

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. 1 Background of the Research

Perfume: The Story of Murderer is one of the literary works by German writer Patrick Suskind which was written in 1985. The genre of this story is mystery (goodreads.com/book/show/343.Perfume). The story tells about a man named Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who is considered weird by others because he is a silent, mysterious, and cold man. When he was born, he seemed like a common baby physically. However, there is something different about him, compared to other babies in general. He has extraordinary sensitivity and he can recognize everything surrounding him only by smelling it. Grenouille's only big obsession on his entire life is to make the best perfume similar to beautiful virgin's odor. He killed the women in order to be able to freely inhale the smell of women without any struggles. He began to learn about how to keep human body's odor (especially woman) into something real by making it a perfume.

The reason why the researcher writes this thesis is because the researcher is really interested in the main character's personality in this novel. His excellent ability to smell, then the main character has greatest passion to be a perfume maker made him a murderer. The novel has been translated into various languages including English and Indonesian. By the main character and an interesting story, the novel got award and also be an international bestseller

([goodreads.com/book/show/343.Perfume](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/343.Perfume)). Therefore, this novel is worth analyzing.

In his journey, he collected perfume from women bodies' odor. From one place to another, he just created perfumes he always dreamed about. Women were peeled and their hair had been strangely until bald. Totally, he murdered 25 girls by killing them tragically. However, Grenouille did not want to rape those girls, instead of taking their odor in order to make a perfect perfume in the world. Collecting their odors, he put them into one perfume. It is like a magic, only with a drop of perfume from a small bottle, Grenouille could make people in the whole country feel like being in heaven though it is just dropped on a handkerchief.

Through the story, Grenouille deals with the condition of existence. He determines himself in extreme effort to find existence. Jean-Paul Sartre claims that every human being has special characteristic and every human has the different capability to choose freedom and responsibility (Baskin, 1965:37). His effort shows that existence is very essential to human being. It can be identified as a reflection of ourselves as human. Human existence is said to be authentic when they can determine themselves to choose and to decide freely who and what they will become. Moreover, human being forms him throughout their own act and manner.

Self-actualization is a process of self-fulfillment, of finding true inner self, of becoming true inner identity. Maslow said, "What a man can be, he must be" (Maslow, 1970 as cited in Kelland, 2015:174). Maslow hypothesized self-actualization, the ultimate goal of personality could not be satisfactorily achieved, unless other drives and needs were mostly fulfilled first (Maslow, 1962 cited in Ryckman, 2008:426). Self-actualization is the ongoing attempt to bring the concept of what actually like (real self) and what should be like (ideal self). Self-actualization process to fulfill the needs become motivation which indicate the existence. Maslow stated the assumption about motivation based on the needs, "all people everywhere are motivated by the same basic needs" (Maslow, 1962 as cited in Ryckman, 2008:426). The needs itself draft in Conative Needs; "Needs can be arranged on a hierarchy" (Ryckman, 2008:425), which means that the Needs have motivate to self-actualization. Maslow placed human needs and motivations into five categories, then arranged in a hierarchy that is often referred to as Maslow's pyramid of Needs. Physiological Needs, Safety Needs, Belongingness and Love Needs, Esteem Needs, and Self-actualization Needs. Self-actualization needs embrace the self-fulfillment, realize the potential within self and desire to be creative.

In this novel, the character wanted to show the existence through actualization of his talent and ability. He shows his ability by making perfume from the odor of woman body, but there are some obstacles that prevents him to get such odor. He several times failed in making his experiments. Finally, he

succeed and could prove to everyone that what he said is true. With his persistence and confident characteristic, he could make the perfume and rule the world.

Based on these facts, this thesis try to depicte the characters of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who tries to be exist and recognized by others. Human existence is seen as a continuous struggle, as we try to deal with the problems of life and to move toward the realization of our potentialities. The researcher tries to focuses on the study based on self-actualization by Maslow. The title of the study will be '*JEAN-BAPTISTE GRENOUILLE'S SELF-ACTUALIZATION IN PATRIC SUSKIND'S PERFUME: THE STORY OF MURDERER (1985)*'.

A. 2 Problem of the Research

The research problem of this research is: what are the forms and actions of self-actualization of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille in purpose to show his existence in *Perfume: The Story of Murderer* novel?

A. 3 Objective of the Research

To know the forms and actions of self-actualizations of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille in purpose to show his existence in *Perfume: The Story of Murderer* novel

A. 4 Significance of the Reasearch

The aim of this research is to show the people that *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel by Patrick Suskind, has an interesting story and worth analyzing. Although considered as a popular work, but in it there are values worthy for scrutiny, especially about the importance of awareness of their existence on the main character. It also shows to the readers that although the main character is considered as a murderer, but in another hand he has extraordinary abilities in making perfume.

A. 5 Limitation of the Research

The researcher focused on the forms and action of self-actualization of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille in purpose to show his existence in *Perfume: The Story of Murderer* novel. The researcher uses self-actualization theory for analyzing what action of murderer Jean-Baptiste Grenoulline does.

A. 6 Organization of the Research

This thesis consists of five chapters as follow:

Chapter I, consists of the background of research, problem of research, objective of research, limitation of research, and thesis organization. Chapter II, reveals the review of literature that presents theoretical frameworks, and review of related research. Chapter III, explains about the type of research, data

and source of the data, methods of collecting the data, techniques of collecting the data, and method of analyzing the data. Chapter IV, the analysis contains data description, data analysis, and discussion. Chapter V, covers the conclusion and suggestion.

