

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the elements of plot in the previous chapter, I come to a conclusion that the plot in Agatha Christie's *Murder is Easy* are full of suspenseful events, as a detective story is often presented. I found eight suspenses and five surprises. The suspenses come out in such a good pace that the tensions are built to maintain the readers' attention to read until the end of the story. The surprises are well connected with the suspenses and acceptable in answering them to make the plot well-built and interesting to be followed by the readers. Agatha Christie has succeeded in writing her detective story due to the enthralling development of the plot.

The suspenses in this novel deal with the deaths of some people in a town named Wychwood. A serial killer has created such brilliant murders without getting noticed until an old lady, Pinkerton, knows and tries to report the case. Christie uses a different detective in this novel. Luke Fitzwilliam, a retired police officer, is created to solve the case in Wychwood. Luke pretends to be a writer and becomes one of Bridget's cousins in order that he can stay at Ashe Manor to investigate the case. Bridget is a cousin of Jimmy Lorrimer, Luke's friend, and a

fiancée of Whitfield, the owner of the Manor. She also helps Luke to gather information from the local people.

At the beginning of the novel, the suspense deals with the death of Amy Gibbs, Tommy Pierce, Carter, Mrs Horton, Pinkerton, and Dr Humbleby, which seems to come to an end when it is known in the first and the second surprises that the deaths seem to be an accident. Luke, along with Bridget, however, tries to investigate the case by looking for suspects who have connection with the victims. On his list are Dr Thomas, Mr Abbot, Ellsworthy, and Major Horton. For example, Dr Thomas is suspected of killing Dr Humbleby because they are rivals, and he also has treated Amy Gibbs's and Mrs Horton's illnesses. The other suspect, Mr Abbot, has also some connection with Tommy Pierce, who sneaks Abbot's private letter, and Dr Humbleby, who has a row with him. Therefore, the next three suspenses - the second, the third and the fourth suspense - are asking about which one among the four suspects is the true murderer. Christie leads the readers to the facts of how clever the serial killer is in arranging the murder mystery so that it is hard to find the true murderer.

In the fifth suspense, Christie gives another clue to find the true murderer which leads to a new suspect, that is Whitfield, Bridget's fiancé. At this point, Whitfield admits his special characteristic as the instrument of God can lead people who are against him to suffer, including all the previous victims such as Mrs Horton, Amy Gibbs, Tommy Pierce, Carter, and Dr Humbleby. He believes in divine justice. Thus, Luke begins to suspect Whitfield as the murderer. Luke also gets some information that the number plate of Whitfield's car is reported as the car that hits Pinkerton in the accident. Waynflete, as Luke's trusted person,

actually tells that her secret suspect is Whitfield. Those facts are supposed to lead the readers to believe Whitfield is the true murderer until the next suspense appears.

The sixth suspense, in which Waynflete acts strangely toward Bridget, gives the readers a hint that she might be the murderer. Then, Christie reveals clearly in the third surprise that Waynflete wants to carry out a plan to kill Bridget. No wonder if Waynflete hates Bridget very much because she is engaged to Whitfield, Waynflete's former fiancé.

The next surprise is the most mind-blowing and outstanding one as the story reveals the person behind the whole murders. The fourth surprise reveals Waynflete as the serial killer in Wychwood. She creates the murders to frame Whitfield in order to take revenge on him. This surprise actually is the plot twist of the story; the readers have been so far misled by the author from suspecting the serial killer. The true murderer is revealed near the ending of the story to maintain the readers' tension toward the story. This surprise also explains a lot about how Waynflete arranges all murders and clearly answers the second, the third, the fourth, and the fifth suspenses. The delay in revealing the innocence of the previous suspects is done to make the story interesting. The readers are given time to make sure who the murderer is by following the events.

The readers have known the whole crimes but there are still suspenses - the seventh and the eighth - concerning Bridget's safety as Waynflete is trying to kill her. Then, Christie creates Mrs Humbleby to meet Luke so that she can tell how wicked Waynflete might be. In this part, Luke is made realized by recalling again what Pinkerton has said to him and goes back to make sure of Bridget's

safety. His success in saving Bridget in the fifth surprise gives the story a happy ending.

In my opinion, Christie has made the elements of plot in the novel *Murder is Easy* as one example of good plots of detective fictions Agatha Christie has written. How the suspense and the surprise connect to each other can prove how good the artistic unity she makes. The development of the tension in the novel makes the reader's curiosity increases. The plot twist has also made the story more interesting. In conclusion, the way Christie arranges the suspense and the surprise to build the artistic unity proves that *Murder is Easy* is worth reading and analyzing.

