

## Grenouille's Obsessions in Patrick Suskind's *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*

Retno Wahyu Pusporini

English Literature, Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Surabaya

[retnowahyupusporini@gmail.com](mailto:retnowahyupusporini@gmail.com)

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini mendiskusikan mengenai novel Patrick Suskind yang berjudul *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*. Analisis ini berkaitan dengan obsesi yang dimiliki oleh karakter utama, Grenouille. Tujuan dari analisis ini adalah untuk menjawab pernyataan masalah mengenai gambaran dari obsesi-obsesi yang dimiliki oleh Grenouille dan alasan dari obsesi-obsesi tersebut. Metode yang digunakan dalam analisis ini adalah penelitian sastra dengan pendekatan psikoanalisis. Untuk menjawab masalah yang ada, penelitian ini menggunakan beberapa teori diantaranya gejala obsesi oleh Scott Kiloby, teori kognitif dari obsesi oleh Stanley Rachman dan asal-usul obsesi oleh Daniel Wegner. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan jika obsesi Grenouille tertuju pada banyak objek yaitu obsesi terhadap bau badan gadis remaja, obsesi untuk membuat parfum terbaik, obsesi untuk membuat keberadaannya diakui dan obsesi untuk mendapatkan kasih sayang dari orang-orang disekitarnya. Obsesi-obsesi tersebut termasuk kedalam pemikiran obsesif. Kemudian obsesi ini juga mengungkapkan jika penyebab obsesi-obsesi yang dimiliki oleh Grenouille adalah karena *catastrophic misinterpretation* dan kejadian traumatic di masa lalu. Pasien yang menderita obsesi terkadang berusaha untuk menghindari dan tidak mencoba untuk merealisasikannya. Namun pada kasus Grenouille, ia bekerja keras agar bisa merealisasikan obsesinya tersebut. Hal ini dikarenakan kejadian traumatik di masa lalu dan kesalahpahaman dalam hidupnya.

**Kata Kunci:** Parfum, Grenouille, Pemikiran obsesif, *Catastrophic Misinterpretation*, Trauma, *Dysphoria*

### Abstract

This study discusses about Patrick Suskind's novel *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*. This analysis is related to the obsession owned by the main character, Grenouille. The purpose of this study is to reveal the statement of problem about the depiction of Grenouille's obsessions and the reasons of the obsessions. The method used in this study is using literary study with psychoanalysis approach. To analyze the existing topic, this study uses several theories and concepts which are the symptoms of obsession by Scott Kiloby, cognitive theory of obsession by Stanley Rachman and the origins of obsession by Daniel Wegner. This study revealed if the Grenouille's obsessions are towards many objects, which are obsession toward teenage girl's body odor, obsession to make greatest perfume ever, obsession to make his existence recognized and obsession to get love from the other people. Those obsessions are included as obsessional thoughts. Moreover, this study also revealed that the cause of the obsessions owned Grenouille are because of catastrophic misinterpretation and traumatic experience in the past. Patients with obsession sometimes try to avoid instead of realize their obsession. But in Grenouille's case, he tried hard to realize it. It is because of his traumatic experience and misinterpretation in his life.

**Keywords:** *Perfume, Grenouille, Obsession, Obsessional Thought, Catastrophic Misinterpretation, Trauma, Dysphoria.*

### INTRODUCTION

Psychoanalysis is a very interesting knowledge to discuss. This is because psychoanalysis discusses about the understanding of human behavior. People can find out about human mental either it is normal or it has a disease; can find out about cause of human behavior, and so on. There is no doubt if many people are interested in this topic academically or not. One of the topics that related

to the discussion of psychoanalysis is about the obsession, which is the main topic of this study.

Psychoanalysis is a medical treatment for someone who has difficulties in thinking or mental disorder. Psychoanalysis is the study of human mind and behavior or it used to known as the study of human's personality. Freud divides a person's personality into three which are id, ego, and superego. These personalities describe the actions of interaction of a person.

