

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* and Cammie McGovern's *Eye Contact*, I conclude that both of the novels are successful mystery novels even though the authors deliver them by using different narrative technique. There are some similarities and differences in the narrative technique used in the two novels.

The first similarity of both novels is that they are mystery novels which involve autistic characters who are essential to the story. In the first novel, the protagonist is Christopher Boone, a fifteen-year-old boy who suffers from Asperger syndrome. The novel is actually his journal about his investigation of the death of Wellington, his neighbor's dog. The murder leads him to another mystery to solve. The second novel, *Eye Contact*, involves a seven-year-old autistic boy named Adam. He is essential to the story because he is the key witness of the murder of his classmate Amelia which happens in the woods.

The second similarity of the elements of narrative technique lies in tempo. The tempo of both novel changes depending on the story. In *The Curious Incident of*

*the Dog in the Night-time*, the tempo slows down whenever the narrator is talking about his favorite subjects, such as Mathematics and Science. Whereas, the tempo speeds up whenever he is telling about certain situations which happen to him. In the second novel, *Eye Contact*, the tempo speeds up when the narrator reveals the flashback about Adam, the key witness of the murder. The readers get the information about what actually happens piece by piece. Meanwhile, the tempo slows down when the narrator reveals a certain time through two characters. It gives the readers a complete picture of the situation seen from both characters at that time and place. The tempo also slows down when the narrator reveals the flashback about the characters except about Adam. The characters' flashbacks are often given in long and detailed narration. The use of slangs and idioms gives the readers a chance to be close to the characters and to get information about the mystery.

The last similarity of the two novels is the language style. Even though there are some differences in the style of the novels, both of them use informal language. In *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, there are slangs and idioms used to indicate informality. They make the story feel natural. The informal language is also used in the second novel, *Eye Contact*. Even though the story is closely connected to formal matter, such as judicial process, it does not involve any formal terms. The informal language in both novels makes the readers feel closer to the characters. It also helps the readers to understand the story and the mystery better.

The use of other elements of narrative technique in both novels is different. Their first difference is in the style, except for the language style which is similar. In

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, there are many pictures which give more explanation about what the narrator is talking about. It also involves many conversations repeated by the narrator himself. The pictures are closely related to the point of view used and the fact that the mystery is written in a journal form, which enables the narrator to write anything he wants. In the second novel, *Eye Contact*, the story is delivered using an ordinary narration without any pictures. However, it does not give any negative effect to the readers because the story is well-delivered and the readers can understand it.

The other difference between the two novels is the point of view. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* uses the first person point of view of the protagonist, Christopher Boone. The point of view is closely related to the form of the novel, which is a journal. The first person point of view is appropriate because Christopher is the one who investigates the mystery. It adds the enjoyment of the readers in reading the story. The readers will also feel as if they were investigating the mystery with Christopher. In the second novel, *Eye Contact*, the author uses the third person omniscient point of view to narrate multiple characters. Each character narrated has their own role in revealing the mystery. They are helpful because the readers will get clues from many characters, so that readers are able to follow the mystery well. The point of view in the novel also helps the readers to be close not only to one character, but to many. The omniscient point of view is appropriate since it enables the readers to get more information from Adam, the key witness, even

though he does not want to talk since he witnesses the murder as he suffers from autism and trauma.

The other difference between the novels is in the element of time. Since *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* is written in the form of journal, the time treatment is chronological. Therefore, there is no flashback in this novel. The information of the narrator's past life is retold by the narrator himself. On the contrary, there are many flashbacks in the second novel, *Eye Contact*. The readers are given many flashbacks about the characters that are very useful for them and which are related to the mystery.

Despite the differences between the two novels, both authors have successfully managed to create a close distance between the readers and the story. They are also successful in delivering their mystery novels through the different narrative techniques they use. The readers can understand the plot well. The readers can also feel the tension and the curiosity when reading the story so that the readers will get the surprise, which is important regarding the genre. Since both novels are mystery, the authors have successfully led the readers to follow and understand the mystery.

To sum up, both novels use the narrative technique which focuses more on the characters who are investigating the mystery, so the readers can act as if they were investigating the mystery with the characters. It is also clear that the authors limit the exploration of the character who becomes the key witness, so the readers can feel the curiosity and the tension while exploring the mystery. Therefore, it is clear that even

though each of the authors uses different narrative techniques, both have skillfully delivered the mystery. The mysteries become interesting because both authors have used the appropriate narrative techniques which enable them to reach their purposes.

The narrative technique used in each novel gives the readers enjoyment in reading them. However, I personally find more enjoyment in reading *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* because of the style used by the author. The journal form adds more tension and curiosity to the mystery because it is delivered by the character who makes the investigation. I also find the pictures very enjoyable and they help me to understand what is in the narrator's mind despite his inability to explain his feelings. In turn, I also gain more knowledge about Asperger Syndrome suffered by the narrator because of the point of view used.