

Essay First Draft

Due: Week 7

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Deductive Reasoning: the most successful type of detective stories

In the world of detective stories, there are three different types:

Hard-Boiled, Deductive Reasoning, and Armchair Detective. These

three types have their own unique features, Hard-Boiled can build a more complicated story and attract reader continue reading it,

Deductive Reasoning combines inference and investigate together,

and Armchair Detective takes a simple situation that readers can

only analyze the case but no need to be participation. To

understand which types would be most likely by readers, I wish I

can compare the sales volume among the books of these three

types, but this is out of my job currently. Every detective story lover

would have their own favorite type, while I prefer to say Deductive

Reasoning would be the most successful one.

The Big Sleep, written by Chandler, is the masterpiece of Hard-

Boiled deductive story. As a hard-boiled deductive story, *The Big*

Sleep contains a complex story line. There are 30 chapters in the

book, more than 15 characters take part in the scenario and 6 of

them are killed. In the other two types, Deductive Reasoning, and

Armchair Detective, the scenario will be simpler, usually only one case in one scenario. In *The Big Sleep*, not all the case are

detected: In the chapter 9, police found out Taylor drawn in his car, but the book doesn't uncover the truth of his death. In the

other two types, this situation can hardly happen, they probably

give a reason to every victim. Taylor is to promote the development of the plot in *The Big Sleep*, while in other types the death of Taylor

can be one complete story. Another example is in chapter 28,

Marlowe was caught by Canino. Canino is the gunman of Eddie

Mars, the opponent of Marlowe. This is a signal that Marlowe is not

an outsider - he is equal to the event itself. He participated in the

matter, and even changed it. He persuaded Eddie's Wife to release

him and fought back to Canino, and became one of the murders.

Without doubt, Hard-Boiled detective stories would be exciting novels. However, the over-complicated plot also caused confusion

at times. To the readers not good at understanding the grand story

as me, Hard-Boiled detective stories is not a good choice. Instead,

Deductive Reasoning is the choice of mine. Sherlock Holmes is the

most famous detective, written by Doyle. There are a series of

stories in the book, and I will use *The Adventure of the Speckled*

Band as my example. The detective in Deductive Reasoning would

join into the environment, like Holmes went to the room of Helen,

12 check the possibility the case happened (page 7). In the end of the story, Holmes threaten the snake of the stepfather, cause the death of the stepfather, it seems a signal that the detective influences the scenario, but the story ends here, and the case that Holmes focus on didn't change by him (page 11). The most conspicuous one is on page 6. The stepfather broke into the house that Holmes lived in, asked him not to take over the case. The caught of Marlowe in *The Big Sleep* is to advance the plot and make some tension; while in *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, this plot is to stand out the domineering character of the stepfather. In general, Deductive Reasoning contains all the elements of a deductive story: rigorous reasoning process, proper plot development, necessary characterization, and not overmuch. 19 9 13

As the name of Armchair Detective, it creates a relaxed atmosphere. Different from two other types, the detective in Armchair Detective doesn't participate in the case. Detective won't do field survey by themselves, but hearing from their clients. In *Miss Marple Tells a Story of Miss Marple's Final Cases*, all the facts are told by Mr. Petherick and Mr. Rhodes. Miss Marple makes her judgement during their conversation, uses the information they give her, raise her doubt, makes assumption, and excludes the impossible. The rest of it, must be the truth. This is logical, readers ✓

would be using their intelligence to follow the development of the story. Readers would be marvel at the enlightening in thinking brought by Armchair Detective. For instance, Miss Marple asked two sirs a question, if they can remember the appearance of the chambermaid. It seems an insignificant question, but it showed the difference character of Mr. Petherick and Mr. Rhodes. One small detail can distinguish the different attitude how these two people treating the case. Nonetheless, sometimes this is boring, because it discards the interaction between the detective and the case. When reading detective stories, readers usually imagine them as the detective, not the client nor the victim. Keep out of the case would help readers maintain their sanity, but also lost some of the fun that solve the mystery themself.

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All these three types, Hard-Boiled, Deductive Reasoning, and Armchair Detective, have their own features. Hard-Boiled is full of dramatic, it can tell a story with twists and surprises. But as a detective story, it covers too much, hardly let readers focus on the case itself, the motivation, the method and the process. On the contrary, it is more likely a novel includes love, relationship, life and so on. Armchair Detective is ingenious on the thought, while loses some excitement. Deductive Reasoning is the most balanced one, keeps the logically of a detective story and

moments

finds

combines the dramatic~~ally~~ of a story. So Deductive Reasoning
would be the most successful one.

Works Cited

Chandler, Raymond. *The Big Sleep*. Wildside Press, 2014.

Christie, Agatha. *Miss Marple's Final Cases*. HarperCollins e-books.

Doyle, Conan. *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*.

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