THE FAMILY'S REACTIONS TOWARDS THE MAIN CHARACTER'S TRANSFORMATION IN FRANZ KAFKA'S THE METAMORPHOSIS

THESIS

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG 2025

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STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I declare that the thesis entitled *The Family's Reactions Towards The Main Character's Transformation in Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis* is my original work. I do not include any materials that has been written or published by others, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

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MOTTO

It will pass, everything you've gone through it will pass -Rachel Vennya

DEDICATION

I proudly dedicate this thesis to myself who has gone through days full of pressure, invisible tears, nights full of worry, and a long struggle that not everyone knows. Thank you for surviving this far. Thank you for not giving up even though I felt like quitting many times. This is a reward for all the wounds, tiredness, and sweat that were not in vain. My beloved father and mother, two figures who have always been the strongest reason to keep going. Thank you for your love, blessings, endless prayers, and all the sacrifices that you never even counted as a burden. Your affection is the strongest foundation in every step I take. Hopefully this small work can be one form of my devotion and pride for you. This thesis is not only about academics, but about the process of growing and surviving. Hopefully every good thing that comes after this, becomes part of the prayers that you have ever prayed.

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Finally, the researcher realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Hopefully this work can be useful and become a form of contribution in the field of science that the researcher is studying.

Abstract

Widyantari, Amanda (2025). The Family's Reactions Towards The Main Character's Transformation in Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Dr. Siti Masitoh, M.Hum.

Keywords: Attitude Toward the Behavior, Subjective Norms, Behavioral Intention

This research discusses the dynamics of family relationships in Franz Kafka's novel The Metamorphosis using the social psychological approach through the perspective of Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) developed by Martin Fishbein and Icek Ajzen. This research is motivated by the drastic changes experienced by the main character, Gregor Samsa, and how this transformation affects the behavior and attitudes of his family members, especially his father, mother, and sister, Grete. The main objective of this research is to emphasize the importance of viewing the family as a social unit whose members' actions are not only based on individual choices, but also influenced by social pressures, collective norms, and complex emotional conditions. Using the literary criticism method, dialogues are examined to explore how the characters react to Gregor's transformation and are sourced from the novel text as the main data. The results of the research show that the actions and decisions of Gregor's family members are greatly influenced by three main components in TRA, namely attitude toward the behavior, subjective norms, and behavioral intention, all of which reflect the tension between family values, social expectations, and personal needs. Their changes in attitude toward Gregor reflect the shift in norms within the family unit due to external pressures and internal crises. The findings of this research are Gregor's transformation reflects alienation due to social and family pressures. His family's reactions show a shift from caring to rejection, influenced by collective norms and expectations within the family unit. Therefore, this research recommends that literary studies involve more psychosocial theory to reveal family dynamics in more depth.

Abstrak

Widyantari, Amanda (2025). Reaksi Keluarga Terhadap Perubahan Tokoh Utama dalam Metamorfosis Karya Franz Kafka. Skripsi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Dosen Pembimbing: Dr. Siti Masitoh, M.Hum.

Kata kunci: Sikap terhadap Perilaku, Norma Subjektif, Niat Berperilaku

Penelitian ini membahas dinamika hubungan keluarga dalam novel The Metamorphosis karya Franz Kafka menggunakan pendekatan sosial psikologi melalui perspektif Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) yang dikembangkan oleh Martin Fishbein dan Icek Ajzen. Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh perubahan drastis yang dialami tokoh utama, Gregor Samsa, dan bagaimana transformasi tersebut memengaruhi perilaku dan sikap anggota keluarganya, khususnya ayah, ibu, dan saudari perempuannya, Grete. Tujuan utama penelitian ini adalah menekankan pentingnya memandang keluarga sebagai unit sosial yang tindakan para anggotanya tidak hanya didasarkan pada pilihan individual, melainkan juga dipengaruhi oleh tekanan sosial, norma kolektif, serta kondisi emosional yang kompleks. Dengan menggunakan metode kritik sastra, dialog-dialog dicermati untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana reaksi para karakter atas transformasi Gregor dan bersumber pada teks novel sebagai data utama. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tindakan dan keputusan anggota keluarga Gregor banyak dipengaruhi oleh tiga komponen utama dalam TRA, yaitu attitude toward the behavior, subjective norms, dan behavioral intention, yang semuanya mencerminkan ketegangan antara nilai keluarga, ekspektasi sosial, dan kebutuhan pribadi. Perubahan sikap mereka terhadap Gregor mencerminkan pergeseran norma dalam unit keluarga akibat tekanan eksternal dan krisis internal. Simpulan dari penelitian ini menemukan bahwa transformasi Gregor mencerminkan alienasi akibat tekanan sosial dan keluarga. Reaksi keluarganya menunjukkan perubahan dari kepedulian menjadi penolakan, dipengaruhi oleh norma dan harapan kolektif dalam unit keluarga. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini merekomendasikan agar kajian sastra lebih banyak melibatkan teori psikososial untuk mengungkap dinamika keluarga secara lebih mendalam.

مستخلص البحث

وديا نتاري، أماندا (2025). رد فعل العائلة تجاه تحوّل الشخصية الرئيسية في رواية التحوّل للكاتب فرانز كافكا. رسالة تخرّج. برنامج دراسة الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، الجامعة الإسلامية الحكومية مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج المشرف: الدكتورة سيتى ماسيتوه، ماجستير في العلوم الإنسانية

الكلمات المفتاحية: الموقف من السلوك، المعابير الذاتية، النية السلوكية

تتناول هذه الدراسة ديناميكيات العلاقات الأسرية في رواية التحوّل للكاتب فرانز كافكا باستخدام المنهج النفسي الاجتماعي من خلال منظور نظرية الفعل العقلاني (Theory of Reasoned Action) التي طورها مارتن فيشبّين وآيبيك آيجن. تستند هذه الدراسة إلى التغير الجذري الذي يمرّ به البطل غريغور سامسا، وكيف تؤثر هذه التحوّلات على سلوك ومواقف أفراد عائلته، وخصوصًا والده ووالدته وأخته غريتا. الهدف الرئيسي من هذه الدراسة هو التأكيد على أهمية النظر إلى الأسرة كوحدة اجتماعية، حيث لا تستند تصرفات الأفراد إلى خيارات فردية فقط، بل تتأثر أيضًا بالضغوط الاجتماعية والمعايير الجماعية والحالات العاطفية المعقّدة. ومن خلال استخدام منهج النقد الأدبي، تم تحليل الحوارات بدقة لاستكشاف كيفية استجابة الشخصيات لتحوّل غريغور، وذلك بالاعتماد على نص الرواية كمصدر أساسي للبيانات. أظهرت نتائج البحث أن تصرفات وقرارات أفراد عائلة غريغور تأثرت إلى حد كبير بثلاثة مكونات الرواية كمصدر أساسي للبيانات. الطهرت نتائج البحث أن تصرفات وقرارات أفراد عائلة غريغور تأثرت إلى حد كبير بثلاثة مكونات البوائية والتوقعات الاجتماعية والحاجات الفردية. إن التغيّر في مواقفهم تجاه غريغور يعكس تحولًا في المعايير داخل الوحدة العائلية والعائلية والخرجية والأزمات الداخلية. وتوصلت الدراسة إلى أن تحوّل غريغور يجسّد الاغتراب الناتج عن الضغوط الاجتماعية والعائلية، بينما تُظهر ردود فعل عائلته انتقالًا من الاهتمام إلى الرفض، متأثرة بالمعايير والتوقعات الجماعية داخل الأسرة. لذلك، توصي هذه الدراسة بضرورة إشراك النظريات النفسية الاجتماعية بشكل أوسع في الدراسات الأدبية للكشف عن ديناميكيات الأسرة بصورة أعمق

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of an introduction containing the background of the study, the problems of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitations of the study, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Literature often serves as a mirror to human experience, reflecting the complex interactions between individuals and their social environments (Abrams & Harpham, 2012). Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* is a prime example of this phenomenon, depicting not only the physical transformation of the main character, Gregor Samsa, but also the psychological and social responses elicited by his family. This research aims to analyze the reactions of Gregor's family members to his transformation using Ajzen and Fishbein's Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), a framework rooted in social psychology that explains how individual behavior is shaped by intentions, attitudes, and perceived social norms (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980). As Zamora (2020) argues, the Samsa family is trapped in a societal norm that judges individuals based on their practical usefulness, not their human value. However, this research does not aim to analyze the process or meaning of Gregor's transformation itself. The transformation is positioned as a trigger that causes changes in the social dynamics of the Samsa family. The main focus of this research is on how Gregor's family members respond to

the changes, using the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) to understand their attitudes, subjective norms, and behavioral intentions.

Gregor's metamorphosis into a giant insect represent an abrupt and socially unacceptable change, which elicits a variety of responses from his family members (Kafka, 1915). These reactions can be understood through the TRA framework, which states that individuals form intentions to act based on their attitudes toward a behavior and the social pressures they perceive regarding that behavior (Ajzen, 1991). Each family member's treatment of Gregor, ranging from concern to rejection, can ultimately be interpreted as the result of their evaluation of the situation (attitudes), the expectations of others (subjective norms), and their intentions, all culminating in observable behavior. This theoretical lens allows for a nuanced exploration of how family dynamics are influenced not only by emotional and psychological factors but also by social expectations and values.

Franz Kafka's novel *The Metamorphosis* was chosen as the object of research to analyze the dynamics of family relationships because it depicts the drastic transformation of the main character, Gregor Samsa, who turns into an unknown creature. This change creates tension and conflict in his family interactions, which is the main focus of the analysis. The reactions of family members to Gregor's changes reflect various psychological and social aspects, ranging from shame, incomprehension, to neglect, which provide insight into how individuals in the family adapt to unfamiliar situations. Using the theory of reasoned action, the researcher analyze the attitudes, subjective norms, and intentions of family members that

influence their behavior towards Gregor, thereby deepening our understanding of the complex dynamics of relationships. Kafka also critiques social and existential structures in his work, making *The Metamorphosis* relevant to the analysis of family relationship dynamics in the context of the social pressures that individuals face (Hasnain et al. 2023). As such, the novel offers a rich perspective for understanding interactions and relationships within families when faced with fundamental changes (Kafka, 1915).

In modern society, the family is often seen as a unit of support, protection, and empathy. However, as Fromm (1955) points out, under certain economic or ideological constraints, the family can become a source of alienation and psychological harm. Kafka's text highlights the dark side of this family unit, revealing how family ties can deteriorate in the face of fear, burden, and perceived uselessness. In contemporary society, where personal worth is often measured by productivity and conformity, Gregor's inability to fulfill his economic role triggers a change in the way his family views and treats him. This is in line with the TRA notion that behavior is not random, but rather the result of rational considerations influenced by social norms and personal attitudes (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975). By shifting the focus of analysis from Gregor's internal struggles to his family's external reactions, this study provides new insights into family and community responses to change, disability, and nonconformity.

