

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the elements of plot, I find some similarities and differences in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* and Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, in terms of how the novelists express the elements of plot in their novels.

First of all, there are two similarities that I find between the two novels, which are based on surprise and artistic unity. Based on the element of surprise, both novels have succeeded in surprising the readers every step in the way until the end of the story. This element supports the suspense in both novels and makes the readers intrigued by several unpredicted outcomes, which are beyond their expectations. As a thriller novel, *The Da Vinci Code* has put some intense events: when the main characters are driven into the corner, they are usually being saved by their intelligence. Their actions are out of the box; thus, the readers are being impressed by the shocking revelations. In the end, the most surprising event is the disclosure of Sauniere's true secret about Sophie's last living relatives and the true location of the Holy Grail. This proves that certain information, especially

extraordinary one can make the surprise more shocking to the readers' mind. Besides, as a detective novel, *The Name of the Rose*'s element of surprise manages to shock the readers by something that is not a cliché. Most of the surprises manage to pull a reaction 'Oh, that's how he did it' or 'I thought he...' from the readers. Due to the many possible suspects, the readers' inquisitiveness is being put to a test and when it fails, they will find many surprises. Finally, the most surprising revelation is the reason behind Jorge, the murderer's motive. The element of surprise works well in both novels, thus making sense with its relationship to the element of suspense.

In terms of artistic unity, each of these two novels has good balance in the relevancy between its suspenses and surprises, which creates good artistic unity. In *The Da Vinci Code*, the example can be seen through the connection between Sauniere's secret and Langdon's involvement in the search of the Holy Grail. The readers do not know the reason behind Sauniere's last message, that he wants his granddaughter, Neveu to find Langdon, until they find out that Sauniere's secret seems to have a connection to Langdon's expertise. Surprisingly, with Neveu's skill in puzzles and Langdon's knowledge in the Holy Grail, they succeed in cracking the codes and find the Holy Grail and Sophie's last relatives. And, in *The Name of the Rose*, the example can be seen through the connection between all the murdered monks and the Library. At first, the readers are curious to know why someone would want to kill a monk and later the mystery begins to escalate as soon as the readers learn about facts and testimonies along with the following murders involving a certain book in the Library. The readers are questioning

about the identity of this book, which makes the killer kill so many monks in order to hide it. However, when the mystery is solved and the murderer is caught, the readers are surprised to find out the murderer's obsession to hide this book, which can destroy people's belief in God.

From my analysis, the artistic unity is the best element among three elements of plot because the readers' questions are all being answered reasonably by facts and logic, which makes both novels appear realistic and interesting. However, the suspense that builds the readers' inquisitiveness and the surprise that helps in exhilarating the latter's joy in reading them are also very important because they are the basic elements that make these novels pleasant to read.

Based on my analysis, I find two differences between Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* and Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*. According to my analysis, in terms of suspense, in *The Da Vinci Code*, the suspenses keep on increasing the readers' curiosity in each of its appearance, while in *The Name of the Rose*'s, the suspenses are being interrupted by some new discussions after each of its appearance, which lessens the readers' curiosity. Therefore, the suspense in *The Da Vinci Code* is more effective than in *The Name of the Rose*, because in the latter novel, the readers' precision is being challenged.

Another difference is in the order of the suspense and surprise. In *The Da Vinci Code*, Brown arranges the suspenses and surprises in a straight order side by side, aiming at the plausibility and finally giving the readers enjoyment of the three elements of plot with ease. Whereas in *The Name of the Rose*, Eco uses an unusual order of suspense and surprise, for example the fifth suspense that I find

is connected to the third surprise. This method keeps the readers' curiosity built in a way that they want to read until the end. Both the authors use different method in arranging their elements of plot; yet, they succeed in keeping the readers' enthusiasm about the mysteries and investigations. The suspenses keep on building the readers' curiosity higher and higher and together with surprises that are amazingly unexpected, so that they make the readers unable to stop reading it until the end. The elements of plot work well in both the novels, which makes the readers easily comprehend the investigation throughout both mystery novels.

In my opinion both the novels are good in their own way in terms of their plot and mystery. In terms of plot, *The Da Vinci Code* uses a traditional structure of plot, focusing on the mystery of finding the Holy Grail. Brown's plot never curves from the lane of the Holy Grail, which makes it easier for the readers to follow the story, especially for beginners in reading detective novels. On the other hand, *The Name of the Rose* uses an unusual structure, which mixes the mystery with new information, such as philosophy and history that has nothing to do with the mystery; hence, it is hard to follow the story when the readers lose their focus on the mystery. In terms of mystery, *The Name of the Rose* gives more thrilling intense feeling to the readers and more mysteries to solve because of the many suspects and facts revealed during the investigation along with some of its surprises that come late (not right after its suspense) to keep the readers asking about the answer to the suspenses, whereas *The Da Vinci Code*'s mystery is a thrilling kind of mystery in which the surprises come right after the suspense; therefore, the mystery flows rather flatly.

Based on the reasons above, I can conclude that it is clear that both novelists have managed to bring the curiosity and enjoyment of entertaining and worth-reading detective thriller novels to the readers, in their own ways. Therefore, Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* and Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* unquestionably are great mystery novels, which succeed in lighting the fire of curiosity in the readers' mind until many speculations appear in their head about what will happen next and then surprise them with new unanticipated outcome, along with the artistic unity as the tool of plausibility.