

# **RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**(Topic: Absurd Transformation And Its Analysis In  
Franz Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis')**



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## **ABSTRACT**

This research study of Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" demonstrates how the concept of transformation is of great importance to the foundation of modern literature. Transformation works as the key that opens the myriad doors presenting the opportunity to become well familiarised with the author's personality, his struggles, his ventures, and the entangled self-conscious mind. This is done by examining his creation – also known as, the protagonist of the novella: Gregor Samsa; and how he is in fact influenced by these factors that are devouring Kafka himself. In turn, the transformation of Gregor Samsa into a giant bug is rendered incomplete, echoing that true metamorphosis begins on the inside. Furthermore, when faced with such a setback of fundamental change in Gregor Samsa, the other members of the family decided to take the matter into their own hands by becoming financially independent from Gregor's sole support.

# SECTION 1

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. BACKGROUND

Literature is a group of composed works. It has been customarily applied to those creative works of poetry and prose recognized by the aims of their writers and the apparent stylistic greatness of their execution. Literature can be categorized by several frameworks, including language, civil beginning, historical period, genre, and topic (Rexroth, 2020).

Literature is a type of human articulation. Yet, not all things are expressed in words — in any event, when coordinated and jotted down on paper — are considered literature. Those writings that are essentially enlightening — specialized, insightful, editorial — would be rejected from the position of literature by most, however not all, critics. Certain types of writing, nonetheless, are all around viewed as having a place with literature as an art. Individual endeavour inside these structures are said to succeed on the off chance that they have something many refer to as artistic legitimacy and to fizzle out if they don't. The idea of artistic legitimacy is less simple to characterize than to perceive. The writer need not even seek after it to accomplish it. Going against the norm, a logical work may be of extraordinary literary worth and a monotonous poem of none by any means.

As there are various kinds of literature, similar to; poetry, drama, essays, and so forth. I picked the literary work called the genre of the novella. A novella is a work of prose fantasy much more limited in both scope and expansiveness than a novel, yet lengthy than a brief tale. Commonly, novellas exaggerate a character's situation, or a short sequence of incidents, like a day in the life, or a significant defining moment in a character's life (Novella, 2018).

Franz Kafka (3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1883 – 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1924) was a Czech novelist and short-story writer, generally viewed as a renowned main academic figure of the twentieth century. Kafka was a distinctive writer, however, he worked as a lawyer, and his literary legitimacy went generally overlooked during his brief existence. He submitted only a couple of his compositions for distribution, and the vast majority of his works were distributed posthumously by his companion, Max Brod. Kafka's life was set apart by extraordinary uneasiness and self-

questioning, which he credited specifically to his father's domineering nature. (Rockefeller, 2020)

Kafka is one of the greatest and most respected writers of the German language, even though he accomplished almost no acclaim during his lifetime. In any case, he was very modest and praise didn't mean a lot to him. For sure, he educated his companion Max Brod to destroy each of his works after his death, which, fortunately for the condition of current literature, Brod wouldn't do. He distributed them all things considered, and Kafka's work very quickly got positive respect. Kafka, nonetheless, still destroyed likely 90% of his work not long before he passed on. (Rockefeller, 2020)

The Metamorphosis is one of Kafka's most fascinating works which was written in 1912 and published in 1915. It is the narrative of a salesman, Gregor Samsa, who one morning turned into a giant bug. He was concealed in his room by his family lastly, he passed on because of an apple which was hurled by his dad. This story is something beyond a change of a person into a major bug (Barfi, 2013). Besides the fact that his change influences himself, additionally the individuals from his family, explicitly his dad and sister. There are numerous instances of transfiguration in the story, both physical and habitual, that are communicated in both symbolic and literals terms. Kafka's cunning utilization of symbolism takes special care of the allegorical style of his work and effectively delineates a subject's development and alienation (Stoops, 2017).

The primary change is a bodily one. Gregor awakens and the thing which he notices first is that he has turned into a massive bug. Gregor's less emotional response appears to be downplayed and shockingly coherent. He is less stressed over being a massive bug than about the concern of going to work on time to accommodate his loved ones. Though Gregor is an ambitious person, the reader can make the association that consistent pay holds Gregor's significance to his loved ones. This utilization of Gregor as a piggybank makes the picture of him as an item to the family. He is isolated from the traditions of the way of life and family that he pays for and is seldom home to recapture his place as a relative. The change of Gregor into a bug, explicitly a frightening little creature, symbolizes these sensations of estrangement (Stoops, 2017).

