



**BOOK REVIEW OF *THE FINAL PROBLEM***  
**WRITTEN BY SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

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# **APPROVAL**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that He is compiles this final project without taking the results from other research in any university or any degrees. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in references.

Semarang, 1 September 2014

Adhe Wirawan

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

**There are two ways to live a pleasant life, either in someone's heart or in someone's prayer**

(Ali Ibn Abi Thalib RA)

**If you expect the world to be fair with you because you are fair, you are fooling yourself. That is like expecting the lion not to eat you because you are not eat them**

(Kayla Macalma)

**Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens**

(Jimi Hendrix)

This thesis dedicated to my parents, my sister, my brother and my friends

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The writer realizes that this final project is far from perfection. He, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better.

Semarang, 1 September 2014

The Writer

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## ABSTRACT

Sebuah seri terbaik karya Sir Arthur Conan Doyle yang berjudul *The Final Problem* merupakan satu dari beberapa seri *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. Novel ini menceritakan tentang Sherlock Holmes, seorang detektif fiksi yang diciptakan oleh Doyle sebagai tokoh utama sekaligus tokoh aplikasi bagi ilmu deduktif yang merupakan ilmu yang dipelajari oleh Doyle selama hidupnya. Tujuan penulisan tugas akhir ini adalah untuk mengungkap tema utama secara umum dan mendeskripsikan kelebihan serta kelemahan novel *The Final Problem* secara khusus. Dalam pembahasan project ini, penulis menggunakan metode penelitian perpustakaan dan internet untuk menganalisis plot serta memaparkan beberapa kelebihan dan kelemahan yang dimiliki novel *The Final Problem*. Berdasarkan hasil seluruh analisis, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa novel *The Final Problem* lebih unik dari 7 seri terbaik Doyle dikarenakan penggunaan metode deduksi yang lebih banyak. Metode deduksi digunakan oleh para lulusan akademi kedokteran yang merupakan tempat Doyle pernah mengenyam pendidikan dan mengabdikan beberapa tahun hidupnya.

Kata Kunci: Doyle, Deduksi, Kelebihan dan kekurangan

# 1

## BACKGROUND OF THE WRITING

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren said that literary work is an expression of the society, it is not only accepting the influence from the society but also it gives some impact to the society. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren also explain that, “literature is creative, an art”. It means that literature is a creative process by imagination, thought, and feeling which contain idea, concept and emotion afterwards all of them are processed to be writing work.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a famous Scottish writer in 19<sup>th</sup> century with his masterpiece *Sherlock Holmes: The Series*. He found this idea of detective stories based on Dr. Joseph Bell, his former teacher when he took medical subject at Edinburgh University. He was simply amazed by Dr. Joseph Bell’s ability to make deduction.

Doyle wrote 56 titles of Sherlock Holmes series. His greatest story of the series is *The Final problem*. This story also became his last literary work before he decided to retire.

*Sherlock Holmes: The Final problem* has two main characters, Detective Sherlock Holmes as the protagonist and Professor James Moriarty as the antagonist. Sherlock Holmes as an officer of law tries to stop Professor James Moriarty who has an ambition to turn England into criminal state.

This Series also contains a minor character that helps the main characters, Dr. John Watson as Sherlock Holmes’s partner and Colonel Sebastian Moran as Professor Moriarty’s Right Hand.

### **A. Objective Of The Study**

The Purpose of the Writing is to understand the themes, strengths, and weaknesses in *Sherlock Holmes the Final Problem* written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

### **B. Sir Arthur and His Works**

According to Biography.com Arthur Conan Doyle was born on May 22, 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland and he died on July 7, 1930 in Crow borough Sussex England. He was a Scottish writer. When he studied medical science at the university, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was very impressed with Dr. Joseph Bell in observing the most details on a patient's condition. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was interested in both scientific and supernatural activity in his life.

Sir Arthur began to write novels in 1887 and published his last novel in 1891 with the title *Final problem*. Other aspects of Conan Doyle's medical education and experiences also appear in his semiautobiographical novels, *The Firm of Girdle Stone (1890)* and *The Stark Munro Letters (1895)*, and a collection of medical short stories *Round the Red Lamp (1894)*.

There are six famous masterpieces from *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes Series* which chosen by Doyle himself as his best stories:

1. The Final problem
2. Silver Blaze
3. The Crooked Man
4. The Resident Patient
5. The Greek Interpreter
6. The Naval Treaty

All of his works are using the science of deduction, the branch of medical science that has learnt by Doyle when he studied in Scotland Medical University

## 2

### SUMMARY OF THE STORY

This story took setting in 1891, introducing the Sherlock Holmes' greatest opponent, The Consulting Criminal Professor James Moriarty. He was a suspect in various criminal events like The Explosion in Strasbourg, France, Medical Inventor Assassination, and Chinese Ambassador Betrayal.

