

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

There are three main genres in the work of literature; those are: novel, poetry and play. ‘Novel is a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying character and presenting an organized series of events and settings.’ (Shaw, 1972: 257). Usually, novel has a lot of detailed information about the story; whereas, the other genres, which are poetry and play, are considered to have less information compared to that of the novel. As a result, I find out that novel is less complicated and I am certain to have a deeper understanding of the story of the particular novel. Therefore, I choose a novel to be analysed.

Bram (Abraham) Stoker (1847-1912) is an Irish novelist and short story writer. His well known works are *Dracula* (1897); *The Snake’s Pass* (1890); *The Lair of the White Worm* (1911); and a number of short stories which appeared in magazines. However, he has gained his reputation as an author through his novel *Dracula*. Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* is considered to be his masterpiece, which was first published in 1897 and it has become legendary ever since (www.online-literature.com). Not only is *Dracula* famous as a novel, but it also has become the inspiration for other writers and the basis for countless films which most

closely follow the plot of the original novel of *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992), a film by Francis Ford Coppola, which was produced by Columbia Pictures.

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* is a horror novel. According to Murphy in *Understanding Unseens*, 'These novels may be about monster, supernatural power (especially those of evil), or places and buildings (especially castles) where strange and frightening happening occur. Some examples are: *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley); *Dracula* (Bram Stoker); ...' (Murphy, 1972: 128). The story of *Dracula* is concerned with the struggle of a group of men and women to destroy the vampire whose name is Count Dracula. I find that the most prominent aspect in horror novel, especially in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, is the plot of the story. 'Plot reveals events to us, not only in their temporal, but also in their causal relationship. Plot makes us aware of events not merely as elements in a temporal series but also as an intricate pattern of cause and effect.' (Kenney, 1996: 13-14). The plot itself is formed by three main elements: the element of suspense, the element of surprise and artistic unity. They are very important literary aspects in composing the story of the novel because the three elements must be united with the story.

Based on the reasons above, I have decided to analyse the elements of plot in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. As explained before, the three elements of plot are suspense, surprise, and artistic unity. According to Laurence Perrine's *Story and Structure* 'Suspense is the quality in a story that makes the reader ask "What's going to happen next?" or "How will this turn out?" and impels him to read on to find the answers to these questions.' (Perrine, 1974: 45).

The suspense is the greatest when it is combined with the reader's curiosity and anxiety about the fate of some sympathetic characters. The element of suspense can also make the reader keep on reading the novel until the end of the story. 'A good story is like a good dinner, should make the pleasure when it goes, and creates desire to read it again' (Perrine, 1974: 46). The second element is the element of surprise which is closely connected to the element of suspense. The element of surprise is a time or an event in the story that comes unexpectedly of what happens, and it can make the readers be surprised with the story (Perrine, 1974: 47). Finally, the last element is artistic unity. Artistic unity makes the story linked together in a chain of cause and effect, so that there must be nothing irrelevant to the story and with which the story comes in a logical progression; on the other hand, when the author gives his story a turn unjustified, he is guilty of plot manipulation. With all those aspects we can see that the elements of plot are very essential in order to make a good plot, and a good plot produces a good story (Perrine, 1974: 49-50).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

I would like to state the problems as follows:

1. How are the elements of plot, which are suspense, surprise, and artistic unity, revealed in the novel?
2. What are the effects of those elements of plot to the readers?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statement of the problems above, the purposes of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To show how the elements of plot, which are suspense, surprise, and artistic unity, are revealed in the novel.
2. To show the effects of those elements of plot to the readers.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

I use an intrinsic approach to analyse the novel, and I also use a library research in writing this thesis. First of all, I begin by reading the primary text of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and then I decide the topic based on the prominent aspect that has been found in the novel. As well as reading the primary text, I read the references which deal with the work. Furthermore, I gather some information from the Internet which is useful in analysing the novel. As a final point, I use the data which have been collected to analyse the novel.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis consists of three chapters. Chapter one is the Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, which presents the reasons for analysing the novel; Statement of the Problem, which consists of two problems; Purpose of the Study, in which my purposes is solving the problems; Method of Research and the last one is Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the analysis of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* through elements of plot. And the last chapter, Chapter Three is Conclusion.

Besides the three main chapters, I will present the Bibliography and Appendices, which consist of the synopsis of the novel and the biography of Bram Stoker.