CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Folklore, magic or supernatural, mythologies, fairy tales are considered old fashioned or a product of some foreign cultures. One of examples of famous myth and not faded of time is Greek Myth. The stories of those themes flow from generation to generation, verbally or written but mostly those stories are fiction and complete fantasies since it did not happen in real world; the frame or surface of the work conventionally un-realistic such as; the mountain of Olympus, the Underworld, the myth creatures, the god or goddess, the demigods; superhuman that posses superpower. The story always interesting in a way of the story teller gives them abilities far beyond those of ordinary human such as; they make war with gods, they killed myth beast, they could fly, they are invulnerability and other non-human entities.

In modern world, many stories combine the myth, fairy tale or folklore, magic or supernatural which on the society is something extraordinary to become something ordinary, such as comics, novels or movie stories. By those stories, the story tellers or writers offer the opportunity to their readers or spectators to reveal of their imagination of the myth, fairy tale or folklore, magic or supernatural but not too far from their daily

life experience; the frame or surface of the work usually more conventionally realistic, such as the existence of history human time, the people, the common place and the plots. That story is considered as magical realism; the inventive content of realistic everyday details with elements of fantasy, mistiness the readers or spectators usual distinctions between realities and magic.

Perfume is a novel written by Patrick Suskind in 1985. The novel originally published in German as "Das Parfum; Die Geshiecte eines Morder" and translated in English by a famous translator John E. Woods, an American origins who mostly translates German literatures. Soon after it was published, the novel became one of the international best sellers, acclaimed to be an extraordinary suspend novel. The novel tells a fiction of Jean-Baptize Grenouille, a young fellow who is blessed and cursed by an extraordinary nose but described as a ghostly creature because of his lack of odor, trying to pursue his quest to create the finest scent in the world. However in the process of doing, his fate twisted becomes a heartless serial killer.

Combining a supernatural occurrence in reality life, I consider *Perfume* as material to respect the folklore belief using Magic Realism approach. There are some points on why I chosed the novel to be a material of research; richness of setting, quality language in the prose, the suspense and the most interesting of all how the novel taught to expand the intellectual horizon.

The richness of the setting on Patrick Suskind' Perfume has strong sense of place. Taking background of France in 18th Century, the vivid visualization is built well. On my opinion, the key is describing the setting in a beautiful way that the readers have

such an imagination on a particular time and place when reading the novel, was really breathtaking skills. Suskind brings the reader to explore exotic place from Paris to Grasse through the sense of smell.

Patrick Suskind's Perfume consist beautiful sentences; Suskind plays with words, so reading one of his novels is almost like going to an art gallery; I can not help loving the words he chooses to describe the object or substances . And what was really the kicker for me is about the diction and sentence structure. It was flown beautifully and quotable, as example "*He who ruled scent ruled the hearts of men*" (Suskind, 155). That phrase is certainly memorable.

Mystery is one of my enthusiasms. In *Perfume*, the suspense is truly nourishing expectation of the mystery has built. The rhythm of the suspense is not too fast, not too much, interspersed with Patrick Suskind's wit makes me carried off by the his uncommon ability to grab the attention and keep me reading, describing very foreign things without unnecessary words. He chooses his events well.

The title itself has the very first moment to expect some knowledge of what the novel's subject will be; the knowledge of making perfume. However, the story turns into something unexpected. The *Perfume* is not carried too many new ideas too fast and that makes the novel a lasting impression. The important thing is that the novel set itself up on familiar turf, and then takes readers ideas to the next level. On the other hand, the purpose of reading the novel; of being entertained, remain maintained.

Some other articles and researches on examine literary study on Magical Realism and Patrick Suskind's Perfume [Das Parfum] that writer found are " *Ouaga*

Saga, Magical Realism, and Postcolonial Politics" Carina Yervasi from Swarthmore College which examines how magical realism can be controlled as a tool for postcolonial politics in everyday life; Michaela Django Weinberg from Department of Communication, University of California, San Diego wrote an article titled "*Paulo and the Birds: Towards a Magical Realist Approach to Ethnography*". The article wrote to fulfill the communication study field of ethnography, the study of human social phenomena and communities; Fadia Suyoufie from Yarmouk University wrote Magical Realism in Ghādah al-Sammān's *Th e Square Moon* investigating reality in Ghādah al-Sammān's collection of short stories in connection of contemporary Arab society; Judith L. Mitrani, Ph.D wrote an essay on titled "*Film Essay: "Perfume: The Story of a Murderer" as an Illustration of Adhesive pseudo-Object-Relations*" which examines psychoanalysis of the protagonist character in the movie.

