

# LOVE OBSESSION IN GASTON LEROUX'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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## **Abstract**

*This research was aimed to find out the way Erik conducts his love obsession towards Christine Daae in The Phantom of The Opera, and to find out the effects of Erik's love obsession toward himself and Christine Daae's life. This research was descriptive. The data of this research were words, phrases, clauses, paragraphs, or discourses containing love obsession in the novel The Phantom of The Opera written by Gaston Leroux. The source of data was document, namely a novel entitled The Phantom of The Opera. The technique of collecting the data was document analysis. Moreover, sociological approach and psychological approach were applied to decide the strategy in analyzing the love obsession and the effect found in the novel. The analysis shows that: (1) the way Erik conducts his love obsession by ruling Christine Daae and trying to do anything to get Christine Daae. Furthermore, (2) the effect towards Christine's life is she is being oppressed and the effect toward Erik is he is become depressed. The conclusion is people who suffer from love obsession can do negative things such as, manipulating, sabotaging, threatening, setting a trap and kidnapping. The effects can be bad such as, being oppressed for the object of love obsession and getting depressed for the person suffering from love obsession.*

**Keywords:** Love Obsession, Obsession, Psychology

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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. 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. The researcher is interested in one of Gaston Leroux's works, *The Phantom of The Opera*. There are two problems which are found in this research, (1) How does Erik conducts his love obsession toward Christine Daae in *The Phantom of The Opera* and, (2) What are the effects of Erik's love obsession towards himself and Christine Daae's life. The purpose of this research is to find out the answer of the problems. Those purposes are, (1) To find out the way Erik conduct 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. 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. 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.

There are four theories which are used in this research, they are character, characterization, psychology and obsession. The first theory is character. Character is a person or animal in the story. It is a fictional or fantasy creation played by actors and actresses who exist in the story. Character is divided into three terms, role, morality and complexity. In terms of role, character is divided into major character and minor character. In terms of morality, character is divided into protagonist and antagonist. In terms of complexity, character can be divided into round character and flat character. The second theory is characterization. Characterization can be meant as a method or way to draw the images of a person or character clearer and deeper. There are two methods of characterization which are used to analyze a character. The first is dramatic method and the second is analytic or discursive method. Dramatic method, how the character is like is revealed through his or her own words and actions. Moreover, in discursive method, how the character is like is shown directly by the author. The third theory is psychology. Psychology deals with people's behavior, mind, and life. Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of human and animal behavior. Moreover, obsession is also one of the things which is learned in psychology since it is related to human mental or mind. The fourth theory is obsession. Obsession is a behavior which is caused by unwanted intrusive thoughts. Unwanted intrusive thoughts itself can cause stress, anxiety, depression, and increase the obsession. It is very difficult to be controlled. Obsession is such kind of act that causes uncontrollable thoughts, images, impulses, worries, fears, and doubts. Relationship Intrusive Thoughts are an act that cause someone to be doubtful. Person with this condition is very difficult to trust his or her partner. Love obsession also can be included in Relationship Intrusive Thoughts since it makes the person feels very obsessive towards his or her partner.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research is qualitative because even though it is fiction it has participants, places, and events. This research is descriptive because expressions about love obsession are words in the form of dialogs and narratives. The data of this research are words, phrases, clauses, paragraphs, or discourses containing love obsession in the novel *The Phantom of The Opera* written by Gaston Leroux. The source of data is document, namely a novel entitled *The Phantom of The Opera* written by Gaston Leroux published in 1910 by Pierre Lafitte. The novel was republished in 2008 by Classic Stars™: Sterling Children's. The data are not collected randomly but with a purpose. Accordingly, it is called purposive sampling (Patton 2001: 41-46). The total of data is all of the data which express love obsession in the novel entitled *The Phantom of The Opera* by Gaston Leroux. The technique of collecting the data is document analysis. The documents are:

1. All of articles or books which are related to love obsession.
2. Novel entitled *The Phantom of The Opera* by Gaston Leroux.

