

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Henry Rider Haggard is a British classical novelist in the Victorian era. Haggard is the creator of "the Lost World literary genre" ("Haggard, H. Rider") which means "a fantasy or science fiction genre that involves the discovery of a new world out of time, place or both" ("Lost World"). He is also best known for his "African adventure novels" ("Haggard, H. Rider"). Haggard's style in his novels is a "blend of hidden treasures and ancient artifacts, jungle beasts, creepy ghouls and mystical spirits, lost civilization and big hearted, gun-packing gentlemen adventurers" ("Haggard, H. Rider").

Haggard has written many adventure novels. One of his greatest novels is *King Solomon's Mines*, published in 1885. *King Solomon's Mines* "has proved to be inspirational, as it has laid the framework for adventures in exotic locales, with his 'lost world' transmuting easily into the 'lost planets' favoured by writers of science fiction" ("Haggard, H. Rider"). This novel is included in "International

Thriller Writers' critical anthology, *Thriller: 100 Must-Reads*, on the best thrillers of all time" (Rogers).

King Solomon's Mines, the novel that I am going to analyse in my thesis, tells about the journey of Allan Quartermain, the main character of this novel, in searching for a missing person and the King Solomon's treasures. In describing the journey, Haggard arranges the events in such a way that the readers will feel more and more curious; they keep asking what will happen next. The author also gives surprises until the end. So in my thesis, I am going to analyse the elements of plot which are surprise, suspense, and artistic unity of this novel.

According to Perrine in his book *Story and Structure*, suspense is "the quality in a story that makes the reader ask, 'What's going to happen next? Or how will this turn out' and impels him to read on to find the answer of the questions" (45). Surprise is "the unexpectedness of what happens." (47); whereas artistic unity is:

. . . the condition of a successful literary work whereby all its elements work together for the achievement of its central purpose. In an artistically unified work nothing is included that is irrelevant to the central purpose, nothing is omitted that is essential to it, and the parts are arranged in the most effective order for the achievement of that purpose. ("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 statements 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

In writing this thesis, I use library research method. First, I read *King Solomon's Mines* as the primary text. Then I read some reference books and the Internet sources that are relevant to the topic to support my analysis. Finally, I draw some conclusions from what has been discussed.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into three chapters, which are preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents and the Abstract. In Chapter One, I present 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. In Chapter Two, I analyse the Elements of Plot of Henry Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of the Novel and the Biography of the Author.