1. The first personality is id. Freud (1953:285) considered id is a part of personality that is unconscious. Id completely unrelated with reality but constantly trying to satisfy the basic human desires. The sole function of the id itself is to seek pleasure. Id is part of a personality that is completely unconscious. Id is a home for the sex instinct, aggression or their main desire. A house that occupied by a selfish emotion, sexual, damaging that continuously threat to free.
2. The second personality is ego. Ego is the executive branch of personality that has a duty to control individual actions. Through ego, human is able to find a realistic way to find id. Ego aimed the duty with the reality principle in which the ego tries to help id get what it wanted with distinguish between reality and imagination or dreams (Freud, 1953:284). When id is unconscious, the ego is the part of personality that is semi-conscious.
3. The third personality is superego. Superego is the personality that represents the moral standards of society as given by parents to their children. The function of the superego is to prohibit things with wrong morally and promote things with good morally. (Freud, 1953:284) The superego is a part of personality that demands perfection (ego-ideal).

Obsession is the part of id, part of the personality that demands immediate satisfaction. In a journal entitled *Waking Up in the Mindst of the Storm of Obsession*, Kiloby (2012: 2) reveals if the obsession is a strong and intense desire towards something that happens continuously. This strong and intense desire is able to take over a person's body and mind unconsciously. Kiloby also reveals that every human being must have an obsession. But the amount of the obsession in a person depends on his or her desire to avoid or accept the obsession.

Obsessions are often found in nowadays society. Many of them have an obsession to change their appearance. There are people who obsessed to change his fat body into a Barbie doll body, obsessed with being a fairy and the strangest one is obsessed with being a tiger man. These things are clearly beyond the human's rational thought in general.

Obsession is one of the topics that became a theme in a literary work. One of literature works that uses obsession as a theme is *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*. *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer* is a debut novel by Patrick Suskind that have obsession as a theme which will be the topic of this research. *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer* is a story about Jean Baptise

Grenouille, the main character who killed more than 25 teenage girls to take their body odor to be used as a perfume-making material. Obsession has made him become a serial killer. His obsession started to appear from his encounter with teenage girl's body odor on the Seine road when he was 12 years old.

From the paragraph above, there will be two questions arise in the discussion. The first question, what are the obsessions of the main character, Grenouille that depicted in Patrick Suskind's *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*? And the second question, what are the reasons for the main character's obsessions in Patrick Suskind's *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*? Both questions aim to reveal the obsessions of Grenouille, the main character in *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer* and reveal things that could be the cause of the obsessions in his life.

To answer the first problem which is the depiction of Grenouille's obsessions in the novel, symptoms of obsession by Scott Kiloby and a cognitive theory of obsession by Stainley Rachman are theories that suitable for analyzing it.

According to Rachman (2003: 05) Obsession is usually defined as an idea of unwanted thought that continues to disturb human's thought. Obsessions are influenced by emotions. A person who suffers obsessions usually tends to think negatively rather than positively. This is because obsession is a desire which is included as a part of the id. As described before if obsession is a part of the id, the personality which demands immediate satisfaction. In addition, id is the home of sex instinct, aggression, and main desire. This indicates if the activities under id always tend to be in the negative area, so does the obsession.

Someone who is obsessed something tends to give a resistance or trying to avoid the obsession itself. They usually tend to resist intrusive thoughts in their mind (Rachman, 2003: 06). But it also depends on the distress that they experience. Anxiety and dysphoria (a circumstance where a person feels unhappiness in life) is a major factor in removing obsession. When an patient with obsession is able to surpress his anxiety and dysphoria levels, he will also be able to suppress the obsession that is happened in him.

In his book *The Treatment of Obsession*, Stainley Rachman reveals if there are 3 forms of obsession; obsessional images, obsessional thoughts and obsessional impulses. These three obsessions almost have the same characteristics like intrusiveness and unacceptability. Thing that distinguishes these three obsessions is the time period.

1. Obsessional images is the obsession that is easily to be removed compared to obsessional thoughts and obsessional impulses. Obsessional

images also have a briefly period of time and it can be called as 'abstract'. People with obsessional images experienced fairly intense immorality in their life. The example of obsessional images is an image of a person to perform incest behavior.

