

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, I come to conclusion that the novel is a thrilling mystery novel because the elements of plot in the novel are very well presented. The suspenses in the novel make the readers tricked while they are reading the novel. The element of the surprise also makes the readers feel surprised because the unexpectedness of what happens in the story is beyond the readers' expectation. All the suspenses and surprises are well arranged; they are connected to each other, acceptable and plausible, which builds the artistic unity of the novel.

Agatha Christie is skillful at presenting the suspenses in her novel. The suspenses in this novel are closely connected. Besides, one interesting thing when I read this novel is that Christie can make the readers misled about who the real killer is. Christie piles up the suspenses first. There are seven suspenses in this story and each suspense is not directly answered by the surprise. From the first suspense until the fifth suspense Christie builds the tension by creating many suspects, and then comes up with some unexpected surprises before the sixth

suspense that leads to the climax in the seventh suspense. It makes the readers more curious to keep on reading in order to find out who the real murderer is. The example can be seen from the third suspense when Parker, Ackroyd's butler, is suspected to be involved in the case whether as the murderer or the blackmailer. Moreover, when Dr. Sheppard gets a phone call from Fernly Park that night, Parker confesses that he never calls Dr. Sheppard. Besides, he shows suspicious actions that lead the readers to suspect him. Those situations put Parker in a difficult position. Christie makes the readers keep reading the story because of the increasing tension in the story. The tension is so great that it makes the readers feel thrilled.

The element of surprise is also well presented. There are six surprises in this story but they appear intermittently from the suspense. The first two surprises come up in the story after five suspenses appear and build the tension in the readers' mind by making the readers curious about the real murderer. The next three come after another suspense is created. The last surprise comes right after the last suspense to explain the whole chronology and also reveals the murderer. Christie makes the readers feel surprised because of the unexpectedness in the story. The most important surprise is the last surprise, which is the climax of the story, which answers all the questions unanswered yet. There are many suspects in the story like Parker, the stranger who is later known as Charles Kent, Ralph Paton, and Flora Ackroyd and all their motives. However, when Poirot investigates this murder case and reveals the real murderer, the readers will be surprised. The murderer is Dr. Sheppard, the narrator of the story and Poirot's

partner when solving this case. This surprise is beyond the readers' expectation. Christie successfully gives the reader an unexpected surprise as the climax.

The elements of suspense and surprise are plausible if both elements are well presented and well connected. The way Christie delivers the elements of suspense and surprise is really amazing. Christie makes the readers curious and keep reading the story from the beginning until the end, where she gives a surprise that the readers would not expect. The tension that appears at the beginning of the story is not answered until the last surprise comes up to reveal the truth. It is plausible because the truth would not be revealed if Poirot is not smart enough to do the investigation such as talking to Caroline, Dr. Sheppard's sister, visiting a nursing home, and interpreting Dr. Sheppard's behavior. Christie successfully gives the readers an intense suspense with unexpected surprise at the end of the story through Poirot's smart investigation, which makes the suspense and surprise plausible and acceptable, and builds the artistic unity of the novel.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* is one of the best detective novels because of its elements of plot. The events in the story are closely related. The tension that Christie gives in this novel really entertains the readers so that this novel is really worth reading. It is no wonder that Agatha Christie has become one of the world's top-selling authors.