Furthermore, this research emphasizes the importance of viewing the family as a social unit whose members' actions are influenced by collective pressures and norms. The emotional responses of the father, mother, and sister Grete are explored individually, revealing how social roles, expectations, and perceived obligations shape their treatment of Gregor. This approach offers a comprehensive understanding of *The Metamorphosis* not simply as a story of alienation, but as a reflection of the dynamics between individual change and group behavior in the context of modern life.

In a research, reviewing previous studies is an important step to understand how the topic being studied has been searched before and to find research gaps that can be developed further. In this section, ten previous studies that are relevant to this research will be presented. It is hoped that the discussion of these studies will support the theoretical framework and offer support for the methodology used in this research.

Several previous studies that have examined Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* have shown varying focuses in analyzing the character of Gregor Samsa, especially in terms of alienation, identity, and social pressure. Article entitled "Exploring the Depths of Modern Life as Reflected in Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis" (Uddin, 2023) emphasizes the philosophical and existential aspects of the novel, concluding that Gregor's transformation into an insect is a symbol of the alienation and absurdity of modern life. Meanwhile, (Atikah, 2021) in "A Psychological Analysis of The Main Character in Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis" uses Freud's psychoanalytic theory to highlight the psychological dynamics within Gregor, where the conflict between the Id, Ego, and Superego reflects the pressures of life and family expectations. A more social

approach is found in Wardani et al. (2022) in "Effect of Alienation in Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis", which uses Erich Fromm's escape mechanism theory to explain Gregor's alienation as a result of societal and family pressures demanding conformity. In line with this, (Asriningtyas & Mustofa, 2022) in "Gregor Samsa's Self Alienation in Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis: Lacanian Psychoanalysis" apply Lacanian psychoanalysis to examine the conflict between Gregor's imaginary self-image and real identity, leading to deep alienation in family relationships, especially with his sister, Grete. Next, (Alkhafaji, 2020) in "A Study of Alienation in Kafka's The Metamorphosis as a Moral Guide for the New Generation" highlights the relevance of the theme of alienation in The Metamorphosis as a reflection of the impact of industrialization on the moral values and identity of today's young generation. (Raja & Dasghosh, 2022) in "Kafka's Metamorphosis: An analysis on Social Structure, Disability and Alienation" the main purpose of this study is to analyze Kafka's literary work, especially the novel The Metamorphosis, in the context of social structure, disability, and feelings of alienation experienced by the main character. This study uses the theory of absurdism and the concept of alienation from existentialist thought to examine the work. The results of the study show that Gregor Samsa's physical transformation into an insect symbolizes his isolated social and psychological condition, and illustrates how the social structure of family and society affects the treatment of him. The study conducted by (Humaira Sharif & Iram Parveen, 2024) entitled "Exploring Alienation and Identity Crisis: Analysis of Gregor Samsa's Human and verminous existence in Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis" aims to examine in depth how the theme of alienation and identity

crisis is experienced by Gregor Samsa after undergoing a transformation into an insect. This study uses Lacan's psychoanalytic theory approach, specifically the Real, Symbolic, and Imaginary triangle model, to analyze Gregor's torn self and inability to communicate effectively which reinforces his sense of alienation. The results of this study indicate that Gregor experiences identity disintegration and disconnection from the social world due to his inability to express his feelings and emotions, which is reflected in the damaged relationship with the surrounding environment. Next previous studies that are relevant to this research by Saddam et al. (2024) entitled "Analysis of Pragmatic Politeness Strategies in Franz Kafka's Novel The Metamorphosis". The main purpose of this study is to analyze how the characters in the novel use various pragmatic politeness strategies based on the politeness theory of Brown and Levinson (1987), in order to understand the dynamics of social and psychological relationships in the context of Gregor Samsa's transformation. This study uses a qualitative approach with a content analysis method to identify and categorize politeness strategies found in the text, such as bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. The results and findings of the study indicate that at the beginning, Gregor's family interactions are dominated by positive politeness strategies that aim to maintain normality and familiarity. The study by Aslam et al (2025) entitled "Exploring Existentialism in Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis" aims to analyze how Kafka's work contains existential elements such as alienation, absurdity, identity, and freedom. This study uses a qualitative content analysis approach by applying existential theories developed by Sartre, Camus, and Kierkegaard as well as the concept of absurdity from

Albert Camus. The results of the study show that Gregor Samsa's physical changes in the story reflect the mental and emotional conflicts he experiences, which are part of the existential theme of alienation and the search for the meaning of life. Last previous studies that is relevant to this research is the work of (Adinda, 2021) entitled "Implicit Meaning in Franz Kafka's Novel Metamorphosis", which was conducted to identify the implicit meaning in the novel The Metamorphosis. The main purpose of this study is to understand how the implied meaning and the true meaning are hidden behind the story of Gregor Samsa, as well as to analyze the symbols used by Kafka in conveying layered messages. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with the theory of implicit meaning which explains that meaning is not always explicitly revealed, but requires contextual interpretation to understand the hidden message behind the words and events in the story. The results of the study show that the interpretation of meaning in this novel can be divided into two main categories, namely the literal meaning and the deeper true meaning.

Although many previous studies have addressed Gregor Samsa's alienation, identity, and psychological reactions, none have specifically analyzed the family's reactions to Gregor's transformation from a social psychological perspective using the Theory of Reasoned Action. This study will therefore focus on how the family's reactions to Gregor's transformation affect their relationship dynamics and how this can be understood in a social and psychological context. It makes a novel contribution by highlighting the social interactions and emotional responses of the family, which have not been explored in depth in previous studies.

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on the reason above, the researcher formulates the research problems as follows:

- 1. How does Gregor's transformation from a human to an insect happen?
- 2. How does Gregor's family react to Gregor's transformation based on TRA?

C. The Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the themes of alienation, identity, and social dynamics in modern literature, particularly in the context of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. By applying Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), this research explores how changes in an individual's circumstances such as Gregor's physical transformation affect the attitudes, subjective norms, and intentions of family members. Analyzing Gregor's family's reactions through this lens not only enriches the discussion of attachment, conflict, and social expectations but also opens up opportunities for comparison with other literary works that explore similar themes of transformation, societal pressures, and alienation.

On the practical side, this research emphasizes the importance of understanding the social dynamics of family support when faced with major changes, such as the drastic transformation Gregor experiences. TRA's focus on intentions, attitudes, and social pressures is invaluable in explaining how family members navigate these changes and the potential impact on their relationships. These insights can be applied to real world situations, highlighting the need for empathy, understanding, and sensitivity toward

individuals experiencing significant life changes, whether physical, psychological, or social. Furthermore, the findings of this research can be used in educational settings to encourage discussions about empathy, family dynamics, and social norms, leading to greater awareness of mental health issues and the stigma that often accompanies them. For mental health practitioners, understanding the influence of family dynamics and societal expectations on individual behavior can improve support for clients and their families, leading to healthier interpersonal relationships.

In addition, by not analyzing Gregor's transformation directly using any theory, this research maintains its focus on the family's response. This emphasis is intended to keep the discussion centered on interpersonal and social dynamics, not on symbolic meanings or psychological aspects within Gregor. Thus, this research not only enriches the academic study of literature but also provides practical insights with significant implications for personal relationships, family support, and social awareness.

D. Scope and Limitation

This research does not aim to interpret or evaluate Gregor Samsa's transformation symbolically or psychologically. The transformation is treated as a narrative event that triggers social reactions from the family. The main focus of this research is to analyze the family's reactions to the change using the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), especially in seeing how their attitudes, subjective norms, and behavioral intentions shape their treatment of Gregor. By utilizing TRA and focusing on the psychological motivations and family dynamics of Gregor's family members, this research aims to

develop a critical understanding of how social pressures and individual attitudes shape family interactions in the face of a dramatic change. The research places particular emphasis on themes such as alienation, identity, and societal norms, reflecting how family dynamics and social expectations inform the actions of each character in the story. In addition, the research considers how the work resonates with contemporary social issues such as mental health and the evolving nature of family life, further emphasizing the continued relevance of Kafka's text.

However, this research has certain limitations that should be considered. Firstly, the scope of the research is confined to the reactions of Gregor's immediate family, and therefore does not address the responses of society or other characters, which could offer a broader understanding of the impact of Gregor's transformation. By focusing only on the family's perspective, this research may not fully capture the societal implications of his metamorphosis. Secondly, as the analysis is grounded in the application of TRA, the interpretation of character motivations is subjective and depends on the researcher's understanding of the text. Different readers or researchers may interpret the behaviors and responses of the characters differently, leading to varying conclusions. Finally, this research is constrained by time and space limitations, meaning that not all aspects of Kafka's work can be explored in exhaustive detail. As a result, while the research offers valuable insights into the character dynamics and family reactions through the TRA framework, it should be recognized that the analysis is not comprehensive in exploring every possible interpretation or application of the theory.

E. The Definition of Key Terms

- 1. Attitude toward the Behavior: is refers to a person's general feeling of liking or disliking for that behavior (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975).
- 2. Subjective Norms: is a person's perception that most people who are important to him or her think he or she should or should not perform the behavior in question (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975).
- 3. Behavioral Intention: is a person's readiness to perform a certain behavior, and is considered a direct antecedent of that behavior. (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975).

CHAPTER II

THE REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter contains an explanation of Social Psychological Approach and Fishbein and Ajzen's Theory of Reasoned Action.

A. Social Psychological Approach

Social psychology is a branch of psychology that focuses on understanding how individuals think, feel, and behave in a social context. Social psychology as an attempt to understand and explain how individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the presence of other people, real, imagined, or implied (Allport, 1985). This field important the significant role that society and interpersonal relationships play in shaping individual behavior. In literary analysis, the social psychological approach allows researchers to explore characters not only as isolated individuals but as subjects embedded in social environments, influenced by norms, expectations, and relationships with others.

Social psychology also bridges the gap between individual psychology and social behavior. It focuses on how people perceive, influence, and relate to one another. As stated by Baron, Byrne, and Branscombe (2009), social psychology seeks to understand the causes of individual behavior in social situations, especially how people's thoughts about themselves and others affect their interactions. In this context, researchers emphasize the role of cognitive processes how people interpret or "construe" the world

around them. According to Aronson, Wilson, and Akert (2018), individuals do not respond directly to objective reality, but to the way they interpret that reality. This is known as the "construal" process. For instance, the same event might be perceived as threatening by one person but neutral by another, depending on their prior beliefs and expectations.

Such interpretations are deeply influenced by social norms, roles, group pressure, and cultural expectations. Social norms, as described by Myers and Twenge (2019), are the shared rules that define what is considered acceptable behavior in a particular group or society. These norms shape how individuals act within various settings families, institutions, or fictional narratives making them essential in understanding behavior through a social psychological lens.

The urgency of using a social psychology approach, especially the Theory of Reasoned Action, in literary studies lies in its ability to provide a deeper understanding of character behavior and the dynamics of relationships between individuals in literary texts. This theory emphasizes that a person's behavior is influenced by their attitudes toward that behavior and the subjective norms that exist around them. In a literary context, this approach allows for a more systematic analysis of the motivations and reactions of characters to the situations they face, as well as how social and psychological factors influence their decisions.