The reasons for Gregor's metamorphosis are rarely made sense of. In scholarly works, such otherworldly occasions happen as a way of discipline or example for a hero. Gregor is depicted to be a moral, dedicated man that upholds his family despite the difficulties that his work involves. Destiny has chosen Gregor as arbitrary. Nonetheless, it very well may be reasoned that the transformation was a type of liberation for Gregor who was battling working extended periods at employment which he despised. After understanding his new state, Gregor often thinks more about being absent for a shift than anything. He was subjugated by the system, not even ready to or could manage the cost of a debilitated leave. His bug structure was the main genuine strategy to getaway. The change was defiance of sorts, freeing Gregor from the capacity to work. As it were, it was a settlement with Satan which freed him from any social obligation at the expense of losing humanity (Transformation in Kafka's "The Metamorphosis", 2021).

Gregor's change significantly affects other characters. As it were, his metamorphosis metaphorically has a rippling effect on their change. Gregor's family changed their way of behaving and mentality toward Gregor after he loses his humanity, and consequently, his capacity in the public eye. The Samsa family turns out to be progressively free and innovative after understanding that Gregor can never again uphold the family. Mr. Samsa moves forward to raise his status as the main man in the family. In the meantime, Grete, who is depicted as a vulnerable and gullible young girl, first and foremost, turns into a skilful young lady toward the end. Gregor's metamorphosis delivers a heap of gloomy feelings that drives the family's development into contributing citizenry. In a way, a penance needed to happen for the freedom of both Gregor and his family from their "prisons" (McCarty, 2021).

Kafka needed to underline the subject of metamorphosis as symbolic which happens when change is constrained upon somebody. Gregor's metamorphosis and possible death was a change that permitted the family to freely lay out their economic well-being through work, done depending on another person. This cycle shows individuals' real essence and perspectives when confronted with such trouble (Transformation in Kafka's "The Metamorphosis", 2021).

Therefore, Gregor's transformation was significantly more than just a simple bodily transformation. It was a method of freedom for both Gregor and his loved ones. Also, as Gregor was turned into a bug, he was as of now not ready to work, subsequently liberating himself from the servitude of his father's debt. Since Gregor couldn't work, his family needed to land

occupations, in this way liberating themselves of their reliance on Gregor. Kafka mysteriously makes a totally unreasonable story reasonable, making the reader leave all safeguards and become fascinated with this story. The characters become genuine individuals with genuine issues, and the reader's interest in them reaches a long way past the self-contradicting conclusion of the story. Gregor's metamorphosis was fundamental for his liberation, as his dying was important for the family's liberation. Gregor might have died towards the end, yet the ending line of the story- ***"And it was like a confirmation of their new dreams and excellent intentions that at the end of their journey their daughter sprang to her feet and stretched her young body"*** this showed us a glimmer of hope for the Samsa family and their future (McCarty, 2021).

## **1.2. THE PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Since the majority of the literary work of Franz Kafka was published after his death and Kafka always stayed under the impression of never being good enough, never really gave any comments or detailed insights about his works. Thus, it's up to the researcher how he/she connects the dots within the story. But in *The Metamorphosis*, it is easy to identify that Kafka tried to depict his personal life through the character of Gregor Samsa. By studying carefully, the researcher will be able to determine how the change in the main character and other members of the Samsa family is very similar to what Kafka experienced in his own family, workplace and life. Evan Godwin writes: ***"[Kafka's] domineering father placed great pressure on his shy and sensitive only son to grow up into a robust businessman like himself"*** (The Metamorphosis and the Life of Franz Kafka Essay). Similarly, Gregor also worked as a salesman as his household requires him to financially support them.

## **1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- What are the aspects of transformation in The Metamorphosis?
- How the dependent members of the Samsa family became independent after metamorphosis happened?

## **1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To analyse how the transformation in *The Metamorphosis* wasn't only physical but also psychological transformation.
- To evaluate the shift of Samsa family members from dependency to independency.

