CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks

The theoretical framework aims to establish theoretical underpinnings for research, allowing it to solve problems theoretically. The theoretical framework is subsequently developed to serve as a reference for answering the problems identified in the study.

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

2.1.1.1 Character

Character is a fictional person or beings that take part in a narrative or work of art, often created by authors, playwrights, or screenwriters. Character also include moral attributes, ethical standards, and ideals. Character is one of captivating components of personal opinions given that readers desire to observe how other people live their lives and how they strive to achieve their objectives (Abrams, 2009: 32).

Character serves as a channel for the author to communicate to readers their point of view about the universe. Readers are able to discover about particular characters by examining their own actions and statements, as well as what other characters assert and react.

2.1.1.2 Characterization

Characterization is the process of developing and portraying the personalities, traits, and qualities of fictional characters in a narrative or work of art. Characterization can be described through subtle cues, actions, dialogue, thoughts, and interactions, and also through the character's attributes, traits, or background to reveal a character's traits and personality. Effective characterization brings characters to life, making them more complex, relatable, and memorable (Abrams, 2009: 32 – 33).

Characterization highlights the practices, norms, and values prevalent in a specific time period or society. Characters frequently symbolize symbolic or thematic themes, which can be utilized to reflect larger concepts, philosophies, or societal issues.

2.1.1.3 Conflict

Conflict refers to the struggle or opposition between two or more forces, ideas, or characters that drives the plot forward and creates tension and suspense (Abrams, 2009: 225). It is a fundamental element of storytelling and plays a crucial role in developing the narrative and engaging the reader or audience.

Conflict builds tension and suspense, moves the plot ahead, reveals parts of the personalities of the characters, and allows for the study of themes and ideas. Resolving conflicts can lead to character development, changes in relationships, and the resolution of the story's fundamental problems, all of which contribute to a satisfactory finish (Abrams, 2009: 226 – 228).

Conflict serves as a driving force in shaping the depiction of a character's lifestyle, as conflict influences beliefs, desires, and actions, which are parts of the character's way of life, reflecting dynamics of human experiences within the narrative.

2.1.1.3.1 Internal Conflict

Abrams (2009) defines internal conflict as a character's struggles of mind or feelings. It corresponds to the character's internal struggles, uncertainties, or dilemmas, which are frequently related to emotions, beliefs, or desires. Internal conflicts are primarily mental in nature, and might include moral quandaries, identity crises, or emotional issues. These conflicts are essential for character development as they display the inner workings of the character's mind and their path to resolution or progress.

2.1.1.3.2 External Conflict

Abrams (2009) defines external conflict as a character's struggles against opposition from an external force, such as another character, nature, society, or a situation. These conflicts are concrete and visible, frequently including physical confrontations, societal challenges, or barriers that the protagonist needs to overcome. The story's action is driven by external conflicts, which might contain components that include man versus man, man versus society, man versus nature, among others.

2.1.2 Extrinsic Elements

2.1.2.1 Lifestyle

Wilterdink (2012: 19) defined lifestyle as the way in which an individual or a group of people live their lives, including their behaviors, activities, choices, and habits. It encompasses various aspects of life such as personal identity, family and social interactions, cultural practices, values, and attitudes. A person's lifestyle is influenced by a combination of factors, including their personal preferences, socioeconomic status, cultural background, education, and environmental circumstances.

Lifestyle choices can involve decisions related to health and well-being, such as exercise, diet, and self-care practices. They can also pertain to recreational activities, entertainment preferences, fashion choices, and consumption habits. Additionally, lifestyle encompasses the way people spend their leisure time, their career choices, relationships, and overall approach to life (Wilterdink, 2012: 23).

It is essential to remain cognizant that lifestyle is highly individualized, and that various people may have different lives based on their particular circumstances, interests, and objectives. Furthermore, if a person's circumstances and personal values change, their lifestyle can adapt and alter.

2.1.2.1.1 Personal Identity

Personal identity is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various aspects of an individual's existence. It plays a crucial role in shaping one's perception of oneself and their interaction with the world (Wilterdink, 2012: 49). This intricate construct

encompasses not only a person's self-worth and value but also their beliefs, values, and cultural background.

Personal identity includes a person's understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, their unique qualities, and their overall sense of self. Moreover, it also involves an individual's assessment of their capabilities. This encompasses their skills, talents, knowledge, and expertise in different domains. Additionally, personal identity encompasses an individual's role in the world. It refers to how they perceive their position and responsibilities within their family, community, workplace, and society at large.

Personal identity is a complex and dynamic concept that shapes how individuals perceive themselves and engage with the world around them. By understanding and nurturing their personal identity, individuals can strive for personal growth, fulfillment, and meaningful connections with others.

2.1.2.1.2 Family Life

Family life refers to the daily experiences, interactions, and dynamics shared by members of a family unit. It encompasses various aspects such as emotional connections, communication patterns, routines, traditions, and responsibilities within the family (Wilterdink, 2012: 84).