By applying the Theory of Reasoned Action, researchers can explore how attitudes and norms that exist in society or family affect interactions between characters, and how changes in one character can trigger different reactions from other characters. This is especially relevant in the analysis of works that depict interpersonal conflict, alienation, and power dynamics, such as in Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. In addition, this approach also helps in understanding the social and cultural contexts that shape individual behavior, thus providing a more comprehensive insight into the themes raised in literature. Thus, the use of social psychology approaches and reasoned action theory in literary studies not only enriches the analysis, but also bridges the understanding between psychological theory and literary interpretation.

In literature, characters are often placed in situations that mirror real-world social dynamics. As such, examining their decisions and reactions through a social psychological lens helps uncover the underlying motivations that drive their behavior. This approach is particularly useful when analyzing literary works that highlight family conflict, identity, conformity, or deviance elements that are deeply rooted in social contexts. The behavior of fictional characters, although constructed by authors, reflects common psychological and social patterns, allowing readers to interpret human interactions on a deeper level.

Franz Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis* provides a powerful case research for social psychological analysis. The main character, Gregor Samsa, awakens one day to find himself transformed into a giant insect. However, rather than focusing solely on Gregor's internal struggle, the narrative shifts to the reactions of his family members his father, mother, and sister Grete who each respond to Gregor's condition differently. These responses are not simply the result of personal discomfort or shock but are shaped by societal expectations, family roles, and the stigma of deviance.

Understanding these responses, therefore, requires more than a psychological reading; it calls for a social psychological perspective that considers both internal and external influences on human behavior.

One of the most relevant theories within social psychology for analyzing this situation is the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA). Developed by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975), TRA is a model that explains how individuals make rational decisions based on their attitudes toward a behavior and the influence of subjective norms. According to this theory, behavior is not random or impulsive it is the result of a deliberate process that begins with intention. Behavioral intention itself is influenced by two main components: (1) Attitude toward the behavior, which refers to a person's positive or negative evaluation of the implementation of the behavior, and (2) Subjective norms, related to perceived social pressure to perform or avoid the act.

In the case of Gregor's family, the TRA framework can help explain why each member behaves the way they do after Gregor's transformation. For example, the father's aggression and rejection may stem from a belief that Gregor's presence threatens the family's social status or order. His attitude toward Gregor becomes increasingly negative, and the subjective norm perhaps the internalized belief that the head of the family must protect or maintain control guides his behavior. The mother's conflicted behavior might reflect her struggle between her emotional attachment to Gregor and the societal norms about what is "acceptable" or "normal." Meanwhile, Grete's evolving attitude from care to resentment can be seen as a shift in perceived responsibility and increasing social burden.

By analyzing these reactions through the lens of TRA, we can better understand the interaction between personal judgment and social expectations. The family members do not simply react emotionally; their behaviors are influenced by how they view Gregor's condition, what they believe others might expect them to do, and what outcomes they anticipate if they act in a certain way. TRA helps uncover the rational processes behind seemingly irrational or cruel behavior, and highlights the social dimensions of familial breakdown in the story.

Furthermore, the social psychological approach reveals how Kafka critiques the rigidity of societal norms and the fragility of family bonds when confronted with difference and abnormality. The family's gradual rejection of Gregor underscores how powerful subjective norms and external appearances can be in shaping interpersonal dynamics. The sense of shame, fear of judgment, and desire to restore social normalcy overpower emotional ties and familial duty.

In conclusion, applying the social psychological approach to *The Metamorphosis* specifically through the Theory of Reasoned Action offers a deeper and more structured understanding of the Samsa family's behavior. This approach emphasizes that reactions, even in fictional works, are not isolated responses but are rooted in a broader social framework that shapes and defines what people do and why they do it.

B. Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA): Psychosocial Framework in Analyzing Behavior

TRA is a widely applied theory in social psychology that explains how individuals' beliefs, attitudes, and perceived social pressures shape their intentions and, subsequently, their behaviors. At its core, TRA posits that behavior is not random or instinctual but is instead the result of reasoned decision-making processes. This research employs the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) developed by Martin Fishbein and Icek Ajzen in 1975. This theoretical model is particularly relevant when analyzing human responses to significant life events, such as the reactions of Gregor Samsa's family members in Kafka's The Metamorphosis. TRA assumes that individuals are rational beings who systematically process available information before engaging in a particular behavior (Ajzen, 1991). It emphasizes the cognitive determinants of behavioral actions, making it a valuable framework for examining responses in situations involving moral, emotional, or societal conflict. In the context of literary analysis, particularly Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, this theory helps to dissect the rationale behind each character's treatment of Gregor Samsa following his transformation. TRA comprises three key constructs: attitude toward the behavior, subjective norms, and behavioral intention. These elements work together to predict and explain deliberate actions.

1. Attitude Toward the Behavior

Attitude toward the behavior refers to an individual's overall evaluation of the behavior in question whether they view it as favorable or unfavorable. Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) define this component refers to a person's general feeling of liking or disliking for that behavior. This evaluation stems from beliefs about the possible outcomes of a behavior and the value placed on those outcomes. According to Fishbein (1967), attitude can be defined as "a directed tendency to evaluate an object or behavior in an affectively positive or negative manner." A positive attitude toward a behavior tends to increase the likelihood of an individual performing it (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2005).

In the context of *The Metamorphosis*, each family member's reaction toward Gregor's transformation can be analyzed through this lens. For instance, if a family member believes that continuing to interact with Gregor will lead to shame, disgust, or a lowered family status, and they hold those outcomes as undesirable, their attitude toward maintaining a relationship with Gregor will be negative. On the other hand, if another family member values loyalty and compassion, and believes those can be fulfilled by staying close to Gregor, their attitude may be more positive.

Attitudes are thus cognitive in nature they involve an internal assessment of expected consequences. In this research, this component allows for a deeper investigation into the implicit motivations behind each family member's acceptance or rejection of Gregor.

2. Subjective Norms

Subjective norms refer to an individual's perception of social pressure to perform or not perform a particular behavior. Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) defines it as an individual's view that the majority of people significant to him or her believe he or she should or should not perform the behavior in question. This component emphasizes the role of significant others and perceived societal expectations in shaping behavioral intentions.

In *The Metamorphosis*, subjective norms are particularly relevant given the family's concern with reputation, duty, and social order. For example, the father may feel pressure to restore the family's dignity and thus rejects Gregor in accordance with what he believes a father "should" do in the face of a grotesque and helpless son. Similarly, Grete initially shows care, likely driven by social and familial expectations of a dutiful sister, but her eventual abandonment can be interpreted as a shift in those norms as she seeks independence and normalcy.

Subjective norms help explain inconsistencies between private feelings and public behavior family members may still care for Gregor internally, but their outward behavior changes under social and psychological pressures.

3. Behavioral Intention

Behavioral intentions are the most direct determinants of behavior. Intentions are defined as a person's readiness to perform a behavior: "Intentions are assumed to capture the motivational factors that influence behavior; they are an indication of how

hard people are willing to try, how much effort they plan to expend, to perform the behavior" (Ajzen, 1985). Intentions are indicated by the subjective probability of performing the behavior, that is, by people's estimates of how likely they will or will not perform a given behavior. Behavioral intention is the motivational factor that captures an individual's willingness to carry out certain actions. It is considered the most immediate antecedent of actual behavior. Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) describes it as a sign of an individual's readiness to perform a certain action and suggests that the stronger the intention to engage in an action, the higher the likelihood that the behavior will be performed.

In Gregor's case, the actual behaviors of each family member feeding him, isolating him, ignoring him, or finally advocating for his removal are shaped by their internal intentions. These intentions emerge from the interaction between their personal attitudes and the subjective norms they perceive.

For instance, the father's aggressive action in hurling apples at Gregor can be understood as the realization of an intention formed by both his negative attitude (seeing Gregor as a threat or burden) and strong social norms (protecting the family's image and survival). Grete's final decision to declare that "we must get rid of it reflects a crystallized intention based on a shift in her values and social perception.

Understanding behavioral intention provides insight into how Gregor's transformation serves as a catalyst for revealing underlying conflicts and shifting priorities within the family.

TRA allows for a systematic analysis of Gregor's family's reactions by evaluating each member's psychological stance (attitude), their perception of expected behaviors (subjective norms), and their actual choices (behavioral intention). By using this framework, this research bridges literary analysis with social psychological theory, offering a multidimensional understanding of character motivations and behavior.

The inclusion of TRA in literary research highlights the intersection between literature and real-life behavioral science, reaffirming how fictional narratives can serve as mirrors to social and psychological realities.

It should be emphasized that in this research, the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) is used specifically to analyze the reactions of Gregor Samsa's family members to the transformation he experienced. This research does not aim to analyze Gregor's transformation process itself symbolically, psychologically, or metaphorically. Gregor's transformation is positioned as a background or trigger that allows researchers to observe family behavior in more depth through the psychosocial framework offered by TRA. Thus, the main focus remains on the motives, social pressures, and tendencies of Gregor's family's actions, not on Gregor's transformation as the main subject.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter contains several steps, first research design, second data source, third data collection, and last data analysis.

A. Research Design

This research employs literary criticism as the primary method, as the object of analysis is Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, a literary work. The research applies the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) proposed by Fishbein and Ajzen to examine the reactions of Gregor Samsa's family members toward his transformation. By using TRA's components attitudes, subjective norms, and behavioral intentions this research aims to interpret how individual beliefs and perceived social pressures influence each family member's response. Through this framework, the research provides a deeper understanding of the psychological and social dynamics reflected in the characters' behaviors and decisions within the text.

B. Data Source

The data source for this research is the novel by Franz Kafka entitled *The Metamorphosis*. This novel was published in 1915. But in this research, the researcher used the novel in the English-translated version by Susan Bernofsky. The book was first published in English by W. W. Norton & Company in 2014, published by Wildside Press LLC's first edition and there are three parts to it, namely part one, part two, and part

three. The research data used by researchers is in the form of words, sentences, and dialogue between characters in the novel *The Metamorphosis*.

C. Data Collection

In this research, the researcher collected data through several steps. The researcher began by reading the novel thoroughly to understand the general storyline and the central transformation of Gregor Samsa. After that, a close reading was conducted to identify specific sections that captured the reactions of Gregor's family toward his transformation. During this process, the researcher highlighted important dialogues, narrative descriptions, and character behaviors that reflected emotional and psychological responses. These textual evidences were then examined in relation to the components of the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), which include attitude, subjective norms, and intention. The selected data were categorized and interpreted based on these components to reveal how the characters' reactions and decisions could be understood through the TRA framework. The collected data served as the foundation for the analysis and interpretation discussed in the subsequent chapters.

