

**THE MYSTERY FORMULAS IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S NOVELS**

**A THESIS**



**By**

**Harley Asa Darmawan**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM  
TEACHER EDUCATION FACULTY  
WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SURABAYA**

**June 2023**

# **THE MYSTERY FORMULAS IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S NOVELS**

## **A THESIS**

Presented to Teacher Education Faculty Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan in English Language Education



**By**

**Harley Asa Darmawan**

**1213018053**

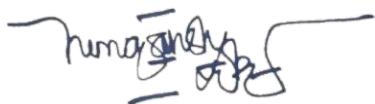
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM  
TEACHER EDUCATION FACULTY  
WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SURABAYA**

**JUNE 2023**

## **APPROVAL SHEET**

**(I)**

This thesis entitled “The Mystery Formulas in Agatha Christie’s Novels” prepared and submitted by Harley Asa Darmawan 1213018053 has been approved to be examined by the Thesis Board of Examiners.



Drs. B. Himawan S.W., M.Hum.  
Thesis Advisor

$\beta$

Drs. B. Budiyono, M.Pd.

Examiner 1



Dr. Ruruh Mindari, M.Pd.

Examiner 2

## APPROVAL SHEET

(II)

This thesis entitled "The Mystery Formulas in Agatha Christie's Novels" prepared and submitted by Harley Asa Darmawan 1213018053 has been approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners.

$\beta$

Dr. B. Budiyono, M.Pd.  
Chair



Drs. B. Himawan S.W., M.Hum.  
Secretary



Dr. Ruruh Mindari, M.Pd.  
Member



Dr. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M.Pd.  
Dean



Maria Josephine Kriesye S., M.Pd.  
Head of Study Program

### **STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

I declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true and correct that I did not take any scholarly ideas or work from others dishonestly. All the cited works were quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing. I will take all the consequences if plagiarism is found in this thesis.

Surabaya, June 9, 2023



Harley Asa Darmawan 1213018053

## SURAT PERNYATAAN Jalur Skripsi

Bersama ini saya  
Nama  
Nomor Pokok  
Program Studi  
Jurusan  
Fakultas

Harley Asa Darmawan  
1213018053  
Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan (FKIP)

Menyatakan dengan sesungguhnya bahwa skripsi saya yang berjudul  
The Mystery Formulas in Agatha Christie's Novels

benar-benar merupakan hasil karya saya sendiri. Apabila Skripsi ini ternyata merupakan hasil *plagiarisme*, maka saya bersedia menerima sanksi berupa pembatalan kelulusan dan/ataupencabutan gelar yang telah saya peroleh.

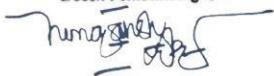
Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya dan dengan penuh kesadaran.

Surabaya, 9 Juni 2023  
Yang membuat pernyataan,



Harley Asa Darmawan

Mengetahui,  
Dosen Pembimbing I.



B. Himawan Setyo W., M. Hum.  
NIK: \_\_\_\_\_

Dosen Pembimbing II,

NIK: \_\_\_\_\_

**SURAT PERNYATAAN  
PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH**

Demi perkembangan ilmu Pengetahuan, saya sebagai mahasiswa Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya:

Nama Mahasiswa : Harley Asa Darmawan  
Nomor Pokok : 1213018053  
Program Studi Pendidikan : Bahasa Inggris  
Jurusan : Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni  
Fakultas : Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan  
Tanggal Lulus : 15 Juni 2023

Dengan ini **SETUJU**/~~SETUJU~~ Skripsi atau Karya Ilmiah saya,

Judul: The Mystery Formulas in Agatha Christie's Novels

Untuk dipublikasikan/ditampilkan di Internet atau media lain (Digital Library Perpustakaan Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya) untuk kepentingan akademik sebatas sesuai undang-undang Hak Cipta yang berlaku.

Demikian surat pernyataan **SETUJU**/~~SETUJU~~ publikasi Karya Ilmiah ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya, 9 Juni 2023  
Yang membuat pernyataan,



Harley Asa Darmawan

NRP: 1213018053

*\*coret salah satu*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Firstly, I would like to thank Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that has given me His blessings and mercy so that I could finish this thesis on time. It was by His grace also that gave me guidance and the encouragement that I need to finish this thesis.