2. Obsessional thoughts is an obsession that often appears in society. This obsession usually relates to events in the past. Thing that distinguishes this obsession with the other obsessions is the existence of this obsession that usually last long. In addition, obsessional thoughts also experience excessive frustration. The example of obsessional thoughts is the thought of parents to harm their children.
3. Obsessional impulses is the most unpleasant form of obsession compared to the previous obsessions. The time period of this obsession is fairly brief. Obsessional impulses tend to feel extreme fear. An example of obsessional impulses is an impulse to sexually molest a child. However, patients with obsessional impulses tend to avoid their obsession. For example, someone who has an obsession to molest a child will avoid playground so his obsession will not be realized.

To make easier to distinguish these three obsessions, Rachman (2003: 08) makes a table as follows:

	Thoughts	Images	Impulses
Intrusive	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unwanted	Yes	Yes	Yes
Repugnant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Objectionable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Resisted	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pictures in the Mind	No	Yes	No
Frightening	Yes	Yes	Extreme
Fear of loss of control	Yes	Yes	Intense
Avoidance	Yes	Yes	Intense
Immorality	Yes	Intense	Yes
Neutralizing attempts	Yes	Intense	Yes
Agitation	Yes	Yes	Intense
Frustration	Extreme	Extreme	Yes
Duration	Often prolonged	Fleeting	Can be brief

Meanwhile, according to Scott Kiloby, when the obsession appears first time, the body will become very active. There are six symptoms that become an indicator when the obsession appears in the patient, which are:

1. Heat
2. Tension
3. Vibration
4. Anxiety
5. Fear
6. Energies of the body rise up.

For answering the second question about the reasons of Grenouille's obsession on the novel, cognitive theory of obsession by Stanley Rachman and the origins of obsession by Daniel Wegner are theories that suitable for analyzing it.

According to Rachman in his book (2003: 12) *The Treatment of Obsession*, Obsession is caused by catastrophic misinterpretation of unwanted thoughts, images, and impulses. Catastrophic misinterpretation is placed at intrusive thought that can be the cause of the emergence of obsession. Obsession will remain as long as misinterpretation keep continue. When the patient begins to realize his mistake/misinterpretation, then the obsession will begin to disappear too.

In addition, according to Daniel Wegner, there are two origins of the obsession, which are traumatic origins and synthetic origins.

Traumatic Origins is the origin of obsessions because of stressful experience in the past that can lead to trauma (Wegner, 1988: 688). A person can have an obsession as a result of trauma and stressful experience. It has been tested by Freud in many studies. In addition Rachman also argues (2003: 26) the stress experienced by a person with obsession can increase unwanted intrusive thought in him. It becomes the beginning of the emergence of obsession in a person.

Obsessions also appear when a person has dysphoria. For example, if the trauma and stressful experience become the cause of the obsession, someone who is the victim of incest will have deep trauma. This deep trauma is usually last long and causing an obsession (and in some cases) last for a lifetime.

Synthetic origins or arbitrary origins are the origin of obsessions that do not come from traumatic experience. The examples of synthetic origins are about weight, envy, lack of love, lack of sexual activity and so forth. During the study there were no signs of trauma in synthetic origins (Wegner, 1988:688) so it can be inferred that anything related to trauma is not included as synthetic origins.

According to Wegner (1988: 688), obsession that belongs to synthetic origins comes from desires that are difficult to satisfy. Although at beginning obsession can

be suppressed, but then the obsession grow become bigger and bigger. Then the patient is unable to control it and eventually becomes an obsession that is included as synthetic origins.

## METHOD

This study is discussing about the problem of obsession owned by the main character, Grenouille. The method used in this research is literature study using Freudian psychoanalysis approach. The data used in this research is *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer* that had been translated into English in 1987. The main data in this study could be the words, sentences, dialogs, narrations, or paragraphs that related to the topic of this study.

To answer the problems that exist in this study, there are five techniques in analyzing the data. The first step is do close reading on the data continuously. The second step is classify the data based on the problem that has been mentioned before, about the depiction of Grenouille's obsessions and the reasons of his obsessions. The third step is to describe Grenouille's obsessions with the cognitive theory of obsession by Stanley Rachman and the symptom of obsession by Scott Kiloby. The next step is revealing the cause of Grenouille's obsessions using cognitive theory of obsession by Stanley Rachman and the origins of obsession by Daniel Wegner. The final step is making conclusions from the existing analysis.

