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Born or Made a Murderer: Psychological Analysis of Jean Baptiste Grenouille in Patrick Süskind's novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*

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Dedication

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Peace and blessings be upon the noblest of messengers. First of all, I would like to say that it was not easy thing. I worked hard, stayed up all night, and did the impossible to achieve my dream. As many years have passed, and every year I overcome a new challenge to reach where I am now, to graduate and fulfil my dream. This dream was based on things that made it come true, things that made me stronger when I felt weak. They were the motives of my success and the realization of my dream, which are my mother's prayer and my father's tiredness. I dedicate this work to my dear and wonderful parents Mohamed and Naima, who supported me from the first day I was born until this moment, I really thank you both for your efforts, your patience and Your belief in me. To my brothers, Abd Al Djalil and Rafik, who are my support, and to my only sister, Soumia, who is a part of my soul. Without forgetting my little babies my sister's child and my brother's child, Amir and Yanis, whose laughs were making my day. To all my friends, especially Houda and Meriam. Finally, I dedicate this work to my black cat, who is a part of my heart, and whose closeness to me is the means of peace and love.

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Abstract

This study examines the novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* and analyses the main character, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, and tries to find out the factors that influenced his personality and thinking that contributed in making him a serial killer. Since the crimes he committed were not ordinary crimes, but were a series of heinous crimes, as he killed 25 innocent virgin girls. His crimes were planned, they were elaborate and in an artistic way with no feeling guilty, but rather he felt the power and control at the time. Are his feelings and actions just something acquired from society, or are these traits inherent in a person's nature? These ideas and these questions were the motive behind this study, and to answer them, this research followed a psychological approach that includes, nature versus nurture, attachment, and psychopathy theories. After a deep research, it was discovered that the traits that characterize Jean-Baptiste Grenouille are the characteristics of a psychopathic person. Scientists and researchers have discovered that psychopaths are born with a dysfunction in certain areas of the mind, which in turn leads to a lack of empathy and remorse, which is the most important factor that contributes to the transformation of an ordinary person into a monster. He faced great difficulties in his life, especially in his childhood, such as abandonment, rejection and abuse, which reinforced his mental abnormalities and also reinforced the percentage of making him a murderous person. After this research, this study found that Jean Baptiste Grenouille is an integrated psychopath, born with brain abnormalities, which made him a serial killer characterized by the traits of lack of emotion, lack of guilt and the will to control others, but also his bad experiences with society were a strong motive behind his heinous crimes. Finally, it can be said that both nature and nurture play a crucial role in shaping Jean Baptiste Grenouille's personality, making him both born and shaped into a murderer.

Keywords: Grenouille, Psychopathy, Nature vs nurture, Childhood experiences, Murderers

Table of Contents

Dedication	II
Acknowledgment	III
Abstract	IV
Table of Contents	V
General Introduction	1
Chapter One: Theoretical Framework.....	7
Introduction	8
1. The Historical Context.....	8
2. Nature vs Nurture	10
2.1 Nature	11
2.1.1 Nature in Criminology	12
2.2 Nurture	14
2.2.1 Nurture in Criminology	15
3. The Attachment Theory.....	17
4. Psychopathy Theory	20
4.1 Nature and Nurture in Psychopathy	23
4.2 Psychopaths Traits.....	25
4.2.1 Lack of Empathy	25
4.2.2 Lack of Remorse or Guilt	25
4.2.3 Deceitful and Manipulative	26

4.2.4 Egocentric and Grandiose.....	26
Conclusion.....	27
CHAPTER Two: The Internal Psychological Depth of Grenouille.....	28
Introduction	29
1. The Nature of Jean Baptiste Grenouille	29
2. Grenouille’s Early Experiences in Shaping his Personality	32
3. The Tragic Consequences of Poor Attachment	38
4. The Dark Side of Ambition: Grenouille’s Motivation	43
Conclusion.....	46
CHAPTER Three: The Psychopathic Brain of Grenouille	48
Introduction	49
1. The Psychopathe Jean Baptiste Grenouille	49
2. Grenouille’s Lack of Empathy	51
3. Grenouille’s Lack of Remorse or Guilt	55
4. Grenouille’s Deceitful and Manipulative character.....	58
5. Grenouille’s Egocentric and Grandiose.....	61
6. Born and Made a Murderer	63
Conclusion.....	65
General Conclusion	67
Work Cited	70
ملخص	77
Résumé	78

General Introduction

Germany produced numerous famous writers, whose works have greatly affected the world's literature and that been transferred into various languages. Idealism, modernity, materialism, trauma and memory were important themes that distinguished German literature. Most of these writings were a reaction to social, political and economic change and also a search for the connection between their traditions and their tragic history. Their works were rich in beautifully crafted stories, in the late 18th c that were a response to the Enlightenment Age. The Enlightenment is a movement that focuses on the power and prestige of the individual swept European thought. In the late 17th- and early 18th centuries, the Enlightenment emerged as an intellectual movement that championed reason, individualism, and equality and posed a challenge to long-established French values. One of the famous German writers who also wrote in reaction to the Enlightenment Age is Patrick Süskind.

Patrick Süskind was born in Ambach in 1949. He is a German novelist and playwright who received his master's degree in 1974 from the University of Provence in Aix, France. He studied medieval and modern history at the University of Munich. Where he created *The Double Bass*, his debut play, which achieved success on a global scale. Most people know him for his first novel, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, which was a bestseller and a blockbuster worldwide that was adapted into a movie. It topped *Der Spiegel*, a German weekly news magazine's bestsellers list for nine years.

Patrick Süskind sets his novel, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, in the self-empowering period of the Enlightenment. It emerged in France in the 18th century as a response to the Enlightenment era. The book was first released in 1985 with the title *Das Parfum*. The most popular novel by Patrick Süskind, it was translated into 49 languages and sold more than 20 million copies nationwide.

The book falls within the fiction narrative genre and has a thriller theme. As the main themes, it emphasizes greed, ambition, obsession, and murder. It is a unique book that is packed with suspense and mystery. The protagonist's transformation from a genius of smell to a murderous monster is described by the author to arouse the reader's curiosity about how the story will conclude. The story of a man's quest to find the ideal perfume in the book is one that will captivate and provoke attention. The story centres on Jean Baptiste Grenouille, a person with an extraordinary sense of smell who spends his life seeking out the ideal fragrance.

The novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* narrates the journey of Jean Baptiste Grenouille, a person born with an exceptional sense of smell that allows him to distinguish the most subtle scent, and he was ambitious of discovering all scents in the world. Over the years, he became more ambitious with capturing the scents, he wanted to create the best perfume in the world but by distilling abnormal materials that every perfumer would distil like flowers, rather he wanted to distil more strange materials like the odour of human bodies.

Jean Baptiste Grenouille was an outcast in society caused by his lack of body odour. He was seen as an oddity or even a devil, people were confused by the reality of this person, and they could not believe that a normal human being could not have a body odour like any other person so they avoided him. Grenouille's life begins in the dark of night, filled with deep-seated anger at humanity resulting from the mistreatment he had faced such as neglect, prejudice, exploitation and every other form of abuse.

Jean was abandoned by his mother in a fish stall shortly after his birth, she pushed him into the leftover fish guts what she had presumed was an already dead infant, causing the beginning of Grenouille's disgust and outrage at human beings' lack of care or empathy. His mother killed her four infants the same way she wanted to kill Grenouille, which made him a child of a murderer mother. She was executed immediately after they discovered that she had tried to leave him for death, and that she had also killed her four infants. Grenouille's way was

clear from the first seconds he spent in life, his crying was the reason for the execution of his mother, so it can be said that his way of killing was destined from the first seconds of his life.

After that he was passed off to a wet nurse who also immediately rejected him due to his lack of body odour, she thought that he was a devil, because all babies have that kind of baby scent that smells like milk but his odourless was abnormal. This made Grenouille isolated from society as an outsider since his very first moments in the world.

Later he was sent to the orphanage of Madame Gaillard, where the children refused him and tried to suffocate him. From birth to death, Jean Baptiste Grenouille was treated as an investment rather than being deserving of love. Madame Gaillard was feeding him in the orphanage and protecting him from the orphans was not because she loved him, but rather because she saw him as a form of investment because the more she received orphans the more money she will receive. After his silent years in the orphanage, he was later sold to the cruel Grimal at a very early age. Grimal was the owner of a tannery, he treated him like a work animal at his tannery; he never saw him as a human being and never treated him in a good way.

In addition, there is Giuseppe Baldini who bought Jean from Grimal when he discovered that Grenouille has the best nose and he is able to create the best perfume in the world. Baldini was one day a great master perfumer that has only one thought of taking advantage of Grenouille as much as he can and taking Jean's genius for his own by making him giving him as many perfumes formula as possible. *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* depicts the murderous mind of Grenouille and how his thoughts developed throughout the novel, Jean Baptiste Grenouille did not know love and never received it, and as a result, he did not give it to anyone. All his goals and ambitions were to discover the largest number of scents until he became obsessed with making the most distinctive odour in the world; and the only way was to kill virgin women, with no hesitation or neither guilt nor remorse, and extract the scent from their bodies. He believed that their scents are the purer and the most beautiful scents in the

world, and if he possessed them, he will gain the lives of all humans and will dominate them. Finally, he reached his goals and got everyone's love, but the love he received was not the love he aspired to, so Grenouille's end was tragic in a strange and unique way, in opposite to what he wanted.

In the final scene of the novel he committed suicide because he realised that he finally achieved his goal of creating the perfect perfume and has nothing left to struggle for, he felt a kind of emptiness and lack of meaning in his life. He realised that his odourless will never let him be attached to others, despite he created the perfume that he always wanted. Patrick Süskind tries to reveal the factors that contributed in shaping his personality by shedding light on his nature and his traumatic experiences.

The novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* by Patrick Süskind has enjoyed immense popularity among both passionate readers and literary critics alike. It is renewed for its unique and compelling narrative, as well as its sophisticated portrayal of themes of crime, power, obsession and the aesthetics of scents. Naila Yasser Salah in her study "*The Problematic Theme of Crime in Patrick Süskind's novel Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*", analysed the character of Jean Baptiste Grenouille and his motivations that led him to kill 25 virgin women. Also, she examined the era of the Enlightenment age that effected his psychology, and studied the motivations that drive him to search for his identity. She revealed that the cruel treatment of the people around him caused his violent actions and drove him to be a murderer.

Approaching another study by Raya Maher Abdullah Musleh titled "*The Psychic Drives of the Concept of Obsession in Patrick Süskind's Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*", the writer adopts the psychoanalysis approach to analyse the character of Grenouille and to explore his thoughts, actions and obsession with capturing the scents of the virgin girls. This study aimed to analyse the ambition and obsession of Grenouille dealing with the id, ego and superego to

understand his psychology. Revealing that his society was the cause of his obsession and his traumatic experiences were the factors behind his actions.

In addition, in a study by Önder Göncüoğlu, in one of her chapters titled "*God or Beast: Patrick Süskind Anti-Hero Jean Baptiste Grenouille in Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*", she discusses the Karl Jung concept of myth-making, which is concerned with the human psyche. She analysed the novel and discussed how the author depicted the character of the protagonist and how employed various methods to depict Grenouille inhuman characteristics. This study explored the grandiosity of Grenouille and depicted him as a God which was one of his psychopathy traits.

Stories of serial killers are often of captivate many people because they are different from everyone else. Their stories are often filled with strange and complex events that cannot happen to anyone, so they make people curious about the factors that contributed to making them such monsters. Some argue that this category of killers are instinctive thugs and that they were born to destroy and harm others, while others believe that the bad experiences that a person may go through could strongly affecte his personality and psyche.

Similarly, reading the novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* was interesting, as the character of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille was complex and required a lot of research to understand it and to explore whether he was a natural born killer, or the society bad treatment played a role in his murderous acts. In order to explore the factors that contributed to shaping Grenouille, the following subquestions will be discussed.

1. What is the role of genes in shaping Grenouille's personality?
2. How Grenouille's bad attachments did affecte his psychological development?
3. Is Jean Baptiste Grenouille a psychopathe?

The aims of this dissertation are to explore and understand the different factors that affected the character of Jean Baptiste Grenouille to become a murderer. Also, to examine his nature and upbringing to provide a clear understanding of the human psychology and the influences that can contribute to his psychological development like innate predisposition and societal mistreatment, and how they would influence his mental health, shape his values, identity, and perception of himself.

This study employs a descriptive research paradigm, using a psychological approach to analyse the psychological development of the protagonist and examines the factors that contributed in shaping his character and motivated him to become a serial killer. By collecting data from various and different sources, including deep reading of the novel, articles, research papers and available books, that gave insight understanding for the topic, using the 9th edition of the MLA style.

This dissertation will provide a general introduction, three chapters and general conclusion. The first chapter will introduce the theoretical framework consisting nature vs nurture, attachment, and psychopathy theories. The second chapter will investigate into the internal psychological analysis of the protagonist exploring his nature, early experiences and his motivations. The final chapter focuses on Grenouille's psychopathy examining his psychopathy traits.

