A Description of Plot in James Ellroy’s Novel The Black Dahlia

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A DESCRIPTION OF PLOT IN JAMES ELLROY’S NOVEL
THE BLACK DAHLIA

A PAPER

BY

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ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: investigasi, pembunuhan, black dahlia
ABSTRACT

Plot is an important element of literary work, because the plot tells the important event that occur in a story. Plot or the structure of action is used to indicate almost any kind of action that found in a story, including the closed plot, the open plot, and the straight narrative with little or no serious complication. This paper is entitled A Description of Plot in James Ellroy's novel *The Black Dahlia*. This description aims to explain the two LAPD detectives Dwight 'Bucky' Bleichert (Mr Ice) and Lee Blanchard (Mr Fire) who tried to investigate the murder and dismemberment of Elizabeth Short, soon dubbed "*The Black Dahlia*" by the press in Los Angeles. Freytag’s Pyramid is the plot structure in making this paper, in this plot structure, the story begins by revealing exposition upfront, then leads into a long rising action. The climax falls in the middle of the story, and then the second half is spent on a very long falling action, followed by a short resolution. In making this papers, the writer uses qualitative descriptive methods in collecting data. As a first step, the author reads the novel to understand the story. Then, the author searches data from the internet to support the author's idea of related topics from this paper.

*Key words: investigate, murder, Black Dahlia*
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Medan, December 3rd 2018

The Writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Literature is human personal expression especially experience thought, feeling, enthusiasm, concept and certain description, which can arise the enchanments and it uses a language as communication media.

According to Esten (1978:9) literature is a form of creative art and the work that the object is a human being and language as the medium. From the definition above, we know that literature can not be separated from language, because language is the medium of literature, because human are the object of literature. Literature as one of the elements of culture is used express human thought and idea. Literature is divided into two parts there are, fiction and nonfiction Sumarjo and Saini in Bahun (2014:1) stated that fiction is a narrative that wrote by author in a novel, short story, drama which based on imagination of the author rather that from history or fact (Holman and Harmon in Bahun, 2014:1).

According to Moelong (2000:13) literature is the knowledge which is earned by human beings arise conduct and it is used to reflect and express experience. There are many types of literature; the basic genres include short story, poetry, drama and short stories.
The novel is a collection of stories arranged in such a way in book form. Novel according to Clara Reeve (1785) in Kennedy (1983) “is a picture of real life and manners, and of the time in which it was written.” Based from the quotation above, a novel created looks like a depiction of the behavior of human in real life.

Staton (2007:29) was stated the character is affecting the plot, if the story only has a few in characters, there will be more close and simple story. If we do not know the plot of the story, it will be hard to understand what the story tells about. Like another intrinsic elements, plot also have his own rule. There should be clear, real, and logic, where the beginning, middle, and the end of story.

Plot is an important element of literary work, because the plot tells the important event that occur in a story. Plot or the structure of action is used to indicate almost any kind of action that found in a story, including the closed plot, the open plot, and the straight narrative with little or no serious complication, Bocker (1963:91)

Generally, plot is one of the elements of fiction and organized the sequence of events and action that make up the story. Plot also helps the reader in understanding the story of the novel. The clarity of the plot makes the reader easier in understanding the story. Usually a good or popular novels uses simple plot, so the strength of the novel also depend on the plot.

In this study, the writer chooses the plot as research in the novel *The Black Dahlia* because plot is the most important part to be analyzed in a novel. In addition, the plot development of the story is the main element to decide a good
novel. Plot is a logical series of events having a beginning, middle and end making the story more interesting and easier to comprehended. As plot, characters also have their important functions during the development of plots and as the subject who experiences the problems and the conflicts which have roles in developing the plot of the story.

A novel is used as the material of discussion in this paper. The selection of a novel as research is to explain the storyline of the novel and aim to tell the story’s contents of the novel. The selection of James Ellroy’s novel entitled The Black Dahlia was chosen because this novel taking inspiration from the true story.

The writer interested in the novel of The Black Dahlia because his story is quite complicated and interested. This novel tells about the death of a woman named Elizabeth Short who was murdered cruelly, her mysterious death makes this novel more interested to read.

1.2 Problem of the study

How are the plot structures or elements portrayed in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the study

The purpose of writing in this paper is to explain how the plot consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution are portrayed in The Black Dahlia novel
1.4 **Scope of the study**

The writer interested to describe plot in the novel. The scope of this paper is Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action and Resolution is restricted to the plot found in this novel.