In a family life, Emotional connections and effective communication are essential in family life, fostering a sense of belonging and security. Routines and traditions create

stability, continuity, and shared experiences, reinforcing family values. Responsibilities teach accountability, teamwork, and cooperation, assisting in a well-functioning household and instilling life skills like responsibility, time management, and empathy. These elements contribute to a sense of identity and belonging within the family.

Overall, family life encompasses a wide range of aspects that contribute to the overall well-being and growth of individuals. Emotional connections, effective communication, routines, traditions, and responsibilities, all play a pivotal role in creating a harmonious and nurturing family environment. By nurturing these aspects, families create a strong foundation for personal development, resilience, and happiness.

2.1.2.1.3 Friendship

Friendship is a close and mutually beneficial relationship between individuals characterized by mutual affection, trust, support, and understanding (Wilterdink, 2012: 66). Friendship goes beyond mere acquaintanceship, as it is a bond that is nurtured over time. It is built on the foundation of mutual affection, trust, support, and understanding.

Genuine friendship perseveres with each other through all kinds of circumstances, providing unshakable support and encouragement. It constitutes an essential component of our well-being. It generates people from all areas of life together and helps to overcome cultural, racial, and religious divides.

Friendship is not a one-sided endeavor; it involves work and dedication from both parties involved. Building and maintaining a solid friendship requires time, patience, and an eagerness to acknowledge and understand one other. It also requires mutual respect for each other's limits, as well as the ability to work through disputes and differences.

Friendship is a commodity that enriches people's lives in incalculable ways. It demonstrates the power of human connection, encouraging individuals of the significance of developing meaningful relationships, bringing value, happiness, and support into people's lives.

2.1.2.1.4 Romantic Relationship

Romantic relationship is a close interpersonal bond between two individuals characterized by emotional intimacy, physical attraction, and often a shared commitment or desire for exclusivity (Wilterdink, 2012: 121). Romantic relationship forms a deep connection between two individuals, founded on emotional intimacy and mutual affection.

Physical attraction and shared commitment are key elements in romantic relationships, fostering closeness and affectionate physical contact. Effective communication is crucial for understanding, resolving conflicts, and maintaining emotional harmony. Trust and respect are the foundation of a strong relationship, requiring vulnerability and openness to express needs and concerns. Trust involves

confidence in one's integrity, loyalty, and intentions, while respect acknowledges individuality, boundaries, and autonomy, treating each other with kindness, consideration, and dignity.

In verdict, romantic relationships are intricate connections between two individuals based on emotional intimacy, physical attraction that require effective communication, trust, respect, and a willingness to invest in the relationship's growth. Romantic relationships offer numerous benefits and have the potential to enhance the well-being and happiness of those involved.

2.1.2.2 Lifestyle Formation

Lifestyle formation is a phenomenon influenced by a multitude of biological, psychological, sociological, and health factors that shape the way individuals live, encompassing their behaviors, habits, and choices. In the perspective of sociology of literature, Wellek and Warren (1994: 129) explain that individual life is formed by the processes of socialization, encompassing personal values, beliefs, life events, and circumstances, all of which have repercussions for the benefit of an individual or group that represented in a narrative as a particular character.

Understanding the diverse aspects of lifestyle formation is essential in establishing adequate initiatives that encourage social and cultural recognition and integration. Addressing individual, social, and environmental lifestyle variables through literary

works offers favorable environments for empowering individuals to live more enriching lives and, as a result, improves societal prosperity.

2.1.2.2.1 Personal Values and Beliefs

Personal values and beliefs are guiding principles that individuals adopt as their own, reflecting what they perceive as important and meaningful in life (Wellek and Warren: 1994: 166). These can range from honesty, fairness, and compassion to ambition, achievement, and independence.

Personal values and beliefs do not remain fixed; rather, they develop over time as a result of experiences and interactions. Individuals internalize their society's collective standards and expectations through socialization within a specific community, which strengthens these values even more. This integration enables individuals to manage social processes and develop their identities within the community.

Embracing personal values and beliefs allows individuals to better understand themselves and their lifestyle while also finding a commonality with others, building societal cohesiveness and harmony. Therefore, personal values and beliefs serve as pillars that help individuals navigate life challenges while also contributing to societal cohesion and stability.

2.1.2.2.2 Life Events and Circumstances

Life events such as significant junctures, personal experiences, and noteworthy interactions all help to shape one's lifestyle. These events, whether beneficial or

detrimental, have the ability to shape an individual's identity, personality, and even long-term objectives (Wellek and Warren: 1994: 169).

These different experiences, ranging from professional accomplishments to moments of emotional growth and introspection, actively add to the intricate tapestry that is an individual's life story. Individuals who embrace the ebbs and flows of life, as well as navigate through trials and victories, are capable of putting together a cohesive narrative that covers their growth, values, and goals. These diverse experiences offer numerous opportunities for self-discovery, growth, and learning, shaping people into the complex beings they are.