There are two approaches which are used to analyze the data in this research. The first approach which is used to analyze the data is sociological approach. Sociological approach is used to determine the relationship among the characters who involve in the story especially the main character and the people around him. Psychological approach is chosen as the second approach. Psychological approach is an approach which is used to enhance the understanding of human mind and behavior

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter concerns with the analysis on the collected data. There are two problems that are needed to be analyzed. The first problem is about Erik's love obsession toward Christine Daae. Erik's love obsession is twofold, namely (1) ruling Christine Daae and (2) willing to do anything to get her. The second problem is the effects of Erik's love obsession towards Christine Daae's life. There are two effects of Erik's love obsession. The first is ruining Christine's life. The second is Christine is being not able to love anyone else.

#### 1. Erik's love obsession toward Christine Daae.

This subchapter contains the analysis of the way Erik conducts his love obsession toward Christine. Love obsession is such kind of act that causes uncontrollable thoughts, images, impulses, worries, fears, and doubts toward someone that we love. It can lead someone to do something that does not make sense or out of control. Therefore, here the way Erik conducts his love obsession can be divided into two main subchapters. Firstly, ruling Christine Daae and secondly, trying to do anything to get Christine Daae.

##### 1.1 Ruling Christine Daae

Ruling is an act of controlling. The act of ruling here is done by manipulating. Erik manipulates Christine's mind. He wants to control Christine. Erik will do anything to get Christine's attention and love. Therefore, he always follows her. He watches her every day. He knows everything about her. He is being possessive towards her. He tries many ways to get Christine's love.

###### 1.1.1 Manipulating Christine

Manipulating someone means making people do what you want. Moreover, it can mean having control over others by having the ability to influence someone's mind, behaviors and actions. Erik's manipulating can be seen in the following:

“Christine, I am your Angel of Music. You must love only me!” Raoul heard a ghostly voice say (2008: 12)”

Here, we know that Erik forces Christine to love him. From the first time Erik hears Christine's singing a song, he is directly bewitched by her voice. He starts liking her. He feels that he must get her. Therefore, he disguises himself as the phantom or the opera ghost. He approaches Christine. He is obsessed with her. He tries anything to get her. The way he manipulates Christine is by saying that he is her angel of music. He manipulates her mind. He wants to make Christine follow and do what he wants her to do.

##### 1.2 Trying to do anything to get Christine Daae

His love for Christine Daae is unstoppable. He is willing to do anything to get her. He does not care if he hurts or kills someone else. His mind is full of her. He cannot think about anything else except her. He wants to make Christine love her. He is willing to get rid of the obstacles blocking him. He sabotages the performance, threatens the managers, harms other people, sets a trap, tries to kill someone and kidnaps Christine. His obsession cannot be stopped.

###### 1.2.1 Sabotaging the performance

Sabotaging is the act of destroying, damaging, or obstructing something. Furthermore, it also can also mean to intentionally prevent the success of a plan or action. Erik really does anything to get Christine. He is very possessive and obsess about her. He does something in a harmful way. He does not care if he can harm someone else because of his action as long as he gets whatever he wants. He sabotages a performance only to make Christine perform so that he can satisfy himself by seeing her perform on stage. Sabotaging can be seen in the following:

“Then, La Carlotta took the stage. The audience clapped very, very loudly. La Carlotta’s voice filled the room. Just then, a terrible thing happened. La Carlotta croaked like a toad, just as the opera ghost’s note said she would! (2008: 41)”

The first act the phantom do is to make La Carlotta, the lead singer, ill. So that Christine will sing as the lead singer. He sabotages La Carlotta performance. He sends a letter that tells that La Carlotta will not be able to sing in the stage. The letter says that she will be croak like a toad. It did really happen. When she is ready to sing in the stage, she really croaks like a toad in front of the audience. Even though, she tries over and over again to sing, she still cannot do it. Erik makes every effort to make Christine perform. He wants to see Christine sings so that he can satisfy himself by hear Christine’s voice and see her beautiful face. He wants to make her happy. So that the world knows that Christine exists, that she also has a good voice. He does not care if he hurt or harms another people. He thinks that by making Christine perform as the lead singer it will make her happy.

