CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People in the world have problem in their lives. Most of the problem that is faced by people can be caused by ambition. Ambition is the desire for personal achievement. It provides the motivation and determination necessary to achieve goals in life. Ambitious people seek to be the best at what they choose to do for attainment, power and superiority. Ambition can also be defined as the object of this sleekness. Ambition is a quality valued in leaders. One of the key traits of a leader is ambition. They give inspiration to the others with their zeal, confidence and energy.

_Perfume: The Story of a Murderer_ is a novel which is made in 1985 by Patrick Süskind. It has 230 pages which consists of 51 chapters inside it. This novel tells about Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who has extraordinary sense of smell become so thirsty with human body odor after he finds a girl with beautiful scent that he has never smelled before. He gets his destiny of life, he wants to create an incredible perfume that will give him the magical essence of identity. He also wants to be the world’s greatest perfumer. It drives him to the murder of sweet innocent virgins. _Perfume: The Story of a Murderer_ novel presents of what
happens and what one man does to satisfy his greatest ambition and passion that leads him to be a murderer.

Patrick Süskind was born in Ambach, near Munich, in 1949. He is one of the most celebrated younger writers in contemporary German literature. After a problem with his hands made it impossible for him to pursue his ambitions as a concert pianist, Suskind enrolled in the University of Munich, where he studied medieval and modern history. His first play, The Double Bass, written in 1980, became an international success, performed in Germany, Switzerland, at the Edinburgh Festival, in London, and most recently at the New Theatre in Brooklyn. His first novel, Perfume became an internationally acclaimed bestseller. He is also the author of The Pigeon and Mr. Summer's Story, and a co-author of the enormously successful German television series Kir Royal. Mr. Süskind lives and writes in Munich. Second, his work is full of strong and deep messages in life and it is delivered with specific language so that the story is acceptable and enjoyable.

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer is an interesting novel. There are four reasons why the writer is interested to study this novel. The first is because the story and conflicts of the characters are unusual, particularly Jean-Baptiste Grenouille. The novel tells about a dreadful examination of what happens when one man’s satisfaction in his greatest ambition and passion -his sense of smell- leads to murder. In the other
words, the idea of this story and its conflict are different from the other horror stories.

The second reason that makes this novel interesting is that *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* is a novel of education, which tells the story of Grenouille who is born into a putrid spot of 18th century France. Despite being left of his mother at birth and being rejected from society because he has no bodily odor, but Grenouille can survive and becomes a master perfumer with his extraordinary sense of smell. He can separate any scent into its tiniest components. This statement can be found at pages 17:

> The cry that followed his birth, the cry with which he had brought himself to people’s attention and his mother to the gallows was not an instinctive cry for sympathy and love. That cry, emitted upon careful consideration, one might almost say upon mature consideration, was the newborn’s decision *against* love and nevertheless *for* life. Of course, it could have grabbed the other possibility open to it and held its peace and thus has chosen the path from birth to death without a detour by way of life, sparing itself and the world a great deal of mischief. But to have such a modest exit would have demanded a modicum of native civility, and that Grenouille did not possesses. He was an abomination from the start. He decided in favor of life out of sheer spite and sheer malice. (Perfume, 1985: 17)

It shows that from the beginning Grenouille feels being hated by the people around him. As a result, this situation really alerts him about the threat that people are dangerous to him. He also realizes about his lack of odor since he was born and it makes him feel as if he were a monster, so “he decided in favor of life out of sheer spite and sheer malice.

The third reason is the writer of the novel Süskind's choice of setting is particularly interesting. *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel
is set in the 18th century, a period which is known as *The Age of Enlightenment*. The Enlightenment was a time of rationalization and logic in which theories of divine right and natural law were introduced. These theories suggested that everything on earth was ordered by a reasonable God. From my understanding of the Enlightenment period, for Grenouille to be placed in such an environment, further suggests his segregation from a society which would struggle to embrace such a skill that could not be justified with logical reasoning.

The last reason why the writer is interested in studying this novel is the main character, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is depicted as an unusual murderer who kills his victims by hitting their heads and shaving all the victims’ hairs and wrapping their dead bodies in order to take their odor. He struggles in making his own perfume that is his personal odor, so that he can be accepted by society. Grenouille's ambition to create the ultimate perfume drives him to the murder of sweet innocent virgins. Thus, it seems that Jean-Baptiste Grenouille’s psychological problem is a very interesting topic to be researched.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* Novel by using psychoanalytic theory. So, the writer constructs this research entitled **JEAN-BAPTISTE GRENouILLE’S AMBITION IN PATRICK SÜSKIND’S PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER NOVEL (1985): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**
B. Literature Review

*Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* is an interesting object to be observed. As long as the researcher knows, there are some studies that have relation to the novel.

To guide the researcher in doing the study, firstly, she has found the research paper from Widya Ratna Aprilia, (2011) in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The research paper entitled *The Defense of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille on Using His Minority of Sense in Tom Tykwer’s Perfume: The Story of a Murderer Movie: Psychoanalytic Approach*. She uses psychoanalytic approach to analyze the data. The aim of the study is to find how the defense of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille on *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* movie is. The scope of the study is Jean-Baptiste Grenouille’s defense mechanism and the analysis is limited on the major character, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille. The movie has adapted the novel into the same name, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. The story is almost same with the novel that is concerned with the psychological problem of the major character, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille. So, the writer takes the movie as her previous study.