D. Data Analysis

In this step, the researcher analyzed the collected data by applying the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) to interpret the characters' reactions in *The Metamorphosis*. The process began with reviewing selected textual evidence from the novel and identifying elements that reflect the components of TRA: attitude, subjective norms, and intention. Each family member's response to Gregor's transformation was

examined in relation to these components to understand their underlying motivations and behavioral tendencies. The researcher then interpreted how these psychological and social factors shaped the development of the characters' responses throughout the story. This analysis led to a broader understanding of the family's dynamics and the influence of perceived norms and beliefs on their behavior. The findings were then synthesized to address the research questions and highlight the novel's exploration of identity, alienation, and human relationships through the lens of TRA.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter serves as a critical analysis of the research questions posed earlier in the research. This chapter aims to explore the transformative experience of Gregor Samsa in Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, as well as the varying reactions of his family members to his drastic physical and psychological change. By examining these themes, the chapter seeks to offer a deeper understanding of the character dynamics within the novel through the lens of the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), focusing on how each family member's attitude, subjective norms, and behavioral intentions shape their response to Gregor's metamorphosis. The findings will be discussed with a view toward providing a comprehensive analysis of Gregor's alienation and his family's shifting attitudes, thereby contributing to a broader reflection on identity, social norms, and the complexities of human relationships in the face of profound change. Through this analysis, the research not only addresses the character study of Gregor and his family but also engages with the psychological and social implications of transformation and acceptance within a familial context.

A. The Transformation of Gregor Samsa

Gregor Samsa was born into a middle-class family living in an unspecified town, most likely in Central Europe. As the eldest child, Gregor grew up with a great sense of responsibility for his family. His father had gone bankrupt and was

unemployed, so the family's economic burden fell entirely on Gregor's shoulders. His mother was a housewife who was often ill, while his younger sister, Grete, was still a teenager and had dreams of becoming a violinist.

Due to economic pressures and his family's debts, especially those left by his father, Gregor worked as a traveling salesman. This job was very tiring and boring. He had to travel frequently, face pressure from his superiors, and had almost no personal life. Even so, Gregor continued to work hard without much complaint because he felt responsible for supporting his family. He even had the hope that one day he could taking his sister to a music conservatory.

Emotionally, Gregor was a lonely person. He did not have many friends, had never been close to anyone romantically, and his life was completely centered on his work and family. Feelings of being trapped, unappreciated, and mentally exhausted continued to build up inside him, although he never expressed them openly.

Until one morning, Gregor woke up and found himself transformed into a giant insect. He could no longer work, and could not even communicate with his family. His family, who had previously relied heavily on him, began to distance themselves from him. The only person who had shown compassion was his sister, Grete, but in the end she too rejected Gregor's presence.

The first sign of Gregor's metamorphosis is revealed early in the novel when he awakens to find himself changed into a "gigantic insect". As he reflects on his new condition, the quote states:

"When Gregor Samsa woke one morning from troubled dreams, he found himself transformed right there in his bed into some sort of monstrous insect." (p.1)

This opening sentence is not only informative but also contains an element of surprise and horror. "When Gregor Samsa woke one morning from troubled dreams...": This opening is familiar and ordinary, describing the morning routine of someone waking up from sleep. However, the addition of the phrase "troubled dreams" gives a hint of the psychological anxiety or instability that Gregor may have experienced prior to his transformation. While not directly causing his physical changes, these dreams create an uneasy atmosphere and may hint at underlying stress or problems in Gregor's life. The use of the time period "one morning" gives a sense of suddenness and unexpectedness to the events that are about to occur. The sentence "...he found himself transformed...": The word "transformed" is central to this sentence, signaling a radical and fundamental change in Gregor's being. Its use without further explanation emphasizes the mysterious and irrational nature of this metamorphosis. There is no gradual process or reason given; the change simply happens, as he wakes up. The simplicity of the word "transformed" only adds to the shock and strangeness of the event. The sentence "...right there in his bed...": The placement of the transformation "right there in his bed" underscores the intimate and personal nature of this event. The bed, which is usually associated with rest and security, becomes the witness and location of this terrifying transformation. This creates a strong and disturbing contrast between the private and familiar space and the extraordinary and terrifying event. The implication is that this transformation is not taking place in the outside world or as a

result of a clear external event, but rather something that is emerging from within Gregor or taking place in the most private sphere of his life. The sentence "...into some sort of monstrous insect.": The phrase "some sort of" suggests that even in his newly awakened consciousness, Gregor may not yet fully understand or recognize his new form. This creates some initial uncertainty and confusion. However, the use of the word "monstrous" strongly emphasizes the frightening and unnatural nature of his transformation. The word "insect" specifically categorizes his new form, although the qualifier "monstrous" makes it clear that this is no ordinary insect. The choice of the word "monstrous" also suggests how Gregor and others will view his new form as something disgusting and frightening.

Gregor's initial attempt to maintain normalcy is reflected in the passage below:

"Gregor had meant to give a proper response explaining everything, but under the circumstances he limited himself to saying, "Yes, thank you, Mother, I'm just getting up." Because of the wooden door, the change in Gregor's voice appeared not to be noticeable from the other side, for his mother was reassured by his response and shuffled off." (p.4)

In the quote, Gregor Samsa's transformation process is shown through the description that depicts the interaction between Gregor and his mother after his physical transformation. Although Gregor had the intention to give a more complete response, he was forced to limit himself to a simple answer, "Yes, thank you, Mother, I'm just getting up." This shows that although he still has consciousness and the ability to think, the way he communicates has changed significantly.

The change in Gregor's voice is not detected by his mother because of the "wooden door" indicating that although he tries to communicate, there is a physical barrier that prevents effective interaction. The wooden door serves as a barrier that

separates Gregor from his family, and his mother does not notice the change in her son's voice. This shows that although Gregor still tries to maintain a relationship with his mother, his physical transformation has created a real distance in communication.

His mother's reaction, which is calm with Gregor's response, despite not realizing the changes that have occurred, highlights the inability to understand the real situation. In this context, Gregor's transformation process does not only involve physical changes, but also creates a gap in interaction and communication with those closest to him. Literally, this quote describes how Gregor struggles to adapt to his new circumstances, while his family remains oblivious to the changed reality.

Gregor's deteriorating physical condition becomes more apparent in the passage below:

"Gregor slowly pushed himself over to the door using the armchair, then let go and allowed himself to fall against the door, propping himself upright—the pads of his little legs turned out to be slightly sticky—and there he rested briefly from his exertions. Then he set about turning the key in the lock using his mouth. Unfortunately it seemed he had no real teeth—so how was he supposed to grasp the key?—but his jaws turned out to be surprisingly strong; and with their help he actually succeeded in causing the key to move, paying no heed to the fact that for a brown fluid ran out of his mouth and down the process, for a brown fluid ran out of his mouth and down the floor." (p.14)

In this quote, Gregor Samsa's transformation process is objectively described through his physical actions after he has been transformed into an unusual creature. Gregor begins by "slowly pushed himself over to the door using the armchair," which shows that he is still trying to move despite the difficult circumstances. The use of the armchair as a prop shows that he is struggling to adapt to his new, unfamiliar body.

When Gregor "let go and allowed himself to fall against the door," this shows the physical effort he made to reach the door, even though he had to rely on the strength of his new body. The description of "the pads of his little legs turned out to be slightly sticky" provides insight into the physical state of his body that has changed, showing that parts of his body now have different characteristics than before.

Next, when Gregor attempts to "turn the key in the lock using his mouth," this shows a concrete attempt to communicate or access the outside world, even though he does not have enough teeth to grip the key. However, he finds that "his jaws turned out to be surprisingly strong," which shows that even though he has lost some abilities, there are new aspects of his body that he can utilize.

Finally, the description of "a brown fluid ran out of his mouth and down the floor" highlights further physical changes and the impact of the transformation. This suggests that Gregor's transformation process involves more than just a change in form, but also affects his overall bodily functions. Overall, this quote provides a clear picture of Gregor's physical struggle to adapt to his new circumstances, as well as the changes that occur to his body and its ability to interact with its surroundings.

Despite his grotesque appearance, Gregor's wound becomes a turning point in how his family views him:

"The grievous wound Gregor had received, which plagued him for over a month-the apple remained lodged there in his flesh, a visible memento, since no one dared to remove it-seemed to have reminded even his father that Gregor, despite his current lamentable, repulsive form, was a member of the family who should not be treated like an enemy, for family duty dictated that the others swallow down the disgust he aroused in them and show him tolerance, only tolerance." (p.44)

In this quote, Gregor Samsa's transformation process is objectively described through the description of the wound he received and its impact on his family relationships. The phrase "The grievous wound Gregor had received, which plagued him for over a month" shows that Gregor not only underwent a physical transformation into an unusual creature, but also suffered a serious injury that affected his health. This wound, caused by the apple that had become lodged in his flesh, became a visible physical sign of his transformation and showed that he was unable to function as he had before.

The description of "the apple remained lodged there in his flesh, a visible memento" highlights that the wound was not only physically painful, but also a constant reminder of his new condition. The fact that "no one dared to remove it" shows that his family, despite their disgust, were unable to ignore Gregor's existence as a member of the family.

Next, the phrase "seemed to have reminded even his father that Gregor, despite his current lamentable, repulsive form, was a member of the family" shows that even though Gregor's appearance has changed drastically, there is a recognition that he is still part of the family. This reflects the tension between the disgust felt by his family and the moral obligation to treat Gregor with tolerance.

Finally, the phrase "family duty dictated that the others swallow down the disgust he aroused in them and show him tolerance, only tolerance" emphasizes that despite negative feelings toward Gregor, there is an expectation to show tolerance as part of family responsibility. Overall, these quotes provide a clear picture of how

Gregor's transformation affects not only him, but also the dynamics of the relationships within his family, focusing on his physical condition and his family's reactions to Gregor's new condition.

Gregor's condition continues to deteriorate not only physically, but also psychologically, as suggested in the line:

"..he too was covered in dust; he dragged around threads, hair and food scraps clinging to his back and sides; his general indifference was far too great now..." (p.53)

In this quote, Gregor Samsa's transformation process is described objectively through his physical description and his state of hygiene. The phrase "he too was covered in dust" shows that Gregor has not only undergone a change in form, but also a decline in his self-care and hygiene. This reflects his worsening state of life after the transformation, where he is no longer able to take care of himself as before.

The description of "he dragged around threads, hair and food scraps clinging to his back and sides" provides a clear picture of Gregor's physical condition. He is not only dirty, but also surrounded by food scraps and other objects stuck to his body. This shows that he has lost the ability to function normally and is unable to take care of his personal hygiene, which is an important aspect of human identity.

Furthermore, the sentence "his general indifference was far too great now" shows that Gregor has reached a point where he no longer cares about his physical state. This reflects the impact of the transformation that has turned him into a helpless and alienated being. This indifference also shows that he no longer has the motivation

or desire to interact with the world around him, further reinforcing the picture of how his physical transformation has affected his existence.

Overall, this quote provides a clear and concrete picture of Gregor's physical condition after his transformation, highlighting the decline in hygiene and self-care, and showing the impact of these changes on his behavior.

In the final stage of Gregor's physical and emotional decline, the narrative reveals a moment of resignation and eerie calm:

"He soon made the discovery that he was no longer capable of moving at all. He wasn't surprised at this; on the contrary, it struck him as unnatural that those thin little legs he had used to support himself on should have lasted so long. As for the rest, he felt relatively at ease. Admittedly his entire body was racked with pain, but it seemed to him as if it was gradually fading away with the pain, but it seemed to him as if it was gradually fading away and would finally disappear and he would feel the rotting apple in his back, nor the inflamed area surrounding it, both now enveloped in soft dust." (p.60)

In this excerpt, Gregor Samsa's transformation process is described objectively through the description of his physical condition and ability to move. The sentence "He soon made the discovery that he was no longer capable of moving at all" indicates that Gregor has reached a point where he is unable to move, indicating a drastic reduction in his body's functionality after the transformation. This is a significant change that shows that he has lost his basic ability to move.

