

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the research, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key term.

1.1 Background of the Research

Detective fiction or detective story begins with Edgar Allan Poe, the father of detective genre. According to Knight in John Scaggs book titled *Crime Fiction* states those who take the short view of the history of the genre generally acknowledge four, or sometimes five, Edgar Allan Poe stories as marking the birth of mystery and detective fiction, or 'clue puzzles'. Poe's story is about the crime with detective as main character for example *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* story. 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' introduces the genius detective Auguste Dupin, who also appears in 'The Mystery of Marie Rogêt' and 'The Purloined Letter', and who, in the first of the stories, investigates an apparently motiveless and unsolvable double murder in the Rue Morgue (Scagg, 2005:34). So, detective fiction can be described as a story with crime as theme and a detective character who solve the mystery.

This genre initially begins with mystery stories contained in bible and folklores. Just as it is possible to expand the idea of detective fiction back to episodes in the Bible, oriental tales, and folk riddles, so too the short story can be dissolved into any form of brief tale (Priestman, 2003:41). In Bible, there is a

detective story titled *Susanna and the Elders*. The story is about a girl named Susanna who was accused of immorality. Then a man named Daniel conducted an investigation to examine the false testimony revealed by two old men. In ‘Arabian Nights’ story, there is a story titled ‘*The Three Apples*’ which is a detective story. The story is about fisherman who found a chest in Tigris river. The chest was sold to King Harun Al-Rashid who found out that in the chest there is a woman’s body mutilated into pieces. The king was assigned an advisor named Ja’far bin Yahya to investigate the case and find the killer within three days.

This genre is becoming more popular in the period between World War I and World War II. This period is generally referred as the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. During that period, there is a number of detective story writers emerged, one of them is Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie known as a detective story writer with 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. *The Murder on The Orient Express* is one of her popular detective novel. Agatha Christie on her official website (www.agathachristie.com) states that *Murder on the Orient Express* was published in the United Kingdom on 1 January 1934 by Collins Crime. In the United States, it was published on 28 February 1934 under the title of *Murder in the Calais Coach* by Dodd, Mead and Company. On 2017, it was adopted into a movie with the same title as the novel *Murder on the Orient Express*.

The Murder on The Orient Express novel by Agatha Christie is one of the popular literature that belongs to the detective story genre. This novel uses a detective character named Hercule Poirot who must solve a murder case on an

exclusive train, The Orient Express. According to Haycraft (1941:5) there could be no detective stories, (and there were none) until there were detectives.

This detective character emerged in detective story because modern people began to think that methodical system is needed to uncover a crime rather than violent. Enlightened men began to realize that only by methodical apprehension and just punishment of actual offenders could crime be adequately curbed and controlled (Haycraft, 1941:5). So they began to solve various problems which are found in society using knowledge. This method is considered more effective because it can find the real culprit. The crime that occurred also can be controlled in appropriate way.

Detective story is part of crime and mysteries stories. Haycraft (1941:4) states puzzles stories, mystery stories, crime stories, and stories of deduction and analysis have existed since the earliest times-and the detective story is closely related to them all. This genre is kind of modern version of crime stories. Haycraft (1941:4) also argued yet the detective story itself is purely a development of the modern age. It is because the theme of detective stories is a modern crime where every crime or cases is solved using knowledge. Detective stories are needed an intelligence figure in its story to solve a case because the case is more complicated and insoluble.

The characteristics above are also found in the novel *Murder on The Orient Express*, because the story of the novel focuses on a Belgian detective who must solve a murder case of an American passenger named, Casetti. Hercule Poirot

uses all his knowledge and deductive abilities to solve cases and relates all the clues found in Casetti's compartment.

The development of detective story genre is also supported by publication of its stories in magazine. Priestman (2003:41) argued that the destinies of both the story and the detective story were, then, closely related to the history of magazine publication in each country. It is because in that period many works were published in magazines such as history, biography, serials novels, adventures and other literary works. So detective stories are compete with other works to attract reader. The magazine which publish detective story is George Newnes's first successful enterprise, *Tit-Bits* (1881) which dominated the popular market and Arnold Bennett who concerns to the new journalism.

