

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

For my major thesis, I have chosen Perfume by Patrick Süskind and Dating Can Be Deadly by Wendy Roberts because basically I enjoy reading thriller novels. Moreover, both novels have special protagonists, which make the story more interesting. The protagonist in Perfume has a strong sense of smell while the protagonist in Dating Can Be Deadly has a sixth sense.

I consider Süskind to be a great fiction psychological writer owing to the fact that he has received a lot good reviews for his novels, especially Perfume. One of the critics states that “Süskind does remarkable job in portraying Paris of eighteenth century. He describes Grenouille’s and his actions with detached demeanor, thereby heightening the horrific nature of Grenouille’s action by not commenting on that nature” (Silver). I think Süskind brilliantly describes Grenouille’s actions in collecting various scents for making his perfume by killing innocent people without judging him as evil. He lets the readers follow Grenouille’s journey and make their

own interpretation. Silver also states that “Perfume offers insight into the mind of the criminally insane while speculating on the role the sense of smell plays in our lives”.

The second novel, Dating Can Be Deadly, is a fun chick-lit. The action in the novel keeps the readers excited. This novel is a quick-read novel because the readers will not be able to put it down until it is finished. Roberts successfully combines psychic phenomena with chick-lit genre. And even though “it is a murder story but the atmosphere is not so gloomy. It is entertaining, Roberts is able to balance suspense with chick-lit formula” (Brown). I think the love story makes the story fun to read.

I have chosen to analyze the narrative technique of the two novels and the effects of the use of the narrative technique to the readers. Firstly, I would like to describe the definition of narrative technique. Narrative technique is “a technique that produces visceral desire in a reader to want to know what happened next” (Baker). Narrative technique consists of four elements: point of view, time and tempo, style and distance.

Point of view (also called angle of narration) may be defined as “the restriction of the reader’s observation to a limited point of consciousness. A story may be told from any one of four types of point of view: first person point view, third person limited point of view, third person dramatic point of view and third person omniscient point of view” (Eastman 31-32).

“In first person point of view the story is recorded as the personal experience of ‘I’, its protagonist” (Eastman 32). “In third person limited point of view, the story is told as it happens to give a focal character, who is now referred to in the third

person” (Eastman 32). “In third person dramatic point of view, the story is told as it might be observed in a stage or in a movie” (Eastman 33). “In third person omniscient point of view, the author takes much larger freedom of report. Within a single scene he may reveal the minds of two or three characters” (Eastman 33-34).

In the plot development, there are sequences of time called time order. “There are several ways for the author to arrange the time order, but the basis is calendar order, a set of simple and continuous time sequences, schematized by the simple order A B C D E F G” (Eastman 36-37). Furthermore, “tempo refers to the rate by which events unfold to the reader. A story may proceed so slowly that the reader would take longer to read the story than for the actual events to occur, or the story may hurry over years of events within a few pages” (Eastman 38-39).

Then, the third element of narrative technique is style. “Style is cognitive-it is a way of organizing and creating reality; it reflects and extends the basic vision of life contained by the novel; thus it can be examined as evidence of the novelist’s own values” (Eastman 51).

The last element of narrative technique is distance. “Distance is the reader’s sense of closeness to the story or his sense of remoteness” (Eastman 53).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

Through Perfume and Dating Can Be Deadly, I will try to analyze two problems:

1. How do the authors use narrative technique in the novels?
2. What is the effect of the use of narrative technique in the novels?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The analysis is constructed in following order:

1. To reveal the author's way of using such narrative technique.
2. To show the effect of the use of narrative technique in the novels.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

In analyzing the two novels I use the library research. First of all, I read both of novels. Then, I search for the data that help me in analyzing the thesis in several sources. After that, I analyze the narrative technique and the effects of narrative technique in both novels from the data which I have gathered. Lastly, I make the conclusion from the analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The major thesis is organized into several chapters. The first chapter consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the method of research and the organization of the thesis. The second chapter contains the analysis of the narrative technique in Perfume by Patrick Süskind. The third chapter contains the analysis of the narrative technique in Dating Can Be Deadly by Wendy Roberts. The fourth chapter is the conclusion. The last chapter includes a bibliography, a biography of Patrick Süskind and Wendy Roberts as the writers of the novels, and the summary of the novels.