#### 1.2.2 Threatening the managers

Threatening is an act that causing someone to feel vulnerable or at risk. It also expresses one’s intention to harm, endanger or kill someone. It can cause potential loss or injury. Erik or the phantom or the opera ghost wants everybody to listen to him and fulfill, do or grant what he wants. The act of threatening can be seen in the following:

“Dear managers, I know you are very busy man. It is not for me to tell you how to run your business. But you must know that La Carlotta sings like a toad. I suggest that Christine Daae perform in place of La Carlotta. Remember her success when La Carlotta was sick? I remind you that box five is mine. I was very upset to find others in it. If you wish to live in peace, do not take away my private box again (2008: 20)”

From the quotation we know that the phantom or the opera ghost really upset knowing that the managers do not fulfill or grant his demand. He wants Christine to perform as the lead singer. He wants to hear her voice, to see her beautiful face. He wants everyone to only look at her and praise her. He really forcing the managers to fulfill or grant his demand. He is being serious about it. From the quotation, he threatens the managers if he doesn’t get what he wants. He will harm the performer. He will hurt the audiences. He does not care about anything except to get what he wants. Furthermore, if the managers do not do what he wants, he will make them suffer and always in terrible danger. Their life will never at peace again.

#### 1.2.3 Setting a trap

Trap is a device or hole for catching animals or people and preventing their escape. It is a dangerous or unpleasant situation which you have got into and from which it is difficult and impossible to escape. Erik or the phantom or the opera ghost does not like or wants someone to interfere in his business. Therefore, he sets a trap to make the person give up and not interfere in his business so he can do what he wants to do. He also sets a trap to harm people. It can be seen in the following:

“No sooner had he finished speaking when an incredible face came into sight. It was a head of fire with no body attached! The flaming face tore through the darkness. It came straight at Raoul and the foreign stranger (2008: 92)”

He sets a trap to make people afraid and leave him. From the quotation, it can be seen that he sets a trap in the form of flaming face which has no body. He wants people think that it is very difficult to get him. Furthermore, people will think in every inch there is a trap which is more than this and which can harm or kill them instantly. He does that to make people afraid that something may harm them. He wants to tell people that he is no joke and he really means it. He wants they know that what he done is just the beginning. He does that to make people go back and not follow him anymore. He does anything to get rid of people who want to interfere in his business. He tries to intimidate the people who can follow him until this point. He wants to make them frightened. He wants to make people think that they will die if they go further. He sets that idea from the beginning. He wants to make people aware of him. He does not want people to get close to him. He will do anything to make people afraid and aware that he will kill, harm, or make them suffer if they get so close to him.

#### 1.2.4 Kidnapping Christine

Kidnapping means take someone away illegally by force, typically to obtain a ransom or demand in exchange for releasing from concealment. It also can mean as abduction and restrain by force or unlawful transportation of a person usually in order to hold them captive against their will. Erik really does anything to get what he wants not only sabotages performance, sabotages the stage, threatens people, harms someone else's life, but also kidnaps the one he loves. The act of kidnapping can be seen in the following:

“Christine sang with all her heart and soul. Her hair spilled over her shoulders. Her arms stretched out to her admirers. Her eyes turned to Raoul. Suddenly, the stage went dark. Then, in a flash, the lights came back on. The stage was empty. Christine was gone! (2008: 72)”

Christine's gone, nobody knows how she disappear without leaving a single trace. After Erik knows that Christine loves someone else, he cannot restrain his feeling. He feels angry about it. He feels betrayed. He cannot accept that reality. He wants Christine. He does not care if Christine has the same feeling for him or not. He does not want to understand that Christine will be hurt because of that. He just wants Christine for the rest of his life. He wants to be loved by her. In addition to that, he kidnaps Christine once again and he promises himself that he will not let her go this time.

#### 2. The effects of Erik's Love Obsession toward himself and Christine Daae's life

There are some effects of Erik's love obsession toward himself and Christine Daae's life. First Erik's love obsession makes Christine Daae's life become like a mess. He is ruining her life. She feels like there are some burdens weighing her. She cannot do anything she wants. Erik's love obsession makes Christine Daae cannot love anyone else. Even though, she has another man that she likes. She feels afraid that Erik may hurt her because of her. The second is Erik's love obsession makes him only think about Christine. He only wants to make Christine love him back.

##### 2.1 Ruining Christine Daae's life

Erik's love obsession toward Christine Daae is ruining her life. She cannot do anything what she wants. She feels there is something burdens her. She feels afraid to do anything. Furthermore, it makes her having too much too think in her head. She does not want to harm another people because of her. She is worried all the time. She feels oppressed.