1.5 **Significance of Study**

The significance of study is divided into two sections, they are:

a. **Theoretical Significance**

The study can be used to enrich the literary study especially in plot.

b. **Practical Significance**

The reader will understand about plot in the novel and the reader will know the story in the novel.

1.6 **Method of the study**

The writer uses qualitative descriptive method as the method of study in writing this paper. As the first step, the writer reads the novel to understand the story. Then, the writer browses data from internet to support the writer’s idea of the related topic of this paper.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Definition of Novel

The word comes from the Italian, Novella, which means the new staff that small. The novel developed in England and America. The novel was originally developed in the region from other forms of narrative nonfiction, such as letters, biographies, and history. But with a shift in society and development time, the novel is not only based on data nonfiction, author of novel can change according to the desired imagination.

Sumardjo (1998:29) says that “novel is a story with the prose form in long shape, this long shape means the story including the complex plot, many character and various setting”. Novel is a genre of fiction, and may be defined as the art or craft of contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both.

According Kenney William, novel is the short story compresses, the novel expand. For the intensity of the short story, the novel subtitues complexity, time and the novel is decidedly not meant to be read at a single sitting. Because is length, the novel is particularly suited, as the short story is not, to deal with the effect an character of the passage of time.

Novel is narrative text informing of prose with a long shape that including some figures and fiction event. The intrinsic elements of novel are plot, setting characterization, point of view, and theme. A lot of novels have young people as
the main characters, for it is often the young who feel themselves to be most at
odds with conventional standards. You will have made considerable progress in
understanding the particular novel you are reading if you can see how it sets
certain individuals against society or their family. (John Peck and Martin Coyle,
1984:102)

2.2 Intrinsic Elements of Novel

Novel is narrative text informing of prose with a long shape that including
some figures and action event. The intrinsic elements of novel are plot,
characterization, point of view, and theme.

Intrinsic elements (intrinsic) are the elements that build the literary work
itself. Elements are what because the literary present as a work of Martial Arts.
Intrinsic elements of a novel element (directly) participate and build the story.
Extrinsic elements (extrinsic) are the elements that are beyond the works of
Martial Arts, but indirectly affect the building or system of the organism’s Martial
Arts. Extrinsic elements of a novel must be still seen as something important.

2.2.1 The Theme

The theme is the ideas of common bases that sustains a work of literature
and are contained in the text semantic structure and as regarding commonality or
differences (Hartoko and Rahmanto, 1986:142). Themes distilled from the motifs
contained in the relevant work that determines the presence of events, conflicts
and situations. The theme became the basis of development of the whole story, so
he is animating the whole story.
Theme, according to Stanton (1965:20) and Kenny (1966:88) is the meaning contained by a story. But there are many meanings conceived and offered by the story (the novel), then the problem is a special meaning which can be expressed as the theme. Stanton and Kenny (Nurgiyantoro, 1965:70) have stated that theme is a meaning of a story which especially explains a big part of its elements in the simple way. It is more or less synonymous the central idea and central purpose.

Theme is the main idea that the writer expresses. Theme can also be defined as the underlying meaning of the story. Theme is another prime element of literature, which contains the central idea of all literary forms such as a novel, drama and short story. It reflects innocence, experience, live, death, reality, fate, madness, sanity, love, society, individual, etc.

According to Burton Goodman, theme is the main idea or the main point in a story. A theme must represent the whole part of the story, because theme is a basic development of a whole story. Staton (2007:7) was stated that theme gives a strong explained about the unity of what is happening in the story, and tell about the story of life in a common context. The purpose of theme is to give a shape and effect in our mind, so make the story easy to remember.

2.2.2 Plot

Plot is an important element of literary work, because the plot tells the important event that occur in a story. Plot or the structure of action is used to indicate almost any kind of action that found in a story, including the closed plot,
the open plot, and the straight narrative with little or no serious complication, Bocker (1963:91)

Stanton (1965:14), suggested the plot is a story that contains the sequence of events, but each incident is only connected in cause and effect, an event which cause or led the occurrence of other events. According to Forster, plot is events in story that has pressure to casual relationship (1970:93). According to Stanton (1965:14) is a story that contains sequence event but every event connected by casual relationship, one event cause or caused to the other events.