Chapter one: Theoretical Framework

Introduction

This introductory chapter looks to give a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical framework behind psychopathic serial killers, especially Jean Baptiste Grenouille's character. It will investigate the history of psychopathy, including theories that explain its onset, potential causes and outcomes. It will consider ideas such as nature versus nurture, attachment theory, personality traits associated with psychopathy and society's influence on those diagnosed with this disorder.

1. The Historical Context

The novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* by Patrick Süskind depicts 18th-century Paris, France, where social hierarchy was rigid and defined by long-held customs and traditions, with nobility at the top and craftsmen at the bottom. However, society was beginning to change during Grenouille's time, with the rise of the middle class coinciding with the Enlightenment period. Süskind's novel can be seen as an exploration of these social changes, with its focus on the rise of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille from a lowly orphan to a successful perfumer. This period saw a surge in rational and scientific thinking, which influenced politics, religion, and capitalism, leading to social upheaval and tensions (Course Hero).

This period marked a significant intellectual shift in the city, as the average middle-class citizen gained unprecedented access to both wealth and knowledge, surpassing any previous period in history (Smith & Kissel). Süskind captures these changes in society through his characters, revealing the anxieties and fears of the time, including the rise of the public sphere (Course Hero).

The description of the unpleasant smell that pervaded into cities in France was so vivid. As the stairwells' rotting timber and rat droppings reeked, the smell was strong and varied. The smell of rotting cabbage and mutton grease permeated the kitchens as well as the unaired parlors

and bedrooms, which also had greasy sheets, moist featherbeds, and the strong smell of chamber pots. People also contributed to the unpleasant smell, with the smell of sweat, unwashed clothes, teeth rot, onions from their stomachs, and cowardice and sour milk if they are older. The unpleasant smell was widespread everywhere, from rivers to markets, churches, bridges and palaces. Even the aristocratic class, including the king and the queen, were not immune, as they stank like animals (Süskind 8-9). In his novel, Patrick Süskind vividly depicts the putrid odour that permeated the streets of 18th-century France, which was so vividly portrayed that it allowed the reader to imagine the atmosphere there. In fact, the detailed descriptions of smells in the book were so potent that it has been said that one could almost smell the book.

The reign of Louis XV in France from 1703-1790 was also marked by a surge in crime, including crimes of violence and crimes against morality such as infanticide, seduction, and adultery. The novel, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, portrays this historical context through the character of Grenouille's mother, who abandoned him at birth and attempted to kill him along with his siblings. The prevalence of infanticide during this period is attributed to a variety of factors, including poverty, social upheaval, and changing moral attitudes towards children. This historical context is essential to understanding the character of Grenouille (Salah 17).

Patrick Süskind sets his novel in such period and era to depict reason, science, human progress and the pursuit of happiness. Süskind's descriptions of the city were simply an attempt to accurately reflect the historical reality of the time. The streets are filled with waste and excrement. Those who are wealthy enough carry a handkerchief with expensive fragrance to their noses to avoid the unpleasant odours, while those who cannot afford it must accept and tolerate the foul smells of everyday life (Cizmecioglu). He effectively portrayed the distinction between the affluent and the middle class, and how it impacted the life of Jean Baptiste Grenouille, who was born in an extremely malodorous environment.

Süskind uses this historical context to explore themes such as power, class, and social mobility in 18th-century, France. Grenouille's character can be seen as a commentary on the societal norms and values of that era, where the novel is set. Grenouille is an outsider; both in terms of his lack of scent and his low social status, and his murders can be seen as a form of rebellion against the society that has excluded him. By creating a character who is both sympathetic and horrifying, Süskind may be commenting on the complex and often contradictory nature of human behaviour.

2. Nature vs Nurture

Since the beginning of human existence, various factors have influenced and shaped the individual's personality development. However, for decades, the debate has raged on as to what exactly these factors are. Some argue that it is a person's innate nature, while others believe it is the environment and experiences that ultimately determine the person's personality (McLeod).

This concept is commonly known as the nature vs nurture debate. It was first coined by the English polymath Francis Galton (Serpell). Nature vs nurture is an age-old debate that has captivated the attention of philosophers, scientists, scholars and neurobiologists for centuries, who have made various progress in defining the principles of brain development (Stiles).

The debate of nature vs nurture was of interest in part because it has profound implications for understanding what factors could affect the individual's development, and to determine whether genes or environmental influences contributed more to human behaviour and personality (Tabery).

Extensive research has been conducted across biological, psychological, and sociological fields to investigate the longstanding debate of nature versus nurture in shaping an

individual's personality. Recent findings suggest that hereditary and environmental processes work hand-in-hand to influence individual behaviour. While behaviour is learned from the surrounding social environment, genetic and biological processes underlie how learning takes place. The causation of criminal behaviour is not solely attributed to either nature or nurture but rather involves a multifaceted interplay of both factors. Thus, it can be concluded that the origins of human behaviour are the result of a complex and intricate interplay between genes and environment, rather than being exclusively determined by one or the other (Ashhar).

McLeod noted that the nature vs nurture debate is focused on determining the extent to which both external influences and innate characteristics contribute to various aspects of human behaviour, including personality, cognitive abilities, temperament, and psychology. Stiles states that with the advancement of modern neurobiological techniques, it has become evident that the interplay between genetic predisposition and individual experiences plays a crucial role in the development of the brain. It has been observed that the absence of crucial genetic signalling and essential environmental input leads to abnormal brain development.

The debate between nature and nurture has shifted its footing to criminology, where experts have claimed that a combination of genetics and upbringing could significantly affect one's conduct and outlook on life. This discussion is essential in understanding factors that contribute to criminal behaviour, such as the possibility of genetic disposition or environmental influences such as poverty, neglect, or abuse. While some maintain genes play a significant role in suspecting certain individuals to criminal activity, others believe that the influences of the environment are the primary drives of criminal behaviour.

2.1 Nature

As it is well known that physical characteristics such as eye colour, pigmentation of the skin, and certain disease are determined by biological genetic inheritance. Nativism proposes

that human behaviour, personality traits, and cognitive abilities are also predominately shaped by genetic factors (McLeod).

Nativists suggest that individuals are born with innate characteristics that determine their development and that genes and hereditary factors influence who the person is and contribute to the formation of his personality (Kristie). Steven Pinker in his book, *The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature*, challenges the idea that the human mind is a blank slate at birth and instead states that there is an innate biological factor that contributes to human behaviour and development. In addition, Galton Francis in his book, *English Men of Science*, defines nature as "Nature is all that a man brings with himself into the world" (12). He asserts that genius and ability are primarily inherited and determined by one's genetic makeup, rather than the environment.

The nature theory provides valuable insights into the biological factors that contribute to human behaviour and development, particularly in the fields of genetics and neuroscience. For instance, progress in genetic research has revealed particular genetic abnormalities linked to a higher chance of developing several mental health illnesses, like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (Pinker). According to the study of twins, certain mental health issues may be greatly influenced by heredity. For instance, research has shown that people with a family history of schizophrenia are more likely to develop the disorder themselves, indicating that the ailment may have a hereditary component (Gottesman & Shields).

2.1.1 Nature in criminology

There has been a lengthy dispute concerning the impact of genetics on human behaviour and personality. Although research has linked traits such as intelligence, personality, and criminal behaviour to genetics in many cases, this concept still generates a lot of controversy. Some argue that attributing criminal acts to genes is inaccurate while supporters suggest that

further knowledge regarding genetic roots of criminal behaviour could assist with both prevention and treatment of crimes.

From a biological perspective, some researchers have explored the connection between brain abnormalities and criminal behaviour, particularly in the case of serial killers. For example, Siegel suggests that chronic criminals often exhibit higher levels of brain dysfunction than non-criminals and that may lead to erratic behaviours and violent outbursts, as well as suicide and motiveless homicide. In their study of 165 murders without apparent reason around the world, Lange and DeWitt discovered that many of them had suffered head injuries or had organic brain abnormalities, which they theorized could have caused compulsive behaviours to emerge during periods of uncontrollable brainwave activity (Sharma 12).

Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, neurologist, and British criminologist Adrian Raine has conducted extensive research on the brains of criminals and psychopaths. He concentrates on the biological components of criminal behaviour. To determine the links between hereditary factors, brain abnormalities, and criminal behaviour, Raine has performed significant research. Raine makes the point that some genetic variants may increase the tendency for conducting violent acts in his book *The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime*. He explains how the development of aggressive and violent acts is influenced by various brain regions, like the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala. His studies affirmed that these regions control emotion, decision-making, empathy and aggressive behaviour. The dysfunction in these regions may contribute to raising the chance of engaging in antisocial and criminal behaviour.

For example to how genes may contribute to shaping human personality development, according to Adrian Raine the violent behaviour of the offenders is the outcome of a low intelligence quotient, that is caused by a region of the brain called the angular gyrus area. Raine explained that impulsive and violent criminals have a decreased cerebral blood flow in the

angular gyrus, and also that its dysfunction leads to criminal behaviour. One of the last brain to mature, the angular gyrus is in charge of sophisticated processes like reading and math. These skills do not exist in the early stages of infancy but instead, appear later in childhood. Due to this, if the angular gyrus is not working properly, the child's performance in reading, writing and math, the essential skills for academic achievement, will deteriorate. As a consequence, violent offenders often have low academic performance, which may have an impact on their chances of finding jobs and their financial circumstances, provoking them to use violence to get what they want. Raine asserts that the brain is the primary contributor to violence causing a failure of social and educational processes that result in criminal activities and behaviour.

2.2 Nurture

The intricate argument between how much nature and nurture influence human behaviour has been investigated. According to the nurture theory, a person's personality, beliefs, and behaviours are largely shaped by their environment, including their childhood, socialization, and education. According to MacLeod, external influences have an impact on people's behaviour (McLeod).

The nurture theory emphasizes the role of environmental factors in shaping an individual's personality (Kristie). In contrast to nature theory, individuals are not born with innate characteristics, but rather the human mind is a tabula rasa, and it is gradually filled and developed through interaction with the environment. Hence, the brain is not entirely biologically determined, and its development depends on environmental factors, severe neglect or exposure to a socially isolated environment, can cause certain regions of the brain such as the prefrontal cortex and limbic system, to shrink or atrophy. Although, every individual is born with predetermined regions of the brain for specific functions, and the environment plays a crucial role in how these regions develop. For example, infants are capable of learning any language, but they will eventually speak the language they hear most often. Similarly, an

infant's ability to regulate emotions depends on what they learn from their primary caregivers. The brain is not limited by genetics but is rather a model for how it will be organised, with its malleability allowing for adaptation to environmental influences (Meyer et al 164).

The nurture theory asserts that intelligence, behaviour and personality are not pre-determined by genetics, and having parents with low IQ, or mental disorders does not necessarily mean that the child will inherit the genes of his parents. The theory also refutes the idea that low IQ scores are the cause of criminal behaviour. Instead, suggests that a Child's environment, including the influence of parents, family, school and peers, play a significant role in shaping their intelligence and behaviour, and also it could be the result of criminal behaviour (Welsh & Siegel 121). For example, James Fallon, a neuroscientist who had a brain of a psychopath, states that growing up in nurturing and loving environment was a critical factor in his ability to become a successful adult and it has prevented him from fully exhibiting psychopathic traits.

2.2.1 Nurture in Criminology

Serial criminals' actions can be influenced by their environment and community. When feelings of isolation or social exclusion arise, individuals' mental health may deteriorate, often leading to criminal behaviour. Additionally, serial killers with psychological disorders can experience increased psychological pressure in certain environments or social climates, which increase the likelihood of committing crimes. Violent crimes pose a significant threat to societal safety and stability with the murder committed by serial killers being one of the most heinous acts that cause terror and horror in people's minds, leaving lasting impacts on society.

The roots of serial killing often lie in the traumas of early life. Many serial killers have suffered from abuse, loneliness and abandonment as children. They may also have experienced other forms of psychosocial distress, such as being humiliated, neglected, adopted or left

behind. These events can impair their ability to bond with others emotionally in their childhood years (Sharma 15). Some initial studies have found associations between adult psychopathic characteristics and various adverse factors in their early life, such as physical neglect, paternal absence, parental incarceration, low socioeconomic status, maternal youth, maternal depression, and familial instability (Kiehl & Lushing).

In Hickey's trauma-control model, the development of the minds of serial killers is explained by the theory that traumatic events during their formative years lead to unresolved emotional wounds. These wounds result in feelings of self-doubt and inadequacy that are pushed so far down that they cannot be consciously recalled. The suppressed trauma eventually becomes separated from the conscious mind of the individual, and the pain from the traumatic event eventually reemerges. This can cause a cycle of trauma and a desire to regain control that may manifest at an early age in some offenders. Hickey's model proposes that these factors play a crucial role in shaping the acts of serial killers (ABE 243).

Hickey has identified numerous environmental indicators that can precipitate the formation of a serial killer. Among them are an unstable home environment, parent deaths, divorce, and physical and sexual abuse. Rejection appears to be the most common of all these variables. However, it is significant to remember that every form of abuse has a distinctive psychological effect on a child's growth. For instance, neglect can cause emotions of unworthiness and low self-esteem, whereas physical abuse can cause rage and aggressiveness. Anxiety, despair, and difficulties establishing healthy relationships are just a few of the problems that psychological abuse can bring on. In the end, it is the interaction of these elements that may result in the emergence of a serial killer (ABE 244).

