

**THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND OF A PSYCHOPATH IN PATRICK S SKIND'S  
PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER.**

**A THESIS**

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menjelaskan tentang analisa masalah psikologis salah satu karakter dalam novel Perfume oleh Patrick Süskind, Grenouille. Analisa dalam skripsi ini meliputi analisa pikiran dan tindakan Grenouille yang memiliki obsesi yang sangat besar terhadap aroma, sehingga dia bertindak sebagai pembunuh untuk mendapatkan yang diinginkannya, dan masalah psikologis ini disebut dengan psikopat. Data diperoleh langsung dari novel Perfume. Dengan arti bahwa teks yang terdapat pada novel tersebut dijadikan sumber dalam melakukan analisa ini. Analisa kepribadian tokoh utama dilakukan dengan menggunakan salah satu teori psikologi sastra, yaitu teori psikologis Sigmund Freud. Analisis ini dibagi ke dalam dua tahap, yaitu pengalaman hidup tokoh utama yang tidak diterima di keluarga dan lingkungannya dan dampak pikiran alam bawah sadarnya selama masa dewasanya. Metode yang digunakan dalam menjabarkan proses analisis adalah kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Dalam pengumpulan data digunakan metode kepustakaan.

Hasil analisa yang didapatkan adalah bahwa pengalaman hidup tokoh utama yang tidak diterima oleh keluarga dan lingkungannya selama masa kecil ternyata secara tidak sadar berpengaruh terhadap pengalaman hidupnya di masa dewasanya. Oleh karena pengalaman hidup Grenouille yang penuh dengan pengalaman buruk, Grenouille menjadi sangat terobsesi untuk membunuh dan mengumpulkan aroma perawan yang menjadikannya manusia terbaik yang pernah ada.

**Kata kunci: Unconscious, Psychopath**

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Research

Psychoanalysis is still an interesting topic that can be discussed until now. Psychological is part of human behavior in our daily life. Sometimes, we do not realize it, but it happens with our consciousness or unconsciousness. Tyson states that, “whether we realize it or not, psychoanalytic concepts have become part of our everyday lives, and therefore psychoanalytic thinking should have the advantage of familiarity.” (1992: 11)

Psychoanalysis is advantageous to understand the feelings of the writer and to interpret the literature. Both, the writer and the reader, have a connection when they make and read literary work that is psychic. In literature, an author can describe various aspects of life in their feelings and experiences. Generally, literature can be defined as the reflection or the expression of human's life. In our daily life, we can find many literary works such as, prose, poem, short story, and novel. Psychological problem often occurred in the characters of the works, including in novel, for instance, sadness, happiness, depression, etc. There may be many motives, impulses and desires that underlie someone to behave normally or abnormally.

Authors always try to make an interesting story in their work to make them become a great one and also to make the reader's interested in reading. As we can see in the novel Perfume: The Story of a Murderer by Patrick S skind that the writer analyzed, the author plays psychological problem on the main character to make the story interesting. This novel is one of Patrick S skind works which is great and the most

reading of German novel. It has been translated into twenty-five languages and sold millions of copies, make it become the great novel and most reading novel. According to [www.gradesaver.com](http://www.gradesaver.com), although Perfume is a classic novel, but it is still interesting to read until now. It is proved by the releasing of the film version of it in 2006. Although Perfume was published in 18<sup>th</sup> century, but there is still a chance for it to be the most reading novel in this era. There are so many critics on Süskind's works because of the uncommon plot which make them interesting to be analyzed.

This novel tells about main character who becomes a psychopath because of many factors from his past life. He killed virgin girls to fulfill his desires. The supernatural horror of Perfume marks the story as one variant of the Gothic tale. Süskind described the main character as a scary, and horror man who is scared by other people. Almost of every place in that novel is described as mysterious and dark places.

