

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I. 1 Background of the Study

Human beings are the most precious creation of God. Human beings have important things that no other God's creations have, namely thoughts, feelings, emotions, ideas, passions, and desires. Every human being has their own purpose that they want to accomplish while they were still alive. For example is to have a good family and children, to have their own house and car, to make their dream come true, and to fulfill their ambition. Human beings try to achieve their goal in their life because human beings expect that their life will be more meaningful and valuable after receiving what they want in their life.

Actually it is not wrong to have ambition and make it come true. However, to achieve the ambition, people should be aware of the way to achieve ambition. It should not clash with our ethical, social, and norms values in our society. All people are free to make their ambition come true. Moreover, people should realize behind the freedom to fulfill ambition, it should not against the law and not interrupt other people's life in the society.

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer is one of the novels that the main character searches for a way to fulfill his ambition. *Perfume* is a fiction – suspense novel. This novel tells about Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who was born in the fish market, specifically among the rubbish of fish guts. Grenouille's mother is a fish seller and a prostitute in the night. She always abandons her babies among the rubbish of fish guts because they are unexpected babies. She also abandons

Grenouille when he cries and people in the fish market save his life. Her mother is brought to jail and she confesses everything she did toward her babies. Grenouille's mother is sentenced to death by the court. Grenouille was born with no odor at all in his body. On other hands, Grenouille has an extraordinary nose that is able to smell things miles away. His brain is also capable of saving thousand of aromas. After finding the aroma of virgin girl, Grenouille has a desire to have the aroma for himself. His ambitions are to be the greatest perfumer and the creator of the most unique perfume in the world. To achieve his ambition, Grenouille kills twenty five virgin girls. The reason why Grenouille chooses the aromas is because the aromas are extremely fresh, unique, and rare. He uses their aromas to be the essences of his greatest perfume.

The author of *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* is Patrick Süskind. He was born in Ambach, near Munich, Germany on 26 March 1949. Süskind is the oldest son of Wilhelm Emanuel Süskind, a journalist. From 1968 to 1974 he studied on medieval and modern history at the University of Munich and Aix-en-Provence, France. He was a writer for television before he wrote *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. While he was studying in Southern France he gathered the material for *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. Today he has residences in Munich, Paris, and Montolieu, France.

His first novel, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* becomes an internationally acclaimed bestseller and awarded by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in 1986 as the best novel. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* is the most famous newspaper in Germany. That newspaper gives award to the certain person because of his or her works in literature field. Süskind declined the award, saying

that he would not accept awards for his writing. His second novel, *The Pigeon* was adapted as a play and was staged for the first time at the BAC Theatre in London in May 1993. His first play, *The Double Bass*, was written in 1980 and was first staged in Munich in 1981 and has since become one of the most performed plays in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. It has also been performed at the Edinburgh Festival, at the New Theatre in Brooklyn and at the Royal National Theatre in London. Süskind's following fiction novel *The Story of Mr. Sommer*, published in 1992 has been a huge success all over the world. His most recent works are his collection of stories *Three Stories and a Reflection* and a screenplay for the film *Rossini* in 1996. According to press report in 2004, Süskind has sold the rights to film *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* and Tom Tykwer will direct the adaptation of the novel (Adams 5). His latest novel, entitled *Paranoid: The Story of a Madman* has been published recently around the world and once again become the international bestseller.

The writer chooses this novel because it becomes bestseller around the world and has been translated into many languages including Bahasa Indonesia. In 2006, this novel is adapted into motion picture after years waiting permission from Süskind (Bombeck 7). Grenouille is described as a silent boy, does not socialize with his friends in the orphanage, and likes walking alone on the street in order to smell new aromas. Grenouille also has an ability to learn and recognize his environment through its smell. He seldom talks to everybody unless he wants something from other people. According to Grenouille, language is not able to describe what he smells. Therefore, he thinks it is unnecessary to speak.

Murderer like Grenouille chooses to kill his victims, so they will not struggle when Grenouille does his job. Murder itself is considered as bad thing. When people mention about murders, the perception that appears in people's mind is something bad had just happened. So, murders are always associated with bad thing. And then perfume itself is considered as good thing. When the word perfume is mentioned, people will think about something that smells good and cheerful. Those things are contradictive but combined together in Grenouille's ambition. In Grenouille's ambition, there is a combination between murders as bad thing with perfume as good thing. Actually, nothing is wrong if someone has an ambition and then wants to make it come true.

It is very interesting to analyze Grenouille because he will do anything in order to achieve his ambition. Actually, Grenouille's desire is to have the aroma of virgin girl. Furthermore, the way Grenouille fulfills his desire is through killing the girls. It is considered as a criminal action. Everyone who does a murder will get the consequences of it. Murders mean crime killing other people. Unfortunately, after killing those girls Grenouille never feels guilty and regrets it. Grenouille continuously does it until twenty five times.

