CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Crime fiction is a popular type of books among many people. As other types of fiction, this genre also prioritizes the readers's entertainment. The readers can participate in the game to solve the puzzle along with the characters in the novel. Another reason why such a vast range of people likes to read crime fiction is because the readers will be able to find a logical solution in the end; yet, it still has a gripping plot, which is mainly built by a great suspense.

There are a few key elements to build a gripping suspense (Mc Nulty et al., 2015). The first one is conflict, which results in a murder in a detective story. Then, there is time; with a high pressure and less time, it will lead to a high level of suspense. Most crime fiction books have a strong character and may include foreshadowing in the story. Lastly, a suspense can be built through some clues that are intentionally put in the story to mislead the readers, which are called red herrings or misleading scenes.

The word 'misleading' itself in *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition* means "giving the wrong idea or impression and make them believe

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something that is not true" (Hornby, 2010, p. 496). The better the misleading scenes are made, the harder it is for the readers to guess what will happen next. A good detective story has some misleading scenes in it which are still logically acceptable.

In this thesis, I would like to uncover how a writer misleads the readers when they read the story by identifying the roles of some linguistic features in the misleading scenes. To be more precise, pragmatic tools are analyzed so as to identify the part of the story that can build a false assumption. The research topic is in the area of Pragmatic Stylistics, which studies the style of writing through pragmatic tools. Pragmatics itself is the study of the intended meaning of the speaker (Yule, 1996). The pragmatic tools are used to create a clue whose sole purpose is to lead the readers to have a different interpretation of the story ─ in other words, to mislead the readers.

One of the famous detective novelists is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. His works have already been renowned since his first novel entitled *A Study in Scarlet* was published in 1887. In 1902, he wrote *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as one of his most popular Sherlock Holmes novels. In the same year, he also received knighthood for his achievement in the Boer War. Doyle also becomes a great inspiration for many other successive detective novelists because his works are logical and give a great impression to make the readers absorbed in the stories. This is one of the reasons why I chose *A Study in Scarlet*, Doyle's first story, in which the popular detective Sherlock Holmes was first created and *The Hound of the Baskervilles,* which is a "detective story and gothic tale" (Buzwell). I would

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like to see particularly how well the writer creates the misleading scenes in these novels.

In order to puzzle out the misleading scenes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels, I would like to analyze the use of deixis, reference, and presupposition. George Yule (1996, p. 9) states that deixis can be found when a speaker uses a linguistic form to point at somebody or something, while reference usually enables listeners or readers to identify something. Moreover, presupposition is defined as information assumed before the speaker or writer makes an utterance. These three linguistic devices are used to build assumptions throughout the book with the presence of misleading scenes.

Misleading scenes give a kind of catch in detective novels because they lead the readers to one perception which turns out to be false. This will make the readers involved to solve the puzzles while reading. The misleading scenes help the writer make an unpredictable plot which will keep the readers absorbed in reading the alluring story. The three elements of plot such as suspense, surprise, and foreshadowing help the story a lot to unravel the mysteries smoothly.

By reading this thesis, people will be aware of the role of linguistic features to help build misleading scenes in detective novels. Aside from reading a good detective novel, we can also learn how language is used to influence how people think. After learning about deixis, reference, and presupposition, the readers are supposed to be more aware of the intention behind an utterance.

(754 words)

Universitas Kristen Maranatha

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I would like to analyze the following problems:

1. Which scenes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* are considered misleading?

2. How are deixis, reference, and presupposition applied in the novels to create the misleading scenes?

3. How do the misleading scenes contribute to the elements of plot?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the problems stated above, I would like to show:

1. the scenes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* that are considered misleading;

2. the way deixis, reference, and presupposition are applied in the novels to create misleading scenes;

3. the contribution of misleading scenes to the elements of plot.

1.4 Method of Research

First, I read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels to find some data of misleading scenes. Then, I examine the use of pragmatic tools in creating the misleading scenes. Next, I analyze them further in relation to the elements of plot. Finally, I write my research report.

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1.5 Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first one is Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the theoretical framework. Chapter Three contains the data analysis. Chapter Four is the conclusion based on the previous chapter. At the end of this thesis, I put Bibliography and Appendices.

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