization, and (c) Conflict, (2) Extrinsic elements, consisting of (a) Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle, (b) Formation of Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle, and (c) Socio-Cultural Influences of Adrianna Rodriguez's Lifestyle.

4. CHAPTER IV – CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Contains the conclusion and suggestion of the study.

REFERENCES