Gregor is not surprised by his inability to move, as reflected in the phrase "it struck him as unnatural that those thin little legs he had used to support himself on should have lasted so long." This shows that he is aware that his new body does not match his previous expectations or experiences, and he considers his inability to be normal in the context of the transformation he has undergone.

Furthermore, although he feels that "his entire body was racked with pain," there is a sense of relative calm that emerges, where he feels that the pain is "gradually fading away." This shows that despite the significant physical discomfort, there is hope that the pain will go away over time. However, he also notes the presence of indicating that although he is feeling better, there are still serious physical problems that are affecting his physical condition.

The description of "both now enveloped in soft dust" highlights Gregor's dirty and unkempt body, reflecting the decline in his self-care and living conditions after his transformation. Overall, these quotes provide a clear picture of Gregor's physical condition, including his inability to move, the pain he experiences, and the unkempt state of his body, all of which reflect the effects of his transformation.

The description of Gregor's lifeless body offers a stark visualization of his complete physical deterioration:

"And indeed Gregor's body was completely flat and dry, which hadn't really been noticeable until now when he was no longer raised up on those little legs and nothing else remained to distract the gaze." (p.61)

In this quote, Gregor Samsa's transformation is described objectively through the physical description of his body. The phrase "Gregor's body was completely flat and dry" shows the drastic change in Gregor's physical form after his transformation. This description provides a clear picture of his body's condition, which no longer has its normal volume or shape, reflecting the physical nature of the creature he has become.

The statement that his body's condition "hadn't really been noticeable until now" suggests that this change may not have been apparent before when he was still able to stand or move using "those little legs." This highlights how his previous ability to move had masked or distracted attention from his actual body condition. The inability to stand and move now revealed his actual body condition, which became even more apparent when he no longer had the support of his legs.

The phrase "and nothing else remained to distract the gaze" suggests that with the loss of the ability to move, attention was now completely focused on Gregor's physical condition. This creates a greater awareness of the transformation that had occurred, with his "flat and dry" body becoming the main focus.

Overall, this quote provides a clear and concrete picture of Gregor's physical condition after his transformation, highlighting the significant changes in his body shape and how these become more visible when he is no longer able to move.

B. The Reactions of Gregor's Family toward Gregor's Transformation

In this part, the researcher discusses how each member of Gregor Samsa's family reacts to his sudden transformation into an insect. The reactions are analyzed through the lens of the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), which includes three key components: attitude toward the behavior, subjective norms, and behavioral intention. Each family member Gregor's father, mother, and sister responds to the transformation in ways that reflect their personal evaluations of the situation, the perceived expectations of others, and their own intentions or decisions to act. These responses

gradually change as the story progresses, revealing not only their individual personalities but also the underlying values, social pressures, and emotional struggles that shape their actions. Through this analysis, the research aims to uncover the psychological and social dynamics that contribute to the family's shifting treatment of Gregor, offering a deeper understanding of alienation, identity, and familial obligation.

1. Gregor's Father

Gregor Samsa's father is a man who, at the beginning of *The Metamorphosis*, appears to be a figure who has long lost stability and power in his life. Previously, he had been a fairly important employee, but after losing his job, he experienced a significant decline in his quality of life. Gregor's father is older and no longer works, relying on his son, Gregor, who is the backbone of the family.

Although he was once a more powerful man, the Samsa family's life was turned upside down after their change of fortune, where Gregor had to bear the burden of the family's economy. Gregor's father even seems to no longer have the spirit and self-confidence, often showing a passive and depressed attitude. In the story, he is more dependent on Gregor and is unable to play a big role in dealing with the various difficulties of their lives.

The character of Gregor's father can be described as someone who is complex and full of tension. On the one hand, he is a man who has difficulty accepting the fact that he has to depend on his son, Gregor. Before Gregor experienced metamorphosis, his father often looked anxious and lacked confidence in dealing with their depressed life. He is often unable to provide emotional support or reinforcement to his children, instead appearing weak and helpless.

However, after Gregor is turned into an insect, Gregor's father shows a more aggressive side. When Gregor tries to come out of his room and interact with his family, his father is one of the most violent people in the world. He even engages in physical attacks on Gregor, clearly reflecting his impatience and indifference to his son's condition.

Gregor's father's attitude towards his son shows how the tension and unhappiness in his life shapes the way he interacts with those closest to him. Rather than providing a sense of security or understanding, Gregor's father shows more tension and frustration, which leads to his harsh treatment of Gregor.

Overall, Gregor Samsa's father is a character that reflects the rift in the family and how economic and social pressures can turn someone into a person who is distant from affection, becomes more selfish, and even tends to act violently towards the people he should love.

a) Attitude Toward the Behavior

Gregor Samsa's father's attitude towards his son's drastic transformation from a normal man to a giant insect demonstrates the complexity of their family relationship. In the context of the Theory of Considered Action (TRA), Gregor's father's attitude reflects feelings of indifference, fear, and disappointment that directly influence how he treats Gregor post-transformation. Over time, this attitude further exacerbates Gregor's alienation from his family, creating an internal conflict within Gregor's father

that leads to increasingly harsh and hostile reactions towards his son. Understanding this attitude is important to exploring how negative perceptions of Gregor's behavior, both from his father's perspective and from the wider social context, shape his decisions and actions.

An example of this attitude can be found when:

"Gregor's father clenched his fist with a hostile grimace, as if he intended to thrust Gregor back into his room, then glanced uncertainly about the living room, shaded his eyes with his hands, and wept until his mighty chest shook." (p.15)

Gregor's father shows a negative attitude towards Gregor's condition that has turned into an insect. The hostile facial expression and the clenched fist movement are indicators of a negative evaluation of Gregor's presence outside the room. He perceives Gregor's presence as a threat, disturbance, or something undesirable, so he instinctively wants to remove Gregor from the common room. This shows that his father has a negative attitude towards the behavior of allowing Gregor to remain in the living room. However, this attitude is not completely solid. When he stops, looks at the living room doubtfully, then cries until his body shakes, an internal conflict arises between his negative attitude towards Gregor's new form and the remaining affection or bond as a father. The crying shows that although cognitively he considers Gregor's presence inappropriate, emotionally he still feels hurt and confused by the situation. In TRA, this reflects an ambivalent evaluation of the behavior encountered.

The change in Gregor's father's attitude towards his son who has undergone a transformation seems increasingly aggressive and full of rejection. This is depicted in the narrative when his father begins to physically attack him:

"He had filled his pockets from the fruit bowl on the sideboard and now was tossing apple after apple in Gregor's direction, for the moment not even bothering to take particular aim." (p.43)

Gregor's father's behavior of throwing the apple without any attempt at aiming shows a negative and aggressive attitude towards Gregor's existence. His father not only does not accept Gregor in his new form, but also expresses his displeasure and anger through physical actions. According to TRA, attitude towards behavior is a person's evaluation of the consequences of that behavior in this case, Gregor's father seems to view Gregor's existence as something bad or annoying that deserves to be punished by throwing the apple.

Gregor's father's response to the situation related to his son's transformation also shows unpreparedness and confusion that reflects his attitude towards the condition. In one part it is told:

"...naturally her father was startled out of his chair—at first stood by helpless and astonished;" (p.48)

In this quote, Gregor's father is depicted as shocked and helpless ("startled" and "helpless") when witnessing an incident involving Gregor. This reaction shows that his father has a negative attitude and an inability to accept Gregor's behavior or condition. The father's shock and confusion indicate that he sees the situation as something unusual and unexpected, resulting in a negative assessment of Gregor's existence or actions. This attitude also indicates that the father has not been able to internalize or accept the changes that have occurred, so his response is more dominated by shock and confusion than acceptance or support. This is in accordance with the TRA

concept that a negative attitude towards a certain behavior will reduce the intention to accept or support the behavior.

Gregor's father's attitude towards Gregor's existence is also reflected in the passive behavior he displays in various situations. One of them is shown through the narrative:

"Gregor's father staggered to his armchair with groping hands and let himself fall into it;" (p.56)

In this quote, Gregor's father's actions of "staggering" and "falling into a chair" illustrate his physical and emotional state of exhaustion, despair, or even frustration. This unstable and seemingly surrendering movement shows an attitude of disappointment and helplessness towards the situation being faced, namely Gregor's changes and conditions.

This attitude reflects that Gregor's father may assess Gregor's behavior or condition as an emotionally and physically tiring burden. He does not show an immediate aggressive reaction, but rather a resigned attitude that indicates a negative evaluation of Gregor's current existence, as well as an inability to cope with or accept the situation easily.

According to TRA, this negative attitude will affect the father's intention to take the next action perhaps choosing to walk away, avoid, or let the situation remain unchanged because of the despair and frustration he feels.

Gregor's father's attitude towards Gregor's death is explicitly shown through the quote:

"now we can thank God." He crossed himself, and the three women followed his example."

(p.61)

In this quote, the statement "Now we can thank God" is followed by Gregor's father making the sign of the cross, and the other three women imitating the action, indicating that they consider an event as something positive or something to be grateful for.

This attitude shows that Gregor's father and other family members respond to a change or development (most likely related to Gregor's death or change in circumstances) with relief and gratitude. They evaluate the new condition as something that brings peace or relief from burdens, so their attitude towards this situation is positive.

In the context of TRA, this positive attitude will strengthen their intention to accept the new situation and act in accordance with this evaluation, such as continuing life without the burden of the previous condition.

b) Subjective Norms

In analyzing the concept of subjective norms applied to the character of Gregor Samsa's father in the novel *The Metamorphosis*, it is important to understand the social pressures and environmental expectations that influence his behavior towards Gregor after undergoing transformation. Subjective norms refer to a person's perception of the opinions of important people around him about whether or not he should do something. In the context of Gregor's father, his actions are greatly influenced by social norms regarding productivity, masculinity, and the role of head of the family, as well as his

sense of shame and self-esteem. As the head of the household, Gregor's father feels compelled to maintain the family's honor in the eyes of society, especially when Gregor, who was previously the breadwinner of the family, turns into a figure who is no longer economically useful and even considered a disgrace. His treatment of Gregor reflects personal disappointment as well as fear of judgment from the outside world both from neighbors, coworkers, and the wider community. From this perspective, Gregor's father's actions can be interpreted as an effort to maintain social dignity and carry out family responsibilities according to the norms he believes in, even though it is contrary to the values of affection.

The subjective norms of Gregor's father can be found in the quote below:

"Gregor," his father now said from the room on the left, "the general manager has come to inquire why you failed to depart by the early train. We don't know what to tell him. Besides, he'd like to have a word with you in person. So please open the door. I'm sure he'll be kind enough not to take offense at the untidiness of your room." (p.9)

In this quote, Gregor's father conveys that there was a visit from the general manager who wanted to ask about Gregor's absence and to speak directly with him. The father implies that there is social pressure from the work authority (general manager) that Gregor must face, and his absence will raise questions or problems that must be explained.

