

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analysing the novels, I find that there are twelve misleading scenes in *The Body in the Library* and eleven misleading scenes in *The A.B.C. Murders* that can be analysed using such linguistic aspects as *deixis*, *reference*, and *presupposition*. Of the twelve misleading scenes found in *The Body in the Library*, I find out that there are three misleading scenes containing deictic expressions, nine misleading scenes containing referring expressions, and five misleading scenes containing presupposition. While out of eleven misleading scenes analysed in *The A.B.C. Murders* I find that two misleading scene contains a deictic expression, five misleading scenes contain referring expressions, and six misleading scenes contain presupposition. Those findings show that most misleading scenes in both stories are created using reference and presupposition.

In my opinion, the use of reference and presupposition are quite effective in creating the misleading scenes, since they may let the readers have incorrect inferences and false assumptions, which lead to a wrong hypothesis. In *The Body in the Library*, the author has two main intentions of providing the misleading scenes. The first one is to convince the readers that the girl found dead

in the library is Ruby Keene, and the girl found burnt inside the car is Pamela Reeves. The second one is to mislead the readers so that they do not expect that the villains in this story are Mark and Josie. In other words, the misleading scenes are used to divert the readers' attention from the fact that the bodies of those girls have been exchanged and the fact that Mark and Josie are husband and wife who have planned those murders. Thus, I find that most referring expressions in this story make the readers infer that the girl found dead in the library is Ruby Keene, while the girl burnt inside the car is Pamela Reeves. Besides, some references are provided to emphasise the presence of a particular character. This makes the readers think that this particular character has a significant possibility of committing the murders. In fact, this character is not the murderer. Furthermore, I find that the utterances provided in the misleading scenes make the readers have presuppositions which ensure them that their inferences are correct. Thus, in *The Body in the Library*, the misleading scenes are created using references which later on form the readers' presuppositions.

In *The A.B.C. Murders*, one the purposes of providing misleading scenes is to convince the readers that the crime is serial murders committed in an alphabetical order by a madman who is searching for publicity. The misleading scenes are also used to divert the reader's attention from the fact that the real murderer commits the other crimes to cover the third crime and to blame those crimes on an innocent person. The role of presupposition here is to let the readers have assumptions which support their expectation of the crimes being committed according to the alphabetical order by a serial killer. Then, the referring expressions have shown the presence of a particular character, who can be

considered mad. Therefore, the readers will infer that this character is the serial killer. Thus, unlike in *The Body in the Library*, in *The A.B.C. Murders* the misleading scenes are first created using the false presuppositions and then these presuppositions are supported by the use of references.

Next, my findings show that in *The Body in the Library* there are eleven misleading scenes supporting the element of surprise, three misleading scenes supporting the element of suspense, and two misleading scenes supporting foreshadowing. While in *The A.B.C. Murders*, there are nine misleading scenes supporting the element of surprise, five misleading scenes supporting the element of suspense and two misleading scenes supporting foreshadowing.

This shows that most misleading scenes in both stories support the element of surprise. Before analysing the novels, I think that both stories are good because I am impressed with the tricks used in the crimes, and I am also really satisfied with the solving of the mysteries. However, after doing the analyses of the misleading scenes in both stories, I find that the way the misleading scenes support the element of surprise in these novels is impressive. I agree that a good and successful detective story should have a surprise ending. And, to create a surprise ending, the misleading scenes must indeed be provided to lead the readers to a wrong hypothesis. In my opinion, the misleading scenes provided in Agatha Christie's stories can surprise the readers because not only do they find their hypotheses wrong, but they also find that they have easily followed the false hints provided in the misleading scenes.

There are only few misleading scenes which support the element of foreshadowing. I am actually quite surprised that I still can find the misleading

scenes which support this element of foreshadowing, since the purposes of misleading scenes and foreshadowing are quite contradictory to each other. A misleading scene is intended to let the readers have a wrong expectation of the ending, while foreshadowing gives the readers clues to something that is going to happen later in the story. However, I find that still, there are misleading scenes which support the elements of foreshadowing. I think these kinds of scenes will either mislead the readers or give them a hint. Misleading scene 12 in *The Body in the Library* informs that Ruby has trimmed off her nails before she disappears, while the dead body found in the library has short nails. It convinces the readers that the body found dead in Colonel Bantry's library is really Ruby Keene's. However, it foreshadows that the trivial information about the nails will later be revealed as an important key to solving the mystery. While misleading scene 5 in *The A.B.C Murders* informs that the detective thinks that the killer's mistake in writing Poirot's address on the third letter is done unintentionally. However, the fact that the wrong address is written in the third letter foreshadows that this third crime is the key to the facts about the serial murders. Thus, I think that the readers who have had a false assumption from the beginning will be more convinced that these assumptions are true. On the other hand, the readers who have not been misled may find out that such scenes contain hints and clues to help them make a correct hypothesis.

Finally, through those findings, I can prove that linguistic aspects can also be applied in forming the most important element in a detective story: the misleading scenes. In addition, the effects of misleading scenes in supporting the elements of plot have made the story more challenging and enjoyable to read. In

my opinion, Agatha Christie did not really consider the role of *deixis*, *reference*, and *presupposition* when writing the misleading scenes in her detective series. However, having found that the process of creating misleading scenes can deal quite a lot with the linguistic aspects, I conclude that Linguistics can play an important role in making a detective story better and more entertaining.