

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

J.B. Priestley is best known as an "all-round writer," which means that he wrote all different sorts of literature. He wrote a novel, The Good Companions in 1929. He also wrote a popular play, An Inspector Calls right after the World War II in 1945. All of his stories were mostly influenced by World War I, where he had been a front-soldier.

One of his plays, An Inspector Calls, is a detective story which really catches my excitement. It uses simple language as well as having exciting plot. This play tells about a detective who suddenly comes into the Birling's house and accuses each of the family members for being responsible of murdering a girl. Furthermore, the play An Inspector Calls makes me feel enthralled because the ending is surprising. This is the interesting thing, which becomes the reason why this play is chosen as both my reading and the source of my analysis. I am certain that the main key why this play becomes interesting to read is on the ground of the

elements of plot in this play. These elements of plot (suspense, surprise and artistic unity) make the readers always keep reading the play until the end.

Based on Perrine's theory, there are three laws of plot in which the play or novel must fulfill to be a good play or novel. The first is suspense, which is "the quality in a story that makes the reader ask, 'What's going to happen next?' and impels him to read on to find the answer to these questions" (Perrine 45). The second is surprise, which is "proportional to the unexpectedness of what happens; it becomes pronounced when the story departs radically from our expectation" (Perrine 47). While it is said that the last element is artistic unity which, "... is essential to a good plot; nothing irrelevant that does not contribute to the total meaning; nothing that is there only for its own sake or its own excitement" (Reuben).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

1. Which events act as suspense in the play?
2. Which events act as surprise in the play?
3. How do the suspense and surprise create artistic unity in the play?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the events that act as suspense in the play.
2. To identify the events that act as surprise in the play.
3. To show how the suspense and surprise create artistic unity in the play.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

I use library research for my thesis, first by reading An Inspector Calls as the primary text. Second, I also read as well as compile some data from the Internet so as to support my analysis of suspense, surprise, and artistic unity of the novel. Finally, I make some conclusion from my analysis.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by Abstract, Table of Content and Acknowledgments. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problems, 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 J.B. Priestley's An Inspector Calls. The third chapter is the Conclusion, followed by Bibliography and Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of the Play and the Biography of the Author.