2.2.3 Character

Character is one of the important elements of fiction. Character are elements which can be found in a novel. Plot and character are inseparable, because plot is not simply a series of event happens that come out of character to delineate character. Character is any person, identify, or entity whose existence originates from a fictional work or performance. Such existence is presumed by those participating in the performance as audience, readers, or otherwise. In addition to people, characters can be aliens, gods, artificial intelligence or, occasionally, inanimate objects.

According to Edgar (1987) a character may be defined as a verbal representation of a human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors portray characters that are worth caring about, rooting for, and even love, although there are also characters you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate.
According to Robert (1993:20) characters are the person in dramatic of narratives work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with the moral and this optional qualities that are expressed in what they say in the dialogue and what they do the action. Based on the statement, it is clearly seen that the character is created by the author and applied on the story that they characteristic are closely to the real life.

Character is the imaginary person that the author creates and can be classified as major and minor character. Major character is an important figure at the centre of story’s action or theme whereas minor is the character which support the major character and to illuminate. (Robert too, 1990:45)

2.2.4 The Setting

“The of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locate, historical time, and a social circumstances in which its action occurs, the setting of an episode or seen within a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place” (A Glossary of Literary Terms, Abraham, MH, 1969:75)

Setting is the natural, manufactured, political, and temporary environment, including everything that characters know and own. Like all human beings, fictional characters do not exist in isolation. Just they become human by interacting with other characters, they gain identity because of their cultural and political allegiances, their possessions, their jobs and their location where they live and move and have their being.
According to Rene Wellek and Warren “Setting is environment and especially domestic interior, maybe viewed as metonymic, or metaphoric, expression of character” (1977:221)

The setting is not only show’s the place or time of the sequences of events, but it also expresses the character in a story. Stories must therefore necessarily include the time, location, and everything in which a story takes places, and initiates the main backdrop and mood for a story. Setting has been referred to as story world or milieu to include a context (especially society) beyond the immediate surroundings of the story. Element of setting may include culture, historical period, geography, and hour.

2.2.5 The Point of View

Point of view is something through which writer permits you to “Feel”, “See” and “Hear” what is happening. Expert writers can get their audience consideration on the detail, feelings and opinion easily by manipulating the point of view any story in an amazing way. Point of view is the lens through which a story told. It is the narrative voice through which one can easily understand the plot of a story, can comprehend the nature of its characters, can discover the background and feel the depth of relations, complexities and emotions. In simple words, point of view permits one to experience the writing as it unfolds.

Point of view is the perspective from which a story is narrated. Every story has a perspective, though there can be more than on type of point of view in a work of literature. The most common points of view used in novels are first person singular (“I”) and third person (“he” and “she”). However, there are many
variation these two types of point of view, as well as other less common narratives points of view.

2.3 Definition of Plot

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Stanton states the plot of a story consists of events order, but each event is only connected with causality, one event is causes the others. Therefore, Kenny stated that plot is event shown in a story which is not simple, because the author them according to causality.
Freytag’s pyramid is as simple as it gets in a bad way. In this plot structure, the story begins by revealing exposition upfront, then leads into a long rising action. The climax falls in the middle of the story, and then the second half is spent on a very long falling action, followed by a short resolution.

Gustav Freytag, a 19th century German playwright, structured dramatic stories in five sequential parts: (1) exposition; (2) rising action; (3) climax; (4) falling action; and (5) resolution. This is called the Freytag pyramid, because when visualized as a function of rising and falling tension, it appears as shown below.

### 2.3.1 Exposition

The exposition presents the setting (time and place), characters (protagonist-hero-heroine, antagonist-villain), and the basic conflict; it also established the mood or atmosphere of the story. The first dramatic are enables the reader to know more about the circumstances and the relationship of the characters with each other. Then an exciting event happens leading to the conflict which impels the story to move forward.
The opening of the story, including a reader’s introduction to characters and settings. This is the beginning of the story, where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well. Exposition sets the scene. The writer introduces the characters and setting, providing description and background.

2.3.2 Rising Action

Rising action is the second arc where the basic conflict is brewing and the reader is beginning to feel the rising tension associated with this conflict. At this juncture, the basic conflict is further complicated by the introduction of obstacles frustrating the protagonist and other characters to reach their objectives. Secondary conflicts are probably coming from the antagonist, or adversaries, of lesser importance. In a dramatic structure, rising action is another act/scene and punctuated to be distinct from the climax. In the pyramid, rising action is located in the middle left portion just above the exposition and below the climax.

