

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Russia, a superpower country, in the past was a place for the great monarch empire. Romanov Empire was one of the great empires that have been established in history. It was established in 1613 when Mikhail Romanov was elected to rule the country in the age of 16. *Mikhail Romanov was a grandson of Nikita Romanovich who was the brother of Anastasia Romanovna Zakhariyan, the wife of Tsar 'The Terrible' Ivan IV. The empire was erected from 1613 until 1917 when the Bolshevik revolution ended the domination of the Romanov Dynasty (Abdullah 1).*

When the Romanov Dynasty dominated the country, Russian people had been known as a spiritual people. Most of them were Christian Orthodox and were influenced by the Eastern Rome or Constantinople. When Constantinople fell to the Turks, Russia became the center of Christian Orthodox in the world. *However, when USSR dominated the country, the number Christian Orthodox has fallen to 31% of the population. It was because the Tyrant's regime prohibited the church development. In addition, when USSR fell in 1991, the numbers have risen again to 72% of the population (pew research center).*

Related to spirituality, there were people who have the vision to forecast the future called as mystic. One of the most popular mystics in the Romanov dynasty was Gregorii Rasputin. He was a farmer from Siberia who had traveled to

Greece and Jerusalem after he got enlightenment in orthodox monastery in Verhorturye. After the two-years travel, he returned to his village of Pokrovskoe. The locals saw there was a change in Gregorii Rasputin; he was perceived by some to have a luminescent religious essence and was even called as staryets, a wondering holy man (docstoc.com). Rasputin also had special role in the royal family as an advisor of Tsar and Tsarina, and faith healer for the royal family heir, Alexey. Another fact from Rasputin was that he could predict the future of Russia. One of his predictions was written in 1916 in a letter to Tsar Nicholas. It was said that he would die before the New Year and the fall of Romanov. Rasputin's prophecy became the inspiration for Steve Berry in making a novel about the rise of Romanov entitled *The Romanov Prophecy*.

The Romanov Prophecy describes about the journey of Miles Lord, an African-American attorney from Atlanta who works in Moscow as a representative of a law firm. He is there to witness an important event, the election of Tsar, which is meant to bring back monarchy to Russia. After the fall of Soviet Union, the government is unable to take over Russia undercontrolled. Therefore, he is chosen as one of the Tsarist committee who has to perform a background check on one of the candidates, the descendants of the last Tsar Nicholas II, who claims the right of the throne. He, then, accidentally finds some information about the last Tsar family before the execution that led him to the fact of the direct descendants of Nicholas II. This is the starting point of his journey that brings him across the continent to find the descendants who deserves the throne of Russian monarch as direct heir of Tsar. The journey about seeking the truth was supported

by the information he found and the clue provided by the keeper. It, then, led him to a dangerous but exciting journey as to seek the truth about the last Tsar descendants who control Russia over a hundred years ago. It is not an easy task since there are people who hunt him to stop the journey of seeking the truth. The story is full of mystery and intriguing conflicts in the process of seeking the truth. A complex storyline, it is as expected from the author, Steve Berry.

The Romanov Prophecy is Steve Berry's second novel that was written in 1996 and published in 2004 by Ballantine book. This novel has won Author of the Year by the Georgia Writer's Association in 2005 and Nova Award by the Amelia Book Island Festival (Steve Berry official website). Steve Berry was born in 1955. He is an American author, professor, and former attorney who is currently living in St. Augustine, Florida. He is a graduate of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. He is one of many best selling thriller authors. Although his undergraduate degree was in political science, and was trained as a lawyer, Steve's interest in history led him to write international suspense thrillers. He also credits the nuns who taught him in elementary school, introduced the discipline as the basic need to both craft a novel and sell it to a publisher. It took him 12 years - 85 rejections over 5 different manuscripts – before a publisher finally bought his manuscript.

