

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing Agatha Christie's *The Mystery of the Blue Train*, I conclude that this novel is one of suspenseful detective novels. The elements of plot in the novel are well presented. The suspenses that arise in the novel really make the readers curious about what is going to happen next. Besides, the surprises give the readers unexpected turns in the events that happen in the story. All the suspenses and surprises are acceptable, plausible and connected to each other, thus, it builds a good artistic unity in the novel.

The best thing from this novel is that Christie can make the readers keep their curiosity throughout the story and provides the answers to their curiosity at the end of the novel. There are nine suspenses and eight surprises in this novel. The first surprise comes right after the first suspense. Yet, in the second suspense until the ninth suspense, Christie builds the tension in the readers by creating some confusing events that remain unanswered until almost the end of the story. For example, the murder case turns out to involve a mistaken identity,

a murderer who disfigures the victim's face, an imitation of the jewelry stolen, and two murderers who disguise themselves. These events make the readers more curious to keep on reading in order to find out who the real murderer from the story is.

The element of surprise in the novel is also well presented. After revealing the first three surprises, Christie still keeps the reader's tension high by not giving the answers to all the suspenses that deal with the ultimate questions of the mystery. The most important surprise is the fourth until the eighth surprise which becomes the climax of the story and answers all the questions that have not been answered. The surprises come right after the last suspense and explain the whole chronology of the story and also reveal the murderer. Christie makes the readers feel surprised because the ending of the story is beyond expectation. Derek Kettering, who is suspected as the murderer from the very first place is not the murderer after all. Furthermore, when Poirot reveals his investigation of this murder case and mentions the real murderer, the readers will be surprised. First, Poirot reveals that the murderer is Knighton, a man who works as a secretary to Ruth's father, Rufus Van Aldin. Second, he reveals the true identity of Ada Mason, a woman who works as a maid of Ruth as Knighton's accomplice. Knighton's real name is Marquis and Ada Mason's real name is Kitty Kidd. They disguise themselves to work for Rufus and Ruth in order to steal the valuable ruby necklace. This surprise is beyond the readers' expectation because Christie uses Poirot, who is described as a highly intelligent detective, to be the only person who can see all the small details and inconsistency in the investigation and interrogation before he finally manages to find out the real murderer.

Christie successfully gives the readers an intense suspense with unexpected surprise at the end of the story through Poirot's smart observations and investigations. However, Christie still manages to provide logical and sensible explanation that makes all the surprises answer the suspenses in an acceptable and believable way. It is the fact that Poirot is described as a very intelligent detective that leads the readers to believe in the solution to the mystery that he offers. Poirot's revelation at the end of the novel provides a clear explanation about the case and shows the plausibility in the way the surprises answer the suspenses. Thus, I am of the opinion that Christie has successfully delivered a story with a great artistic unity in an extraordinary way.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that *The Mystery of the Blue Train* is one of the best detective novels I have ever read because of its elements of plot. The events in the story are closely related. The tension that Christie gives in this novel also entertains the readers very much. I conclude this novel is really worth reading. It is no wonder that Agatha Christie has become one of the world's top-selling authors and known as a "Queen of Crime" or a "Queen of Mystery".