ABSTRACT

The trusted might become the traitor is one thing that is usually found in a detective story. The story which is unpredictable makes an interesting suspense supported by the plot to make anyone never guess what would happen next or who committed the crime.

Since suspense is one of the main interesting features in a detective story, this study focuses on the suspenses that build up the plot in the adaptation of Agatha Christie’s *Black Coffee*. As plot deals with the actions of the characters in the story, the plot analysis also helps to reveal their characterization. By applying New Criticism as the main theory to analyze the plot and characterization in the story, this study reveals that complication which contains conflicts to build up the suspense has become the dominant element of plot throughout the story. Furthermore, as unpredictability is the main characteristic of a detective story, the study shows that the plot and characterization have succeeded in concealing the identity of the murderer until the story reaches its climax. This study concludes that the plot and character as the formal elements work together to support the theme “The Trusted Might Become The Traitor” of the novel. Thus, the study reveals the connection among the elements that create an organic unity as the main object of New Criticism.

Keywords: Suspense, detective Story, plot formula, mystery.