

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

Robert Galbraith is the pseudonym of J. K. Rowling, a contemporary British author who is famous for her *Harry Potter* book series. Rowling used the pseudonym because she “wanted to go back to the beginning of a writing career in this new genre, to work without hype or expectation and to receive totally unvarnished feedback” (“Robert Galbraith”).

Galbraith is known for his crime detective novel series. The first novel, *The Cuckoo’s Calling*, was published in 2013. The novel is followed by the publication of *The Silkworm* in 2014, *Career of Evil* in 2015, and *Lethal White* in 2018 (“Robert Galbraith”). In the novels, detective Cormoran Strike is investigating his clients’ case together with his secretary, Robin.

Although *The Cuckoo’s Calling* is Galbraith’s first novel, the audio version of the book, which was narrated by Robert Glenister, received Anthony Awards for Best Audio Book in 2014 (Wright). Moreover, the hardback and paperback version of the first three books have become number one bestseller on

*Sunday Times*, and have been sold for more than four million copies worldwide (“Strike-The Cuckoo’s Calling”).

*The Cuckoo’s Calling* has also gained positive reviews from reviewers before J. K. Rowling revealed herself to be the author behind the pseudonym. One of the reviewers that praises *The Cuckoo’s Calling* is Geoffrey Wansell in the *Mail Online*. Wansell described Galbraith’s writing as having “a delightful touch, both for evoking London and for capturing a new hero . . .” (Wansell). Wansell’s review illustrates that Galbraith is able to make Strike, the detective in *The Cuckoo’s Calling* as the hero of the novel. Strike does the investigation thoroughly, which leads the readers to the unexpected surprise of the story. Galbraith’s brilliance in narrating Detective Strike’s investigation makes *The Cuckoo’s Calling* interesting to read. Thus, I choose to analyze *The Cuckoo’s Calling*. The story is about Detective Strike’s investigation of Lula Landry, a supermodel’s suicide case. Strike’s persistence in finding the truth behind the supermodel’s sudden death builds the tension as he dives further into the case.

Galbraith has the ability to raise the readers’ curiosity about what may happen next in the novel. In *The New York Times*, Michiko Kakutani stated that “Robert Galbraith has written a highly entertaining book . . . he has introduced an appealing protagonist in Strike, who’s sure to be the star of many sequels to come . . . Its narrative moves forward with propulsive suspense” (Kakutani). Kakutani’s statement is strengthened by the suspenses that are built up before Strike reveals the surprises at the end of the story.

In this thesis, I am going to analyze the elements of plot because it is the strongest literary element in the novel. Therefore, I am going to analyze the

suspense, surprise, and artistic unity of the novel. Firstly, suspense is “the intense feeling that an audience goes through while waiting for the outcome of certain events” (“Suspense”). Secondly, surprise happens “when the story departs radically from our expectation” (“Perrine’s Literature: Literary Terms”). Lastly, artistic unity is a “condition of a successful literary work whereby all its elements work together for the achievement of its central purpose” (“Artistic Unity”).

To analyze the novel, I choose formalism as the criticism because the information that is needed is already provided in the text. Formalism criticism “did not wish to apply any other theoretical constructs—sociological, historical, psychoanalytic—to the reading of a text; rather, the text should . . . stand alone and be able to be understood on its own terms” (Smith). Thus, I conclude that the data in the novel are enough for the novel to be analyzed.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The problems that are going to be analyzed in this thesis are:

1. What are the suspenses in the novel?
2. What are the surprises in the novel?
3. How is the artistic unity presented in the novel?

### **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the above problems, the purposes of the study are:

1. To show the suspenses in the novel
2. To show the surprises in the novel
3. To show the artistic unity presented in the novel

## **Method of Research**

I use library research in writing my thesis. First, I read Robert Galbraith's *The Cuckoo's Calling* as the primary text. Then, I read and compile some data and references from the Internet in order to support my analysis of suspense, surprise, and artistic unity. Lastly, I draw conclusion of my analysis.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by the Table of Contents and the Abstract. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter is the Analysis of Elements of Plot in Robert Galbraith's *The Cuckoo's Calling*. The third chapter is the Conclusion. Finally, the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of *The Cuckoo's Calling* and the Biography of Robert Galbraith.