Taking place within the first third of a story, novel or script, the rising action is also the part of the work where the problem or conflict central to the plot is truly introduced. The main characters have been established and events begin to get complicated for them. They may take actions against the conflict though it will probably not be solved yet. This element of the plot is where excitement, tension and crisis are encountered.
2.3.3 Climax

The climax is the turning point and this third arc effects a change either for the better or for the worse in the protagonist’s situation. In a comedy, the protagonist positively faces his obstacles and there is a great chance that things will turn out well; but in a tragedy, the conflict of the protagonist is worsening which will ultimately turn disastrous for him. The climax is the beginning of another act/scene and punctuated to separate it from the rising and falling action. It occupies the highest point in the pyramid.

The climax is considered the highest point of interest of the story. This is where all the action of the story reaches a peak. It is usually the moment of greatest tension. The crisis can be considered the complication right before the climax, or can also be used as another name for climax.

2.3.4 Falling action

A reversal happens in this fourth arc where the conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist is beginning to resolve. The protagonist either wins or loses to the antagonist. There are unexpected incidents which make the final outcome suspenseful. The falling action designates that the main action (the climax) is over and the story is heading towards the end. This fourth arc is located at the middle right side of the triangle just below the climax and above the conclusion. It appears as a separate act/scene and is distinct from the other arcs.

The falling action in a work of literature is the sequence of events that follow the climax and end in the resolution. The falling action is the opposite of the rising action, which leads up to the plot's climax.
2.3.5 Resolution

The resolution, also known as the denouement, is the conclusion of the story’s plot. Its where any unanswered questions are answered, or “loose ends are tied.” Interestingly the phrase denouement meaning “to untie.” A story with a complete ending is said to have strong resolution. The resolution is the last of the five main elements of plot.

The end of a story, novel or script includes the last plot element -- the resolution. It is here that loose ends are tied up, conflicts are concluded, outcomes are revealed and a happy or sad ending takes place. As many of the final actions have already taken place, a resolution can be made up of a just a summary of where the main character will end up in the future, instead of including any more active events.
CHAPTER III

A DESCRIPTION OF PLOT

3.1 Exposition

Bucky Bleichert (Mr Ice), the narrator, meets his partner, Lee Blanchard (Mr Fire), when they are boxing opponents in Los Angeles. Blanchard has the reputation of a hero, and Bleichert has the reputation of a snitch. In the charity game Bucky was intentionally made to please the audience and their leader John Tierney. All this was done by Bucky who needed money to put the elderly in a nursing home.

I recently asked both fire and ice why they gave up their best ring years to become cops. their responses are indicative of the fine men they are:
Sergeant Blanchard: “a fighters career doesnt last forever, but the satisfaction of serving your community does"
Officer Bleichert: “i wanted to fight more dangerous opponents, namely criminals and communists”. (The Black Dahlia, p.20)

Three years later, Blanchard is working in Warrants. His partner is leaving, and Bucky is up for the promotion. Working in the Warrants Department means working with the District Attorney’s office and investigating real crimes instead of handing out traffic tickets. The District Attorney likes to hire officers who have good boxing records and wants to hire Vogel, the son of a friend in the Detective Bureau.

Bucky is on the job when he is called to report to the Chief of Detectives. When he arrives at City Hall, the room is filled with officials. Lee Blanchard is also there. He is instructed to read an editorial in the newspaper titled “Fire and Ice among LA’s Finest”. The article is about Bucky (Ice) and Lee (Fire), but is
written in support of a bond to upgrade police equipment and provide an 8% pay raise. Bucky spots Lee outside City Hall talking to Kay Lake, Lee’s girlfriend. She is not in favor of the match because she is afraid Bucky will hurt Lee, but Lee promised to buy her a car with the money he is paid for the fight.

The punches were telegraphed, and in my mind I countered a one-two at his jaw and midsection. I said, “I'll try not to hurt you”. Kay smoldered at the remark; Blanchard grinned. “It took weeks to talk her into letting me do it. I promised her a new car if she didn't pout too much”. "Don't make any bets you can't cover" (The Black Dahlia, p.24)

Bucky, Lee, and Kay quickly become friends, spending all their free time together in the fall of 1946. Bucky begins to fall in love with Kay. On New Year’s Eve, Kay tells Bucky she loves him. Bucky does not have a chance to reply.