In addition, the father also shows the expectation that Gregor will open the door even though the room is messy, assuming that the general manager will be kind and not offended, reflecting the social norm that Gregor must still communicate and be accountable to the authorities, even in less than ideal circumstances.

This shows that Gregor's father is aware of and conveys the social pressure from the work environment (general manager) that influences Gregor's attitude and intention to open the door and deal with the situation. In other words, there is a social norm that encourages Gregor to be responsible and meet social expectations so as not to be considered unprofessional or irresponsible.

Next, as illustrated below, Gregor's father's behavior is influenced by external social expectations, not internal motivations. His concern about how Gregor's condition might disrupt the dormitory residents reflects the presence of perceived social pressures that guide his responses, highlighting the role of subjective norms in shaping his actions.

"Gregor's father now called out: "Are the gentlemen disturbed by this playing? It can be silenced at once." (p.52)

In this excerpt, Gregor's father shows awareness and concern for the perception of the guests or gentlemen who are in his house. By asking if they are disturbed by the music and offering to stop the music, Gregor's father adjusts his behavior based on the social expectations of the guests.

This reflects that Gregor's father responds to social pressure from the external environment (guests) which is important for his family's image and social norms. The father's attitude and actions in immediately offering to stop the music indicate that he prioritizes social norms regarding politeness and comfort of guests, as well as maintaining his family's reputation in the eyes of others.

In other words, Gregor's father shows subjective norms that encourage him to act in order to meet the social expectations and norms that apply in his social environment.

Gregor's father's reaction illustrates the influence of subjective norms on his behavior as a parent. He acts according to his expected roles and responsibilities, as described below:

"...her father who, agitated by the way she was carrying on, rose from his own chair and half-raised his arms as if to shield her." (p.58)

This quote shows Gregor's father's emotional and physical reaction to his daughter Grete's psychological condition. The father, who was disturbed by the way Grete behaved, reflexively rose from his chair and raised his hands as if to protect her. This action shows that Gregor's father felt compelled to act not only because of personal urges, but also because of the social and emotional influence of other family members in this case, Grete's emotional expressions.

Grete, who became increasingly hysterical and could not stand Gregor's presence, created emotional and social pressure for the father. Grete's expectations or attitudes toward Gregor indirectly became subjective norms that influenced his father's behavior. Gregor's father reacted according to the family norm that prioritized the protection of children, and indirectly agreed with Grete's rejection of Gregor as a creature who was no longer considered part of the family.

Emotional support in the Samsa family is part of the social pressure that shapes Gregor and his father's behavior. One form of collective family norms that is seen appears in the following situation, as it is described below:

"Herr Samsa appeared wearing his livery, with his wife on one arm, his daughter on the other. All three looked as if they'd been weeping; Grete kept pressing her face against her father's arm." (p.62)

This quote depicts the moment after Gregor's death, where Herr Samsa (Gregor's father) is seen walking side by side physically with his wife and daughter, forming an image of a family that has returned to unity. All three appear to have been crying, indicating that they have been through a difficult time together emotionally, and are now in the final stages of recovery.

Grete, pressing her face into her father's arm, shows emotional dependence and closeness, as well as an expression of relief that the tension caused by Gregor has been lifted. This gesture emphasizes that Gregor's father is responding to emotional pressure from his family, especially from Grete, to behave in accordance with their expectations: that is, to distance himself from Gregor and accept that their family burden is over.

Herr Samsa's act of donning his livery formal clothing as a sign of status and neatness also reflects his beginning to conform to external social norms, such as working or appearing presentable in society. This reinforces that he is not only fulfilling the expectations of his family, but also the broader social pressures about the role of head of the family.

c) Behavioral Intention

This section will discuss the behavioral intention of Gregor Samsa's father towards his son after undergoing transformation into an insect. This behavioral intention did not appear suddenly, but was formed by a combination of Gregor's father's personal attitude towards his son's condition, the social norms he adheres to, and his perception of family responsibility and burden. As an authoritative figure in the household, Gregor's father feels compelled to take over the leadership role previously held by Gregor as the breadwinner. However, the behavioral intentions and tendencies shown by Gregor's father tend to be negative, mainly because they are based on shame, moral burden, and inability to accept new realities. This makes him often show aggressive, defensive, and even rejection attitudes towards Gregor's existence. This section will explain in more depth how Gregor's father's behavioral intentions are formed and manifested in real actions throughout the story.

The behavioral intention of Gregor's father can be found in the quote below:

"He hurried over to them and tried with outspread arms to herd them back into their room, at the same time using his body to shield Gregor from their view." (p.55)

In this quote, Gregor's father shows a clear intention to protect Gregor from the tenants (family guests) who are disturbed by Gregor's appearance in insect form. This can be seen from his action of quickly approaching the tenants and stretching out his arms to herd them back into the room, while protecting Gregor with his own body.

Intentionally, this action shows that although Gregor's father had previously been aggressive and unsympathetic towards Gregor's condition, at this point he has the intention to protect his son, at least from the gaze or judgment of outsiders.

This intention reflects an inner conflict: on the one hand, Gregor's father feels sick and tired of Gregor's condition (which can be seen in the previous quotes), but on the other hand, he still realizes that Gregor is part of his family, and there is an intention to limit the shame and disturbance from outsiders towards his son.

This action also shows that his intention is not only driven by affection, but also by social considerations: he feels he must maintain his family's image in front of the guests. Thus, his behavioral intention is to protect the family's reputation while hiding Gregor's condition.

Herr Samsa shows the firmness of attitude that arises from behavioral intentions that have been formed by personal perception and the social norms prevailing in the situation, as it is described below:

"I mean exactly what I say," Herr Samsa replied, now advancing on the lodger flanked by his two companions." (p.62)

The quote above shows that Herr Samsa (Gregor's father) has a firm intention to maintain his authority in front of the lodgers. The expression "I mean exactly what I say" followed by his action of advancing towards the lodgers accompanied by his wife and daughter, reflects a strong intention to evict the lodgers or stop their resistance directly.

This action is a form of behavioral intention that is authoritative and defensive, indicating that Herr Samsa has established his intention in facing the conflict that occurred after Gregor's death. This attitude also shows a shift in his social position which is now more active in taking over the role of head of the household who wants to uphold self-esteem and control the situation at home.

This behavior does not appear impulsively, but as a result of a conscious intention to end the relationship with the lodgers after feeling that their family was not respected, especially when Gregor's presence had previously been considered a burden. Therefore, Herr Samsa's firm statement accompanied by the action of approaching with the support of his family reflects that his intention is firm and ready to be followed up in real terms.

Herr Samsa's attitude towards the presence of outsiders in their home increasingly reflects his intention to restore stability to the family, as it is described below:

"Tonight she'll be let go," Herr Samsa said, but received an answer neither from his wife nor his daughter, for the charwoman seemed to have distrubed the equanimity they had only just attained." (p.64)

Herr Samsa's statement "Tonight she'll be let go" explicitly indicates his intention to fire the charwoman. This decision was made immediately after Gregor's death and after she had treated Gregor's body insensitively, even casually and disrespectfully.

Herr Samsa's statement reflects a conscious and purposeful intention a decision that was not discussed beforehand with his wife or daughter, indicating that the decision

was a personal initiative based on a negative attitude towards the presence of the charwoman who was considered to be disturbing the family's peace. It also shows that Herr Samsa has regained full authority as head of the family and acted quickly to eliminate outside elements that were considered inappropriate.

Although there was no verbal response from his wife and daughter, the absence of objections from them indicates that Herr Samsa felt that his actions were socially justified, which reinforced the subjective norm perception that his actions would be accepted by his family as part of the process of recovery and control of the household after the crisis.

2. Gregor's Mother

In Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, Gregor Samsa's mother is one of the characters who represents love that is hindered by fear, helplessness, and the patriarchal social structure of the family. As a mother, she loves Gregor sincerely and shows great concern for her son's well-being, especially before Gregor undergoes his transformation into an insect. However, after the terrible physical changes occur, the mother's character reflects a complex inner dilemma: on the one hand she wants to stay close to and care for her son, but on the other hand she feels horrified and unable to accept the reality. The fear she experiences arises not only from Gregor's physical form, but also from the pressure from her dominant husband and the family's slowly disintegrating conditions. Gregor's mother's role becomes passive; she often cries, faints, or begs for the tension in the family to ease. Her character reflects how a

mother's love can be stifled by psychological and social conditions, and how her inability to act decisively makes her a tragic figure in the midst of the Samsa family's existential crisis.

a) Attitude Toward the Behavior

Attitude toward behavior refers to the extent to which a person has a positive or negative assessment of a particular action. In the context of *The Metamorphosis*, Gregor's mother's attitude toward the behavior of caring for or approaching her child who has turned into a large insect is very ambivalent and full of emotional conflict. On the one hand, as a mother, she has a natural tendency to show affection, care, and protection towards her child. However, on the other hand, Gregor's terrible physical changes arouse deep fear, disgust, and distrust. Her attitude toward the act of approaching or caring for Gregor becomes negative because she views the behavior as something that is dangerous or emotionally painful. This negative evaluation is seen in her responses which tend to panic, avoid, or even faint when seeing Gregor. Therefore, although she feels morally she should show empathy, her personal attitude toward the behavior of approaching Gregor is greatly influenced by the perception of threat and psychological unpreparedness to accept the unimaginable reality.

The attitude toward the behavior of Gregor's mother can be found in the quote below:

"He isn't well," Gregor's mother said to the general manager while his father was still having his say beside the door," (p.9)

The mother's statement "He isn't well" to the manager indirectly shows an attitude of empathy and protection towards Gregor. In the context of TRA: The mother believes that saying that Gregor is not well (rather than immediately letting him confront his manager) is a better and more humane action. The mother's evaluation of the situation shows that she views Gregor's condition as something that requires protection and understanding, not judgment or demands. Explicitly, this is a supportive attitude towards Gregor's actions to defend him, although it does not actively challenge the authority of the manager or her husband.

Gregor's mother's inner attitude towards the treatment of her son is reflected in her conversation with Grete, as it is described below:

"And is it not as if," his mother concluded in a low voice-in fact, she had been whispering all along, as though she wished to avoid letting Gregor, whose exact whereabouts she did not know, hear so much as the sound of her voice, for she was convinced he could not understand her words-"and is it not as if by removing the furniture we would be showing that "we are giving up all hope of a cure and are ruthlessly abandoning him to his own devices?" (p.36)

In this excerpt, Gregor's mother shows an emotional attitude and resistance to the decision to remove the furniture from Gregor's room. She believes that emptying Gregor's room of furniture means symbolically eliminating the hope for Gregor's recovery and abandoning him, as if he were no longer part of the family. Gregor's mother evaluates this act as cruel, inhumane, and pessimistic ("ruthlessly abandoning him", "giving up all hope"). Her whispering voice reflects feelings of guilt and empathy for Gregor, even when she considers him incomprehensible. In other words, her attitude towards the behavior of emptying the room (removing all traces of Gregor's

humanity) is negative, because she believes this act is morally wrong and emotionally painful.

