

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

Tom Clancy is a great American contemporary novelist who writes crime fiction. It is said that “Thomas Leo Clancy Jr, who writes under the name of Tom Clancy, is an American author of bestselling political thrillers, best-known for his technically detailed espionage and military science storylines during the Cold War” (“Tom Clancy Biography and Notes”).

Tom Clancy is best-known for his ability in writing crime fiction. Crime fiction is “the genre of fiction that deals with crimes, their detection, criminals, and their motives. Most - though not all - crime novels share a common structure. First there is the crime, usually a murder; then there is the investigation; and finally the outcome or judgement, often in the shape of the criminal's arrest or death” (“Definition of the Crime Fiction Genre”). Tom Clancy is “one of only two authors to have sold two million copies on a first printing in the 1990s. His 1989 novel *Clear and Present Danger*, sold 1,625,544 hardcover copies, making it the #1 bestselling novel of the 1980s. The other author is John Grisham.

Tom Clancy also received the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement from the Navy League of the United States in 1990” (“Tom Clancy Biography and Notes”).

The novel that I will analyse in my thesis is Tom Clancy’s crime fiction *Net Force*. He wrote this bestselling novel in 1998. Because of its success, Tom Clancy’s *Net Force* was adapted into a movie in 1999. This novel has a good storyline and it tells about an investigation in uncovering the mystery of the assassination of a Commander of the FBI’s Net Force.

In Tom Clancy’s *Net Force*, I notice that the most essential literary element is plot. The plot of the novel is filled with actions and investigations. The story in the novel is about an assassination of Commander of the FBI’s Net Force named Steve Day by someone unknown. The actions and investigations in the storyline will give the readers the feeling of suspense and surprise. So in my thesis, I am going to analyse the three elements of the laws of plot, namely suspense, surprise and artistic unity of the novel, by using formalism approach. This approach is based on the information taken from the novel.

In *Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms*, suspense is “a quality of tension in a plot which sustains interest and makes readers ask ‘what happens next?’” (Shaw 365). In *Perrine’s Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, surprise is “proportional to the unexpectedness of what happens” (Arp 111). In other words, surprise means the element of reader’s unexpectedness about the plot. The definition of artistic unity is “that condition of a successful literary work whereby all its elements work together for the achievement of its central purpose” (“Literary Terms”).

This study is significant because the result will tell the readers how the author has successfully created a crime story through presenting good suspense, surprise and artistic unity.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The problems that are going to be analysed in this thesis are:

1. What suspense is revealed in the novel?
2. What surprise is revealed in the novel?
3. How is the artistic unity presented in the novel?

### **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the above statement of the problem, this study is conducted with the following purposes:

1. To show what suspense is revealed in the novel.
2. To show what surprise is revealed in the novel.
3. To show how the artistic unity is presented in the novel.

### **Method of Research**

I used library research in writing my thesis. First, I read Tom Clancy's *Net Force* as the primary text. Then, I also read some sources as well as compiled some information from the Internet to support my analysis of suspense, surprise and artistic unity of the novel. Finally, I made some conclusion of my analysis.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of three chapters that are preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents, and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the analysis of suspense, surprise and artistic unity in Tom Clancy's *Net Force*. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. Finally, the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consists the Synopsis of the Novel and the Biography of the Author.