### 3.2 Rising Action

Bucky sees the nude, mutilated body of a young woman. She has been cut in half at the waist. The lower half of her body lay several feet away, legs wide open. Flaps of skin have been cut from her body and her organs have been removed. Her entire body has been slashed, her nose smashed into the facial cavity, and her mouth has been cut from ear to ear.

The police decide to limit the information released about the crime and are sworn to secrecy. Reporters are not allowed near the body or near the crime scene. There is no visible blood at the crime scene. After the coroner takes the body,
police canvass the area, talking to everyone they see. Lee is insistent on investigating the crime, even though they are not Homicide. Bucky believes this is because of Lee’s sister. Lee is determined to get the murderer.

Bucky walks into the station, which is in chaos. Reporters are in Loew’s office for a press conference. He tells the reporters that Lee and Bucky have been put on the case. Bucky discovers Lee got them transferred on the case after arranging surveillance on Nash. Lee asks Bucky for one week.

The newspaper calls the murderer a werewolf, which puts pressure on the D.A. and police to find the killer. They have no leads. The girl was placed in the field after being killed somewhere else. They also do not know the victim’s identity. Bucky and Lee witness the victim’s autopsy. During the procedure, they receive word the victim has been identified. She is Elizabeth Ann Short.

Loew is outside the hospital giving another press conference. The police have received eighteen confessions, all from crazy people are attracted to the sensational nature of the crime. Bucky and Lee goes to question Elizabeth's father, who is not distressed or emotional about his daughter's death. He offers an alibi. He and "Betty" were not close and had not spoken for years. He says his daughter is Man-Crazy and Wore All Black.

The morning newspaper gives Elizabeth the name “The Black Dahlia” and portrays her as a man hungry tramp.

The headline was "Hunt Boyfriends in Torture Killing," a portrait photo of Elizabeth Short centered directly below it. it was captioned, "The Black Dahlia" followed by,"Authorities today were searching into the love life of
22-year-old Elizabeth Short, victim of the ‘werewolf murder’, whose romance had changed her, according to friends, from an innocent girl to a black-clad, man-crazy delinquent known as the Black Dahlia. (The Black Dahlia, p.100)

3.3 Climax

Bucky goes with Bill Koenig to talk to the victim’s neighbors. Lee is passed out on a bench because his pills have worn off. They talk to the landlady first who says “Beth” was an awful tenant because she was late with the rent. Her apartment has private steps, so she didn’t have to come through the front door. She didn’t see men with her, but heard noises at all hours of the night.

They talk to a girl named Sheryl, who tells them Betty had too many boyfriends and was a liar. Betty lied so much she had trouble keeping her lies straight. She would tell people her father was dead, then the next day, talk about her father. One time, Betty claimed to have worked on a movie. Sheryl did not know the name of the movie, but saw that Betty had an expensive viewfinder she was showing the other girls.

Bucky and Koenig drive to another house. Koenig takes Hal and Don, two men who dated Betty. Bucky interviews Marjorie who says Betty used people and borrowed money. She did anything to be liked and took on the mannerisms of those around her. Betty was in a movie and showed the viewfinder to get attention. She told one person the movie was for Paramount, and told another person the movie was for Fox. Marjorie also says Betty may have been a lesbian
involved with an older woman and had a girlfriend named Linda Martin, who lives there as well.

“Marjorie, what about names? Betty’s boyfriends, people you saw her with?" “Well, I know she went out with Don Leyes and Harold Costa, and I saw her once with a sailor, and I . . .” Marjorie’s voice was stretched thin. “Right before she moved out I saw Betty and Linda Martin talking to this big older woman up on the Boulevard. She was wearing a man’s her that on time, so maybe it doesn’t mean-“

(The Black Dahlia, p.114)

Bucky enters Linda’s apartment. Linda is gone. Bucky finds her identification, stating her name is Lorna Martilkova and is fifteen years old. Bucky issues an all-points juvenile warrant on Linda. He calls the Screen Actor’s Guild and learns that Elizabeth has not been in any legitimate movie. He also interviews women at lesbian bars, but doesn’t find any leads.

Bucky follows up with Madeleine Sprague, a woman he met at a lesbian bar. She says she met Betty and Linda last fall. Bucky makes a date with her for the following night. Bucky picks up Madeleine at her father’s mansion. Her father is a Hollywood tycoon. They have dinner with her family.

