

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

I would like to analyse a novel for my thesis because, in my opinion, novel is the most popular among all literary genres. Novel is usually longer than the other literary genres so it gives more details, therefore, the story becomes clearer and the reader can get better understanding.

Among English novelists, I have decided to choose Sir Arthur Conan Doyle because he is one of the greatest novelists of the Victorian period. His greatest achievement is the creation of Sherlock Holmes, who becomes internationally famous and constantly distracts Doyle from his other written work. Doyle's creation, Dr Watson, Holmes' companion in adventure, has become one of the most famous narrators in fiction. I decide to choose one of Doyle's novels, The Hound of The Baskervilles. This is one of Doyle's greatest novels and there have been many stage plays, films and television versions of this story.

I would like to discuss the elements of plot in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of The Baskervilles and their effect on the readers because I find that those elements are valuable to analyse as they can produce an interesting and well designed plot in the novel. Conan Doyle has applied the elements of plot, namely,

suspense, surprise, and artistic unity, so skilfully that the readers are compelled to keep on reading the novel until the end.

In a novel, plot is an important literary aspect. According to M.J. Murphy in Understanding Unseens, plot is ‘a carefully thought out plan in which the events, all the actions and reactions of the characters, contribute towards the forward movement of the story.’ (Murphy, 1972:134)

Plot has three elements: suspense, surprise, and artistic unity. In Dictionary of Literary Terms , suspense is ‘a quality in a plot which sustain interest and makes the readers ask “What happen next?”’ (Shaw, 1972:365). In Laurence Perrine’s Story and Structure, surprise is ‘unexpectedness of what happens when a story departs radically from our expectation’ (Perrine, 1974:47). Artistic unity is ‘stages of a story which are linked in chain of cause and effect’ (Perrine, 1947:49). Artistic unity keeps the plot in good order, in which each incident and episode is placed in the most effective order: when they are rearranged in a chronological order, they will show a logical progression as good cause and effect.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The explanation in the background of the story more or less contributes my statement of the problems, which are presented as follow:

1. Which events show the suspense in The Hound of The Baskervilles?
2. What are the surprises in the novel in The Hound of The Baskervilles?
3. Which events display the artistic unity in The Hound of The Baskervilles?
4. What are the effects of applying these elements on the readers?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Having stated the problems, I want to show the purpose of the study, namely:

1. To present which events show the suspense in The Hound of The Baskervilles
2. To show the surprises in The Hound of The Baskervilles
3. To present which events display the artistic unity in The Hound of The Baskervilles
4. To show the effect of these elements on the readers

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method applied in this thesis is library research. First, I read the novel thoroughly to understand the contents well. Next, I learn the related theories from some reference books and from the Internet. Then, I analyse the elements of plot in the novel and their effects on the readers by using the theories about elements of plot. Finally, I conclude the result of the analysis and write the thesis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

I divide my thesis into three chapters, which are preceded by the Preface and the Abstract. The first chapter presents 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 contains the analysis of the elements of plot in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of The Baskervilles and

their effect on the readers. The thesis ends with the Bibliography, which contains the list of sources of the theories and the primary text, and then the appendices, in which I present the synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.