

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Thriller is a genre of fiction in which “though, resourceful, but essentially ordinary heroes are pitted against villains determined to destroy them, their country or the stability of the free world” (Bennet). Thriller deals with “tales of excitement, suspense, and high melodrama. It often overlaps with other genres of literature and film, such as crime, adventure, and espionage” (“What are the Characteristic of the thriller genre”). Thriller has many subgenres such as techno thriller, crime thriller, religious thriller, and mystery thriller. *Angels and Demons* is categorized as mystery thriller genre. Mystery thriller “relates a lot to crime thrillers. It focuses mostly on the efforts of the detective or private investigator in order to solve the mystery. This sub-genre looks at the circumstances of the mystery or crime itself in order to try to figure out what the clues are, audiences usually take part in trying to uncover the crime”(Koshi).

One famous contemporary mystery thriller writer is Dan Brown. His goal in writing his novel is “to make the character’s and plot be so engaging that

readers don't realize how much they are learning along the way" (Olson). One of his novels, entitled *The Da Vinci Code*, became a bestselling novel in 2003 which sold 40 million copies around the world ("Angels and Demons"). Before that, Brown also published another novel entitled "*Angels and Demons*". Brown receives a negative response from a Catholic newspaper that creates a controversy due to the content of *Angels and Demons*. These two novels share similarities in content, so people say, "structurally of course, the plots and characters of the two novels are kissing cousins" (Olson). *Angels and Demons* novel is "well plotted and explosively paced! Crammed with Vatican intrigue and hi-tech drama. Laced with enough twists and shocks to keep the reader wired right up until the final revelation" ("Angels and Demons").

In this thesis, I choose to analyze one of Dan Brown's novels entitled *Angels and Demons*. *Angels and Demons* is the prequel novel of *The Da Vinci Code* and *The Lost Symbol* in which Robert Langdon is the protagonist of the novels. *Angels and Demons* is the first of Dan Brown thriller novel, which became very famous when it was first published in May 2000 ("Dan Brown"). This novel is classified as a mystery thriller and it tells about the story of Robert Langdon, a Professor of religious iconology from Harvard University, a teacher who later receives an invitation from Maximilian Kohler, the CEO of CERN to come to Switzerland. There, Langdon has to deal with a murder case of a scientist named Leonardo Vetra, whose chest is branded with an ambigram symbol of Illuminati, a satanic brotherhood which Langdon thought to be extinct. Throughout the novel, Langdon tries to overcome a series of thrilling events caused by the Illuminati. Brown's writing style is easy to understand and more importantly, he is able to

describe the person and the places in a very detailed manner. Therefore, when the readers read the novel, they can feel the suspense as if they experienced the event themselves.

As this novel contains a lot of thrilling events, I will analyze the elements of plot, which consist of suspense, surprise, and artistic unity. Suspense is “the quality in a story that makes the reader ask ‘what’s going to happen next?’ or ‘how will this turn out?’ and impels him to read on to find the answers to these questions” (Perrine 45). Surprise is “proportional to the unexpectedness of what happens; it becomes pronounced when the story departs radically from the reader’s expectation” (47). The Artistic Unity is defined as:

“The condition of a successful literary work whereby all its elements work together for the achievement of its central purpose. In an artistically unified work nothing is included that is irrelevant to the central, nothing is omitted that is essential to it, and the parts are arranged in the most effective order for the achievement of that purpose” (“Artistic Unity”).

Statement of the Problem

The problems I am going to discuss are stated as follows:

1. What are the suspenses in the novel?
2. What are the surprises in the novel?
3. How is the artistic unity presented in the novel?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the above statement of the problem, the purpose of the analysis includes:

1. To show the suspenses in the novel.
2. To show the surprises in the novel.
3. To show how the artistic unity is presented in the novel.

Method of Research

I use library research in writing the analysis of the novel. After reading Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* as the primary text, I collected data from various Internet sites and other references from the library. Then, I analyzed the elements of plot in the novel. In the end, I drew a conclusion of what I had analyzed.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by the Table of Contents and Abstract. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the Analysis of the Elements of Plot in Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*. Chapter Three is the Conclusion and the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of a synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.