

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After having discussed the elements of plot in Outbreak, I think Robin Cook is a skilful thriller novelist because he can blend medical facts with fiction in his novel. He uses the Ebola outbreak as the topic of this thriller novel and he combines it with his imagination. The story does not make the readers feel bored although it is about a medical fact. The story is interesting to read because Cook presents the elements of plot in the novel systematically. He has created the elements of suspense, surprise and artistic unity so skilfully that they are worth analyzing.

The element of suspense creates some questions in the readers' mind about what is going to happen next. It also makes the readers feel curious and eager to know the outcome of the story. They keep on reading the story in order to find out the answers to their questions. Cook shows the element of suspense in Outbreak to the readers through the Ebola disease, the mysteries of the Ebola outbreak in U.S., the investigations done by Marissa, and the terrors faced by Marissa.

At the beginning of the story, Cook attracts the readers' attention by giving a clear picture of the Ebola disease as well as the symptoms of the deadly disease which spreads in Africa in 1976. The readers are made to imagine this horrible condition at

that time so that they become eager to know more about the disease. The introduction to the Ebola disease keeps them in suspense.

Cook is very skilful in creating the elements of suspense and surprise as he can make them complement to each other. When Marissa finds the same strain for the Ebola outbreaks in U.S. in 1987 and in Africa in 1976, it creates a greater suspense and surprise. The readers are surprised with this fact and they will ask how the Ebola outbreaks can have the same strain for virus tends to mutate constantly. Furthermore, the readers become suspicious that there may be a conspiracy to spread the virus.

Another suspense is presented through Marissa's investigations. She finds three unusual similarities among the primary patients in L.A, St. Louis and Philadelphia. They all happen to be ophthalmologists, they have attended the same eyelid conference in San Diego, and they have been mugged before they get sick. These facts lead Marissa to come to the conclusion that the virus is spread unnaturally in U.S.. This event makes the readers curious to find the answers to the mysteries of the unnatural spread of the Ebola disease in U.S..

Cook creates another suspense when someone terrorizes Marissa. This man breaks into her house, kills her dog and tries to kill her. This event creates a great suspense in the readers' mind because they are worried to see Marissa's life is in danger. Another suspense emerges when Marissa receives a threatening card in a hotel where she stays and the same man tries to kill her again. These events make the readers curious to know who tries to kill Marissa.

Cook puts the element of surprise in his novel through the unexpected events which the readers cannot think of before. Through Marissa's investigations, the readers are surprised to know that an organization of doctors is responsible for the spread of the

Ebola disease in U.S.. They cannot believe the doctors deliberately spread the virus. It is shocking for the readers to know this fact because they have never suspected that these doctors, whose job is to cure people, actually spread the virus intentionally.

Cook creates another surprise when Marissa knows that her boyfriend, Ralph, is a member of PAC and also tries to catch her. The readers have never thought Ralph to be Marissa's enemy. Cook has succeeded in creating surprise in her novel because he presents the unexpected events which the readers have never suspected before.

Cook arranges the element of suspense and the element of surprise in Marissa's investigations well. They are logical and realistic; besides, they form a good cause and effect sequence called artistic unity. Marissa finds the mysteries of the Ebola outbreak in U.S. and it leads her to find out that the virus is spread unnaturally. Then it turns out that PAC is the one responsible for the Ebola outbreak in U.S.. The readers feel that Marissa's investigations in finding the culprit of the incident are logical because the events showing her investigations are linked very well in a chain of cause and effect.

Finally, I conclude that the elements of plot in this novel are an important aspect to discuss because they create tension as well as attracting the readers' attention to keep on reading the story. They make Outbreak become a thriller novel that is worth reading and analyzing.