This thesis will be focused on the novel material. This thesis also offers a brief account of magical realism's conceptual on how Patrick Suskind's Perfume can be fitted into the idea of Magical Realism concepts of Hybridity, Acceptance of Supernatural Events to be Something in Common, Admiration of Mysterious Miraculous without Question, Strong Narrative Drive using Exaggerating Words. The analysis is going to be examined on the other chapter of the thesis.

Furthermore, the novel gives magical illustration that can only be differentiating using established theory in literature; Magical Realism. However, there is neither of the theses had been written by BINUS University students regarding Magical Realism nor any analysis on Magical Realism nor Patrick Suskind's Perfume. The lack of literature study or review on both Magical Realism and Patrick Suskind's Perfume, encourage me

to write such a thesis. With the purposes of giving explanation of the investigation that Patrick Suskind's Perfume is a material to respect a folklore belief and sharing the result of the research to the academic students; I am going to analyze and pointing out that Magical Realism Theory is the most appropriate theory to achieve goals of the purposes using the novel, *Perfume*.

1.2 Problem Formulation

I intend to investigate in this thesis on how Patrick Suskind's Perfume can be fitted into the idea of Magical Realism concepts of Hybridity, Acceptance of Supernatural Events to be Something in Common, Admiration of Mysterious Miraculous without Question, Strong Narrative Drive using Exaggerating Words.

1.3 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the novel *Perfume* by Patrick Suskind. The analysis of this novel is limited to the analysis which related to Magical Realism characteristics of Hybridity, Acceptance of Supernatural Events to be something in Common, Admiration of Mysterious Miraculous Event without Question and Strong Narrative Drive using Exaggerating Words.

1.4 Goal(s) and Functions

1.4.1 Goal(s)

This research conducted to investigate magical realism theory as most appropriate theory as the literary criticism approach using Patrick Suskind's Perfume as material to briefly investigate of the key concepts of Hybridity, Acceptance of Supernatural Events to be something in Common, Admiration of Mysterious Miraculous without Question and Strong Narrative Drive using Exaggerating Words.

1.4.2 Function(s)

This research functioning at least to:

- Encourage the readers to learn works from Patrick Suskind
- Introducing sub study of modern novel specially postcolonial and postmodern work literature
- Provide a study guideline of competence Magical Realism Theory which can be accessed by other faculties and majors.

The function of reading Patrick Suskind's Perfume is more than killing time sake by enjoying mystery, bildungromans; the novel deals with self development or education genre. Reading a novel generally and Patrick Suskind's Perfume; especially is more to opening a history book- turning back time, understanding the passion of man's

kind, respect the folklore belief in everyday life. The elements of the great novel in Patrick Suskind's Perfume give opportunity to obtain more information than the sentence collection appears to have on the surface.

1.5 Research Methods

On this thesis, qualitative research is used to gain highly successful of the hypothesis. To achieve the purpose of the research, I conduct some steps in order to collect data that can support the analysis.

1. Questions had been decided what needed to achieve in the end of the research.
2. Background literature review had been studied from others that have found about the questions to help on focusing on main question specifically and also it is better informed about the topic.
3. Close reading had been employed to the novel of *Perfume* by Patrick Süskind as the primary data in order to comprehend and examined it well.
4. On this thesis, grounded theory is being used in the qualitative research method. On the hypothesis, Magical Realism is the most appropriate theory to achieve the purpose of this research.
5. On collecting data, direct observation through library research as reading literature review, taking notes, and quoting, Internet facility also had been used to complete the data. It was very helpful in helping to collect the data,

criticisms and other important information concerning about the main data researched.

6. Report the data in line with formatting guidelines and compelling research question.