In analyzing this object, the writer will use New Criticism theory. It is a critic on literary work's intrinsic forms. Something called the text itself is a term for new criticism study (Tyson 136). In his book Literary Criticism, Bressler stated that new critics assert that only the poem itself can be objectively evaluated,

not the feelings, attitudes, values, and beliefs of the author or the reader. It is because they concern themselves primarily with an examination of the work itself and not its historical context or biographical elements (56-57). It is the analysis on how the formal elements such as characterization, setting, and plot can work together as an organic unity to support the theme. At the end, the writer wants to reveal the connection between those formal elements by focusing on how the organic unity of those formal elements in the process of seeking the truth in the novel connected with the American supremacy over Russia.

It is very interesting also to see the development of characters from the very beginning of the story to the end of the story. Russia also plays a great role in this novel. The fact that an American stays a very long time to help Russia gains its “winning structure” is quite peculiar, considering America and Russia are considered as rivals. Finally, the plot of this story is very complex and intriguing, so that the readers will keep their concentration reading this novel.

1.2 Statement of the problem

In the following analysis, the writer would like to answer the following question: How is American supremacy depicted as the unity from the novel formal elements?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From statements of the problem mentioned above, the objective of the study is to reveal the American supremacy through the organic unity in the novel.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By doing this study, the writer hopes that the reader will not only enjoy the magnificence of the story but also reveal the hidden meaning of the novel. This study expects the reader to understand the theme that is formed from the organic unity of formal elements in literary work. It gives deeper knowledge and outlook into the readers' mind. These outlooks could have been observed from some aspects within the novel including the events, conflicts, and dialogues. By understanding the theme, the reader would be able to reveal the information inside the story itself.

In addition, this study is meant to give more knowledge towards the students of English Department who are interested in doing research of literary works especially for students who study about new criticism.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Before doing the analysis, the writer of the study has to decide the scope and limitation to keep the analysis in track. The study focuses in analyzing the formal elements of the novel, in this case the characterization, plot, and setting that support the theme. The writer concerns on the process of how these formal elements connected and work together in constructing the story and supporting the theme of the story. In addition, the study focuses on the text itself, any other aspect like the author, background events, or any external aspects are not going to be analyzed.

1.6 Theoretical Background

New Criticism focuses on analyzing some aspects of literary works such as the formal elements, which support each other to reveal the theme or the meaning of the text. Something called the text itself is a term that is always used in new critical study. As stated in Tyson's *Critical Theory Today*, for New Criticism, all the evidences are provided by the text itself. For new criticism, a literary work is a timeless, autonomous (self-sufficient) verbal object. Readers and readings may change, but literary text stays the same (137).

The writer will focus on characterization, setting, and plot of the novel. In addition, analyze how these formal elements connected and work each other to construct the story of the novel. To get the meaning of a literary text, these formal elements will work together as an organic unity to show the complexity of a literary work. The works of organic unity –the working together of all the parts to make an inseparable whole- is the criterion by which New Critics judges as the quality of a literary text (138)

1.7 Method of the Study

The writer used qualitative approach for this study. Since the object of the study, the *Romanov Prophecy*, is a novel, the writer used close reading method to gain a deeper understanding on this novel. In addition, because of the use of new criticism theory, the analysis of the study will be based on characterization, setting, plots, and symbolism that appeared in the novel. The analysis was started by

searching of data related to those formal elements from dialogues, event, conflict, etc in the novel as the first objective.

It is the characterization of Miles Lord as the main character, the description of setting where the events happen, the symbol taken from Rasputin's prophecy, and the plot of events that happened in the novel. Furthermore, after finding the formal elements, the writer analyzed how these formal elements connected each other and work as an organic unity that support the process of seeking the truth. Next, the writer searched other data in the library, by gaining information such as journal articles, books, and any other sources related to the object and the theory of New Criticism.

1.8 Definition of key terms

American supremacy	: the way how America is better over the other country.
Formal elements	: intrinsic elements of a literary work that work together to construct literary works such as characterization, plot, Setting, etc.
Organic unity	: the form when the formal elements of the story are connected and work together constructing the story.
Prophecy	: a prediction of future events by a person who called as mystic, psychic, etc.
Monarch	: a governmental system where king, emperor, or Caesar have absolute power over his people
Truth-finding	: the process of revealing something important that kept secret for a long time