Secondly I would like to thank my thesis advisor, *Bapak* Drs. B. Himawan S.W. M.Hum, who gave me a lot of information, guidance, and advice on finishing this thesis. I would not be able to finish this thesis without his help.

Thirdly, I would like to thank my academic advisor, *Ibu* Dra. M. N. Siti Mina Tamah, Ph.D who gave me her guidance and support in my thesis so that I could finish my thesis on time.

I would like to thank *Bapak* Drs. B. Budiyono, M.Pd. and *Ibu* Dr. Ruruh Mindari, M.Pd. as the examiner during my proposal and thesis exam for their useful feedbacks and advices so that my thesis can be made better than before. Without their help, this thesis would be having a lot of mistakes and would not be a decent thesis paper.

Next, I would like to thank my family, and my parents for supporting me throughout my journey of doing my thesis, especially my mother Gusni for her love and support on finishing this thesis.

I also would like to thank my friends that joined my proposal seminar, especially Gabriel Marchi P that gave me a useful question and feedback so that my thesis can be done better.

## **ABSTRACT**

Literature has been used nowadays in people's everyday lives. No matter what the genre of the literature, it will always have patterns or formula. The patterns or formula helps the readers to understand the story better and to have a feel of satisfaction. This study's research questions are "how does the application of the mystery formula theory in Agatha Christie's novels?" and "is the formula that is used in the novel relevant to the mystery formula theory?" The objectives of the study are to find out the application of mystery formula aspects in Agatha Christie's novels, and to connect the mystery formula theory by Edgar Allan Poe with Agatha Christie's novels. This study uses the mystery formula theory by Edgar Allan Poe to make a connection on Agatha Christie's novels. To collect the data, the researcher will read the novels several times in order to find the connection of mystery formula then the data will be classified according to the mystery formula theory. The data then will be used to reveal the settings, characters, plot, theme, and the mystery formula that is used in Agatha Christie's novels using the theory by Edgar Allan Poe. The results were that all of the four novels, which are "The Murder at the Vicarage", "The Pale Horse", "Crooked House", and "The Mystery of the Blue Train", did not have a connection to the mystery formula aspects since one of the novels did not match the mystery formula theory by Edgar Allan Poe. The formula aspects that were applied in each novel was different from one another. The conclusion from the study was that all the four novels did not have a connection with the mystery formula aspects by Edgar Allan Poe.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE .....	i
APPROVAL SHEET (I) .....	iii
APPROVAL SHEET (II) .....	iv
STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY .....	v
SURAT PERNYATAAN .....	vi
SURAT PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI .....	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	viii
ABSTRACT .....	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of the study .....	1
1.2 Research problems .....	2
1.3 Objectives of the study .....	2
1.4 Theoretical framework .....	2
1.5 Scope and limitation of the study .....	3
1.6 The significance of the study .....	3
1.7 Definition of keyterms .....	3
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	5
2.1 The study of literary formulas .....	5
2.2 Four aspects of classical detective story formula .....	7
2.2.1 Situation .....	7
2.2.2 Patterns of action .....	7
2.2.3 Characters and relationships .....	10
2.2.4 Setting .....	11
2.3 The novel and its writer .....	11
2.3.1 The novels .....	11
2.3.2 The author of the novel .....	12
2.4 Previous studies .....	13
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	15
3.1 Research design .....	15
3.2 Data source .....	17