Gregor's mother's ambivalent attitude towards her son's changes is also shown in her fearful physical reactions, as it is described below:

"But Gregor's mother was unaccustomed to his appearance, it might have made her ill to catch a glimpse of him." (p.38)

In this quote, the behavior in question is seeing Gregor's appearance after his transformation into an insect. Belief: Gregor's mother believes that if she sees Gregor's new form, it will have a negative impact on her health, to the point of making her ill. Evaluation: She views the experience as something very unpleasant and frightening, even traumatic, because she is not used to the extreme physical changes that Gregor has experienced. Thus, the attitude toward the behavior in this quote is very negative. Gregor's mother considers seeing Gregor not only uncomfortable, but also physically and mentally dangerous.

b) Subjective Norms

In the case of Gregor's mother in *The Metamorphosis*, her attitudes and actions towards Gregor are not only influenced by her personal feelings, but also by the expectations and pressures from other family members, especially her husband and her daughter, Grete. Since Gregor's transformation into an insect, his father has shown clear rejection and aggression, while Grete initially acts as a nurse, but over time also loses her empathy. Gregor's mother, in between these two poles, feels the urge to continue to act as a caring mother, but is also influenced by the rejection shown by

other family members. Social pressure within her family makes Gregor's mother vacillate between the urges of her conscience and the demands of family norms that consider Gregor's existence a burden or threat. This shows that subjective norms play a major role in shaping Gregor's mother's attitudes and behaviors towards her son after the transformation.

The subjective norms of Gregor's mother can be found in the quote below:

"Gregor's mother—who despite the general manager's presence stood with his hair still undone from the night, wildly bristling—first looked over at his father, her hands clasped, then took two steps in Gregor's direction before falling down in the midst of all her billowing skirts, her face vanishing completely where it sank to her bosom." (p.15)

The quote illustrates how Gregor's mother is under strong social norm pressure, which is in accordance with the concept of subjective norms in the Theory of Reasoned Action. Gregor's mother's attitude of initially looking at her husband before approaching Gregor shows that she considers the expectations and reactions of important people around her, especially her husband, in determining her actions. The presence of the general manager also adds to the social burden that Gregor's mother must face, so that she must adjust her behavior in order to continue to be considered in accordance with the prevailing social norms. Gregor's mother's action of finally fainting can be understood as a form of inner conflict due to unpreparedness to face reality as well as pressure to maintain her image and politeness in front of others. Thus, this quote reflects how subjective norms influence Gregor's mother's attitudes and behavior in a family crisis situation full of social pressure.

Gregor's mother's attitude towards the act of emptying her son's room also shows her influence by her daughter's views, as it is described below:

"And so now too her mother's counsel was reason enough for her to insist on the removal not only of the wardrobe and desk, as she had originally been intending, but of every last bit of the room's furnishing, with the exception of the indispensable settee." (p.37)

This quote illustrates how subjective norms influence Gregor's mother's behavior in the context of removing Gregor's bedroom furniture. Gregor's mother did not act solely based on her own desires, but was also greatly influenced by the advice of her mother, who is an important figure in her social and family circle. The decision to remove almost all of the furniture in the room except for the sofa, which is considered important shows that Gregor's mother complies with and adjusts her actions to the expectations and social pressures of those closest to her. This is in line with the concept of subjective norms in the Theory of Reasoned Action, which states that individuals tend to carry out a behavior because of social pressure or influence from people who are important to them. Thus, Gregor's mother's actions reflect how family social norms and the advice of authority figures can shape and direct behavior in dealing with difficult situations.

c) Behavioral Intention

Behavioral intention refers to an individual's desire to take action based on personal attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived control over the behavior. In the novel *The Metamorphosis*, Gregor's mother's intention to behave in a certain way towards her son who has turned into an insect reflects a deep inner struggle. Although she emotionally wants to remain a loving and protective mother to Gregor, this intentio

is often not realized in real actions because it is influenced by fear, pressure from her husband and daughter, and limited control in dealing with unusual conditions. Gregor's mother seems to intend to maintain emotional closeness with her son, as depicted in her desire to see or talk to Gregor, but this intention is often stopped by extreme emotional reactions or interventions from other family members. Thus, Gregor's mother's behavioral intention towards Gregor shows a tension between the desire to care and the tendency to distance herself, which reflects the psychological and social complexities she faces.

The behavioral intention of Gregor's mother can be found in the quote below:

"At this, the mother gave another shriek and fled from the table into the arms of Gregor's father as he rushed to her aid." (p.19)

This quote reflects the behavioral intention of Gregor's mother in responding to a situation full of tension and anxiety. In the framework of the Theory of Reasoned Action, behavioral intention refers to an individual desire to carry out a behavior based on the attitudes and subjective norms they experience. Gregor's mother's screams and escape into her husband's arms indicate her intention to seek protection and emotional support in dealing with the pressure she feels. This behavior reflects Gregor's mother's intention to avoid direct confrontation with a frightening situation and prefers to rely on her husband as a figure who is considered capable of providing a sense of security. Thus, Gregor's mother's actions are a manifestation of her intention formed by her emotional state and family social norms, which encourage her to seek protection in response to the stress she experiences.

Gregor's mother's attitude, which reflects her intention to maintain the condition of the room as before, shows a form of behavioral intention towards the changes experienced by Gregor, as it is described below:

"I think it would be best if we try to keep the room in precisely the same state it was in before, so that when Gregor returns to us he will find everything unchanged, which will make it that much easier for him to forget all that has happened in the meantime." (p.36)

The quote shows the behavioral intention of Gregor's mother which is reflected in her intention to maintain the condition of Gregor's room as before. In the framework of the Theory of Reasoned Action, behavioral intention is an indication of a person's intention to carry out an action based on the attitudes and norms that he feels. Gregor's mother believes that keeping the room the same will help Gregor feel more comfortable and facilitate the process of recovery or return to his previous state. This intention is based on Gregor's mother's positive attitude towards the behavior of keeping the room intact as a form of support and hope that Gregor can forget the bad experiences he has had. In addition, this intention is also influenced by social norms in the family that require attention and good treatment of Gregor even though his condition has changed drastically. Thus, the actions desired by Gregor's mother reflect a strong intention formed by attitudes and norms in the context of family recovery and care.

3. Gregor's Sister (Grete)

Grete Samsa, Gregor's younger sister, is one of the most significant characters in *The Metamorphosis*. Her character development reflects the emotional and social changes in the Samsa family as the story progresses. Initially, Grete is portrayed as the most caring and considerate person to Gregor after his transformation into an insect.

She voluntarily takes on the responsibility of caring for him, feeding him, and cleaning his room acts that demonstrate empathy and affection. However, over time, changes in family circumstances and emotional exhaustion cause Grete's attitude to shift. From a compassionate sister, she becomes a distant individual who even demands that Gregor be removed for the good of the family. Grete's character transformation is a vivid reflection of the social pressures, burdens of responsibility, and loss of hope that can drastically change a person in a crisis situation.

a) Attitude Toward the Behavior

Grete's attitude toward Gregor's caring behavior after his transformation reflects the dynamics of sharp changes in perception and emotion. Initially, Grete showed a positive attitude toward Gregor's caring behavior; she felt that caring for her brother was a form of responsibility and affection as a younger sibling. She was willing to bring food, clean Gregor's room, and even try to understand his needs without feeling disgusted or afraid. However, over time, this positive attitude began to fade as the physical and emotional burden she bore increased. She began to see caring for Gregor as an act that was tiring, did not provide emotional rewards, and hindered her own life. Therefore, her evaluation of the behavior changed to negative, and her attitude shifted from empathy to rejection. This change in attitude confirms that Grete's attitude toward behavior is greatly influenced by family conditions, emotional resilience, and her perception of the burden and benefits of her actions towards Gregor.

The attitude toward the behavior of Gregor's sister can be found in the quote below:

"Meanwhile, at the other side door came his sister's faint lament: "Gregor? Are you unwell? Do you need anything?" (p.4)

The quote illustrates the attitude toward the behavior of Grete, Gregor's sister, which is reflected in the concern and concern she shows towards Gregor's condition. Within the framework of the Theory of Reasoned Action, attitude toward the behavior refers to an individual's positive or negative evaluation of an action. Grete shows a positive attitude by asking a caring question, "Gregor? Are you unwell? Do you need anything?" This shows that Grete has a supportive evaluation and wants to help Gregor, even though Gregor has undergone a drastic transformation. This attitude reflects her desire to care for and ensure Gregor's well-being, which in turn influences her intentions and actions in responding to the situation. Thus, Grete shows an empathetic and proactive attitude towards helping Gregor in difficult circumstances.

Grete's attitude towards Gregor's condition can be seen from the way she respinds to her mother's needs, showing a certain consideration and concern, as it is described below:

"It's all right, come in, you won't see him," Gregor's sister said, apparently leading her mother by the hand." (p.35)

This quote shows Grete's attitude toward the behavior in the context of dealing with Gregor's changed condition. In the theory of reasoned action, attitude toward the behavior refers to a person's attitude or evaluation toward a certain action. Grete says, "It's all right, come in, you won't see him," while leading her mother, indicating her attitude of wanting to protect and at the same time control the situation so that her mother does not see Gregor immediately. This attitude shows Grete's evaluation of the

action of keeping her mother from being surprised or uncomfortable seeing Gregor in his new form. In other words, Grete shows a pragmatic and protective attitude, which reflects her desire to reduce tension and protect the feelings of other family members. This attitude also illustrates Grete's efforts to adjust to a difficult situation and manage her family's emotional reactions, which are important parts of her intentions and actions that she will take next.

Grete shows a dismissive attitude towards Gregor and believes that they have been patient enough, as it is described below:

"Dear parents," his sister said, striking the table by way of preamble, "things cannot go on like this. Even if you two perhaps do not realize it, I most certainly do I am unwilling to utter my brother's name before this creature, and therefore will say only: we have to try to get rid of it. We have done everything humanly possible to care for it and show it tolerance, I don't think anyone would reproach us on this account." (p.57)

In the quote, Grete firmly states her displeasure with Gregor's existence in the form of a "creature" that disturbs her family. She emphasizes that she has tried her best to care for him and show tolerance, but now she feels that this condition cannot continue and action to "get rid of it" needs to be taken. Grete's attitude here reflects a negative evaluation of continuing to care for Gregor, which she considers is no longer possible and actually burdens the family. This shows that Grete develops a harder and more assertive attitude towards the treatment of Gregor, which culminates in her intention to take drastic action for the good of herself and her family. This attitude becomes the basis for the next intention and behavior that Grete will take in dealing with the situation.

Grete insists that Gregor is no longer part of the family and must be removed, as it is described below:

"It has to go," Gregor's sister cried out, "that's the only way, Father. You just have to try to let go of the notion that this thing is Gregor." (p.58)

Grete's attitude toward the act of exorcising Gregor is very clear she states emphatically that "It has to go," and advises her father to stop thinking of the creature as Gregor. This attitude shows Grete's negative evaluation of Gregor's existence in insect form. She no longer sees him as a brother, but as something foreign and no longer worthy of being treated as a family member.