Sherlock Holmes arrived at Dr. Watson's Apartment with some unusual condition of agitated state. Dr. Watson also found his knuckles were heavily bleeding. Sherlock Holmes told Dr. Watson that he apparently just escaped three murder attempts after he met with Professor James Moriarty in his private study room.

Sherlock told Dr. Watson that when he involved in the small conversation and argumentation, in the end of their talks, Moriarty warned Holmes to withdraw from his pursuit of justice against him to avoid any regrettable outcome.

Sherlock Holmes tracked Professor James Moriarty for the past one month. He tried to compile the evidence and events that led to Moriarty's criminal organization until one day he heard the information that professor had a trip to France.

According to Sherlock's presumption, Moriarty went to watch an opera of his favorite singer and more than that, he estimated that Moriarty also had a meeting with his organization.

Sherlock finally told Dr. Watson about his plans to ensnare them all at once and bring them back to England. Sherlock gave Dr. Watson unusual instructions through a letter to Dr. Watson and begged him to follow the to-do-list written in the letter. The letter had designed by Sherlock to hide their tracks and he had decided that they would go separately to the rendezvous point at Victoria Station. Sherlock was not quite sure where they would go and it was very odd to

Dr. Watson. He knew that his best friend never went somewhere unplanned and without destination.

After they met, Sherlock felt assured that unknown person followed him since he arrived in their flat. He took a backyard fence to get outside of flat for his own and Dr. Watson's safety.

On the next day, Dr. Watson followed Sherlock's instructions written in the letter while he was searching for his couch on the train. Apparently, Dr. Watson reserved for the first class and wait for Sherlock's arrival. Whistles were blown and the doors shut when Dr. Watson heard a voice that sounds very familiar. Dr. Watson shocked when he recognize that the priest that sat in front of him was Sherlock Holmes in disguise.

When the train almost departed, Holmes told Dr. Watson that unknown people burned their residence in Baker Street right after Dr. Watson left from there and most likely, they were Moriarty's men.

When the train slowly moved forward, Sherlock saw Professor Moriarty on the station's platform and tried to stop the train. Sherlock forced to take an action, as he knew that Dr. Watson obviously tracked by Professor Moriarty. Sherlock asked Dr. Watson to follow him to jump into the opposite platform. Sherlock planned to change their route to avoid Moriarty and his men.

They ran into another train that would take them to Canterbury the region near Newhaven County and waited for boat to across the sea. Sherlock told Dr. Watson that they would cut their way through Switzerland, Luxembourg and Basle.

On their next train, as Sherlock expected, they met one-lined-train that should bring them to harbor. When they sat on the couch, Dr. Watson still saw a little worried on Sherlock's face. Like Holmes said before, Moriarty had several men to track them and Sherlock still did not know about where were they precisely.

When train hit the road, suddenly Holmes knew that something was not going to be good. Moriarty also already hired the train and the mechanist was

Moriarty's men. Holmes and Dr. Watson were forced to hide behind the luggage trail in order to avoid Moriarty's attention.

They finally made their way to Strasbourg via Brussels; Sherlock received a message from Police that most of Moriarty's men had been arrested in England. After hearing that, Sherlock recommended Dr. Watson to go back to England and told him that accompanying him this time would be very dangerous and Sherlock could not afford about Dr. Watson's safety. Dr. Watson, however, decided to stay with his friend and did not listen to Holmes' advice.

Sherlock and Watson's journey took them to Switzerland where they stayed at Meiringen Hotel. In that place, Sherlock knew somebody who lived there and persuaded her to let them stay in there for couple of days.

From there, they fatefully decided to take a walk, which would include a visit to Reichenbach Falls, a local natural wonder. Once there, a boy suddenly appeared and handed Dr. Watson a note, saying that there was a critical Englishwoman back at the Meringien Hotel.

Apparently, it was one of Sherlock's tricks to get Dr. Watson to stay away from him for a while. He lied to Dr. Watson for his safety.

When He returned to the Hotel, Dr. Watson found the innkeeper had no knowledge of any sick Englishwoman. Realizing at last that he had been deceived, he rushed back to Reichenbach Falls but found no one there, although he did saw the two sets of footprints going out onto the muddy dead end path with none returning. It was clear now; Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty already had an appointment. There was also a note from Sherlock, explaining the reason why he lied to him and he was about to fight Moriarty, who had graciously given him enough time to pen this last letter.

Dr. Watson also saw that towards the end of the paths, there were signs of violent struggle had taken place and there were no returning footprints. It was all clear that Holmes and Moriarty had both fallen to their deaths.

He was crying on the edge of Reichenbach Falls' road. He went back to England and told The Scotland Yard about all events in Reichenbach falls and the Methods that Professor Moriarty's used in his criminal actions.