In Perfume: The Story of the murderer novel, the author makes his novel interesting by describing the main character as a Psychopath. Psychopath is one example of psychological problem that has a big desire to get what he wants. Psychoanalysis has a function to analyze the psychological problem of the human being whose deviation or disorder of psychic. According to Tyson, "the goal of psychoanalysis is to help us resolve our psychological problem, often called disorders or dysfunction (and none of us is completely free of psychological problems), the focus is on patterns behaviors that are destructive way." (1992: 12). In this research, the writer analyzed one of the main characters in the novel Perfume: The Story of the murderer namely Grenouille. The writer found psychological problem on this character. The writer wants to analyze factors that make the main character becomes a psychopath by looking his background.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze the novel by applying psychological approach proposed by Sigmund Freud and explain about the psychological problem that the writer found in the main character, Grenouille. Therefore, the writer entitled this research as **The Unconscious Mind of a Psychopath in Patrick S skind's Perfume: The Story of a Murderer**.

## **1.2 The Identification of The Problem**

Perfume: The Story of The Murderer is a novel by Patrick S skind which showed the main character, Grenouille whose psychological problem is called Psychopath. Grenouille, a genius murderer, wants to make a masterpiece by killing 25 virgins to get their scents. There are many factors which turn him to be a psychopath. It can be seen from his past life and childhood experiences. It makes some impacts on his life. The writer believes that the childhood memories from his family and environment are the reasons for his strange desires. Besides, those memories also encourage him to commit such crimes. That is why he turns to be a psychopath and kills 25 virgins.

## **1.3 Scope of The Research**

In this study, the writer emphasizes the analysis into two statement, they are:

1. The impact of Grenouille's past life to his adulthood life
2. The unconscious motivation of the main character

## **1.4 Objective of The Study**

This study is aimed to analyze the main character in the novel Perfume: The Story of The Murderer by applying psychological approach proposed by Sigmund Freud.

The writer wants to review the unconscious motivation that causes strange desire on the main character by killing 25 virgins. His psychological problem is affected by his past life that turns him to be a psychopath as we often hear in our surrounded life. By doing this research, the writer can explain the unconscious motivation of the main character that makes him become a psychopath.

## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSION

Psychoanalytic concepts have become part of our everyday lives. The goal of Psychoanalysis is to help us resolve our psychological problems, often called disorders or dysfunctions. Family is very important in psychoanalytic theory because we are each product of the role we are given in the family-complex. Literary work and Psychology have a close relationship, indirectly and functional. Indirectly because literary work and psychology have the same object, that is about human life. Literary work and psychology have a functional relationship because it is study about condition of someone's psychology. And the different is in psychology, the symptom or the indication is real, whereas in literary work the characteristic is imaginative.

After analyzing Perfume: The Story of The Murderer novel, the writer concludes that there are two factors that turns the main character named Grenouille become a psychopath. The first factor is he is an unwanted child of his mother. His mother wants to kill him, because she did not know who Grenouille's father exactly was since she is a prostitute. It makes him grew up with no affection, and leaves him trauma in his adulthood. With unconsciousness, Grenouille killed twenty five girls not only to take their scents, but also to take revenge for his hatred toward his mother as a woman.

He can get satisfaction by killing a woman. Not only can get the aroma, he can also avenge his revenge toward his mother. He cannot control his desire to kill them, because his id needed to be fulfilled. Besides, other reason why he kills the virgins or the teenagers is because he did not want other man hurts them like his father does. The writer finds there is an oedipal complex happens here where he competed with other

man to get a beautiful woman. He is scared if someone will overtake them first and will hurt them like his father does to his mother. And then he starts to find and kill beautiful teenagers who have good scents to satisfy his desire before other man gets them.

The second factor that turns Grenouille become a psychopath is the obsession having a scent. Grenouille was born without scent that made everybody around him scared. Just like every people in the world who have a scent, he just wants to be one of them. For this reason, he tried to make a scent for his body. With unconsciousness, he wants to humanize him self like other people around him. It makes him obsessed with virgins scent and then kills them to get the scent. This motivation makes him become a psychopath. He cannot control his desire to kill virgins to get the scent.

Bad experiences in childhood can give a big impact for human's life, like Grenouille. Because he has no scent, he becomes obsessed to create a perfect scent for his own. He wants everybody around him amazed with him, and idolizes him. The imbalance of id and superego of Grenouille make him only think how to fulfill his desire without thinking the moral boundaries in society. In other words, it causes personality disorder. The unwanted child of his mother and born without scent is the reasons why he grew up and became a psychopath.



**CHAPTER V**  
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