While human genetics play a crucial role in determining an individual's tendencies and abilities, it is the human experiences that ultimately shape their behaviour. Human behaviour is not solely predetermined by genetics; rather, it is the interaction between genetics and

environmental experiences that determines the course of an individual's development. In other words, the experiences an individual goes through, such as upbringing, social interactions, and life events, significantly influence their behaviour. Therefore, it is essential to consider the impact of nurture on human behaviour, as it can have a powerful influence on how an individual develops (Muir 1).

3. The Attachment Theory

The attachment theory was created by the English psychiatrist John Bowlby. The theory is based on the way people form emotional bonds and connections with one another, specifically the relationships babies have with their caregivers. John Bowlby articulates that these early experiences have a big impact on the way people develop socially, emotionally, and mentally throughout their lifetime.

Bowlby contends that emotional connections or attachments are essential for a person's wellbeing because they offer care and safety, especially during childhood. A child's relationship with his or her mother is an essential survival mechanism that can have a big impact on the child's mental health and future relationships. A child's personality, attitudes toward other people, and outlook on the future can all be influenced by the type of attachment he or she has with his or her caregiver. As a result, a child's future personality is significantly influenced by the strength of the attachment link.

Attachment behaviour is any behaviour that helps a person attain or retain proximity to a preferred individual, typically someone who is stronger and wiser. It includes behaviours such as following, clinging, crying, and greeting, and develops during the second trimester of life. By six months, infants begin to discriminate between their mother figure, a few familiar people, and strangers. They are cheerful and relaxed in the presence of their mother, but distressed and

strive for contact when alone with strangers. Attachment behaviour persists as an important part of human behaviour during later childhood, adolescence, and adult life, particularly when a person is distressed, ill, or afraid (Bowlby 5).

The importance of attachment behaviour in human life is at least as great as that of feeding and sexual behaviour. Different types of psychiatric disturbance might result from deviations in the development of attachment behaviour or from its failure to develop (Bowlby 6).

The intensity of emotions is closely associated with individuals' attachment relationships, commonly referred to as affectional bonds. The process of bonding is often characterized as falling in love, while maintaining one is described as loving someone, and losing a partner is seen as grieving over someone. The possibility of losing a bond often triggers anxiety, while actual loss can result in feelings of sorrow and anger. An unchallenged bond maintenance offers a sense of security, while its renewal brings joy. Therefore, the psychology and psychopathology of emotion are significantly influenced by individuals' affectional bonds (Bowlby).

Although the process of attachment development appears straightforward, various factors can influence its course and timing. These factors include the presence of an opportunity for attachment, as children raised in orphanages or without a primary caregiver may lack the trust necessary to form attachments. Another influential factor is the quality of caregiving, where consistent and responsive care helps establish a strong foundation for attachment. In particular, caregivers who promptly and consistently respond to a child's needs can foster a secure attachment. These factors are critical to healthy attachment development and can significantly impact a child's ability to form secure attachments (Cherry).

Reactive attachment disorder is primarily seen in children who lack confidence in themselves, feel unworthy of themselves, are afraid of intimacy, are angry, and need to be in control. They frequently feel vulnerable and alone. They could be incredibly reclusive, emotionally distant, and resistant to consoling. When a child is unable to continuously bond with a parent or other key caregivers, reactive attachment disorder develops. A young child will learn that he cannot depend on people and that the world is a scary and terrifying place if he frequently feels abandoned, lonely, powerless, or uncared for whatever reasons (Smith, et al.).

Relationships later in life can be significantly impacted by early bonds. Adults who experienced safe attachment as children often have high self-esteem, satisfying romantic connections, and the capacity to open up to others, while also having more positive social relationships and experiencing less anxiety and depression. Failing to establish solid relationships as a young child may have a detrimental effect on conduct as an adult. Attachment issues are typically seen in children who have been diagnosed with oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder, possibly because of early abuse, neglect, or trauma. A larger risk of attachment issues may exist for children who were adopted after they became 6 months old. These illnesses can result in a variety of emotional and behavioural issues, such as issues with emotion regulation, caregiver withdrawal, and a lack of social inhibition (Cherry).

Negative- experiences like abuse, violence-, neglect, and exploitation can weigh heavily on children and cause trauma that lingers. Even when caregivers are around, if they are not meeting a child's emotional or physical needs due to their own struggles with trauma or inability to provide a safe environment because of financial or mental issues, it can still trigger traumatic reactions in the child. In addition, grief from losing loved ones or separation from caregivers also causes lasting pain. When such traumas happen during childhood formative years, it can negatively impact their ability to function and learn for an extended time (Dunne

2). This negative bonding style can lead to a lack of self-confidence, difficulty expressing feelings, and difficulty forming healthy social relationships in the future. It also increases the possibility of mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety.

In conclusion, attachment theory highlights the crucial role that early relationships play in shaping an individual's development and future relationships. Negative attachment patterns, such as those resulting from trauma or neglect, can have long-lasting effects on an individual's ability to form healthy social relationships, express emotions, and maintain mental health. It is important to understand and address these negative attachment patterns to promote positive outcomes and healthy relationships in the future (Tanasugarn).

4. Psychopathy Theory

Psychopathy is a fascinating yet controversial topic that has intrigued both the public and the scientific community for decades. This concept refers to severe psychological disorders that some individuals suffer from, which are characterized by delayed emotional response and the inability to empathize with others. Such individuals face difficulty in forming healthy social relationships and may demonstrate violent and exploitative behaviours. For researchers in psychology and social sciences, psychopathy is an interesting subject as they strive to understand it fully and offer effective solutions to address this phenomenon.

Psychopathy is a multifarious and intricate phenomenon that encompasses diverse personality and behavioural traits. These traits differ in strength across individuals and follow a standard distribution pattern in society. In simpler terms, some individuals may display these traits more prominently than others, and exhibiting some of these traits does not necessarily mean that one is a psychopath. It is vital to recognize that psychopathy is not a solitary trait or quality but rather a blend of diverse traits that can present themselves distinctly in various individuals (Haycock).

One of the early scholars who contributed to the understanding of psychopaths is Dr. Robert Hare. He has given researchers a precise description and diagnostic tool (Psychopathy Checklist) for psychopathy. Hare and Dr. Hervey Cleckley, the writer of *The Mask of Sanity*, have both offered a variety of analyses and descriptions of both male and female psychopaths. *The Mask of Sanity* features numerous conversations between Cleckley and detained "Psychopaths." The central thesis of Cleckley's work is that psychopaths hide their problem by putting on a "mask" of a "normal" personality. When examining psychopathy, both Hare and Cleckley's work is still well regarded and employed.

Dr Hare asserts, "Psychopaths are social predators who charm, manipulate, and ruthlessly plow their way through life, leaving a broad trail of broken hearts and shattered expectations. Completely lacking in conscience and in feelings for others, they selfishly take what they want and do as they please, violating social norms and expectations without the slightest sense of guilt or regret". Additionally, psychopaths may struggle with controlling their actions and engage in criminal or antisocial behaviour. The symptoms of psychopathy include emotional deficiencies and inadequate behavioural controls, which can lead to persistent antisocial behaviour. As a result, psychopathy can have severe detrimental effects on an individual's life and those around them, making it a serious condition that requires proper attention and treatment (Anderson & Kiehl).

Cleckley contends that not all criminals are psychopaths, and not all psychopaths are criminals. As a result, there would be individuals in the general community with psychopathic personalities who have never committed a crime and may never do so. They will, nevertheless, exhibit socially inappropriate and unethical actions, such as failing to stick to a life plan, an impersonal, inconsequential, and poorly integrated sex life, dishonesty and lack of sincerity, pathological egocentrism (García et al).

Psychopathy is neuropsychiatric disorder characterized by inadequate emotional reaction, a lack of empathy, and poor behavioural controls, frequently leading to chronic antisocial behaviour and criminal activity. Research is accumulating that shows psychopathy has a genetically influenced development trajectory that has negative impacts on many functional networks, including those in the paralimbic regions of the brain (Anderson & Kiehl). There are at least two separate varieties of psychopathy, according to recent research, primary and secondary psychopathy (Sethi et al.).

It is thought that primary psychopaths are endearing and brilliant, and suffer from a constitutional weakness that results in callous and manipulative behaviour, superficial relationships, and a lack of negative affect like remorse, dread, or worry. Also, they are characterized by a diminished ability to experience empathy, and they often employ strategic behaviour to establish their social superiority over others (Del Gaizo & Falkenbach). The presence of an emotional deficiency is a hallmark trait of primary psychopathy, impacting the brain regions associated with both behavioural and emotional responses, leading to a reduced ability to adapt to changes in the environment. Furthermore, research indicates that primary psychopaths exhibit a hyper-stable level of serotonin, which could play a role in their distinctive emotional and behavioural traits (Silber).

On the contrary, Secondary psychopathy is a subtype of psychopathy characterized by emotional instability and a propensity for impulsive, aggressive, and violent behaviour. Individuals with secondary psychopathy are often diagnosed with a mental illness or suffer from severe emotional disturbances. They are commonly referred to as "acting-out neurotics," "neurotic delinquents," or "symptomatic psychopaths." Research has indicated that secondary psychopaths are more unstable than primary psychopaths. Unlike primary psychopaths, who are considered to be born with psychopathy features, secondary psychopaths develop owing to contextual circumstances such as physical or verbal parental abuse and rejection (Padowitz)

It is thought that contextual factors, such as experiences of parental abuse or rejection, contribute to secondary psychopathy. An underlying emotional disturbance that is linked to characteristics like neuroticism, impulsivity, anger, and emotional reactivity may develop from this. People who have secondary psychopathy may have disrupted emotional capacities that might appear as angry reactivity. This can make it difficult for them to establish lasting connections and successfully navigate social situations (Del Gaizo & Falkenbach). In fact, research suggests that secondary psychopaths' disturbed emotional capacities often manifest in behaviours that are harmful to both themselves and others.

The Hare Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) is a frequently used instrument to assess an individual's level of psychopathy or antisocial personality disorder. It was originally developed to assess people who had been charged with or found guilty of crimes (Cooke & Christine). The test compares a subject's level of psychopathy with that of a prototype psychopath using a 20-item symptom rating scale. Many experts in the field concur that it is the most accurate way to determine whether someone has psychopathy and how severe it is (García et al.). The checklist is mostly used to diagnose adult males in jails, criminal mental institutions, and facilities where they are awaiting psychiatric assessments or legal proceedings. But according to the current study, the PCL can also be used to identify sex offenders, as well as female and juvenile offenders. Grandiose self-esteem, pathological lying, callousness, lack of empathy, and irresponsibility are among the 20 traits assessed by the PCL score (Hare).

4.1 Nature and Nurture in Psychopathy

Psychopathy is estimated to have a prevalence of about 1% in the general population, while it is much higher, reaching up to 25%, among prisoners. The development of psychopathy is a multifaceted process that involves the interaction of both genetic and environmental risk factors, as well as gene-environment correlation and interaction (De Brito et al. 2)

Although the exact cause of psychopathy remains unknown, research suggest that various factors may contribute to the development of this personality disorder. These include genetics, environmental conditions, traumatic experiences, brain structure, and exposure to violence during childhood (Dorwart). It would be accurate to say that Dr Hare believes that psychopathy is not solely caused by genetics or environment, but rather is the result of a complex interplay between the two. He believes that genetic factors contribute to the biological bases of brain function and personality structure, which then interact with life experiences and the social environment to influence the development of psychopathic traits (Hare).

Dr Hare noted in his book, *Without Consciousness*, both biological and social causes have an impact on how psychopathy develops. The fundamental personality structure is influenced by genetic variables, which in turn affect how an individual reacts to experiences in life and their social environment. Psychopaths may not be born with a socially abnormal personality, but their biological makeup makes it difficult for them to build social bonds and consciences. Social and parental variables influence how the disease manifests in behaviour, but they have less of an impact on the person's incapacity to experience empathy or form a conscience.

For instance, someone with psychopathic personality traits who has access to good social and educational opportunities as a child may grow up to be a con artist, a white-collar criminal, or a professional with dubious business practices. A person with identical personality qualities who comes from a poor or unstable upbringing, however, may end up as a nomad, mercenary, or violent criminal. Social variables and parenting styles can affect a psychopath's behaviour, but they have less of an impact on their incapacity to experience empathy or form a conscience. Dr Hare effectively illustrated his point through a compelling analogy, "To use a simple analogy, the potter is instrumental in molding pottery from clay (nurture), but the characteristics of the pottery also depend on the sort of clay available (nature)".

4.2 Psychopaths Traits

The study of personality disorders has always been an intriguing subject for psychologists and researchers. Among them, the disorder of psychopathy stands out with its unique and complex traits. In the following sections, the emotions and interpersonal traits of psychopaths will be defined according to Dr Hare, which makes up the essence of this disorder. By examining and understanding these features, it aims to gain a better perspective on the disordered personalities of psychopaths in society.