3.3 Research instruments .....	17
3.4 Data collection technique .....	17
3.5 Data analysis procedure.....	18
3.6 Data analysis presentation .....	18
 CHAPTER IV DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS.....	19
4.1 The application of mystery formula theory in Agatha Christie's novels .....	20
4.1.1 The Mysteryof The Blue Train .....	20
4.1.1.a The introduction of the detective .....	20
4.1.1.b Crime and clues.....	22
4.1.1.c Investigation.....	24
4.1.1.d Announcement of the solution.....	25
4.1.1.e Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	26
4.1.1.f Denouement/ending .....	28
4.1.2 The Murder at the Vicarage .....	29
4.1.2.a The introduction of the detective .....	29
4.1.2.b Crime and clues.....	29
4.1.2.c Investigation.....	34
4.1.2.d Announcement of the solution.....	35
4.1.2.e Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	36
4.1.2.f Denouement/ending .....	37
4.1.3 Crooked House .....	39
4.1.3.a The introduction of the detective .....	39
4.1.3.b Crime and clues.....	39
4.1.3.c Investigation.....	43
4.1.3.d Announcement of the solution.....	44
4.1.3.e Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	46
4.1.3.f Denouement/ending .....	47
4.1.4 The Pale Horse .....	48
4.1.4.a The introduction of the detective .....	48
4.1.4.b Crime and clues.....	49
4.1.4.c Investigation.....	50
4.1.4.d Announcement of the solution.....	52
4.1.4.e Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	53
4.1.4.f Denouement/ending .....	55
4.2 The relevance between the formula used in Agatha Christie's novels to the mystery formula theory by Edgar Allan Poe.....	56
4.2.1 Situation.....	56

4.2.1.a	The Mysteryof the Blue Train.....	56
4.2.1.b	The Murder at the Vicarage.....	56
4.2.1.c	Crooked House.....	57
4.2.1.d	The Pale Horse.....	58
4.2.2	Patterns of action .....	58
4.2.2.1	The Mysteryof the Blue Train.....	59
4.2.2.1.a	The introduction of the detective.....	59
4.2.2.1.b	Crime and clues.....	60
4.2.2.1.c	Investigation .....	62
4.2.2.1.d	Announcement of the solution .....	63
4.2.2.1.e	Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	64
4.2.2.1.f	Denouement/ending .....	67
4.2.2.2	The Pale Horse.....	67
4.2.2.2.a	The introduction of the detective .....	68
4.2.2.2.b	Crime and clues.....	68
4.2.2.2.c	Investigation .....	70
4.2.2.2.d	Announcement of the solution .....	72
4.2.2.2.e	Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	73
4.2.2.2.f	Denouement/ending .....	75
4.2.2.3	Crooked House .....	76
4.2.2.3.a	The introduction of the detective .....	76
4.2.2.3.b	Crime and clues.....	77
4.2.2.3.c	Investigation .....	80
4.2.2.3.d	Announcement of the solution .....	82
4.2.2.3.e	Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	84
4.2.2.3.f	Denouement/ending .....	85
4.2.2.4	The Murder at the Vicarage.....	87
4.2.2.4.a	The introduction of the detective.....	87
4.2.2.4.b	Crime and clues.....	87
4.2.2.4.c	Investigation .....	93
4.2.2.4.d	Announcement of the solution .....	94
4.2.2.4.e	Explanation of the solution/ratiocination .....	95
4.2.2.4.f	Denouement/ending .....	96
4.2.3	Characters and relationships.....	98
4.2.3.1	The victim/victims .....	99
4.2.3.1.a	The Mysteryof the Blue Train .....	99
4.2.3.1.b	Crooked House.....	99

4.2.3.1.c The Pale Horse .....	101
4.2.3.1.d The Murder at the Vicarage.....	103
4.2.3.2 The criminal.....	103
4.2.3.2.a The Mysteryof the Blue Train .....	103
4.2.3.2.b Crooked House.....	104
4.2.3.2.c The Pale Horse .....	105
4.2.3.2.d The Murder at the Vicarage.....	107
4.2.3.3 The detective.....	107
4.2.3.3.a The Mysteryof the Blue Train .....	108
4.2.3.3.b Crooked House.....	108
4.2.3.3.c The Pale Horse .....	109
4.2.3.3.d The Murder at the Vicarage.....	110
4.2.3.4 Those who are involved in the crime but incapable of solving it.....	110
4.2.3.4.a The Mysteryof the Blue Train .....	111
4.2.3.4.b Crooked House.....	112
4.2.3.4.c The Pale Horse .....	112
4.2.3.4.d The Murder at the Vicarage.....	114
4.2.4 Setting.....	116
4.2.4.a Crooked House.....	117
4.2.4.b The Murder at the Vicarage.....	118
4.2.4.c The Mysteryof the Blue Train.....	119
4.2.4.d The Pale Horse .....	120
4.3 Discussion .....	121
 CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS .....	124
5.1 Conclusions .....	124
5.2 Suggestions.....	124
 REFERENCES .....	126
 APPENDIX .....	128