"Bucky Bleichert, may i present my family. My mother, Ramona Cathcart Sprague. My father, Emmet Sprague. My sister, Martha McConville Sprague”. (The Black Dahlia, p.142)
After dinner, he and Madeleine drive to a motel and have sex. She says she did not tell Bucky the whole truth before. She tells him she hunted Betty down because she heard Betty looked just like her.

Millard sends Bucky and Lee to Encino to look for Linda, but Bucky can’t find Lee. He goes with Fritzie and Johnny Vogel and brings her into the station for questioning. Millard and Bucky question Linda about Betty. She tells them to call her Lorna, her real name. She tells the she and Betty made a dirty movie together. This is where Betty got the viewfinder. Lorna is held in a private cell.

The movie is screened and Lee loses his temper, shocking everyone. He runs out of the room. Bucky chases Lee across town. Loew takes Lee off the case, but Bucky is ordered to stay on.

The Chief of Detectives asks Bucky to explain Lee’s actions. Lee is suspended. Bucky discovers Bobby, Kay’s ex, has not checked in with his parole officer. He bought a ticket to Tijuana. Lee is also in Tijuana, supposedly investigating the man who made the dirty movie. Earlier, Lorna told the truth- the man who made the movie lives in LA. Bucky decides to go to Tijuana to straighten things out.

Loew, Vogel, and Koenig are also in Tijuana. Bobby is in a Mexican prison. Bucky is slammed into the bars by Bobby and knocked out. When Bucky wakes up, Bobby is dead. He wonders if he did it, but is told he is innocent. Bucky types a formal request for a transfer back to Warrants.
I request to be detached from the Elizabeth Short investigation immediately, and returned to my duties at Central Division arrants. I feel that the Short case is more than adequately staffed, by far more experienced officers than myself, and that I could more effectively serve the Department working Warrants. Moreover, with my partner, Sergeant L.C. Blanchard, missing, I will need to break in a replacement at a time when there is most likely a large backlog of priority papers. In preparation for my duties as Senior Warrants officer, I have been studying for the Sergeant’s Examination, and expect to take it at the next promotion board this spring. This, I feel, will give me leadership training, and will make up for my relative lack of experience as a plainclothes field officer. (*The Black Dahlia*, P.185)

Bucky heads to Tijuana to find Lee and gets a tip he is in Ensenada. A bar owner tells him Lee was there a few months ago. A private investigator tells Bucky Lee paid two men to kill Bobby. Lee was killed with an axe, but no one knows who killed him. He digs up Lee’s body and runs when he sees the decay. Kay tells Bucky she knew Lee before the trial. He planned the robbery with three other men and set up Bobby. Bobby threatened to tell of Lee’s involvement. The men shot by Bucky and Lee were the other men involved in the robbery. Bucky marries Kay and promises to drop the case.

### 3.4 Falling Action

One of the bungalows built by Sprague is found, bloodstained. The walls are covered with pictures of crippled and disfigured women and pornographic images. A mattress is caked in blood. Bucky notices a blood spattered anatomy book next to the mattress. Bucky takes dark hair samples, strands of rope, fingerprints, and a boot print as evidence. One print appears identical to Betty’s. He also takes a blood stained baseball bat.
Bucky believes George Tilden killed Betty after being fixed up with her at the Sprague house and confronts Madeleine and her father. They are in bed together, and Bucky is told George is actually Madeleine's biological father. Emmett Sprague tells Bucky that George’s father was an anatomist. George used to like to touch the discarded organs as a child.

George saw Betty when the dirty movie was made and became obsessed because she looked like Madeleine. George demanded to meet Betty or he would tell everyone Madeleine was his daughter. Betty called Madeleine from Dr. Roach’s office and came over. Betty left with George, but never came back for her purse. Madeleine paid Linda to say the movie was filmed in Mexico. Her sister was responsible for the letters.

Bucky intends to kill George. He finds George. His bungalow is filled with jars of organs and a written account of the killing.

Kill him, no public glory, no public disgrace-private justice. Let the Spragues go or coerce a detailed confession out of George before you pull the trigger. Get it on paper, then figure out a way to hurt them with it at your leisure. Kill him. And try to live with it. (*The Black Dahlia*, p.327)

He finds a flap of skin with a tattoo floating in it. The tattoo says “Betty and Major Matt”. George attacks Bucky with scalpels, but Bucky shoots him.