The id contains all impulses, drives, and instincts that seek immediate satisfaction. The id exists in unconscious level. The ambition is a strong feeling of wanting to be successful and achieve great things. The ambition exists in conscious level. Hence, the ambition is a manifestation of the desire. The writer would like to find out the work of Grenouille's id, ego, and superego in his personality. Why the id dominates Grenouille's personality. Through this thesis, the writer would like to answer those questions by applying Sigmund Freud's

structure of personality. The structure of personality consists of the id, the ego, and the superego. The id always searches for immediate satisfaction, while the ego expresses and satisfies the id's desire but in accordance with the superego. The superego represents the concept of what is right and wrong. The superego is closely related with ethical, norm, and moral values in the society.

I.2 Statement of the Problem

After reading the novel and determining the topic as it has already been explained above, there are several questions appear. It is expected to make the process of arranging the analysis easier and it will be a systematic and coherent study. The questions are:

1. How is Jean-Baptiste Grenouille's character depicted in the novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*?
2. How is Jean-Baptiste Grenouille's behavior seen from Freud's structure of personality?

I.3 Objective of the Study

In organizing this study, of course there are several objectives that are desired by the writer to be achieved. The objectives of the study will be intended to answer every question, as it has already been mentioned in detailed in the statement of the problems. The objectives that are supposed to be reached are:

1. To explain clearly about Grenouille's character in the novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*.

2. To see and analyze further about Grenouille's behavior from Freud's structure of personality point of view.

I.4 Limitation of the Study

Before starting to analyze the novel, it is important to give the limitation in order to keep the analysis on the intended discussion. Therefore, it is needed to determine the central focus of the analysis. Since this study is going to analyze the main character of the novel, the limitation will only focus on Grenouille's character and emphasizes on the work of his id, ego and superego. The writer will choose certain part of the novel which shows Grenouille's behavior that dominated by his id. Limitation of the study will not only focus on Grenouille's character but also on his behavior that dominated by his id.

I.5 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study can contribute a significant meaning to both herself and the readers. By analyzing the novel, it is expected to get deeper understanding about Grenouille's character in the novel. The significance of this study is to show that the id dominates in Grenouille's personality and it occurs because the ego can not work well. While the concept of right and wrong is unclear in Grenouille's superego. Life by following id perhaps causes problem to our self and other people in the society so the id, the ego, and the superego should work in accordance in order to make our life balance. From this study, the writer expects that the reader will get deeper explanation about Grenouille's behavior that is dominated by his id. The writer of the study would also expects that this

study would become a worthy addition amongst all the study that related with the novel entitled *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* and the main character, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille.

I.6 Theoretical Approach

The main element that is going to be analyzed is the main character in the novel. The analysis will focus on the main character in this novel named Jean-Baptiste Grenouille. In order to get deeper explanation on the character's behavior, the writer of the study will also apply Psychology theory to support the analysis. The theory that is going to be applied is Psychoanalysis theory from Sigmund Freud, especially about the structure of personality which consists of id, ego, and superego.

Freud divides human psyche into three types; the id, the ego, and the superego. The id consists of instincts, impulses, drives, it seeks for immediate satisfaction. The id also acts as a reservoir for all the psychic energy and shares its energy to the ego and the superego. Then, the ego is a decision-making component that seeks to express and gratify the desires of the id in accordance with the superego. And the superego represents the moral standards, ethic and social rules through contact with parents and society. In Grenouille's behavior, the id is dominating his personality so the ego and the superego can not restrain it. By elaborating the theory, the writer hopes to get a clear explanation of Grenouille's personality from psychoanalysis point of view.

I.7 Method of the Study

The corpus of the study is the novel entitled *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. The method that is used by the writer in doing her analysis is the library research, and the main source is the novel itself. The writer will also use online sources due to provide sufficient supports to elaborate the study.

Other method that will also be used by the writer is data collection. All the data will be taken from the content of the novel. The data collecting will be done by having a close reading to the novel, making the data classification and selecting the data that can be related with Grenouille's behavior that is dominated by his id. Moreover, the writer also uses information from other sources dealing with the id, the ego and the superego to support the analysis.

After collecting the data, the writer will arrange it in order to study it, therefore, the good understanding about the novel and the topic that is going to be analyzed can be deepened and sharpened. Afterward, it will be easier to begin the analysis by using those provided sources based on the theory. In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive method of analysis. This method is considered suitable to be applied in the analysis because it supports properly the description of the topic which is going to be analyzed. Finally, the next step after making the analysis is drawing the conclusion, so that the study is complete based on the academic research requirements.

I.8 Definition of Key Terms

In this study, there are some important terms that are used several times. That is why, this definition of key terms section is provided as the dictionary

compiled by the writer to help the readers in understanding the analysis. Therefore, some reliable sources to define the terms are obtained in order to get an accurate meaning.

Aroma : a smell, especially a pleasant one.

Ambition : a strong feeling of wanting to be successful in life and achieve great things.

Desire : wish for something, to want something very strongly.

Personality : the totality of somebody's attitudes, interests, behavioral patterns, emotional responses, social roles, and other individual traits that endure over long periods of time

Virgin girls : girls who have never had sexual intercourse.