4.2.1 Lack of Empathy

A severe lack of empathy (the incapacity to create a mental and emotional "facsimile" of another person) is directly related to many of the traits demonstrated by psychopaths, including their egocentricity, lack of remorse, superficial emotions, and deceitfulness. Psychopaths don't care about other people's emotions. Psychopaths see individuals as little more than things that may be utilized to satisfy their own desires. However, psychopaths have a general lack of empathy. They don't care about the rights or misery of friends, relatives, or strangers. If they do continue to have relationships with their spouses or kids, it is only because they regard them as possessions, much like their stereos or cars (Hare).

4.2.2 Lack of Remorse or Guilt

Psychopaths exhibit an astonishing lack of care for the terrible consequences of their acts on other people. They frequently state calmly that there is no need for them to be concerned, that they feel no feeling of remorse, and that they are not sorry for the suffering and destruction they have caused. The amazing capacity of psychopaths to rationalize their behaviour and escape personal accountability for activities that shock and disappoint family, friends, associates, and other people who have followed the rules is correlated with their lack

of regret or guilt. They typically have convenient justifications for their actions, and occasionally they even claim it never happened (Hare).

4.2.3 Deceitful and manipulative

Psychopaths possess these natural abilities due to their powers of imagination, which they frequently use for their own benefit. They are rarely caught off guard when challenged with the truth and can easily change their stories to appear consistent with the lie. Deceitful and manipulative behaviour refers to the ability to lie, deceive, and manipulate others without feeling guilty or ashamed (Hare).

4.2.4 Egocentric and Grandiose

Psychopaths have a narcissistic, exaggerated sense of their own significance and self-worth, an astonishing feeling of entitlement and egocentrism, and they consider themselves as the centre of the universe and as superior beings who are entitled to live by their own rules. Some psychopaths' grandiosity and pomposity frequently come to light in a dramatic way in court. Psychopaths frequently have the appearance of haughty, shameless braggarts who are self-assured, opinionated, bossy, and conceited. They seem unable to accept that other people have valid viewpoints that differ from their own and are power- and control-hungry individuals. Psychopaths believe they can become anything they want to be because of their special powers. The appropriate conditions opportunity, luck, and eager victims can make their grandiosity extraordinarily profitable (Hare).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this first chapter has examined the theoretical frameworks that are relevant to the research topic of what are the causes behind the character of Jean Baptiste Grenouille being a serial killer in the novel *Perfume* by Patrick Süskind. The chapter explored various concepts, such as the historical context, nature vs nurture theory, attachment theory, and psychopathy theory, in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors that led to Grenouille's transformation into a serial murderer. Through this analysis, the interplay between individual characteristics and societal influences became apparent, emphasizing the importance of considering the broader context when examining individual behaviour. This chapter provides a foundation for the subsequent chapters and contributes valuable insights into the complexity of human psychology.

**CHAPTER Two: The Internal
Psychological Depth of Grenouille**

Introduction

This chapter represents a deep look into the inner working of Grenouille's psyche by applying these two theories. This chapter aims to answer the question of whether Grenouille can be considered a born or made killer by exploring the various factors that contributed to the development of his personality, behaviour and actions, such as genetics, childhood experiences and environment influences. Through applying these theories, it is aimed to gain a deep understanding into Grenouille's character and motivations. In addition, this study aims to provide a deep insight on the human psychology and understand how individual's development is influenced by internal and external factors.

1. The Nature of Jean Baptiste Grenouille

In *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, Patrick Süskind describes the journey of Jean Baptist Grenouille from his birth to his death. He narrates the story of Grenouille and his interactions with other characters. Süskind depicts the protagonist as a serial killer who has a genetic makeup of a psychopath. Grenouille's bad early experiences in addition to his brain of a psychopath contributed to his murder behaviour. Studying his psyche from bad nurture experiences, and negative attachment perspective is an ancient idea and has been studied for many years, it is a very important and necessary method in understanding one's personality and behaviour. Likewise, the new method of analysing the psychology of serial killers and Psychopaths is the study of biology and nature, it is a new method that developed with the development of technology and science. Raine says "It is not simple, it is not just the environment, and it is not just biology and brain factors, it is when we get both of this coming together, that's when we get to toxic mix that can raise the odds threefold of somebody growing up to become a violent criminal offender".

The brains of serial killers differ from those of normal individuals due to various reasons. Raine conducted a study of 41 murderers and found that their prefrontal glucose

metabolism was significantly reduced in comparison to the controls. This reduction leads to poor prefrontal functioning, which is a crucial factor that predisposes one to violence. Additionally, impaired functioning of the frontal lobe causes one to lose control over emotional impulses, take more risks, ignore responsibilities, break rules, and experience personality changes such as being impulsive, lacking self-control, failing to modify behaviour appropriately, being immature, exhibiting poor social judgment, and having poor problem-solving skills. All these factors ultimately lead to a life of violence and criminal activities (Raine).

It is believed that the prefrontal cortex is responsible for executive function and plays a crucial role in regulating impulsive behaviour, when faced with a potentially explosive situation, individuals are often advised to take a step back and evaluate the situation with a clear mind. The emotional brake on immorality is centred on the amygdala and prefrontal cortex, which inhibits moral behaviour even when there is a desire for pleasure. Psychopaths have a poor function and emotional brake on immorality due to reduced amygdala activity during moral decision-making. This may lead them to live immoral lives without feeling guilt or remorse. The medial prefrontal cortex, posterior cingulate, and angular gyrus are also dysfunctional in psychopaths during moral decision-making and are associated with interpersonal features of psychopathy. These brain areas are involved in self-reflection, emotional perspective taken, and integrating emotion into social thinking (Raine).

Through analysing the character of Jean Baptiste Grenouille from the lens of biology, his behaviour is highly affected by the biological issues of his brain. He has a poorly functioning emotional brake on immorality, as he is unable to feel empathy or remorse for his actions. He is driven by his desire for pleasure, particularly the pleasure he derives from the sense of smell and is willing to get to external lengths to obtain it. Grenouille's reduced amygdala activity during moral decision-making is evident in his actions throughout the novel. He murdered

young women to capture their scent, and he even attempts to distil the bodies of the young girls who he considers to be the symbol of beauty. Grenouille shows no remorse for his actions and continues to pursue his goals without any regret for the lives he takes. Like his first crime, when he killed the young girl for no reason, but only to smell her scent, when he committed this crime, he did not see the girl as a human but only as a source of smell.

When she was dead he laid her on the ground among the plum pits, tore off her dress, and the stream of scent became a flood that inundated him with its fragrance. He thrust his face to her skin and swept his flared nostrils across her, from belly to breast, to neck, over her face and hair, and back to her belly, down to her genitals, to her thighs and white legs. He smelled her over from head to toe, he gathered up the last fragments of her scent under her chin, in her navel, and in the wrinkles inside her elbow. And after he had smelled the last faded scent of her, he crouched beside her for a while, collecting himself, for he was brimful with her. He did not want to Spill a drop of her scent. (Süskind 43-44)

He shows no remorse or empathy, he did not express any emotion while killing her, only enjoying her smell, as evidenced by his complete disregard for the lives and well-being of others. Grenouille's obsession with creating the perfect scent leads him to commit several murders, killing 25 virgin women and distilling their body odour. His nature was also a significant factor in driving his murderous acts. His heightened sense of smell makes it easy for him to distinguish their perfect scent from other women. He learned how to distil the oil of objects to make fragrances, and he applied it to the bodies of 25 women.

Another factor which seems to be suitable with the perspective of Adrian Raine who sees that the genes of a murderer could be inherited. Jean Baptiste Grenouille's mother killed her four babies when gave birth to them. In addition, to her four babies, she pushed Grenouille into the leftover fish guts that she had presumed was already dead infant. She killed her five babies

with no remorse or empathy, and so that Grenouille who killed his 25 victims. Mothers who commit neonaticides are more likely to be young, single, economically challenged, and jobless. Some mothers who murder their infant children may be suffering from severe mental illness (Durrant 172); that's why it seems that Grenouille inherited such illness from his mother.

It is not easy to understand how nature and nurture interact. It involves more than just nature versus nurture. Instead, these elements significantly influence how the people turn out. For instance, the environment in which a person grows up might affect how some personality traits are displayed, even though genes may have a role. Understanding this intricate interplay between nature and nurture is crucial for creating more effective strategies for fostering human development and wellbeing. Humans are a result of both their biology and environment, not simply one or the other. Therefore, in addition to the understanding of the nature of Jean Baptiste Grenouille, it is important to have a look on his upbringing and his early experiences.

2. Grenouille's Early Experiences in Shaping his Personality

In a study of more than 60 serial killers, Cleary and Luxenburg discovered that childhood abuse, whether psychological or physical, was a common trait among serial killers. This observation is consistent with several other studies and case reports. However, the extent to which childhood abuse is prevalent varies across studies. In Hickey's research of 62 male serial killers, it was discovered that almost half of them, which is 48%, had gone through rejection by a parent or an important person during their childhood. Other studies have also been conducted to investigate the connection between childhood abuse and violent behaviour in serial killers, and it has been found that those who experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse as kids are three times more likely to show violent tendencies as adults as compared to those who did not go through such abuse (Allely et al).

These bad experiences can have serious psychological consequences on an infant, including attachment issues and a lack of trust in others. Ressler discusses the impact of early life traumas on serial killers and their development. These traumas can be emotional, physical, or sexual abuse that the serial killer experienced during childhood. The child's pain and suffering caused by the trauma are often overlooked, leading to developmental challenges for the individual later in life (Pistorius 24). Some writers have put forward the idea that there could be a correlation between adoption and the lack of a main caregiver present during the initial three months of an individual's life. (Allely et al.). Simply as Jean Baptiste Grenouille who faced a series of traumas that affected his psychological development. He was never shown love or affection during his early childhood, which have led him to a lack of empathy and emotional attachment towards others. He has come to see people as a mere objects or tools to be used for his own benefits, as he had not experienced any positive human interactions during his childhood.

In particular, the acute emotional neglect that is frequently observed in institutional settings, such as overcrowded orphanages, foster care, or households with physically or mentally sick parents, are thought to be the root of this reactive attachment disorder behaviour. Without a dependable, loving caregiver, new-borns eventually stop trying to interact with others, seeking comfort from others, and establishing physical and emotional connections with others (Ellis et al.).

In a very early age, Grenouille was sent to the orphanage of Madam Gaillard, after he was rejected by the wet nurses. Madame Gaillard was the owner of the orphanage, she was taking care for the orphans only for receiving money; she treated them only as investment rather than a human being deserving of love. The orphanage become Grenouille's home, until he was sold to a tannery. He never felt comfortable there or was treated as any normal child.

The other children, however, sensed at once what Grenouille was about. From the first day, the new arrival gave them the creeps. They avoided the box in which he lay and edged closer together in their beds as if it had grown colder in the room. The younger ones would sometimes cry out in the night; they felt a draught sweep through the room. Others dreamed something was taking their breath away. One day the older ones conspired to suffocate him. They piled rags and blankets and straw over his face and weighed it all down with bricks. When Madame Gaillard dug him out the next morning, he was crumpled and squashed and blue, but not dead. They tried it a couple of times more, but in vain. (Süskind 25)

They were fear of him, they hated him, they wanted to kill him, but they didn't succeed in their attempt. He was seen as a devil, he experienced every kind of abuse and hatred, but he survived every time because he refused to give up on life.

The young Grenouille was such a tick. He lived encapsulated in himself and waited for better times. He gave the world nothing but his dung--no smile, no cry, no glimmer in the eye, not even his own scent. Every other woman would have kicked this monstrous child out. But not Madame Gaillard. She could not smell that he did not smell, and she expected no stirrings from his soul, because her own was sealed tight. (Süskind 25)

Süskind compares Grenouille to a tick that lives a dull and lonely life, waiting for the chance to find a hot feed on. Also, Grenouille, despite his traumatic experiences and challenging childhood, persists and waits for that one chance to survive. Jean Baptiste Grenouille is a person who lives in his own world and waits for a better chance. He seems disengaged from the world around him and doesn't display emotions or personality traits that are typical of a child.

As he grew older, at the age of eight, his attachment disorder was further reinforced when he was sold to work in a tannery, owned by Grimal, which exposed him to the harsh and

often violent environment of the leather trade. Grimal treated him very poorly, he was abusive and cruel towards him, and treated him as nothing more than an animal at work. “From his first glance at Monsieur Grimal—no, from the first breath that sniffed in the odour enveloping Grimal—Grenouille knew that this man was capable of thrashing him to death for the least infraction” (Süskind 33).

After one year of an existence more animal than human, he contracted Anthrax, a disease feared by tanners and usually fatal. Grimal had already written him off and was looking around for a replacement—not without regret, by the way, for he had never before had a more docile and productive worker than this Grenouille. But contrary to all expectation, Grenouille survived the illness. (Süskind 34)

Süskind describes the difficult circumstances that Jean Baptiste Grenouille faced during his childhood. He shed the light on Grenouille’s traumatic childhood and the circumstances that shaped his character and behaviour. From his birth until this age, he wanted nothing from this world; he lived like a dead body, and people did not even feel his existence; he had no feeling, no emotions, neither desire or goals. He had no interactions or relations with others, and he lived his life as if he did not exist at all, he didn’t even have a body odour that express his presence. “He gave the world nothing but his dung—no smile, no cry, No glimmer in the eye, not even his own scent” (Süskind 25). He was living in his own world enjoying every bit of the different smells, he has no desires to have any relationship or get close to any human being, he just wants to discover as many different scents as possible and combine them with him.