## DISCUSSION

Grenouille is the main character in Patrick Suskind's *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer* who suffered obsession in his life. Grenouille was a boy who was born without body odor. The condition without body odor or human's aura made people unaware of his existence. Besides people who rose him or people who lived in the same neighborhood with him used to consider him as a strange person. They were not comfortable living in the same environment with him. This discomfort prevents him from getting love and affection from people around him.

His obsession arose when he discovered intoxicating fragrance smell coming from teenage girl's body odor. From that moment, he realized his extraordinary ability to smell something that cannot be smell by people in usual. It makes him believe that he can create a perfume that will make everyone aware of her existence and will make everyone crazy in love with him. This obsession succeeds take over Grenouille's body and mind. This obsession is able to lead him to be a serial killer who killed more than 25 teenage girls to be made as perfume making material.

From the novel, this study reveals if he is not obsessed to one object. He has obsession on many things, such as obsession towards teenage girls' body odor, obsession to make the greatest perfume, obsession to make his existence recognized, and obsession to get love.

The obsession first arose in Grenouille's life when he smelled teenage girl's body odor for the first time on Seine Street. The first obsession in Grenouille's life is an obsession towards teenage girl's body odor.

He was almost sick with excitement. He had not yet even figured out what direction the scent was coming from. Sometimes there were intervals of several minutes before he was overcome by the horrible anxiety that he had lost it forever. (Suskind, 1987: 17)

The quotation above indicates if Grenouille felt something that he had never felt before when he smelled the intoxicating smell from teenage girl's body odor for the first time. This is a form of obsession that he has not realized yet. It can be proven from the words 'horrible anxiety' which indicates the symptom of the obsession. Anxiety that he felt is caused by fear of losing smell that he did not know where it coming from. He did not know where the scent coming from but he did not want to lose it. It shows that Grenouille wants to have it. The smell is able to awaken the obsession in his body. His desire to have teenage girl's body odor led him to the other obsessions.

His obsession with teenage girl's body odor keep continues until he becomes a middle-aged young man who has learned how to make perfume.

Grenouille turned hot with rapture and cold with fear. Blood rushed to his head as if he was a little boy caught red-handed, and then retreated to his solar plexus, and then rushed up again and retreated again, and he could do nothing to stop it. This attack of scent had come on too suddenly. (Suskind, 1987: 66)

In the quotation above the word 'turned hot with rapture' indicates if Grenouille felt heat when he discovered the intoxicating smell for second time. Heat is one symptom that arises when obsession appears in a person's body or thoughts. The word 'blood rushed to his head', 'then it retreated to his solar plexus', and so on was the hyperbole form of tension felt by Grenouille when he smelled that intoxicating smell from teenage girl's body odor.

After he found teenage girl's body odor, he began to realize his talent, a very special talent compared to humans in general. With his talent he believes that he can make the greatest perfume of all time. His desire to make the greatest perfume of all time is also one form of his obsession. His obsession to make the greatest perfume of all time can be seen in the following quotation.

... then by the day after tomorrow he would possess all of the essences needed for the best of the world,



and he would leave Grasse as the world's most fragrant human being. (Suskind, 1987: 82)

The phrase 'he would possess all of the essences needed for the best of the world' in the quotation above is the proof of Grenouille's obsession to make the greatest perfume of all time. The phrase 'by the day after tomorrow' indicates if Grenouille has collected all material used to make perfume which is proven in the phrase 'he would possess all the essences needed'.

On the other hand, as according to Kiloby, obsession is able to take over a person's body and mind unconsciously. This is what happened to Grenouille, his obsession to make the greatest perfume of all time made him kill more than 25 teenage girls only for taking their body odor to be used as perfume-making materials.

The purpose of his obsession to make the greatest perfume of all time is to make people aware and recognize his existence and to get the love he has never have before. Both of them include as Grenouille's obsession. It can be seen in the following quotation.

