

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the elements of suspense, surprise and plausibility in *The Bourne Identity*, I am going to draw a conclusion of the analysis of suspense and surprise presented in the previous chapter.

Robert Ludlum is a brilliant thriller novelist because in this novel he succeeds not only in producing a good story which makes the reader surprised and satisfied but also in creating the elements of suspense, surprise and plausibility that are legitimate and valuable. So skillful is Robert Ludlum in applying the two elements that *The Bourne Identity* becomes interesting to read and has become one of the most popular thriller novels until now.

Most of the elements of suspense in Robert Ludlum's *The Bourne Identity* are mysteries, which are intended to make the reader wonder as well as question both the identity of the protagonist and the plot of the story. The suspense keeps the reader guessing and the more the reader reads the novel and gets significant information in it, the more questions he/she will ask.

In this story, the author also creates suspense regarding the mystery of the protagonist's identity. The suspense makes the reader curious about the identity of the protagonist and the plot of the story. The reader may ask whether the

protagonist will find his true identity and whether or not he can survive after a series of murder attempts. Not only does the suspense make the reader curious about what will happen next, but it also creates tension in the reader's mind. It makes the reader feel that he/she is directly involved in the story and so he/she will keep on reading until the end of the story.

Robert Ludlum also creates elements of surprise which answer the suspense with unexpected answers. The surprise elements also make the reader "stunned" on the grounds as what he/she formally expects is not the same as what really happens in the story. The elements of surprise give the reader logical and plausible explanations. As a result, the story has a logical cause and effect relationship.

One of the events which show Robert Ludlum's skills in applying suspense and surprise can be seen in the first suspense which is answered by the first surprise. The protagonist is found by the fishermen floating in the Mediterranean Sea with gunshot wounds in several places of his body and he has no identity. The reader will question who the person really is and why the person has been shot in several places of his body. After the reader is made curious, Ludlum eventually gives the reader a surprising answer by revealing that the man who floats in the sea is a CIA special agent who is on a dangerous mission. This fact surprises the reader because he/she expect that the man who floats in the Mediterranean Sea is an ordinary person who becomes the victim of a criminal act.

Based on my analysis, the suspense and surprise in the story are linked together by the plausibility of the surprise so that the plot in the story is well

organized. Robert Ludlum puts suspense as well as surprise in the right order and interestingly gives the reader unexpected events so that the readers will enjoy the novel. He/she will not feel bored in reading it until the end of the story because he/she gets important information gradually. In other words, the suspense and surprise in *The Bourne Identity* are related to one another to make the story entertaining and easily understood.

Generally, in a thriller novel, suspense must be the most important element since the purpose of a thriller novel is to make the reader feel the tension and curiosity in his/her mind. I would like to say that the elements of suspense in Robert Ludlum's *The Bourne Identity* are the most prominent aspect of the story because the genre of the novel is thriller. On the other hand, the elements of surprise in this novel are also important because they answer the elements of suspense and they make the readers feel surprised after they learn the real fact which they have never expected before.

Having studied the novel, I have the opinion that the more skilful the author is in applying suspense and surprise in a novel, the more interesting the story becomes, and it can make the reader get involved in the story. Personally, I love this book not only because of the story but also because Ludlum shows a great deal of skills in bringing his complex plot together. I am also of the opinion that *The Bourne Identity* is as worthy as other literary works to be analysed because the author has created very well arranged elements of plot.