

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of Study

Wilkie Collins is a very famous writer of the Victorian period. He is known as a talented detective writer. He wrote mostly detective novels. *The Moonstone*, which I have chosen to analyze in my thesis, is one of his popular works.

T.S. Eliot, a famous essayist, author and poet, in his response to the *The Moonstone* (1868), says that for him *The Moonstone* can be considered to be the first, longest, and best detective novel in England (Eliot 615). It tells about the mystery of the missing diamond which is called the Moonstone. There is also an issue about the diamond itself. At the beginning of the story it is said that the diamond is being cursed and will bring misery to anyone who has the diamond. Rachel, the latest owner of the moonstone, loses the diamond. Then Rachel's family try to hire a detective, Sergeant Cuff, whom they think can help to find the culprit. After a long investigation, the detective finds several clues that lead to the criminal.

In revealing the crime the author presents a lot of suspenses and surprises, which makes the novel interesting to read.

As a detective novel, the outstanding literary element in *The Moonstone* is obviously the plot. That is why in this thesis I will analyse the elements of plot: 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). The tension in the readers grows further because of the curiosity about what will happen next. While surprise is “proportional to the unexpectedness of what happens; it becomes pronounced when the story departs radically from our expectation” (47). Surprise will become the answer to the suspense. Sometimes the reader has different expectations to a surprise. And the third aspect in the elements of plot is the artistic unity. The artistic unity is

. . . that 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 purpose, 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 in my thesis are:

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

### **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the above problems, the purposes of the study are:

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 the library research in writing the analysis of the novel. I read *The Moonstone* as a primary text. Then, I take some data from the Internet sites and reference books to support my analysis of suspense, surprise and artistic unity of the novel. In the end, I draw some conclusion.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of three chapters preceded by the Table of Contents, and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the analysis of the elements of plot of Wilkie Collin's *The Moonstone*. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. Finally, the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist the synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.