Yes, that was what he wanted-they would love him as they stood under the spell of his scent, not just accept him as one of them, but love him to the point of insanity, of self-abandonment, they would quiver with delight, Scream, weep for bliss, they would sink to their knees just as if under God's cold incense, merely to be able to smell him, Grenouille! He would be the omnipotent god of scent, just as he had been in his fantasies (Suskind, 1987: 61)

The words 'not just accept him as one of them' are the proof that Grenouille has an obsession to make his existence recognized by others. That quotation implies that he wants other people regard him as a normal person. All this time Grenouille always felt alienated because he was not considered as a normal person by people in near him. This is a form of obsession that takes over his body and his thoughts.

The quotation above is also a proof for Grenouille's obsession to get love from the other people. It can be seen from the phrase 'that was he wanted-they would love him'. That phrase indicates clearly if Grenouille has desire to get love.

Moreover, Grenouille's desire to get love is on an unusual level. It can be seen in the entire quote above. Grenouille wanted everyone to be crazy for him; wanted everyone adored him like a god. This is clearly beyond human rational. Obsessions are also a form of irrational thinking, so it can be said if Grenouille has an obsession to get affection.

Besides all the obsessions that Grenouille has is included as the form of obsessional thoughts. There are two reasons why Grenouille's obsession is a form of obsessional thoughts.

The first is the huge amount of anxiety felt by Grenouille. It can be proved in the following quote, "each time he was overcome by the horrible anxiety that he had lost it forever" (Suskind, 1987: 17). The quotation clearly shows the huge amount of the anxiety felt by Grenouille which is shown in the word 'horrible anxiety'.

According to Rachman, people with obsessional thoughts experience extreme frustration. His anxiety because of discovered teenage girl's body odor for the first time made him feel great frustration and fear of losing that smell. Frustration is a condition where needs cannot be filled and desires cannot be achieved. In Grenouille's case, he wanted to have that smell but he did not know where it came from. That circumstances is grown frustration in Grenouille's mind.

The second cause is the period time Grenouille having the obsession that is a bit long. According to Rachman, people with obsessional thoughts have a long-lasting obsession. Grenouille's obsession begin when the Anniversary celebration of the king of Paris in 1753. "ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1753, the anniversary of the king's coronation ..." (Suskind, 1987: 16). It is the day when he discover teenage girl's body odor for the first time, the day her obsession first appeared.

Grenouille's obsession keep continue until he successes in killing more than 25 teenage girls. "On January 1, 1766, the tighter security measures were relaxed and the nighttime curfew for women was lifted." (Suskind, 1987: 77). This scene appears when Grenouille chased his last prey, a very beautiful girl who has the best body odor rather than the girls's body odor, the girls that he had killed before.

Grenouille's obsession started from 1753 to 1766, so Grenouille's obsession lasted for about 13 years. 13 years is not a short time, so the Grenouille's obsession is not included as obsessional impulses. Grenouille's obsession is also not an abstract obsession, so it does not belong to obsessional images. Obsessional thoughts have long periods of time, so Grenouille's obsession belongs to obsessional thoughts.

The second point of the problem that will be discussed in this study is the reasons of Grenouille obsessions. There are two main factors that become the reasons of Grenouille obsession, which are traumatic experience in the past and catastrophic misinterpretation. As explained earlier, if Grenouille's obsession belongs to obsessional thoughts. Obsessional thoughts is an obsession that related with past events that could create trauma or stress.

Since childhood, Grenouille has experienced dysphoria or an unpleasant situation in life. Dysphoria is able to be the cause of trauma that will bring an obsession. When he was a baby, his biological mother

had tried to kill him. Since he was born without body odor, many people did not recognize him. Even if there are some people who know him, they will try to avoid him because they consider Grenouille as something weird. He has never gotten love since he was little because many people think that Grenouille is strange and no one wants to be near to him.

Since he was a baby, Grenouille has felt unhappiness circumstances in his life or dysphoria. His biological mother had tried to kill him since he was in her womb.

And since she confesses, openly admitting that she has definitely got the other thing by the way, she is tried ... (Suskind, 1987: 4).

The words 'perish' and 'definitely' that can be seen from the quotation above is a great desire of Grenouille's mother to kill him when he was a baby. Moreover the word 'the other thing' in the quotation above shows Grenouille's mother's point of view against him. She did not regard Grenouille as his son, instead she regard him as an object. Grenouille's mother has no intention to take care of Grenouille since he was still in her womb.

The Grenouille's mother who tried to kill him makes Grenouille feel trauma in his life. It can be seen in the following quotation.