Bucky visits Jane Chambers and sees the painting again. He learns the painting was sold to the Chambers by Ramona, Sprague’s wife. He recognizes the writing on the receipt as the writing on the confession. Ramona killed Betty.
Ramona confesses to the murder, saying she followed George and Betty to the bungalow. She and George tortured Betty for two days before killing her. Bucky follows Madeleine to the hotel. She tells the man she is with she killed Lee in Mexico. Bucky arrests Madeleine.

3.5 Resolution

In the end, Madeleine was sentenced to ten years in a government hospital.

Bucky received two letters from Kay, who lives near Boston.

Dear Dwight,
“I didn’t know if you’d moved back to the house, so i don’t know if this letter will reach you. I’ve been checking the library for L.A. papers, and i know you’re not with the Department anymore, so that’s another place where i can’t write to you. I’ll just have to send this out and see what happens.”
“I have some money that Lee left me (a lie by omission, I know) and I’m going to head east in a day or so. I want to be far away from Los Angeles, someplace cool and pretty and old. Maybe New England, maybe the Great Lakes. All i know is that when i see the place, i’ll know it.” (*The Black Dahlia*, p.354)

And her second letter was Postmarked Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was written on stationery for the Harvard Motor Lodge.

Dear Dwight
“I’m still such a liar, proscrastinator and chicken heart. I’ve known for two months, and I just got up the courage to tell you. If this letter doesn’t reach you I’ll actually have to call the house or Russ Millard. Better you try this way first.”

“Dwight, I’m pregnant. It had to have happened that one awful time about a month before you moved out. I’m due around Christmast and I want to keep it”. (*The Black Dahlia*, p.356)
He assured their child. Bucky sold the house and flew to Boston. Bucky decided to be honest with Kay and try to rebuild their lives together and happier. Bucky loves her so much and they raise their children together.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

After describe the plot of novel by James Elrroy’s, *The Black Dahlia*, we know if the exposition of this story presents the setting (time and place), characters (protagonist-hero-heroine, antagonist-villain), and the basic conflict; it also established the mood or atmosphere of the story. The setting is Los Angeles, Tijuana, Motel, Park and House.

The conflict happens when the cases of a woman named Elizabeth Short were found on a vacant lot and nicknamed the press “The Black Dahlia”. This case involved two police officers, Bucky Bleichert (Mr. Ice), and Lee Blanchard (Mr Fire). Lee who is so obsessed with this case must stretch his life before he finishes the case. While Bucky who tried to solve this case finally revealed who the killer was. Kay's former lover Lee Lake who eventually became a life companion for Bucky. Madeleine, a figure who sits on Bucky similar to Elizabeth Short, makes Bucky fight and leave Kay Lake. Elizabeth Short's killer is apparently the parent of Madeleine, Emmet Sprague and Ramona Sprague. Madeleine who tried covering it was finally caught by Bucky. While the Ramona dies by firing a gun on its head. Kay Lake tried to send a letter to Bucky and told her that she was pregnant, until finally Bucky returned to Kay Lake and they lived happily with their children.
4.2 Suggestion

Plot is a logical series of events having a beginning, middle and end making the story more interesting and easier to comprehended. As plot, characters also have their important functions during the development of plots and as the subject who experiences the problems and the conflicts which have roles in developing the plot of the story.

After analyzing the plot of The Black Dahlia novel by James Ellroy’s, I hope the reader can understand the novel's storyline. This writing aims to facilitate the reader in understanding about plot in this novel. The theory used in this novel is Freytag Pyramid by Gustav Freytag with five structures namely the story of the upfront revealing exposition, then leads into a long rising action. The climax falls in the middle of the story, and then the second half is spent on a very long falling action, followed by a short resolution.

This novel is a book of deep friendship, conflicted and love, and the brooding and merciless obsession of the characters with the Black Dahlia. A fast moving, brutal and enjoyable police novel.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDICES

A. Biography of James Ellroy

Lee Earle "James" Ellroy (born March 4, 1948) is an American crime fiction writer and essayist. His mother, Geneva Odelia (née Hilliker), was a nurse, and his father, Armand, was an accountant and a onetime business manager of Rita Hayworth. After his parents' divorce, Ellroy relocated to El Monte, California, with his mother. When Ellroy was 10 years old, his mother was raped and murdered. Ellroy later described his mother as "sharp-tongued [and] bad-tempered", unable to keep a steady job, alcoholic and sexually promiscuous. His first reaction upon hearing of her death was relief: he could now live with his father, whom he preferred. The police never found the perpetrator, and the case remains unsolved. The murder, along with reading The Badge by Jack Webb (a book comprising sensational cases from the files of the Los Angeles Police Department, a birthday gift from his father), was an important event of Ellroy's youth.
Ellroy's inability to come to terms with the emotions surrounding his mother's murder led him to transfer them onto another murder victim, Elizabeth Short. Nicknamed the "Black Dahlia," Short was a young woman murdered in 1947, her body cut in half and discarded in Los Angeles, in a notorious and unsolved crime. Throughout his youth, Ellroy used Short as a surrogate for his conflicting emotions and desires. His confusion and trauma led to a period of intense clinical depression, from which he recovered only gradually.

Ellroy dropped out of school and joined the US Army for a short while. During his teens and 20s, he drank heavily and abused Benzedrex inhalers. He was engaged in minor crimes (especially shoplifting, house-breaking, and burglary) and was often homeless. After serving some time in jail and suffering from pneumonia, during which he developed an abscess on his lung "the size of a large man's fist," Ellroy stopped drinking and began working as a golf caddie while pursuing writing. He later said, "Caddying was good tax-free cash and allowed me to get home by 2 p.m. and write books... I caddied right up to the sale of my fifth book."

After a second marriage in the mid-1990s to Helen Knodle (author of the 2003 novel The Ticket Out), the couple moved from California to Kansas City in 1995. In 2006, after their divorce, Ellroy returned to Los Angeles. He is a self-described recluse who possesses very few technological amenities, including television, and claims never to read contemporary books by other authors, aside from Joseph Wambaugh's The Onion Field, out of concern that they might influence his own. However, this does not mean that Ellroy does not read at all, as he claims in My Dark Places to have read at least two books a week growing up, eventually shoplifting more to satisfy his love of reading. He then goes on to say that he read works by Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.
B. Summary of The Novel

The Black Dahlia is a fictionalized account of the real life murder of Elizabeth Short. Short’s body was found in an abandoned field near the famous Hollywood sign on January 15, 1947. Despite a long and public investigation, the murder remains unsolved to this day. It is one of the most famous unsolved cases in American history.

The novel follows Dwight “Bucky” Bleichert, an officer known more for his prowess in the boxing ring than his ability to uphold the law. He becomes partners with Lee Blanchard, a well-known and respected officer who is rising quickly in the police department. Bucky learns quickly at the hands of the more experienced Lee. He also falls in love with Lee’s live-in girlfriend, Kay Lake, a woman Lee met when he arrested and testified against her ex-boyfriend.

While investigating another crime, Bucky and Lee are among the first officers to respond when the body of Elizabeth Short is found. She has been mutilated and cut in half. Also, her mouth has been slashed open from ear to ear. Bucky and Lee are transferred to the case, and Lee becomes obsessed with finding the killer. His sister was murdered when he was a child, and Bucky believes Lee’s unwavering focus on the case is a result. Bucky instantly wants to be off the case, but in compromise he promises Lee one week on the case.

The investigation uncovers many unsavory details about Elizabeth, who was known by many aliases. Elizabeth was a liar who used men for her own ends and was obsessed with becoming a Hollywood star despite her lack of talent. Betty, as she was more commonly known, also appeared in a pornographic movie. However, all evidence that painted Betty in a questionable
light was swept under the rug by the Assistant District Attorney, who wanted to find the killer of the "innocent" Betty in order to further his future political career.

Bucky remains on the case for months, despite the disappearance of his partner. He becomes involved in the conspiracy to hide evidence when he engages in an affair with Madeleine Sprague, a Black Dahlia look alike, in exchange for making certain her name remains out of the investigation. Bucky and the other officers investigate thousands of leads; however, none lead to the capture of the murderer.

Bucky is eventually taken off the case, but his obsession with the murder victim permeates all aspects of his life, including his marriage. Bucky investigates the murder even when he is off duty. His marriage suffers and eventually dissolves as he becomes further and further enmeshed in the life and murder of Elizabeth Short.

Eventually, Bucky’s investigation leads him to a bungalow in Hollywood, where it appears the investigation comes to an end. However, the haunting image in a painting leads Bucky to uncover a larger conspiracy, one in which he serves as an unwitting participant. The real killer is someone Bucky never suspected, and the conspiracy to conceal the killer’s connection to Betty could cost Bucky his career.