After these dark years of working to the behalf of Grimal, he was sold to the best perfumer in Paris, Giuseppe Baldini. Sold, the word itself means a lot. Sold as an animal, as an object rather than treated as a human. He spent his early years being bought and sold as useless object. Whenever they get tired of him, they get rid of him. They should excuse him now for

his empty emotions toward the other, and his view of them as mere objects to be used when needed and easily discarded which is exactly how people treated him in his early years when he was in dire need of their help.

His life changed upside down as soon as he entered the world of the perfumer, Giuseppe Baldini, he found a world completely different from the world in which he lived, the world of perfumes in Paris. As soon as he entered this world, new opportunities for learning and use presented themselves. He learned about the components of perfumes and the processes used to create them, as well as about the various essential oils and the effects they have on the mind and body. Giuseppe Baldini then started creating his own, original perfumes that aren't found anywhere else in the world, and he quickly rose to the position of international renown, and it's all because of Jean Baptiste Grenouille.

In these moments, Grenouille was a gift to Baldini rather than a curse as he was to people who he met. He gave him hundred formulas of perfumes by using his exceptional sense of smell to create scents that Baldini had never thought possible, making him a valuable asset to Baldini's business. When he first met Grenouille he saw him as uneducated and unworthy of his attention, however as he discovered Grenouille's remarkable sense of smell, he began to teach him the art of perfumery.

Baldini did not love or hate Grenouille. He had only one emotion towards him which was disgusting. He was disgusted by even touching him; he only profited and exploited from his talent and gift for his own gain to make himself wealthier. Even when Grenouille fell ill, Baldini did not assist and heal him out of compassion, But rather out of exploitation. He was afraid of Grenouille's death because he still needed him, he still coveted more fragrance formulations that would make him richer, and only Grenouille could offer him this. He felt frustrated and desperate over losing control of his business and being unable to achieve his

desired goal. Baldini was upset about the death of Jean Baptiste, he wished he could continue to exploit him more for his profit, that's why he kept cursing Grenouille's death repeatedly.

Baldini was beside himself. He wailed and lamented in despair. He bit his fingers, raging at his fate. Once again, just before reaching his goal, his grand, very grand plans had been thwarted. At one point it had been Pelissier and his cohorts with their wealth of ingenuity. Now it was this boy with his inexhaustible store of new scents, this scruffy brat who was worth more than his weight in gold, who had decided now of all times to come down with syphilitic smallpox and festering measles in stadio ultimo. Now of all times! Why not two years from now? Why not one? By then he could have been plundered like a silver mine, like a golden ass. He could have gone ahead and died next year. But no! He was dying now, God damn it all, within forty-eight hours! (Süskind 97-98)

Upon analysing Jean Baptiste Grenouille's character through the lens of attachment theory, it becomes evident that his early childhood experiences of neglect and abandonment led to a reactive attachment disorder, which ultimately affected his ability to form emotional bonds with others and contributed to his disregard for human life.

Grenouille's lack of proper attachment figures during his formative years resulted in a deep-seated fear of rejection and abandonment, causing him to avoid forming emotional connections with others.

The attachment styles, which are formed in early childhood, can have a lasting impact on an individual's social, emotional, and behavioural characteristics. Attachment style is shaped by caregiver behaviour and influences the individual's perception of themselves and others through internal working models. Individuals with a secure attachment style tend to have fewer

social problems and more confidence in themselves and others, while those with an insecure attachment style may have negative perceptions (Ucar Cabuk et al. 68).

Grenouille's early experiences of neglect and abandonment played a significant role in shaping his personality development. His psyche was deeply affected by harsh experiences he went through. The combination of his abandonment from his mother, rejection from the wet nurses, abuse from the orphans, and the cruel treatment from his master in the tannery contributed to the development of his complex personality. He had no secure attachments that could provide him with the protection and love that everyone desires. He found it difficult to open up and express his feelings, making it easier for him to stay alone. As he grew older, this lack of emotional attachment and support from others led to further isolation and loneliness in his life. This pattern of behaviour can be attributed to Jean Baptiste Grenouille's early experiences of abuse, neglect, and rejection. It is likely that he never felt secure or safe enough.

From the moment of his conception, Grenouille was destined for a dark path in life due to his rare genetic gifts and the rejection he endured from a society that refused to understand him.

3. The Tragic Consequences of Poor Attachment

There are several factors that can contribute to someone feeling isolated from society. The reasons include a sense of hopelessness, a sense of being different, a refusal to follow rules, difficulties approaching and communicating with others, and a depressive mood. As a result, the person has a number of experiences with alienation symptoms throughout his life in an effort to fit in with society (Kriswanti 32).

After a long period of abandonment and living in a world that did not accept him, and refused and neglected his nature and his existence, Jean Baptiste Grenouille decided to isolate himself in a crypt in a mountain for seven years, and that was a result of his bad experiences

and lack of human connection. The absence of love and attachment in his life left him with a profound feeling of isolation.

As he began to withdraw from them, it became clear to Grenouille for the first time that for eighteen years their compacted human effluvium had oppressed him like air heavy with an imminent thunderstorm. Until now he had thought that it was the world in general, he wanted to squirm away from. But it was not the world, it was the people in it. You could live, so it seemed, in this world, in this world devoid of humanity. (Süskind 107)

Grenouille realised that he wanted to escape those people and live in a world empty of them and their scents. He has spent his entire life feeling like an outcast, unable to connect with others due to his lack of scent, but by escaping from them and seeking loneliness in nature, Grenouille realised that he can find a sense of peace and self-acceptance that he had been unable to find in the world of people.

Süskind depicts the happiness of Grenouille's isolation. In contrast to other people, who could be depressed and tend to isolate themselves from the entire world, Grenouille felt a high sense of euphoria because he is alone and far away from humans. Jean Baptiste Grenouille found his freedom and his happiness when he realised that he no longer had to endure the oppressive scent of other people. Grenouille's reaction to this realisation is one of overwhelming joy and jubilation. He was like a shipwrecked sailor who has finally found an inhabited island after weeks of drifting aimlessly at sea. He celebrated at the mountain for hours like a crazy man.

He erupted with thundering jubilation. Like a shipwrecked sailor ecstatically greeting the sight of an inhabited island after weeks of aimless drifting, Grenouille celebrated his arrival at the mountain of solitude. He shouted for joy. He cast aside his rucksack,

blanket, walking stick, and stamped his feet on the ground, threw his arms to the sky, danced in circles, roared his own name to the four winds, clenched his fists, shaking them triumphantly at the great, wide country lying below him and at the setting sun— triumphantly, as if he personally had chased it from the sky. He carried on like a madman until late into the night. (Süskind 111)

People who have gone through a lot of difficult experiences in life are more prone to have mental health problems. Trauma, emotional distress, substance misuse, traumatic life events, and difficult living circumstances are the factors that have a significant impact on a person's mental health as an adult (Sanjay). Children who experience these factors may develop an attachment disorder. Since the quality of the attachment bond has a significant impact on a child's development, having attachment problems can hinder a child's capacity to express their feelings, build security and trust, and form lasting relationships in the future. They frequently suffer from reactive attachment disorder, rarely seek solace when upset, and frequently feel unsafe and alone. They could be incredibly reclusive, emotionally distant, and hard to soothe. (Smith et al.).

Jean Baptiste Grenouille had withdrawn solely from the world for his pleasure. He wanted to stay away from all people he was living with and be free from external distractions, and near to himself. He was disgusted by them, from their scents and their treatment. He chose to live in a crypt, hardly breathing, his heart hardly beating, even though for him it is a life of pleasure (Süskind 113).

His nature was a very important factor in shaping his development, an abandonment person at birth cannot remember his mother or any person he met when he was an infant, but Grenouille could remember them all, he could even remember the scent of his mother who left him in a fish store to die. This memory can build a harsh sense of emotion in his psyche. By his nature of remembering every scent he encountered throughout his life, he could remember his

rejection by his mother “The homicidal odour of his mother” (Süskind 114). Patrick Süskind describes how Grenouille was remembering the different smells he has encountered throughout his life, and how he tried to create a specific mood of himself by remembering the earliest and most unpleasant smells he can recall; and all those unpleasant smells were owned by people who rejected, abused and abandoned him.

His abnormal sense of smell was the only way to take revenge on those people. He was powerless and couldn't encounter them in his previous years, but when he created his world where he became to be in control and not subject to others, and through his sense of smell, he could express his hatred towards them as Süskind describes:

And then all at once, the pent-up hate would erupt with orgasmic force—that was, after all, the point of the exercise. Like a thunderstorm he rolled across these odours that had dared offend his patrician nose. He thrashed at them as hail thrashes a grainfield; like a hurricane, he scattered the rabble and drowned them in a grand purifying deluge of distilled water. And how just was his anger. How great his revenge. (Süskind)

Themes of domination, power, control, violence, death, and retribution frequently appear in the dreams of serial killers (Rossomo 36). Burgess et al. hypothesized that the unresolved stress feelings and worldview resulting from trauma may lead children to seek solace in fantasies cantered around themes of dominance and control (Sharma 62). Grenouille created his world and set on the throne of the king. Over those seven years, he built a sense of control and domination, and that was a result of being controlled in his previous years. His controlling sense began with creating imaginary servants who obey all his orders, which turned later to dominance over human beings through the power of his scent. He started to express his real feelings of being superior to others. Many adults who have reactive attachment disorder have a strong desire to control their environment and make their decisions (Ellis et al.). A desire

to dominate is a theme recognized by social psychologists that most serial killers and violent men want to control their victims so that they can satisfy their urges (Canter).

For seven years, his pattern repeated every day, week, and month. Then one night, something terrible happened to him while he was asleep, or more accurately, in a dream he had while sleeping and fantasizing. (Süskind 122). He finally discovered that he couldn't for the life of him smell himself. Discovering himself was the beginning of the journey of a serial killer. His nature and his genetics were the starting point of searching for a self-body odour and creating a scent for his own. Discovering that he doesn't have a self-body odour while he has the best nose in the world was not logical to him. "It was grotesque: he, Grenouille, who could smell other people miles away, was incapable of smelling his own genitals not a handspan away!" (Süskind 124). Awful emotion, his realisation triggers a fear within him that he doesn't know much about himself. Süskind vividly describes the horror, fear and anxiety of Grenouille's realisation of having no odour of his own. He shed light on protagonist's desperation to understand his identity and sense of self, narrating later the journey of Jean Baptiste Grenouille of capturing the perfect scent to create his own.

Jean Baptiste Grenouille was born with a heightened sense of smell, which eventually led him to become an expert perfumer, on the other hand, his traumatic upbringing and living in a harsh and abused environment, played a significant role in shaping his disturbed and psychopathic personality. Nature and nurture are a powerful combination in shaping the human personality, his genetics and his lack of scent which drove his obsessive pursuit of creating the perfect scent were combined with the pursuit of being accepted in society by having a self-body odour and containing a self-identity. Grenouille's social isolation also impacted his sense of self-worth. His lack of interpersonal connection and recognition from others led him to question his own existence and value as a person. This is highlighted by his obsession with creating the

perfect scent, which he saw as the sole means of achieving recognition and validation from others.

4. The Dark Side of Ambition: Grenouille's Motivation

The sense of smell has a profound impact on human behaviour, emotion, and memory, as evidenced by research on the olfactory system, literary works such as *In Remembrance of Things Past*, and the novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, where the scent is portrayed as a powerful force that can manipulate and control people.

According to research conducted by Rockefeller University in New York, humans have a stronger ability to remember what they smell, as opposed to what they see, hear, or touch. This is attributed to the unconscious categorization of odours by the olfactory system, enabling humans to discern between pleasant and potentially harmful smells. This mechanism can significantly impact an individual's emotional and daily behaviours, even if they are not consciously aware of it. The most profound influence of smell on the subconscious occurs when encountering a particular scent triggers the recall of past experiences, resulting in immediate and vivid memories formed through olfactory cues (Mascolo). In addition to its effects on mood and behaviour, the scent also can trigger memories and emotions. This is because the sense of smell is closely connected to the parts of the brain responsible for memory and emotion. A particular scent can bring back memories of a specific time or place or evoke strong emotional responses such as nostalgia or joy. Proust vividly describes in his story *In Remembrance of Things Past*, that forgotten childhood memories are brought back into consciousness with their original intensity through scent (Bergland).

Throughout the novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, the scent is portrayed as a powerful force that can manipulate and control people's emotions and behaviour. Grenouille's exceptional sense of smell allows him to create scents that can arouse desire, repulsion, fear, and love in people. Süskind in his final scene portrays scent as a mystical force that can

transcend boundaries and bring people together. It also shows the power of scent to manipulate and control people's emotions and behaviour, as Grenouille uses the scent to achieve ultimate power and control over others.

