CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Social rejection is the cruelest act because every people were born as social creature in which people strived for their existence. If people were rejected, inner conflict will occur. Not every people can be treated that way. Most of them will become frighten of society or even their social environment due to the rejection. According to Matnuh (2012) social rejection is a phenomenon where an individual is being isolated in aim from the social relation in specific society. Human is said as a social being for several reasons, such as there is encouragement to interact, human subject to the rules of social norms, humans have a need to interact with each other, human’s potential will really develop if he lives among humans. Surely, a human will face problems in their social life because not all people can receive someone in the community itself. This kind of phenomenon is called social rejection. From early childhood to adulthood and even old, the rejection still hurts and will always be painful. In communities that had a strong social kinship, social rejection can mean death. In a society that requires the cooperation for survival, living alone is something that could not possibly be maintained.

We can find social rejection all around us, for example, the people with leprosy. We automatically avoid these people because we are afraid of being infected if we are near to them. Just like in novel The Phantom of The Opera the leading character, Erik, he experienced the social rejection because his appearance. He has
different physical appearance. We can see that social rejection happens because the society cannot accept someone’s lack of physical appearance with several reasons.

This novel tells about Erik as the leading character, he is a man who has terrible scars and he is rejected by the society. This case, of course has big impacts such as living alone and cannot get or achieve what the other do. In this research, Erik has causes the reason why he is rejected by the society. Gaston Leroux describes Erik as a tough person and he has so many ambitions for sake of fulfilling his dream. One of them is Erik loves Christine. Because of his weakness, he could not show himself to the woman and decided to wear mask. He did that kind of thing due to his ugly face. Day by day, Erick had fallen in love with Christine who had already a boyfriend named Raoul. Unfortunately, he could not show his affection because he afraid if Christine rejected him so that he showed his affection unknowingly. He could do anything for Christine because he really loved her so much.

There are many impacts of social rejection that will occur as not to feel confident. These three impacts are the impact which later will change the leading character’s life, the life which is isolated by the society. These three impacts also decide the character’s behavior; make him tough, cruel and cold. Erik has so many plans to make his dreams come true.

The writer chooses this topic because the view of the condition of today's social reality in which the environment around us, many of us look at how a person sees another person based on his physical condition and material. After all the writer chooses this topic because in this novel, the writer finds and interesting fact about the leading character, as he has a big ambitions but with his lack, he can achieve it. The
writer has an interest to this novel because this novel has interesting love story between Erik and Christine.

Leroux was born in Paris in 1868. He went to school in Normandy and studied law in Paris, graduating in 1889. He inherited millions of francs and lived wildly until he nearly reached bankruptcy. In 1890, he began working as a court reporter and theater critic for L'Écho de Paris. His most important journalism came when he began working as an international correspondent for the Paris newspaper Le Matin. He was present at, and covered, the 1905 Russian Revolution. Another case at which he was present involved the investigation and in-depth coverage of the former Paris Opera (presently housing the Paris Ballet). The basement contained a cell that held prisoners of the Paris Commune.

In analyzing the topic above, the writer use a theory as the basic of the research. The theory is sociology of literature. Sociology of literature is an approach which based on author’s point of view because authors tend to be influenced by what they feel and see in their life. Sociology of literature is also showing us the way how to understand our social condition which is reflected in literary works. Damono said that literature presented a picture of life; life itself was a social reality (1984: 1). By using this theory, we can understand about the social condition surround us through a novel then we can relate it to the reality in our surrounding because a literature is an art that develops in human society.

The writer hopes that this research can be understood by the reader and the reader can learn it well. Furthermore, we as human can understand the aim and the impact of social rejection, and finally we can understand the good relationship between human being.
1.2 Problem of the Study

According to the title of this thesis “Impact of Social Rejection on the Leading Character in Leroux’s *The Phantom of the Opera*”, the writer tries to clarify the problems into some questions they are:

1. What is the cause of social rejection on leading character portrayed in *The Phantom of the Opera*?
2. What are the impacts of social rejection on leading character portrayed in *The Phantom of the Opera*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the writer would like to achieve the following objectives:

1. To explain the cause of social rejection on leading character portrayed in *The Phantom of the Opera*.
2. To explain the impacts of social rejection on leading character portrayed in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

It is very important to make a scope in analyzing this thesis because it will make this thesis more objective. In this thesis, the writer only focuses on the cause of social rejection and its impacts towards the leading character. It is really viewed from Erik as the leading character.
1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the significance of this study is to examine more in the theory of sociology of literature. Moreover, this study can be used as reference for the readers who want to study literature. Practically, this study gives information to the readers about the causes and the impacts of social rejection.