### 2.1.1 Being Oppressed

She is being oppressed by what Erik does to her. She does not want to hurt Erik's feeling by saying that she does not love him. Moreover, she does not want Erik harms another people because of his obsession towards her. She feels afraid all the time. It makes her worried. It can be seen in the following:

“I am the little boy who went into the sea to rescue you. Don't you remember?” Raoul asked. “Please let me speak with you privately,” he added. Christine's face went very white, as if she too had seen a ghost (2008: 12)”

Raoul speaks to Christine. He wants to know whether Christine remember him or not but the result makes him sad. Christine says that she does not know him. Her face become very white because she is afraid that the phantom will know that she is talking to a man beside him. She is afraid that it may cause Erik or the phantom or the opera ghost feels jealous and does something to Raoul. She does not want to harm Raoul because of her. The fact is she really does remember who Raoul is but she does not want him to be hurt by Erik or the phantom or the opera ghost. She tries to protect him. Therefore, she says that she does not remember him.

### 2.2 Getting Depressed

The effect of Erik love obsession toward himself is he becomes depressed. In the end of the story where Raoul and the foreign stranger lock in the trapped room, Erik asks Christine to choose to marry him and he will let them go or let them die. Christine, of course, chooses to marry Erik or the phantom or the opera ghost. She just cannot let Raoul, the one she loves, die. After that, Erik saves Raoul and the foreign stranger from the trapped room. He let them go. After a while, Erik shows up at the stranger's house. He looks so depressed it can be seen in the following:

“Erik looked extremely weak. His forehead was white as wax. The rest of his horrible face was hidden by his mask.... Erik bowed his head and said, “I have come here to tell you that i am going ..... to die (2008: 133-134)”

Christine is a very nice woman, she keeps her promise to marry him and live with him. Then, she kisses Erik on the cheek. Erik felt all the happiness in the world. She is the only one who ever shown him kindness. She does not run when she sees his horrible face. Then, Erik let her and Raoul go. Therefore, after Christine left him. He becomes depressed. He wants to kill himself because he cannot restrain his love. He cannot stop his love obsession toward Christine. On the other hand, he wants her to be happy and free. But without her he can never be happy. Therefore, he decided to commit a suicide.

## 3. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research was to find out the answer of the problems. The first was to find out the way Erik conducted his love obsession towards Christine Daae in *The Phantom of The Opera*. The second was to find out the effects of Erik's love obsession toward himself and Christine Daae's life. This research was qualitative because even though it was fiction it had participants, places, and events. This research was descriptive because expressions about love obsession were words in the form of dialogs and narratives. The data of this research were words, phrases, clauses, paragraphs, or discourses containing love obsession in the novel *The Phantom of The Opera* written by Gaston Leroux. The source of data was document, namely a

novel entitled *The Phantom of The Opera*. The technique of collecting the data was document analysis. In conducting the data analysis, the researcher used two approaches namely sociological approach and psychological approach. In short, sociological approach was used to determine the relationship among the characters who involved in the story especially the main character and the people around him. While, psychological approach was used to enhance the understanding of human mind and behavior. The way Erik conducts his love obsession toward Christine Daae is divided into twofold, namely (1) ruling Christine Daae and (2) trying to do anything to get her. He tries to rule her by manipulating her mind. He wants to control her. He wants her to follow and do what he wants. Another way he conducts his love obsession he tries to do anything to get Christine. He sabotages the other singer's performance so he can see Christine perform in the stage. He is so obsess with her. He also threatens the manager so they fulfill his demand. Furthermore, he sets a trap to prevent someone else from interrupting his action and revealing his disguise. The last one is he kidnaps Christine so he can feel like he owns her and she loves him back. The effect of Erik's love obsession towards Christine Daae's life is he ruins her life. She feels oppressed by Erik's action. She feels burden, anxious and worried every day. She knows that she loves someone else but she does not want to make Erik hurt. So, she tries to keep it silence. Furthermore, the effect of Erik's love obsession toward himself is he becomes depressed. He cannot restrain his feeling towards her. He really loves her but he also wants her to be free and he kills himself in the end. The conclusion is that love obsession can make people do a lot of bad things. They who have love obsession usually try to do anything, to get and to fulfill what they want. They do not care if they will harm other people. Furthermore, the effects of the action can make other people suffer. Furthermore, The conclusion is people who suffer from love obsession can do negative things such as, manipulating, sabotaging, threatening, setting a trap and kidnapping. The effects can be bad such as, being oppressed and getting depressed.

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