In the novel, scent is a significant and central theme. Grenouille is born with an exceptional sense of smell and can distinguish and identify every scent he encounters, but ironically, Grenouille doesn't have a self-body odour. The person who could smell all the scents of the world, cannot smell himself. The moment he discovered this catastrophe he couldn't believe, and he was shocked. The scent was everything to him, having no body odour means having no identity. The concept of individual identity is closely tied to olfaction, and the role of perfume in distinguishing people is significant. People have been using scents to distinguish themselves since ancient times, the historian Richard Stamelman argues that perfume "Speaks the body" and allows wearers to modify their individual signature. This highlights the notion of individual identity, where everyone is recognized for their unique body scents, whether natural or artificial. Reinartz's research explores the connection between smell and identity, and this close association is evident in *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* (Liu).

Grenouille's realisation of having no body odour leads him to search for the perfect scent to possess it and create an identity for himself and assert his existence in the world. This realisation motivated him to pursue the perfect scent obsessively, as he believed that it would give him the identity he lacks. He became obsessed with capturing and killing women to extract their scent. His obsession is the driving force behind his transformation into a serial killer. He finds that the only way to extract their scent and create from it the ultimate perfume is by killing them. His nature drove him to become a murderer. Two factors shaped his murderous thinking which is having an extraordinary sense of smell and having no body odour; both are characteristics of his nature and genetics; but his upbringing reinforced such behaviour and becomes obsessively wanting to belong to society and confirm his existence.

Serial killers typically respond to such influences by developing preferences for autoerotic activities, sentiments of entitlement, and features of social isolation, rebelliousness, violence, and deceit rather than learning beneficial vital personal traits. (Rossmo 35). Leyton sees serial killers as a sub-political, conservative form of protest. He thinks that the Killer gains retribution, fame, identity, and sexual release from perpetrating these acts, which benefits him socially. The serial killer strives to exact retribution on society in order to advance himself and avenge earlier denial (Rossmo 47).

He, Jean—Baptiste Grenouille, born with no odour of his own on The most stinking spot in this world, amid garbage, dung, and putrefaction, raised Without love, with no warmth of a human soul, surviving solely on impudence and The power of loathing, small, hunchbacked, lame, ugly, shunned, an abomination Within and without—he had managed to make the world admire him. To hell with Admire! Love him! Desire him! Idolise him! He had performed a Promethean feat. (Süskind 214)

His goal was to receive the love of society, to admire him and worship him. He wanted to achieve his dream of being Grenouille the Great. Jean Baptiste Grenouille was ambitious about making a fragrance that had never been made, but he followed an immoral way to achieve his goal and his ambition turned into an obsession. Grenouille killed 25 women to create a masterpiece in the form of perfume (Maher and Musleh 57). Ironically, his acts of murder were out of pursuing love and respect. His character is characterised by his intense fixation on scent, which has given him the sense of controlling the world around him. This disregard for human life illustrates his single-minded fixation on scent preservation, which drove him to become a detached and emotionless individual focused solely on fulfilling his desires without any regard for moral consideration, Grenouille's actions suggests that he was willing to do whatever it took to satisfy his obsession, regardless of the lives of others people.

When he was learning the making of perfumes in the perfumery of Giuseppe Baldini, he even tried to distil brass, porcelain, and leather, grain and gravel, he distilled plain dirt, blood and wood fresh fish, and even his hair (Süskind 94). His obsession with scent went to a far distance, but all of these objects were not satisfying for him, he wanted something more powerful which was the scent of virgin women.

So that, his motivations of becoming a serial killer became clear, his ambition towards collecting every scent in the world, into his obsession towards creating a perfect scent, from the odour of virgin women, that have never existed. He decided to achieve his goal even if it costs human's lives, and he did so.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of Jean Baptiste Grenouille's psychological development through the lens of the nature vs nurture debate and the attachment theory, provides a deep understanding of the complex interplay between the human's genetic makeup and his upbringing in shaping his personality. Through examining the psychological traits of Grenouille, it can be concluded that both genetics and environment affected his behaviour and his development of being a serial killer. The answer in the question whether Grenouille is born or made killer is complex and needed a deep examination. As a result, according to the examination done in this chapter, Jean Baptiste Grenouille is both born a serial killer with a brain of a psychopath that inherited it from his killer mother, and also his negative attachments

with others and his bad early experiences reinforced his mental disorder and led him to become a serial killer.

CHAPTER Three: The Psychopathic Brain of Grenouille

Introduction

In the exciting novel, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, the author Patrick Süskind introduces the phenomenal character Jean Baptiste Grenouille. With his extraordinary sense of smell, he is an intriguing protagonist, but his psychopathic inclinations overshadow everything. This chapter will take a closer look at Grenouille's character by applying the psychopathy theory. Its objective is to investigate the key factors that contribute to his psychopathic actions. Additionally, it will answer the thought-provoking question of whether he was born or made a serial killer.

To begin with, it will provide a sort of groundwork for the analysis with a summary of psychopathy theory. This helps to comprehend the fundamental principles and characteristics of this personality disorder. This provides insights into the complexity of psychopathy and its relevance to Grenouille's character.

This chapter is wholly concentrated on the psychopathy theory and the implications it presents for the understanding of his behavioural traits. It will identify and evaluate the specific psychopathy traits exhibited by Grenouille, for instance, his callousness, lack of empathy and remorse, impulsiveness, thrill-seeking behaviour, and shallow emotional expression.

Moreover, it debates the nature vs. nurture debate concerning Grenouille's character. This chapter will evaluate the relevance of biological and environmental factors in influencing his psychopathic behaviour. It will investigate whether Grenouille's psychopathy traits are rooted in genetic predispositions or whether his upbringing and social interactions melded him instead.

1. The Psychopathe Jean Baptiste Grenouille

In the first history of psychotherapy and the emergence of the idea of psychopathy in the first period the psychiatrist Philip Pinel is mentioned as the first to use the term psychopathy,

but the cases he described do not correspond to the understanding of modern mental disorders. He used the French term “*manie sans délire*”, insanity without delirium, to refer to mania without delusion, or psychological disturbance without thought -disorder (Horley 93). Philip Pinel viewed the condition of psychopathy as “morally neutral”, but other writers considered these patients “morally insane” and evil. This generated a debate that lasted for decades and changed it between the ideas that psychopaths were made and that they were bad or even diabolical (Hare). In other words, some writers believed that psychopaths were made, that they suffered from a mental illness that causes their behaviour, while others thought that psychopaths were fundamentally evil and that their actions were the product of their own moral deficiencies.

The modern concept of psychopathy was highly impacted by the American psychologist Hervey Cleckley. His book, *Mask of Sanity*, had a significant impact on researchers in the USA and Canada and has become the basis for a lot of scientific research on psychopathy done in the past quarter-century. Cleckley’s goal was to distinguish psychopathy from other incarnations of disorders and to give the psychiatric community a treatise on the condition with numerous case studies (Kiehl). His definition of psychopaths describes a charming, trustworthy, selfish individual with a limited range of emotions (Peterson & Brown 8). Cleckley and Hare define psychopathy as a personality disorder defined by a constellation of affective, interpersonal, behavioural and antisocial characteristics. Individuals with psychopathy have a lack of empathy, regret or remorse; they are callous, and have superficial and deficient emotion, whereas they are grandiose, and arrogant, dishonest, and manipulative in their interpersonal interactions (De Brito et al.).

A tool for identifying people who exhibit psychopathic features is the psychopathy checklist, often called the Hare psychopathy checklist. Psychopaths are cruel predators who prey on others by utilizing violence, charm, or other tactics to get what they desire. The

psychopathy checklist is a 20-item symptom ratings scale that enables skilled examiners to compare the subject's level of psychopathy to that of a stereotypical psychopath. It was initially developed to evaluate people who had been charged with or convicted of crimes. It is regarded by many specialists as the most effective method for determining whether someone has psychopathy and how severe it is (Hare).

The psychopathy checklist is an effective tool that will be used in this chapter to analyse the psychopathic traits of the character Jean Baptist Grenouille, in the novel *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*. Grenouille was born with a brain of a psychopath, he killed his victims with no empathy or remorse, he used their bodies for his needs, and he did not care about the lives he destroyed in his pursuit of the perfect scent. He was manipulative and knew how to charm people to get what he wanted. Although he killed 25 girls, no one could discover that he was a murderer or that he was a psychopath. He became a serial killer to create a perfect scent to make all humans love him; he believed himself to be superior to others, and everyone will worship him. Grenouille's character contains the psychopathic traits that lead him to become a serial killer. In this chapter, the psychopathic traits of Grenouille will be discussed in detail to show how genetics and environment could affect the human personality and drive him to a dark path, and to gain a better perspective on the disordered personalities of the psychopaths in society.

2. Grenouille's Lack Of Empathy

The personality of Jean Baptist Grenouille, which was described in the novel as a complex personality and shows many traits that are usually associated with psychopathy, and one of the most prominent of these traits is his lack of empathy, which is embodied in the lack of ability to empathise with others, understand and share their feelings. It is believed that Grenouille suffers from this trait because he was born with no body odour, which made people show no care and attention to him and they did not treat him as a human being, rather they

treated him as an object. As a result, he built such emotions of lack of empathy or any other kind of warm emotions. It appears in the novel that Grenouille suffers from a complete disregard for the feelings and well-being of others, which is reflected in his obsession with creating the perfect perfume by killing 25 virgin girls to extract their scent, which he used to create perfumes that made him feel powerful and admired. He showed no remorse or empathy, he only saw them as an object needed for achieving his goals. The ferocious serial killer is frequently portrayed as a wonderfully nasty individual with superhuman evasion skills, ready to wreak devastation and ruin. He has no emotion for his victims and so may torture, kill and mutilate them without feeling guilt (Canter).

Dr Hare describes that many of the traits exhibited by psychopaths, including their egocentrism, lack of remorse, superficial emotions, and deceitfulness are closely related to a fundamental lack of empathy. Psychopaths are unconscious with the sentiments of others. Dr Hare describes them as the emotionless Android depicted in science fiction, likewise, Canter describes them as unemotional robots, and they are unable to imagine what real human experiences are. Also Grenouille could be described as an emotionless robot or even a monster. "I needed them", this was the reply of Jean Baptiste Grenouille in the novel when he was asked about his motives. He killed them only because he needed them. He looked upon them as things, that could fit his needs, and their lives are insignificant to him.

At first when he smelled the scent of the beautiful girl, Lure, he felt that he is in love, but specifically he felt that he is in love with her scent, even though she was a very beautiful girl he did not see her own beauty but only he smelled her scent. Then he decided to have her scent to possess it to himself, he wanted to have a such beautiful human scent to be like other humans. He realised that to create and possess such perfume, he needed some operations to make it in a perfect way. He learned how to make perfumes in the perfumery of Giuseppe

Baldini, by gathering the raw materials, such as flowers, herbs, and other natural substances, and then distilling them to extract their essences; but in this situation to create a human perfume he needed other materials to incorporate it into a large and more complex perfume. The ingredients he needed were human sources, he saw his victims as sources to create the fragrance he wanted to possess.

“It were twenty-four tiny flacons filled with drops of the congealed aura of twenty-four virgins—precious essences that Grenouille had produced over the last year by cold—oil enfleurage of their bodies, digestion of their hair and clothes, lavage, and distillation” (Süskind 188). Psychopaths see individuals as nothing more than objects to be utilised for their own pleasure and gain, rather than as fellow human beings with emotions and needs. Canter says that their victims are little more than objects to be investigated and toyed with, when they have an intense desire to control their victims, they often exhibit extreme levels of mutilation towards the victim body, both when they are alive and after death. This may involve keeping parts as souvenirs, cannibalism, and other practices that treat people as objects rather than living beings, and this could be applied to Grenouille in a strange way, as he also kept a part of his victims, which was their scent. Jean Baptiste Grenouille tried to experiment with different materials to find the best ones to use in creating his ultimate perfume. First he started with objects, animals and alive people to extract their scents, by making them wearing several different sets of rags smeared with oils and fats, this experiment shows his obsessive dedication to find the perfect combination of scent to create his ultimate perfume.

He tried one more experiment during these winter days. He discovered a deaf-mute beggar woman wandering through the town and paid her one franc to wear several different sets of rags smeared with oils and fats against her naked skin. It turned out that lamb suet, pork lard, and beef tallow, rendered many times over, combined in a ratio of

two to five to three--with the addition of a small amount of virgin oil--was best for absorbing human odour. (Süskind 168)

However, the alive bodies were not under his control, he found that it is difficult to control them, so he started killing his victims to make it easy for him making them wearing rags smeared with oils and fats. Süskind says “You could not, of course, do sound work under such conditions. The objects would have to be quieted down, and so suddenly that they would have no time to become afraid or to resist. He would have to kill them”. He was selecting his victims for every special quality; he killed pretty virgin girls who he presumed that they have the most beautiful odour in the world. Canter says that this kind of murderers are infatuated with certain types of bodies and the urge to dominate them for their own personal gain, their distortions are usually centred on the objects of their passion, so they carefully plan and deliberate about their crimes.