Life events and circumstances serve as a building block in the construction of a lifestyle, offering invaluable lessons, insights, and memories that collectively shape the trajectory of one's life in a profound and impactful way.

2.1.2.3 Socio-Cultural Influences

According to Wellek and Warren (1994), socio-cultural influences comprise the social and cultural norms, values, and supports which determine the lives of individuals and communities. In the context of sociology of literature, socio-cultural influences exert substantial bearings on how characters grow, their relationships and the challenges they encounter, allowing them to form a broad, interconnected, and valuable narrative.

Social and cultural influences exert a profound impact on individual lifestyle. recognizing the complex interplay between social norms, cultural values, and community dynamics is essential for understanding and addressing issues in social and cultural outcomes across diverse society. In the sense of sociology of literature, incorporating cultural sensitivity and social context through a narrative contributes in cultivating public knowledge and comprehension of social and cultural dynamics, which foster societal equilibrium.

2.1.2.3.1 Socio-Cultural Norms

Socio-cultural norms play a significant role in shaping lifestyle choices, being intertwined with factors such as age, socioeconomic class, race, and various other dimensions of identity (Wellek and Warren: 1994: 172). These norms act as invisible guidelines that individuals unconsciously adhere to, impacting their day-to-day decisions and behaviors.

The interplay of these socio-cultural factors generates a complex tapestry that molds individual lifestyles and reflects broader societal patterns. These nuances underscore the intricate nature of lifestyle formation and maintenance, as people navigate through a web of norms and expectations ingrained in their respective social contexts. Recognizing the multifaceted impact of age, class, race, and other factors enables a deeper understanding of how personal choices are not made in isolation but are deeply influenced by the environment in which individuals are situated.

Recognizing the deep relationship between socio-cultural norms and lifestyle dynamics provides insights into the intricacies of human behavior and societal trends. It emphasizes the importance of a complex approach to studying lifestyle development, one that takes into account the interdependence of individual experiences with larger societal frameworks. As a result, individuals gain a more thorough understanding of the various variables that impact how people live, interact, and express themselves within the fabric of society.

2.1.2.3.2 Socio-Cultural Supports

Socio-cultural supports refer to the assistance, comfort, or resources that individuals receive from their social network, such as family, friends, colleagues, or community members, as well as cultural sphere, such as traditions or norms (Wellek and Warren: 1994).

In social life, individuals who have strong support systems tend to have better mental health outcomes, higher self-esteem, and a greater sense of belonging. Furthermore, the quality of these relationships can impact various aspects of a person's life, from their physical health to their resilience in the face of adversity. It is through these connections that individuals find comfort, guidance, and a sense of identity that contributes significantly to their overall happiness and fulfillment. Therefore, fostering and nurturing these socio-cultural networks is essential for promoting holistic well-being and resilience in individuals across diverse backgrounds and contexts.

Socio-cultural supports, including assistance from social networks and cultural norms, significantly impact mental health, self-esteem, and sense of belonging. Strong support systems improve mental health, self-esteem, and resilience. Fostering and nurturing these networks is crucial for promoting holistic well-being and resilience in diverse backgrounds and contexts.

2.2 Research Method

2.2.1 Research Approach

The sociology of literature approach is employed in this study in accordance with the research problems and objective of the study. According to George (2008: 3), sociology of literature is concerned with the study of society and its contents. The writer uses literary sociology approach to examine Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in the novel by using the concept of sociology of literary works in Rene Wellek and Austin Warren's *Theory of Literature* (1994).

2.2.2 Data Collection Method

Regarding data collecting in this study, the writer employs a library research method. Library research entails finding and obtaining sources that convey factual information or an expert's perspective (George, 2008: 6). Library research gathers data through comprehending information from textbooks, journals, articles, virtual resources, and documents, which involves taking notes on documents or archives

related to the objective of the research, such as reading the entire narrative and then examining and reviewing the social aspects.

There are two sources applied; primary and secondary data sources. According to George (2008), primary data refers to data that is collected firsthand by the researcher for a specific purpose or research question. It is original data that has not been previously collected or analyzed by anyone else. The novel *Return of The Nerd* by Ruth Stevens is the primary data source. In the other hand, secondary data refers to data that has already been collected and analyzed by someone else for a purpose other than the current research project. These data come from various sources, such as research organizations, academic institutions, publications, and databases. In this study, secondary data sources are obtained from such as websites, books, or supporting journals that are related to the novel.

The structural analysis technique is applied in this study to examine data, which is an approach that examines the constructive elements to find the full significance of the work, in form of socio-cultural aspects as a way to examine the portrayal of Adrianna Rodriguez's lifestyle in Ruth Stevens' *Return of The Nerd*. The structural elements examined are; intrinsic elements which include character, characterization, and conflict, and extrinsic elements in the form of lifestyle, which includes lifestyle formation, and socio-cultural influences on the lifestyle.