## **1.5. JUSTIFICATION**

The motivation behind this study is to examine the transformation of the characters in the story *The Metamorphosis*, and the justification for why it is a fundamental case for study is that, since the transformation is really the greatest component of this novella, it is through this transformation does Franz Kafka attempted to show how the substantial difference in a human transforming into a giant bug can influence the mindset too. Additionally, this study will dissect how this change is further explained through the change in the Samsa family from exclusively depending on the main protagonist's responsibility to become an aggregate backer of their family funds. Consequently, this study will reveal insight into the way of behaviour concerning how individuals change when they're confronted with a particularly grievous occasion.

## **1.6. LIMITATIONS**

Limitations that would stop this research to explain some more aspects of the transformation in *The Metamorphosis* are the limitations of time and lack of other resources. Also, this research will face a limit as to the researcher's own ability to comprehend the meaning behind the chosen objectives and research questions.

## **1.7. SCOPE**

This study will provide details about the fact that the transformation shown in Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* isn't only applied externally but also internally and it has changed the characters' perspective on their lives. Moreover, it will show the gradual change in the behaviour of the Samsa family members as well, that how they changed from their dependent selves on the main protagonist Gregor Samsa to independent selves.



## 1.8. DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

- ***Metamorphosis:*** a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one.
- ***Myriad:*** a countless or extremely great number of people or things.
- ***Oeuvre:*** a work of art, music, or literature.
- ***Protagonist:*** the leading character or one of the major characters in a play, film, novel, etc.
- ***Liberation:*** the action of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression; release.
- ***Gullible:*** easily persuaded to believe something.
- ***Penance:*** punishment inflicted on oneself as an outward expression of repentance for wrongdoing.
- ***Symbolism:*** the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
- ***Allegory:*** a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning.
- ***Subjugated:*** make someone or something subordinate to.
- ***Coherent:*** logical and consistent.
- ***Posthumously:*** after the death of the originator.

(All of the above-mentioned definitions have been taken from Google Dictionary)

## SECTION 2

### 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study falls under the category of secondary data source which are some literary books, research papers and some articles related to this topic and will employ qualitative research paradigm. Qualitative research *“involves collecting and analysing non-numerical data (e.g., text, video, or audio) to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences. It can be used to gather in-depth insights into a problem or generate new ideas for research”* (Bhandari, 2020) as the researcher in this approach will focus on the phenomenon of using and reading several research papers and articles to formulated a new perspective about the chosen topic of the case study.

Moreover, this study will follow the type of cross-sectional research. It is cross-sectional because it will be conducted for a short period of time which is under six months. Further this research will be based on exploratory research type which defined as *“research is not intended to provide conclusive evidence, but helps us to have a better understanding of the problem. When conducting exploratory research, the researcher ought to be willing to change his/her direction as a result of revelation of new data and new insights”* (Saunders, 2012)

#### 2.2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The data of this study will be collected from the following work of literature:

- The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

The researcher will be studying the sense behind the transformation of the main character into a giant bug in the story and how it impacted him not only in physical life but also in emotional life too. Similarly, another aspect will be researched too which is the shift of Samsa family members' dependency on the main character to their independency. All these points will be analysed in-depth to get a better understanding of what Franz Kafka tried to convey to his readers.

## **2.3. CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In this study the researcher will be focusing on 2 research questions, which are following:

- What are the aspects of transformation in The Metamorphosis?
- How the dependent members of the Samsa family became independent after metamorphosis happened?

In question 1, this study will answer by analysing how the transformation was not only physical but also mentally, as to how it affected the chain of thought of the main protagonist, Gregor Samsa. Furthermore, this change did not only occur in Gregor but also in other family members too, but they all had a different kind of metamorphosis.

In question 2, the critical analysis will be how the Samsa family members solely relying on Gregor Samsa's income to reduce their debt, took matters into their own hands by each of them finding a job for themselves and supporting the financial state. This occurrence didn't happen until Gregor was absurdly turned into a bug.

## **2.4. CHAPTER ANALYSIS:**

This research will consist of 3 chapters mentioned below:

Chapter 1: Critical Analysis of Metamorphosis.

Chapter 2: Critical Analysis of Transformation in the characters.

Chapter 3: Shift from Dependency to Independency of the characters.

## SECTION 3

### 3. TIME SCHEDULE

#### 3.1. GANTT CHART

| TIMELINE                    |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Introduction</b>         | 1 <sup>st</sup> August – 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2022     |
| <b>Review of Literature</b> | 16 <sup>th</sup> August – 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2022   |
| <b>Critical Analysis</b>    | 16 <sup>th</sup> October – 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 |
| <b>Submission</b>           | December 2022   |

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