Grenouille's character showed a heightened sense of lack of empathy in his treatment with his victims. He was killing them, cutting their hairs and taking their clothes off and throwing their dead bodies after extracting their scents. Patrick Süskind describes Grenouille when he was killing his victims and extracting their scents from their bodies as he is engaging in an artistic and technical process; he describes how much Grenouille was satisfied with his work. He did his work with a very skilful way, with the pleasure will come from the final product. His lack of empathy was depicted in his process of killing and extracting the scents; he applied the process of capturing the odours in a very careful way, he showed very high attention to the details while covering the dead bodies with the pomade rather than looking at the victims and regretting what he did. His lack of empathy made him do his work in a masterful way rather than being anxious or stressed.

This job took time, for it was important that the oil be applied in thinner or thicker layers depending on what part of the body would end up lying on a particular patch of the cloth. The mouth and armpits, breasts, genitals, and feet gave off greater amounts of scent than, for instance, shins, back, and elbows; the palms more than the backs of the hands; eyebrows more than eyelids, etc.—and therefore needed to be provided with a heavier dose of oil. (Süskind 192)

Grenouille's childhood experiences like being abandoned and rejected, contributed to his lack of empathy towards others. He did not form any emotion with others so it was difficult for him to understand their emotions. Likewise, his psychopathic brain affected his actions and behaviours, he lacks an emotional brake on immorality since he is unable to feel empathy or guilt for his acts. Grenouille's acts throughout the novel demonstrate his reduced amygdala activity during moral decision making; he murdered young women in order to obtain their fragrance. Dozens of studies by psychologists, psychiatrists, and neuroscientists show that the brain function can highly affect the Psychopaths behaviour and actions. A forensic Psychiatrist in Columbia University, Michael Stone, in his large series study of serial killers said that there are killers who were adopted at birth into normal families never experienced bad treatment, never abused and never neglected, but from adolescent on become violent and then embarked into the career of serial homicide, which was the result of genetic flaw along the lines of deficits and amygdala or the prefrontal cortex (Big Think). In the case of Jean Baptiste Grenouille both the interplay between genetics and the environment have affected his development to show no remorse or any other kind of emotions.

3. Grenouille's Lack of Remorse or Guilt

One of the hallmarks of psychopathy is the lack of remorse or guilt experienced by Psychopaths. Psychopaths do not feel bad about the harm they cause to others, and they are usually unable to appreciate the consequences of their actions. This lack of emotional reaction

makes it difficult for psychopaths to form meaningful connections and may result in bad outcomes such as criminal behaviours, and disregard for other people. In addition, they lack empathy for others and disrespect social standards leading them to engage in destructive acts without feeling remorse or guilt (Haycock). Dr Robert Hare discusses the detailed picture of the disordered personalities of psychopaths, he says that Psychopaths exhibit a startling lack of care for the destructive consequences of their actions on others. They frequently state calmly that they have no sense of remorse, they are not sorry for the suffering and destruction they have caused, and there is no need to worry. They are frequently totally forthright about the subject.

Jean Baptiste Grenouille who has a lack of empathy or emotions exhibit such traits like lack of remorse or guilt. He commits series of murders in order to create the perfect scent, showing a complete disregard for human life. Despite his horrible murders, he felt no remorse for killing his victims, instead he saw them as mere means to an end. He completely focused on his own desires and needs, without caring for the results of his criminal actions or the harm he causes to others. This can arise from a defect in specific brain structure such as the amygdala or the prefrontal cortex, which are regions that control emotions and social behaviours respectively.

Grenouille's lack of remorse and guilt can also be attributed to his horrible childhood circumstances, which includes being abandoned by his mother, and rejected by the society; such factors can lead individuals to develop psychopathic tendencies over time. His difficult experiences made his ability to form connections and relationships impossible. Leading to the building of inability to view people as human beings or viewing their lives as worth empathy. He viewed them only as things he can use for his personal purpose and then threw it away because he no longer needed it, how could he not build up feelings of no remorse or guilt by

seeing people in this way. “He did not cast a single glance at the bed to rest his eyes on her at least once in his life. Her form did not interest him. She no longer existed for him as a body, but only as a disembodied scent” (Süskind 197). This is how Jean Baptiste Grenouille saw his last victim.

Patrick Süskind describes in a scene from the novel, of Grenouille waiting to complete the formula of his fragrance after killing 24 girls and willing to kill the 25th girl to finish it. He describes that he felt a sense of comfort and satisfaction and that he would finally fulfil his dream. He was completely satisfied with himself saying to himself “I thank you, Jean Baptist Grenouille, for being what you are” (Süskind 196). He was happy, he had no conscience and he did not feel guilty for killing those girls, or he felt for a moment that he should stop and not kill the last girl; rather he saw that his crimes were worthy to achieve his goals and dreams. When he was waiting to commit his last crime he remembered all his old memories; all the people he encountered in the past passed through his memory, his mother, Madam Gaillard, Grimal, and Giuseppe Baldini, they all passed on his memory as if they were the motives behind his crimes and the motives behind achieving his dreams. Furthermore, one factor that can also be remarkable is revenge. Grenouille’s preference for targeting only women can be interpreted as a means of seeking revenge against his mother. He may have also regarded them as mere means, influenced by the way his mother perceived him in a similar manner.

He did not have a moral compass, he had no sense of right or wrong, he saw his actions as necessary to achieve his goal, he did not feel guilty because he did not see his actions as morally wrong. Psychopaths' common response for their actions is “I did it because I felt like it” (Hare). Jean Baptiste Grenouille’s response for his actions was “I needed them” (Süskind 204).

He was not insane, he was aware of what is wrong and right, he said once that he wanted to control people and to make them worship him and to love him to the point of insanity, of self abandonment, “He asked himself why he wanted to do it at all. And he said to himself that he wanted to do it because he was evil, thoroughly evil. And he smiled as he said it and was content. He looked quite innocent, like any happy person” (Süskind 142).

More than just outburst of rage impulsive acts frequently emerge from the goal that underpins much of the psychopath’s behaviour: to obtain immediate gratification, pleasure, relief. “The psychopath is like an infant, absorbed in his own needs, vehemently demanding satiation,” stated William and Joan McCord, psychologists (qtd. in Hare). Most youngsters have begun to postpone pleasure at a young age, settling with environmental constraints (Hare). Like Jean Baptiste Grenouille who lived his early years without doing anything just obeying the order of his masters, until he started achieving his goal he ignored the ones of others.

Psychopaths often lack significant inhibition about physical injuring people, although most normal people do. Violence and threat are convenient instruments for them to use when they are angry, defeated or frustrated, and they pay little attention to the victims’ embarrassment. The psychopath's response to the incident is much more likely to be a sense of power, pleasure, or smug satisfaction than guilt for the harm done since their aggression is callous and instrumental, employed to satisfy a basic need like sex or to obtain something he or she desires (Hare).

4. Grenouille’s Deceitful and Manipulative character

In his psychopathy checklist Dr. Robert Hare defines manipulative Psychopaths as lying, deception and manipulation come to them naturally. Psychopaths look remarkably unconcerned by the potential or even certainty of being discovered when their powers of

imagination are activated and focused on themselves, when caught in a lie or confronted with the truth, they are rarely bewildered or humiliated, instead they simply adjust their narrative or try to rework the fact to appear compatible with the falsehood. While reading the novel of *Perfume: the Story of a Murderer*, and following the journey of Grenouille, it is clearly that Süskind narrating and describing carefully and with a high accuracy the psychopathic traits of Jean Baptiste Grenouille. His depiction of the Psychopaths traits and behaviour on the personality of the protagonist demonstrates Süskind's profound understanding of the theory and its associated traits and characteristics. For example, in showing that Jean Baptiste has a high percent of psychopathic brain, he portrayed all the Psychopaths traits in detail. According to the definition of Dr. Hare of deceitful and manipulative as one of the characteristics of psychopathy, and through the narration of Süskind of the personality of Grenouille, he clearly appears that he has the traits of deceitful and manipulative.

After Jean Baptiste Grenouille isolated himself in a cave for seven years and discovering that he had no smell he decided to go to the city to create his own scent. He was terrifying to look at, he looked like a monster. Everyone was terrified of him and did not believe he was a human. The crowd intensified in front of him, not believing what they saw. They took him to the mayor of the city and everyone wondered what had happened to this person. He spoke a few lingering words to explain his story, these were the first words he had uttered in seven years but they were clear. He explained that thieves had attacked him during his wanderings and imprisoned him in a cave for seven years. During this time he did not see sunlight or any human being. An invisible hand brought him food in a basket and he was able to escape by using the ladder that had been extended to him. He did not know the reason for his imprisonment or recognize his jailers or secures. Grenouille invented this story because he thought it was more believable than the truth. Everyone including the mayor believed him (Süskind 127).

Grenouille deceived everyone with a simple false story and concealed his truth and his true purpose for coming to the city. A liar and deceit, as described by Dr. Hare in his description of psychopaths, also Süskind describes Grenouille as such. He spent a long time in the city among people and he gained their acceptance. He became one of them, but this was after his creation for his first perfume, which smelled almost like human. He made it from animal faces, spoiled milk and other putrid substances. When he put it on his body he smelled like an ordinary person and people accepted him among them but that was not enough for him. He wanted people to worship him, to obsessively love him and see him as a God. So that, he decided to make a perfume from the smell of humans.

The first thing he learned when he arrived in the city was how to lie and deceive. He always had the devilish and deceitful thoughts in his mind but pretended to be an ordinary and shy person. His manipulation and pretence of being a good person facilitated his killing operations without anyone suspecting him. Some people with significant psychopathic qualities are skilled at manipulating others through slick discourse. They typically are skilled at influencing others and talking their way out of difficulty (Haycock).

He had to tell the tale of the robbers over and over, how they had dragged him off, and how the basket was let down, and about the ladder. And every time he added more lovely embellishments and invented new details. And so he gained some facility in speaking—admittedly only a very limited one, since he had never in all his life handled speech well—and, what was even more important to him, a practised routine for lying. (Süskind 146)

Usually psychopaths manipulate others to get what they want. Adrian Raine says that without the activation of the amygdala Psychopaths will not think twice about deceiving and manipulating others, they feel satisfied and happy with their immortal Life without regretting or feeling guilt.

5. Grenouille's Egocentric and Grandiose

The last traits of psychopathy that is one of the characteristics of Dr. Hare psychopathy checklist is egocentric and grandiose that is carefully depicted in the character of Jean Baptiste Grenouille, especially in the final scene of the novel. Psychopaths, according to Dr. Hare, have an incredible egocentricity and sense of entitlement and believe they are the centre of the universe, a superior person who is justified in living by their own rules. They also have a narcissistic and overly exaggerated sense of self worth and significance. The moment Grenouille finished his all formulas of the perfect scent and after killing his 25th victim he was caught, arrested and sent to the gallows, there people gathered around him and wanted to see his death and how he would be punished for all his crimes.

Thousands of people gathered there, waiting for that murderer monster. He got off the wagon, and as soon as they saw him, everyone was amazed. They did not see a monster, rather, they saw an innocent, shy person. How could such a person be a killer! They found that it was impossible, their vision of him changed, and it was all because of that unique perfume that he put on himself, the perfume that he made from the bodies of 25 girls. That perfume made Grenouille as if he was a God. Everyone looked at him as if he was a God, and they began to worship him. Everyone prostrated to him. They began to glorify him.

Between a moment the souls of ten thousand people were filled with an unwavering belief that this little man could not be a murderer, he himself was not what he could be, nor could he be a murderer. The man standing in the execution field was innocence embodied in a person. This is what everyone knew at that moment. Also, the condition of the ten thousand men, women, children, and old men gathered there was no different. They were like that of a young girl subject to the charms of her lover. And they were overwhelmed with tenderness, a childishly miserly feeling, with a love for the man, they could do nothing about it, they didn't want to do anything. Their situation was like crying, now rising from the depths of the soul,

sweeping away in a wonderful way everything that hinders it and dissolving it, to flow with the eyes like a flood, they loved him (Süskind 211).

“The worst are the serial killers who are not only psychopaths and sadists, but they have learned to enjoy their own grandiose. They’re narcissists. They care about themselves” (Haycock). Grenouille is often shown to be arrogant and a scoundrel. He was self-assured and was domineering, especially when he felt disgusted with everyone and wished them to be disappeared from the whole world, but despite this, he loved having power, even though it was for a few moments, but he loved to be in control and to see his love in everyone’s eyes.

He would have loved right now to have exterminated these people from the earth, every stupid, stinking, eroticized one of them, just as he had once exterminated alien odours from the world of his raven-black soul. And he wanted them to realise how much he hated them and for them, realising that it was the only emotion that he had ever truly felt, to return that hate and exterminate him just as they had originally intended. (Süskind 215)

Grenouille saw himself as the most important person in the world and put his needs and goals above all others. This was much evidenced when he killed the girls without mercy or emotion, he didn’t care about any other thing than achieving his goals. He was very selfish, he felt that he deserved everything, so he made his own laws and rules and applied them out without caring about the rules of society. Through a lot of studies and research, most psychopaths have this feeling. Dr. Hare asserts that “Psychopaths feel that their abilities will enable them to become anything they want to be. Given the right circumstances opportunity, luck, willing victims- their grandiosity can pay off spectacularly”. So Grenouille felt that his extraordinary ability of smelling will enable him to become what he wanted, to become a God. He played on people’s emotions, convincing them that he is an angel, a baby, god, prophet, royal, beggar, and insect. The vampire Grenouille was connected with several identities, all of

which are false, thus no matter how hard he tries to be human, he ends up becoming Everyman (Salah 33).

