

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, I come to conclusion that the novel is a very interesting detective novel because the elements of plot in the novel are very well presented. The suspenses in the novel make the reader curious to know what will happen next while they are reading the novel. The element of the surprise also makes the reader feel surprised because of many unexpected events that occur throughout the novel which are beyond the reader's expectation. All the suspenses and surprises are connected with one another and build a good artistic unity.

Agatha Christie is brilliant in presenting the suspenses in her novel. Christie can make the reader confused yet amazed to find out who the real killer is. There are ten suspenses in this novel. From the first suspense until the fourth suspense Christie builds the curiosity of the reader by showing a lot of evidences and suspicions, and then comes up with the first surprise which surprises the reader. Continued with the fifth suspense until the ninth suspense, Christie builds the tension by creating many suspects, and comes up with some unexpected

surprises before reaching the climax in the tenth suspense. It makes the reader more curious to keep on reading to find out who the murderer is. The example of the suspenses can be seen from the seventh suspense when Mr. Hardman, one of the passengers on the train tells Poirot that he is actually a detective that has been hired by Ratchett and he says that before Ratchett's death, Ratchett describes to him about the killer, that the killer might be a small—man—dark with a womanish kind of voice. This situation makes the reader keep on reading the story because it increases the curiosity of the reader to know about who the real killer is.

The element of surprise is also well presented. There are nine surprises that I have found in this story. The first surprise comes up after the fourth suspense and continues to the second surprise that appears after the sixth suspense. Afterwards, three surprises come after the ninth suspense. The last, four surprises come right after the last suspense to reveal about the murderer and to explain more about the storyline. Christie makes the reader feel surprised because the story is beyond the reader's expectations. The most important surprise or the climax is the last surprise, which answers the question about what will happen at the end of the story. Poirot gives two propositions to all the passengers on the train. The first is that a stranger has entered the train in Vincovci and killed Ratchett, while the second is that Poirot thinks that all the passengers on the train are involved in the murder. The answer to this propositions is already mentioned in the previous surprise, that all of them have killed Ratchett as they want to take revenge. But this last surprise ends up with a unanimous decision from the investigators that they will tell the police that the first proposition is correct.

Christie successfully makes the reader feel surprised because of the unexpectedness in the story.

The element of suspense and surprise in this story are acceptable and plausible because of the way Christie makes the reader curious to keep reading the story until the end. The curiosity and tension that appear at the beginning of the story are left unanswered until the surprises come up to reveal the truth. Christie has successfully created Poirot as a very careful and smart man, and through Poirot's smart investigation the suspense and surprise build the good artistic unity of this novel.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that *Murder on the Orient Express* is one of the great mystery novels because of its elements of plot. I think as a reader I could understand why Christie makes the ending of the story beyond the reader's expectation. She shares the sad feeling of each of the Armstrong family members who cannot accept the fact that one of their family members has been killed by someone like Ratchett. Therefore, I think the investigators has made the right choice to protect the Armstrong family. This novel is really interesting and worth reading; no wonder that this novel has also become a popular movie.