He first conjured up those that were earliest and most remote: ... the homicidal odor of his mother. And he wallowed in disgust and loathing, and his hair stood on end at the delicious horror. (Suskind, 1987: 49)

The quotation above indicates Grenouille's trauma because of his mother who tried to kill him. In the quotation above, there is words 'homicidal odor of his mother' that becomes the proof. The memories of his mother that tried to kill him can be indicated as trauma. Trauma is a painful event that can disrupt people physically or mentally. In the quotation above can be seen the word 'earliest and most remote' which is evidence if Grenouille still remember clearly the incident where his mother tried to kill him.

Grenouille was born different from humans in general. He was born without body odor. It caused many people think he was strange and should be avoided. Some of people who aware of his existence actually think Grenouille is not a human but he is a monster.

... he was about to say "devil," but caught herself and refrained ... away with this monster, with this insufferable child! (Suskind, 1987: 09).

This is the scene is appear when Father Terrier carries baby Grenouille. Father Terrier is a clergy who has high educateion. The word 'devil' or 'monster' is the Father Terrier's view of Grenouille. In addition, the quotation above is clearly depicted Father Terrier feels that he should stay away from the baby Grenouille as soon as

possible. Not only think him as a monster, but Father Terrier also thinks if he should stay away from him.

His existence that was not consider as a human by other people, brought trauma to his life. That trauma can be seen in the following quotation.

As he came out onto the street, he was suddenly afraid, for he knew that for the first time in his life he was giving off a human odor. (Suskind, 1987:60).

The word 'afraid' in these quotations shows form of the trauma that is felt by Grenouille. Trauma is a situation where a person injured because of a past event. The injury he was obtained can be confined humans into fear. This is the trauma that happen in Grenouille's life. Since he did not have body odor, people rarely noticed him. If there were someone aware of his existence, they will not feel uncomfortable. Sometimes people who aware on his existence, considered him as a monster. It is because they cannot feel his aura of body odor. He felt fear when trying his new perfume-like smell of the human body in general. This fear is caused by the trauma he had received over the years.

His circumstances that were not considered make Grenouille never get any affection since childhood. He grew without getting love from another people. Because his mother did not want his existence from the beginning and prefer to kill him, he cannot feel the love given by parents in general. In addition, many people found he is strange because he did not have body odor. It made people who cared him when he was child felt uncomfortable and tried to throw him away. It is also capable of inflicting trauma which is reflected in this quotation, "... decision against love and nevertheless for life." and "He decided in favor of life out of sheer spite and sheer malice." (Suskind, 1987:10). The words 'decision against love', 'sheer spite' and 'sheer malice' indicates the trauma of affection that he never gets.

According to Horowitz, people who have traumatic experiences tend to think about what happened continuously in the future. As a result, his thought is centered on the incident and the cause obsessional thoughts. It also happens to Grenouille. As mentioned in the quotations above, the memory of his mother who tried to kill him, a fact if he does not have body odor and never get the love in life is able to evoke the obsession in him.

The second reason of Grenouille's obsession is because of catastrophic misinterpretation. Catastrophic misinterpretation that occurred in Grenouille can be seen in the following quotation.

... and purpose of his life had a higher destiny: nothing less than to revolutionize the odoriferous world. And that he alone in ail the world possessed the means to carry it off: namely, his exquisite nose,

his phenomenal memory, and, most important, the master scent taken from that girl... (Suskind, 1987:19)

The word 'destiny' indicates if Grenouille considered everything that had been happened, including his desire or obsession as a part of his destiny. With the ability he had, he regarded himself as a person who was destined to become something big. This 'something big' he believed might be able to change his life. The evident is in the word 'higher destiny'

Another quotation that states if Grenouille assume everything happened to him as a fate can be seen as follow.

... Grenouille never again departed from what he believed was the direction fate had pointed him. (Suskind, 1987:19).

He believed if he was the one who destined to be the only person who could change the world of odoriferous. With this belief, he would not turn away from that goal, which was reflected in the words 'never again departed'

The words 'destiny' and 'fate' in the quotation above indicate if Grenouille has belief if everything happened to him was not an obsession but something that has planned to him since he was born. This is the catastrophic misinterpretation that is happened to him. His misunderstanding is interpret that his destiny is to be the perfume makers of all time by using both of his ability, the special ability of his olfactory and the extraordinary ability to remember, and also uses teenage girls' body odor as the basic ingredient of perfume he made.