Grenouille the psychopath who suffered from a bad life, he never received love and acceptance, people always viewed him as an insect, they rejected and hated him all the time, they were disgusted from such a human being. So, obviously a person with the brain of a psychopath needed nothing more than a hard push from the hatred of people to become a serial killer. The brain of a psychopath that contains lack of empathy, lack of remorse and any other kind of the traits of psychopaths were strongly pushed by the hatred of people. He had to take revenge from their disgusted view, so he created that perfume to make them all love him, he took revenge from their rejection by making them worship him, and this was fair for him. That insect of the past became a great one, the odourless Grenouille, became Grenouille the Great, but to achieve this goal it cost the lives of the innocent girls but for the egocentric Grenouille it doesn't matter, what matters was to confirm his grandiose.

6. Born and Made a Murderer

These are the characteristics of psychopaths. Although they are clear and well-known, it is difficult to identify them except through a very deep study. Through many live studies on the minds of psychopaths, and also by tracking their personal lives and their relationships with the people around them, it was found that both genes and upbringing have a significant impact on the development of their personality and behaviour. Studies have shown that psychopaths are born with a psychopathic mind, and then society pushes them more to commit crimes. Many researchers have proven that the rate of committing crimes for a person born with a psychopathic mind is lower than that of a person who is born with a psychopathic mind and then goes through difficult stages in his life.

Patrick Süskind in his novel, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, narrates in detail the journey of Jean Baptiste Grenouille from birth to death. Süskind narrates the development stages of his character, he describes Grenouille's character and its interactions with others, and how his environment rejected his existence amongst them. Jean Baptiste the protagonist is a different character with a different story, his story is charming as his character. He is a serial killer but the reader would not be disgusted by his story, rather he would read it with anticipation until the end.

Süskind describes in details the role of the environment in making Jean Baptist being a serial killer, narrating that his extraordinary sense of smell and his lack of personal scent made him an outcast in society. In addition, affecting his ability to build any kind of meaningful relationships with others. The reason behind Grenouille being a serial killer could be clearly explained from the lens of the environment and his bad attachments with others, but while analysing his character in details, his nature also plays a crucial role in shaping his personality. The author describes him successfully as a psychopath by depicting the psychopathy traits on his character.

The protagonist exhibits several psychopath traits throughout the novel, including lack of empathy, lack of remorse or guilt, deceitful and manipulative, and egocentric and grandiose. He killed 25 virgin women only to extract their body odour assuming that their scent is the purer scent in the world, and that if he possessed it he would gain the love and acceptance of others.

He showed no empathy or mercy while killing them or even showing regrets for his actions, he treated his victims as objects he needed, as any psychopath does. Through his life

he manipulated people to get what he wanted and to achieve his dreams, which was to become a great person who will receive love and respect from others.

The link between nature and nurture is complicated in Grenouille's character development. His psychopathic features, on the other hand, imply a genetic component, although his environment and upbringing may have contributed to the emergence of these qualities. In fact, it is obvious that both had an impact on his personality and behaviour. Both biological and societal variables influence the development of psychopathy. Genetic factors influence the fundamental personality structure, which influences how an individual responds to life experiences and the social environment. While psychopaths are not predestined to have a socially deviant role in life, their biological endowment makes socialisation and conscience formation difficult. Social circumstances and parenting techniques influence the disorder's behavioural manifestations but have less of an impact on the individual's inability to feel empathy or develop a conscience (Hare).

Patrick Süskind's *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* is an intriguing character study of Baptiste Grenouille, who exhibits several psychopathic traits. The character development of Grenouille presents crucial problems concerning the relationship of nature and nurture in the formation of human behaviour. His characteristics show the presence of genetic components, but his environment and upbringing could also have played an influence in his look. Finally, the dispute over whether Grenouille was born or developed into a skilled serial murderer throws insight on his human behaviour and the role that biological and environmental factors play in developing human personality and conduct.

Conclusion

Through the complexities in the life of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille and through a deep analysis of his personality, the study proved that his psychopathic personality is characterised by violence, selfishness, cruelty, arrogance, lack of remorse and lack of emotion towards others. It has been proven that he is a psychopathic serial killer. The study shed light on the complex factors that contributed to building his psychopathic personality through the development of his psychological state throughout his life from its beginning to its end, to embody the life of a person who could not be understood except after a deep study of his personality and his relationships with others.

The novel showed all the confusing factors that revolve in the mind of every person, that nature or upbringing is responsible for his psychopathic traits. The author explained in detail the reasons for his killing of girls and the reasons that made him a serial killer. To sum up, the results that have been proven are that Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is a psychopath who was born with a psychopathic mind and was pushed strongly by the bad society in which he grew up to become a ruthless killer.

General Conclusion

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer by Patrick Süskind is a complex and deep study that represents a character of a psychopathic serial killer Jean Baptiste Grenouille. The author narrates the protagonist's journey from his birth to his death with all its details to affirm the portrayal of the psychopathic traits such as lack of empathy, lack of remorse, manipulation and egocentrism in the character of the protagonist.

Psychopathy is a wide and common term that attracts the attention of many people; also, psychopaths are captivating characters because they tend to exhibit traits like charming and manipulating people to hide their criminal reality. Reading and hearing the stories of psychopaths usually arouses mental curiosity and raises question about why they are like that! And what made them being such a person! Usually their stories make the person curious about the factors that contributed to develop a psychopathic brain for this person. A psychopathic serial killer is not any psychopath; this kind of human has broken all boundaries to the point of claiming the lives of innocent people to satisfy his personal desires and achieving his personal goals. Such violent acts are not the results of randomness, rather there are reasons and factors that explain them.

Reading the story of Grenouille raised a deep question of whether he was born to be a serial killer and commit several crimes and series of murders, or the external factors like his bad upbringing and his anxious attachment drive him to be a murderer. This study applied the biological theory to gain deep understanding of his brain and answer about the question if he was born a criminal and if genetic has a role in shaping the human development. Also using attachment theory was useful to have a clear explanation of the role of external factors in affecting the human psychology. In addition, to investigate and to confirm the causes of his

traits this study used the psychopathy theory to give a clear interpretation and the final answer about born or made a murderer.

Through reading the novel and delve in the protagonist internal psychology, the influence of his early experiences, and his bad relationships with others, it has been explored that both genetics and upbringing play a crucial role in shaping the human personality. He was abandoned from his mother, rejected from his society and abused by his surroundings, such treatments led him to have difficulties in shaping meaningful relations and express good emotions. He was raised in a harsh society where he never knew the feelings of love and acceptance leading him pursuing to control and dominate on others. This desire was his ultimate goal that should be achieved whatever the cost. His rejection was a result of having no body odour; people felt that he is not a normal person so they abandoned him. He believed that if he possess a human odour he will be accepted and he will gain the love of others, drive him to kill 25 virgin women and extracting their body scents to possess it as it was the only mean of having a human scent.

These external factors were based on genetic influences and brain abnormalities. Grenouille was born with dysfunction in certain regions in the brain that led to build a brake in his emotions and develop the psychopathy traits, thus these brain abnormalities were pushed and motivated by his bad upbringing to make him being a serial killer. The objective of the present investigation was to understand whether Jean Baptiste Grenouille born or made a murderer.

This study has shown that he was born and also made a Serial killer. Both genetics and environments have a crucial role in shaping his personality. From this deep searching for the influences that contributed this character of being a criminal, it has reached that nature and nurture are the causes of his behaviour. Finally, after analysing this strange character, it has been noticed that a person has black spot that completely prevails if it is exposed to difficult

and destructive external factors and lead him to be a danger to himself and to others.

Grenouille is a sample of many individuals who left a black record on the minds of others for their horrible crimes. This study gave a deep understanding on the human nature, motivation and the different psychological factors and influences on his life.

Like any other research, this study faced some limitations. This study was built on scientific concepts such studying some regions of the brain, which needed deep study and more time. Additionally, this research was based on various psychological books, which contain a large number of pages making it difficult to get the essence ideas of the books.

For more studies related to this topic and based on the results, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille's genetics and bad early experiences influenced his personality and made him a serial killer. It is interesting to know who could be the guilty in this story, is it the psychopathic genes that Jean-Baptiste Grenouille possesses, or the society that treated him in the worst way?

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ملخص

فحصت هذه الدراسة رواية العطر: قصة قاتل وحللت الشخصية الرئيسية جان بابتيست غرينوي، وحاولت معرفة العوامل التي أثرت في شخصيته وتفكيره والتي ساهمت في جعله قاتل متسلسل. وبما أن الجرائم التي ارتكبها لم تكن جرائم عادية، بل كانت سلسلة من الجرائم الشنيعة، حيث قتل 25 فتاة عذراء بريئة. كانت جرائمه مخططة، وكانت معقدة وبطريقة فنية دون الشعور بالذنب، بل شعر بالقوة والسيطرة في ذلك الوقت. هل مشاعره وأفعاله مجرد شيء مكتسب من المجتمع، أم أن هذه الصفات يولد الإنسان بها؟ كانت هذه الأفكار وهذه الأسئلة هي الدافع وراء هذه الدراسة، وللإجابة عليها اتبع هذا البحث نهجاً نفسياً يشمل نظريات الطبيعة مقابل التنشئة والتعلق والسيكوباتية. بعد بحث عميق، تم اكتشاف أن السمات التي يمتلكها جان بابتيست غرينوي هي خصائص الشخص السيكوباتي. اكتشف العلماء والباحثون أن السيكوباتيين يولدون بخلل وظيفي في مناطق معينة من العقل، وهو ما يؤدي بدوره إلى قلة التعاطف والندم، وهو العامل الأهم الذي يساهم في تحول الإنسان العادي إلى وحش. واجه صعوبات كبيرة في حياته، خاصة في طفولته، مثل الهجر والنبذ والإيذاء، مما عزز من تشوّهاته العقلية وزاد من نسبة جعله قاتلاً. بعد هذا البحث، وجدت هذه الدراسة أن جان بابتيست غرينوي مختل عقلياً متكاملًا، ولد بتشوهات في الدماغ، مما جعله قاتلاً متسلسلاً يتميز بسمات قلة العاطفة، وعدم الشعور بالذنب والرغبة في السيطرة على الآخرين، ولكن أيضاً تجاربه السيئة مع المجتمع كانت دافعاً قوياً وراء جرائمه الشنيعة. أخيراً، يمكن القول إن كل من الطبيعة والتنشئة يلعبان دوراً مهماً في تشكيل شخصية جان بابتيست غرينوي، مما يجعله قد ولد وتشكل إلى قاتل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: غرينوي، السيكوباتية، الطبيعة مقابل التنشئة، تجارب الطفولة، القتل.

Résumé

Cette étude examine le roman *Parfum : L'histoire d'un meurtrier* et analyse le personnage principal, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, afin de découvrir les facteurs qui ont influencé sa personnalité et sa pensée, contribuant à faire de lui un tueur en série. Ses crimes étaient loin d'être ordinaires, il a assassiné 25 jeunes filles innocentes vierges de manière planifiée, élaborée et artistique, sans ressentir de culpabilité, mais plutôt un sentiment de pouvoir et de contrôle à l'époque. Ses sentiments et ses actions sont-ils simplement acquis de la société ou ces traits sont-ils inhérents à la nature d'une personne ? Ces idées et ces questions ont motivé cette étude, qui adopte une approche psychologique incluant les théories de la nature versus l'acquis, de l'attachement et de la psychopathie. Après une recherche approfondie, il a été découvert que les traits qui caractérisent Jean-Baptiste Grenouille sont ceux d'une personne psychopathe. Des scientifiques et des chercheurs ont découvert que les psychopathes naissent avec des dysfonctionnements dans certaines parties de l'esprit, entraînant un manque d'empathie et de remords, facteur primordial dans la transformation d'une personne ordinaire en monstre. Il a connu de grandes difficultés dans sa vie, notamment pendant son enfance, avec l'abandon, le rejet et les abus, qui ont accentué ses troubles mentaux et augmenté sa propension à devenir un meurtrier. Cette recherche a conclu que Jean-Baptiste Grenouille est un psychopathe intégré, né avec des anomalies cérébrales, ce qui en a fait un tueur en série caractérisé par une absence d'émotion, de culpabilité et une volonté de contrôler autrui. Cependant, ses mauvaises expériences avec la société ont également été un puissant motif derrière ses crimes odieux. En conclusion, il est possible d'affirmer que la nature et l'acquis jouent un rôle crucial dans la formation de la personnalité de Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, le façonnant à la fois dès sa naissance et tout au long de sa vie en tant que meurtrier.

Mots-clés : Grenouille, Psychopathie, Nature vs culture, Expériences d'enfance, Meurtriers