

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is one of important things in life. It is a form of human expression. It is something that makes people happy and relaxed in their life. It gives people the feelings of entertainment and pleasure. Moreover, literature teaches the way how to express thought and feeling in a society. Griffith (1990: 1) in *Writing Essay about Literature* says "... like all art, literature gives pleasure. Literature has magic that transports us from the real world to seeming more remote and enjoyable place". Literature also contains some events that happen in real life and it is written in certain way. It is an expression of people's experience, thought, and feeling. Furthermore, literature becomes more interesting and entertaining because it is full of imagination. Accordingly, people can imagine and feel the author's works. Hudson (1965: 10) in his book entitled *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* states as follows:

Literature is the vital records of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about these aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us.

It can be said that literature is an experience of human's life which is expressed and recorded.

Literature is divided into three branches, namely, prose, poetry, and drama. Then, prose is divided into three genres. They are novel, short story, and novelette. One of the most interesting ones is novel. Novel is a long essay that consists of fictional characters and events. Rees (1973: 2) stated that “Novel is writing which expresses writer’s thought and feeling toward life”. So, novel is the interpretation of author’s imagination, feeling and experience. The researcher is interested in one of Gaston Leroux’s works, *The Phantom of The Opera*.

Gaston Louis Alfred Leroux or usually called Gaston Leroux is best known for writing the novel *The Phantom of The Opera*. *The Phantom of The Opera* is one of the famous novels which has been made into several films and stage productions of the same name.

The Phantom of The Opera tells about Erik’s or the phantom of the opera or the opera ghost love obsession toward an opera singer Christine Daae. The phantom is in love with an opera singer named Christine Daae. His love obsession makes him do anything in order to get what he wants. He brings Christine to his home and identifies himself as Erik. He plans to keep her there for a few days and hopes that Christine will love him back. His love obsession makes him do a lot of bad things, such as kidnapping, threatening, and trying to kill someone.

The study of Erik’s love obsession is taken since it is very interesting. This phenomenon not only happens in the story but also in real life. Therefore, the research focuses on Erik’s love obsession and its effects.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Erik's love obsession based on *The Phantom of The Opera* is discussed in this research. There are two problems found in this research :

1. How does Erik conducts his love obsession toward Christine Daae in *The Phantom of The Opera*?
2. What are the effects of Erik's love obsession towards himself and Christine Daae's life?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The purpose of this research is to find out the answer of the problems. Those purposes are :

1. To find out the way Erik conducts his love obsession towards Christine Daae in *The Phantom of The Opera*.
2. To find out the effects of Erik's love obsession toward himself and Christine Daae's life.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In this novel, there are so many problems that can be discussed. The researcher focuses on analyzing the main character's love obsession, named Erik and the effects of Erik's love obsession toward himself and the woman he loves, named Christine Daae.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this research is useful for the reader and further researches. For the reader, the researcher hopes that they will get a better understanding and increase the knowledge of obsessiveness especially about love obsession. For further researches, this study is expected to be useful reference and alternative information for others.