According to Rachman, people who have an obsession usually have a resistance. But in the case of Grenouille, he did not try to resist it. Instead his mind detected his obsession as a destiny which is something that had been determined by God. Destiny is not an unwanted thing that should be avoided. With that reason, his mind was not trying to defense it. Instead, he was trying to realize it. The fact if he was the only person who had such ability and not anyone else. This kind of thought made him think if he was a special person who will change the world. He also thought if this 'destiny' would change his dark life. With this kind of thought, Grenouille's body and mind did not try to avoid the presence of the obsession. It makes this obsession keeps growing becomes something greater.

According to Rachman, stress and dysphoria felt by patient are able to increase the unwanted intrusive thought. This unwanted intrusive thought will become the beginning of the emergence of the obsession in his self. Dysphoria is the situation where a person feels unhappiness or dissatisfaction in life. If the previous analysis is reviewed again, It could be inferred if Grenouille experience the dysphoria. The circumstances

in which his mother tried to kill him, never considered as a human, and never get love from other people is a traumatic experiences that is also the dysphoria in Grenouille's life.

Grenouille is incapable of suppressing his anxiety and dysphoria. It becomes the reason why his obsessions keep growing. The obsession from dysphoria becomes increasingly larger because Grenouille is not trying to suppress it. With the dysphorias that are happened in him which are his mother tried to kill him, never considered as human, and grow without love, he really wants to change his life. Thus in the nice timing, his misinterpretation about his obsession as a destiny which is to make the greatest perfume appears. The purpose of his obsession is to make all people love him and accept him.

## CLOSING

### Conclusion

There are two conclusions from this study. Answering the first statement of the problem about the depiction of Grenouille's obsession, this analysis concluded that if Grenouille's obsession is not directed to one thing, but many things such as, obsession towards teenage girls' body odor, obsession to make greatest perfume, obsession to make his existence recognized, and obsession to get love from the other people.

In addition, Grenouille's obsessions are included as obsessional thought. It is because of the duration of his obsessions that is so long. The duration of his obsessions is matching with the duration that obsessional thoughts has.

Answering the statement of problem number two about the reasons of obsessions that is owned by Grenouille, This analysis concluded if Catastrophic misinterpretation that is happen in Grenouille is a misunderstanding to interpret his obsessions as a destiny that must be the reason why he is life. Because of this misinterpretation, he did not try to avoid or resist his obsession; instead he tries to make it happen. It happens because obsession will remain as the misunderstanding continues. That makes Grenouille's obsessions are able to make him become a serial murderer.

This analysis also reveals if the traumatic experience in the past is also capable of being the cause of Grenouille's obsessions. His biological mother who tried to kill him, never regarded as human beings, and never get any affection are the traumatic experience that happened in Grenouille's past. These three traumatic experiences are able to increase the unwanted intrusive thought that was the beginning of the emergence of an obsession. With the traumas and dysphorias that happen in his life, he wants to change it. Thus in the nice timing,

his misinterpretation about his obsession as a destiny appears.

### Suggestions

In this study, about Grenouille's obsession in *Perfume: the story of a murderer*, there are some good things, there are some points that are still lacking, there are some parts that have not been discussed and there are some discussions that can be developed in more detail in the future. Because of these important points, there are some suggestions that can be used for people who want to research this topic or novel further in the future. The suggestions are as follows.

1. *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer* is a novel that clearly discusses mental illness possessed by the main character. Studying the psychoanalysis side with this novel is a good thing to try.
2. This research uses only a few sub-theories, so there are some sub-theories that still not used such as obsessional images, obsessional impulses, and synthetic origins. For other researchers who want to use this sub-theory is allowed.
3. There are many interesting topics in *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*. One of the famous topic that has been in discussed for many times is about mental disorder. The social topics in this novel are as not as famous like psychoanalysis, and there is less people discussed about this topic. It will be a good research for the next researchers.

### DAFTAR PUSTAKA

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