This assessment reflects a major change in Grete's emotional and moral attitude toward Gregor. Initially, she was the only family member who cared for and cared for him. However, in this quote, she explicitly rejects Gregor's identity and supports the drastic action of getting rid of him. This negative attitude greatly influences the intentions and actions that will be taken, both by herself and her father. In other words, this quote illustrates Grete's very unsupportive evaluation of Gregor's continued care, and becomes the moral and emotional basis for the family's subsequent decisions.

b) Subjective Norms

In the context of Grete, as the only family member who is initially willing to care for Gregor, her actions are influenced by the norms and expectations that arise from the family structure after Gregor's transformation. At the beginning of the story, there is no explicit pressure from her parents to care for Gregor, so Grete's behavior is more driven by her own desires. However, over time, pressure from her father and

mother begins to form implicitly especially when the family situation becomes more difficult and Gregor's existence is considered a burden. Her father shows hostility towards Gregor, while her mother is filled with fear and emotional inability to act. In this condition, Grete begins to feel an unspoken expectation that she must also maintain the balance and health of the family by ignoring Gregor. Social pressures within her family circle gradually shape new attitudes in Grete, until she finally voices openly that Gregor must be "got rid of." This shows that subjective norms play an important role in changing Grete's motivation and behavior towards her brother.

The subjective norms of Gregor's sister can be found in the quote below:

"But even if Gregor's sister, who was exhausted by her professional work, had wearied of caring for Gregor as she'd to fill her shoes, and Gregor needn't have suffered neglect." (p.49)

In this quote, it is shown that the attitudes and social pressures felt by Grete also influence her behavior towards Gregor, in accordance with the concept of subjective norms in the Theory of Reasoned Action. Subjective norms refer to a person's perception of the social expectations of those around them and the extent to which they feel compelled to meet those expectations.

Grete, who previously cared for Gregor with great care, began to show fatigue and boredom due to the burden of her work outside the home. The phrase that she was "exhausted by her professional work" indicates the pressure from social responsibilities outside the home, which ultimately affected her involvement in caring for Gregor. This sentence implies that there is an expectation both from her family and

herself for her to continue caring for Gregor. However, this norm or expectation is increasingly difficult to fulfill due to the mounting external demands.

In other words, this quote reflects the tension between social norms (her expectations as a sister and family member to care for Gregor) and the reality of the demands of her work that make her tired. The pressure of these social norms, although still present, is starting to be abandoned because it is no longer in line with Grete's condition and capacity, thus helping to explain the change in her attitude and behavior towards Gregor.

Grete shows her obedience to her mother by making sure it is safe before letting her in, as it is described below:

"At first, of course, Gregor's sister checked to confirm that all in the room was as it should be; only then did she allow her mother to enter." (p.35)

This quote reflects subjective norms in the Theory of Reasoned Action through Grete's action of checking the condition of Gregor's room before allowing her mother to enter. Subjective norms refer to a person's perception of the social expectations of the important people around them and the motivation to fulfill those expectations.

In this case, Grete shows compliance with the social norms in the family, especially her role and responsibilities as a child and sister. She feels responsible for protecting her mother from possible shock or trauma due to seeing Gregor's condition that has changed into a strange creature. Grete's actions show that she is influenced by unwritten social norms: that as a stronger or more emotionally prepared family member, she must be a barrier or protector for her mother.

Grete tries to fulfill the expectations of this role by controlling the situation first, which reflects that her actions are influenced by her perception of the social expectations of her environment. In other words, Grete's decision to check the room before her mother enters is not only a form of personal concern, but also a form of compliance with family norms and values that emphasize protecting the more vulnerable.

c) Behavioral Intention

In Grete's case, her intention to continue caring for Gregor develops dynamically throughout the story. Initially, this intention arises from a sense of affection and responsibility as a younger sibling, as seen in her consistent efforts to feed Gregor and clean his room without being asked. However, over time, as her attitude toward this behavior worsens and pressure from her parents especially her father who dislikes Gregor's presence increases, Grete's intention slowly changes. She begins to feel that Gregor's presence is hindering her life and worsening their family's condition. As a result, Grete's behavioral intention shifts from an intention to care to an intention to end her involvement with Gregor, both emotionally and physically. This change in intention culminates when Grete verbally states that Gregor is no longer part of their family, reflecting a complete transformation in the direction and motivation of her behavior.

The behavioral of Gregor's sister can be found in the quote below:

"No sooner was he in his room again than the door was hastily pressed shut, locked and bolted." (p.59)

In this quote, Grete's quick action to close, lock, and bolt the door as soon as Gregor entered her room reflects a strong intention to distance and separate herself and the other family members from Gregor. This action is not only spontaneous, but also shows a determination and a pre-formed decision namely that Gregor, who is now considered a foreign creature, must be treated as a threat that needs to be kept at a distance.

This behavior reflects Grete's intention to end emotional and physical closeness with Gregor, while also indicating a shift in attitude from empathy at the beginning of the story to firm rejection. Thus, this quote clearly illustrates Grete's behavioral intention to take concrete steps to expel or at least cut off interaction with Gregor, in accordance with her negative attitude towards Gregor's existence in his changed condition.

Grete shows the intent of behavior towards Gregor by trying to physically drive him away, as it is described below:

"Since she happened to be holding the long broom in her hand, she tried tickling Gregor with it from the doorway. When even this had no effect, she grew vexed and began to poke Gregor a little, and only when she had actually shifted him from the spot where he lay with no resistance at all were her suspicions roused." (p.60-61)

In this quote, Grete's actions that gradually change from trying to touch Gregor gently with a broom, to pushing him harder, show an intention to ensure Gregor's

condition which implicitly also leads to her desire to end Gregor's presence if he is indeed dead.

This action is not just a spontaneous response, but is based on the intention to resolve the situation that is stressing their family. Grete's actions illustrate that she has had a negative attitude towards Gregor's existence as an insect, and feels that it is time to actively act on the situation, including checking whether Gregor is still alive. Thus, this quote reflects Grete's behavioral intention to clarify and end the uncertainty about Gregor's fate, as part of a larger effort to eliminate his presence from their lives.

Grete attempts to justify her earlier determination to get rid of Gregor by emphasizing her own self-neglect, as explained below:

"Grete, who did not take her eyes off the corpse for a moment, said: "Just look how skinny he was. He went such a long time without eating anything at all. All the food that went into his room would come out again just as before." (p.61)

In this quote, even though Gregor is dead, Grete's statements indicate that she has long been aware of Gregor's declining condition and has essentially anticipated the end of the situation. Her intense focus on Gregor's physical condition and her comments about food reflect her increasingly resigned attitude and emotional detachment towards Gregor as an alien being.

This indicates that before Gregor's death, Grete already had the intention (behavioral intention) to let Gregor go from their lives both literally. She no longer shows any real effort to help or care for him, but instead passively observes his deterioration as justification for her previous attitudes and decisions. Thus, this quote reflects Grete's behavioral intention to end her emotional and physical attachment to

Gregor, while also validating that the intention to let go of Gregor had long been growing within her.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of the analysis of Franz Kafka's novel *The Metamorphosis* based on the Theory of Reasoned Action by Martin Fishbein and Icek Ajzen, which focuses on three main elements: attitude toward the behavior, subjective norms, and behavioral intention of the main characters in the story, especially Gregor Samsa's family. Through this analysis, it is found how the views, social pressures, and behavioral intentions of each character influence their attitudes towards Gregor after his transformation into an insect. In addition to presenting the conclusions of the research findings, this chapter also provides suggestions that are expected to be useful for readers and further researchers who are interested in literary studies with a social psychology approach.

A. Conclusion

This research aims to analyze how Gregor's family reacts to Gregor's transformation in Franz Kafka's novel *The Metamorphosis* using the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) approach developed by Martin Fishbein and Icek Ajzen. The main focus of the study is to explore how the three main components of the theory attitude toward the behavior, subjective norms, and behavioral intention are reflected in the behavior of the main characters, especially Gregor Samsa's family (father,

mother, and younger sister, Grete), in responding to Gregor's transformation into an insect.

Gregor Samsa's transformation reflects the alienation he experiences, in addition to triggering his family's response, as seen from the three aspects of the Theory of Reasoned Action. While the TRA framework helps explain the changes in attitudes, subjective norms, and behavioral intentions of Gregor's family, the metamorphosis itself demonstrates Gregor's loss of identity, human connection, and purpose in life. His tragic end demonstrates the emotional and psychological effects of feeling unacknowledged and unloved, even within one's own family.

First, the aspect of attitude toward the behavior is seen from how each character has a personal assessment of their actions towards Gregor. Initially, their attitudes were still caring and hopeful for Gregor's recovery. However, over time, this attitude shifted to indifference, even rejection, reflecting changes in their emotional and cognitive assessments of Gregor's existence. This can be seen from the narrative of Gregor's mother who was initially full of empathy but slowly began to give up, as well as from Grete's statement that "it's not Gregor anymore."

Second, subjective norms are clearly seen through the social pressures and expectations that influence the behavior of these characters. The characters in the Samsa family do not act in a vacuum; they are strongly influenced by the views of outsiders such as the company manager, the tenants, and pressing economic needs. Gregor's father, for example, shows an aggressive attitude towards Gregor because he feels he must maintain his authority and responsibility as the head of the family in the

eyes of others. Likewise, the mother and Grete often adjust their actions based on each other's input, showing the importance of social norms in their decision-making.

Third, the behavioral intention of each character can be seen through the actions they take as a form of realization of the attitudes and social pressures they feel. For example, Grete's decision to propose "eviction" of Gregor, as well as the father's decision to confront the tenants and show his authority, are real forms of behavioral intentions based on the evaluation of personal attitudes and prevailing social norms.

Through this analysis, it can be concluded that the Theory of Reasoned Action is able to provide a clear and systematic framework for understanding how human actions are influenced by a combination of individual attitudes and social norms. *The Metamorphosis* novel not only depicts the physical and social alienation of individuals, but also shows the psychological dynamics within the family that can be explained through the perspective of this behavioral theory.

B. Suggestion

Based on the results of the analysis of the behavior of the characters in *The Metamorphosis* using the Theory of Reasoned Action, suggestions can be given for two main aspects, namely for general readers and for further researchers.

For general readers, this research is expected to help in understanding that human behavior, both in fiction and real life, does not occur randomly, but is influenced by personal attitude factors, social norms that are believed, and planned behavioral intentions. Through the story of the Samsa family, readers can realize how social pressure, family expectations, and psychological conditions can influence decision making in stressful situations.

For further researchers, this research can be used as a reference in conducting literary analysis using a social psychology approach. Researchers are advised to expand the object of research not only limited to one theory, but can combine the Theory of Reasoned Action with other theories such as the Theory of Planned Behavior or a family psychology approach, to see other dimensions of character and conflict in the novel. In addition, it would be better if further research could make comparisons with other literary works that also raise the theme of alienation, identity transformation, or family dysfunction, so that the results of the study become richer and contextual.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



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