## 3

### REVIEW OF THE STORY

#### A. Major Theme

##### Detective as officer of law

Detective story serves complicated problem and shows the reader how to solve it with logical and deductive ability. The main theme of *The Final Problem* is detective story, where the main character is pursuing mastermind of criminal specialist who is responsible for several criminal events.

Dr. Watson here acts as Sherlock Holmes' partner and closest friend at the same time. As the reader, we may find Dr. Watson in this story as a person who acts dependently on Sherlock Holmes' order. In fact, Sherlock Holmes is there to help the readers to understand the confusing situations. Encountering one big problem that leads to other smaller preceding problem is what detective story about. In detective situation, the power of estimating gave big influence for next events.

#### B. Minor Theme

##### 1. Devotion

The most visible thing from this story is the loyalty shown by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Although they have different perspectives, they completely fit each other. The scene where they show their loyalty is when Dr.

Watson refuses to leave Sherlock Holmes when he decided to go alone to follow Professor Moriarty. We can see it from sentences below:

‘I think you should go back to England, Watson.’

‘Why should i?’

‘Because you will find me a dangerous companion now. This man’s occupation is gone. He lost if he returns to London. If I read his character right he will devote his whole energies to revenging himself upon me. He said as much in our short interview and I fancy that he meant it. I should certainly recommend you to return to your practice.’

It was hardly an appeal to be successful with one who was and old campaigner as well as an old friend’ (Doyle; 2009:431)

In the sentences above, we can see that Dr. Watson does not want to leave Sherlock Holmes alone. Dr. Watson can not leave Sherlock Holmes because their bond has already formed since long ago, besides that Holmes is Dr. Watson’s old friend and a friend never leaves his companion no matter what happen.

## **2. Trust**

The most important thing in a partnership is trust. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson had different perspective and different characteristic.

The most visible trust on this story is when Sherlock Holmes told Dr. Watson to follow his order:

‘Before Their departure, Holmes gave unusual instructions through a letter to Dr. Watson and begged to him to follow the list-to-do written in the letter. The letter was designed by Holmes to hide their tracks and Holmes decided they will go separately to rendezvous point at Victoria Station. Holmes is not quite sure where they will go and it is very odd to Dr. Watson. He knew that his best friend never go somewhere unplanned and without destination. Holmes assured that he was followed by unknown person since he arrived in his best friend’s residence’. (Doyle; 2013:425)

## **C. Strength**

### **1. The Usage Of the Science Of Deduction**

Sir Arthur put the science of deduction to explain all the events that happened and to show that it is not a mere guessing. This unique science is commonly used only for medical observation. The deduction method is reading the trace of individuality on an object

### **2. Real Life Based Conflict and Places**

Sir Arthur also used a real conflict and real places on this novel. The detective's logical thoughts, tools and law enforcement really exist in real world. For example: Scotland Yard, Victoria Station, Reichenbach Falls etc.

The conflicts on this story are also based on real time in an early 19th century, a time when all big and famous villains popped out in action.

## **D. Weakness**

### **Complicated Plot**

The Author seems to invite the reader to read this story more deeply but the story itself made the reader a little confused. It is because the setting of place or what the characters' do are moving too fast and sometimes suddenly appear in the one of the setting. It would be more easy and understandable if the author only took two places, England and France (for example) not including Brussels, or Luxembourg etc.

### **E. Personal Opinion**

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with his famous *Sherlock Holmes* is enlightenment to the world of detective novels. His works are easy to understand and could really happen in the real life. The readers can experience the complexity of Holmes's mind and go along it as far as story goes. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle also could share a gift of his knowledge about deduction method through this novel. Reading this novel is truly inspiring. Through some clues around, one may become more sensitive against the environment.

The society may misjudge Sherlock Holmes as a logical machine who does not have humanism side. However, in the real world, there are a lot of people like Sherlock Holmes who ignores his emotion because of the matter of their occupation. The job as detective does not have a room for sympathy or romantic side. Sherlock Holmes only connects the effect from cause, with such a way he can solve the problem. He is not a freak, he is just complicated.

## 4

### CONCLUSION

*The Final Problem* is the last sequel from *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes Series* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The story in the novel is not only about detective as officer of law, but also a competition between two geniuses who has different occupation. One of them is officer of law and the other one is super intelligent villain. Competition between the hero and the villain with equal intelligence presented on this novel with deduction touch to estimate what will happen next on the story.

The places are also real-life based, so the readers not forced to imagine all the new places that do not exist. The Baker Street, Victoria Station, Strassbourg, and Reichenbach Falls are place that really exist.

Based on the writer analysis, the plot of this story became a weakness in this story. Doyle made the story a little bit complicated and there are so many minor characters that might be confuse the readers. Some characters appear in the plot and sometimes made the reader stop for a moment and re-read the paragraph in order to understand where the characters came from.

The story itself is worth reading. This novel can bring a new challenge through the mystery and logical battle plot. The science of deduction is also an education, so this novel is valuable in such a way.

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