The formula of the classical detective story can be described as a conventional way of defining and developing a particular kind of situation or situations, a pattern of action or development of this situation, a certain group of characters and the relation between them, and a setting or type of setting appropriate to the characters and action (Cawelty, 1976:80). This formula also can be called as a narrative structure or story pattern. It means that the classical detective formula is a way in treating some specific elements that contained in detective story. There are four elements they are situation, pattern of action, character and the relationships, and setting.

There are three previous studies to support this research study. The first previous study is written by Yohanes Ivan Christianto Hidayat from Soegijapranata Catholic University in 2004 writes a research titled *The Classical Detective Formula of Agatha Christie's The A.B.C Murders*. The analysis focuses on how classical detective formula used in *The A.B.C Murders* novel. This analysis using John G. Cawelty's theory about the classical detective formula in his book titled *Adventure, Mystery and Romance*. Through a detailed discussion of the situation, pattern of actions, characters and relationships and setting which is formulated by Cawelty, this thesis proves that the novel has a unified plot of the classical detective story.

Second, Sinatra Haryo Wicaksono from university of Gajah Mada in 2015 has written a research titled *The Formula of Classical Detective Story in Five Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Stories*. The analysis focuses on the classical detective formula applied in five Arthur Conan Doyle's stories. They are *Silver Blaze*, *The Musgrave Ritual*, *The Adventure of Yellow Face*, *The Crooked Man*, and *The Stock Broker's Clerk*. This analysis is using John G Cawelty's theory about the classical detective formula. The result showed that there are five different formulas are used in Sherlock Holmes stories.

Third, Priscilla Henriette from University of Maranatha in 2017 has written a research titled *Analysis of the Element of Plot of Agatha Christie's Murder on The Orient Express*. This analysis focuses on the story's plot which is consist of three elements: suspense, surprise and artistic unity. The result showed that there are 10 suspenses and 9 suprises which is interrelated so it builds a good artistic unity. This

tension makes the reader more interested in reading the novel. The success of the novel also supported by the detective character named Hercule Poirot.

Based on the background above the researcher chooses classical detective formula in popular literary work because there is a little of thesis that discuss the formula of popular literature especially in classical detective novel. Different with previous studies, in this thesis, the researcher also added the phases of discovering clues that contained in the novel. Then, this thesis also can be used as a reference by readers. *The Murder on the Orient Express* novel also is a good example of classical detective fiction because contain a lot of classical detective formula elements. Thus, this present study focuses on the classical detective formula in *The Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie.

1.2 Statement of Problem

As the discussion has been chosen by the researcher is about the classical detective formula in *The Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. So this thesis focuses on analyzing the classical detective formula elements and the phases of discovering clues in the novel.

Based on the focus of the research above, the researcher formulates the following questions:

1. How is the classical detective formula presented in Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*?
2. How are the phases of discovering clues built in classical detective formula?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research questions above, the research objective can be formulated as follows:

1. To find out the classical detective formula in *Murder on the Orient Express* novel by Agatha Christie.
2. To find out how the phases of discovering clues build in classical detective formula.

1.4 Significance of Research

There are two significances of this research, they are theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is to give an additional contribution to the other literary research particularly as a reference and additional input in discussing the classical detective formula in the popular novel. It can be used as an appropriate reference in conducting the further research especially with similar topic and theory of classical detective formula in novel. Practically, this research hopefully can give understanding in literary field as the reference for other researchers to help them understand about formula in popular literature especially novel.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

There are six terms used in this present study that is:

1. Formula: A structure of narrative or dramatic conventions employed in a great number of individual works.
2. Classical Detective Formula: A conventional way of defining and developing a particular kind of situation or situations, a pattern of action or development of this situation, a certain group of characters and the relation between them, and a setting or type of setting appropriate to the characters and action.
3. Situation: The situation is a depiction of events at the beginning of the story.
4. Pattern of Action: The pattern of action consists of introduction of the detective, crime and clues, investigation, announcement of the solution, explanation of the solution and denouement.
5. Character and Relationships: Detective stories had four main characters such as the victim, the criminal, the detective and those threatened by the crime but incapable of solving it.
6. Setting : The overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within such as work is the particular physical location in which it takes place.