Secondly, the research paper which is conducted by Larasati Koeswigia Syahida, (2010) in Education University of Indonesia (UPI). The research paper entitled “Grenouille’s Behavioral Disorders and Anxiety: A Psychological Study on Patrick Suskind’s Perfume: The Story
of a Murderer” is aimed to find out how the main character’s behavioral disorders are described in the novel and the kind of anxiety experienced by the main character. The analysis employs the framework of Freudian psychoanalytic approach and theory of characterization proposed by Ewen (1971) and Rimmon-Kenan (1983). The result of analysis shows that main character’s behavioral disorders are described through action, speech, and metaphor and are categorized into antisocial behavior, delinquent behavior, schizotypal mental and behavioral disorder, and deceitfulness. Moreover, the anxiety experienced by the main character is categorized into neurotic anxiety. In order to cope with his neurotic anxiety, the main character activates four types of mechanisms of defense; rationalization, sublimation, somatization, and projection.

Thirdly, in Winny Aryanti study entitled A Potrait of Psychopath on Patrick Suskind's Novel: Perfume A Book Report (2007) in Gunadarma University. She also discusses the main character Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who is told as a psychopath. The research intends to reveal the incredible side of novel Perfume. She portrays Jean-Baptiste Grenouille as an extraordinary human with incredible sensor, but how it could have a tremendous effect to the possessor, and how the possessor could give an immense disaster to environments on everywhere he went. It is the main discussion in her study.

Fourthly, in Corah Sinulingga study entitled An Analysis of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille Characteristic in Patrick Süskind’s Perfume with
Psychological Approach (2009) in Gunadarma University. By using psychological approach, she tries to figure out the character and characterizations of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille and the psychological factors influence him. She tries to figure out through the psychological approach why the major character Jean-Baptiste Grenouille killed the 25 sweet innocent virgins.

The other researcher is Hilde Sitohang, (2008) in Diponegoro University. The research entitled Id, Ego and Superego Analysis of Jean Baptiste Grenouille Character in Perfume by Patrick Suskind. He interests with the personality of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who is very special and unusual as the main character in the novel. To understand the character of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille in Perfume: The Story of a Murderer novel, he uses two approaches. They are intrinsic approach and extrinsic approaches. The approach used to determine the intrinsic character, setting and plot in the novel Perfume by Patrick Suskind used to evoke emotion readers. Extrinsic approaches used to understand the character of Jean Baptiste Grenouille. To help understand the personality of Jean Baptiste Grenouille, he used the theory of Psychoanalysis. By analyzing the novel, he finally concludes that the actions - the actions taken by Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is the result of a personality crisis. Things to look from the Id, Ego and Superego are not balanced from the character Jean-Baptiste Grenouille.
Here, the researcher tries to analyze the major character Jean-Baptiste Grenouille psychological problem through his ambition in making the ultimate perfume in the world and his ambition to be the world’s greatest perfumer that leads him to be a murderer to differentiate the study. In this study, the researcher focuses on analyzing the ambition of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille in Perfume: The Story of a Murderer novel using Psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the researcher formulates the problem statement of the study is “How is the ambition of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille as the major character reflected in Patrick Süskind’s Perfume: The Story of a Murderer novel?”.

D. Limitation of Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher focuses her study on Jean-Baptiste Grenouille as the major character in Perfume: The Story of a Murderer novel. The study will be analyzed by using a psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:
1. To analyze *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel based on its structural elements.

2. To analyze *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel by using a psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

There are some benefits that are expected by conducting this study. The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. **Theoretical Benefit**

   This study is expected to give a new contribution and information, especially the literary studies on Patrick Süskind’s *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel. This study is also expected to develop the larger body of knowledge, particularly structural elements and psychoanalytic analysis on *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel.

2. **Practical benefit**

   This study helps the researcher to enrich her knowledge dealing with structural elements and psychoanalytic analysis. This study also gives deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to another researcher in analyzing *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel using different perspective.
G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The researcher takes Patrick Süskind’s *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* as the object of the study. She tries to analyze the major character’s personality.

2. Type of the Study

This research will be a library research. The data used on the research have been collected with the library research. It purposes to analyze the novel using psychoanalytic approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Primary Data Source

   The primary data source is the main data obtained from all the words, phrases and sentences in the novel itself, Patrick Süskind’s *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel.

b. Secondary Data Source.

   Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, essays, articles, and journal and also taken from the internet or the other sources related to the novel.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

   The methods of collecting data in this research are as follows:

   a. Reading the novel repeatedly and understanding the content

   b. Reading some other resources related to the novel
c. Giving marks to particular parts in the novel, which are considered important for the analysis
d. Taking notes for important parts both in primary and secondary data sources
e. Classifying the data into categories and developing them into a good unity.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

In this research the technique that will be used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique. The researcher will describe the structural elements of the novel using psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud. The collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through psychoanalysis theory of literature in this case by showing the influence of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille’s ambition in *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* novel: a psychoanalytic approach. Then drawing conclusion based on the analysis.

**H. Paper Organization**

The research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that covers the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and the research paper organization. The second chapter deals with the theoretical approach, it covers with the notion of psychoanalytic approach, the structure of personality and
theoretical application. The third chapter is the structural analysis of the novel. In this chapter, the researcher analyzes the structural elements of the novel and discussion. The fourth chapter is the analysis of the major character psychological problems based on Psychoanalytic theory. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion of the research.