



EXPOSING THE SYMPTOMS OF EROTOMANIA IN PHILIP'S JOKER (2019)

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Received : (April)

Accepted : (May)

Published : (June)

Abstract

The aims of this research paper are to describe erotomania (De Clerambault's Syndrome) as seen in the main character Arthur Fleck and its cause in the movie *Joker* (2019) by Todd Phillips. Here, the writer describes erotomania based on the characteristics based on Kelly's theory (2005), which are seen in the selected scenes of the movie. Thus, in doing the research, the writer used the qualitative method. The data are taken from selected scenes from the movie and dialogues that are related to erotomania. In addition, the writer also used Metz's semiotics of film theory (1992) in order to analyze the selected scenes that are correlated to erotomania. As a result of the findings, it indicates that the main character of Arthur Fleck in the movie *Joker* (2019) by Todd Phillips is possessing erotomania, or De Clerambault's syndrome, which can be noticed from its five characteristics, namely: a delusional conviction of being in amorous communication with another person; the object is of higher rank; the sufferer believes that the object is the first to fall in love with him and the first to make advances; the object of the amorous delusions remains unchanged; and the sufferer thinks that they are not hallucinating. Moreover, the writer also found that the cause of Arthur's erotomania is that he suffered a brain injury as a child.

Keywords: erotomania, film semiotics, psychological approach

INTRODUCTION

Psychological problems among societies are not easy to detect (either by parents or close relatives) and are easily neglected by them. In fact, both teenagers and adolescents are suffering from depression, anxiety, and stress, which are common mental disorders characterized by the absence of happiness and pleasure (Latif et al., 2017). Hence, the high prevalence of depression, anxiety, and stress symptoms in society is a risk factor for their mental health and can threaten their future as well (Latif et al., 2017). Interestingly, psychological Issues can not only be found in real life (Kardiansyah, 2016; Amelia, 2021), but they can also be noticed as one of the themes in literature (Fitri and Qodriani, 2016; Sasalia and Sari, 2020). Literature (from the Latin *litteraturae*) itself means a writing that refers to fictional and imaginative writings such as poetry, prose fiction, and drama (Abrams, 2012; Bertens in Heaverly and Kasih, 2020), and it is known as a collection of literary genres and texts that are expressed by certain ideas (Bennet and Royle, 2016). In this case, Bennet and Royle (2016) explained literature as something that is correlated to a written form, such as books or scripts, that contains imaginative works. However, because a new form of technology emerged in the late nineteenth century, another variety of literary work was formed, which is known as a movie (Boggs et al. in Gofur, 2015). Bennet and Royle (2016) argued that movies are recognized as unique and powerful art forms, along with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and drama. Moreover, similarly to novels, movies also share the same narrative capacities and tell stories from the narrator's perspective (Sari and Aminatun, 2021), such as setting, characters, plot, and themes (Afrianto and Ma'rifah, 2020; Sari and Oktaviani, 2021). Thus, in regards to psychological issues, the writer noticed that there are many authors who present their writings by using psychological problems possessed by their fictional characters so that the readers are aware of them and gain knowledge about them, such as psychopathy, paraphilia, sexual disorder, and many others. However, despite many psychological problems that can be found in literary works, the writer chooses to analyze one of the uncommon mental disorders known as Erotomania or De Clerambault's syndrome.

In short, Erotomania is a rare mental disorder where the patient has the delusional belief that a person (commonly with higher social status) falls in love with her or him (Cipriani et al., 2012; Jordan et al., 2006). As supported by Faden et al. (2017), erotomania is a relatively uncommon and misunderstood disorder that is characterized by the presence of a persistent erotic delusion, although it was considered a general disease or some kind of practice that involved showing an exaggerated physical love (Berrios and Kennedy, 2002).

However, as time passes, the experts finally conclude that erotomania, or De Clerambault's syndrome, is highly correlated to the condition where someone (the sufferer) believes that he or she is being loved by someone else (that he or she likes). Interestingly, the writer also found some studies that have discussed erotomania and other psychological issues correlated to erotomania, such as Muwana (2017), who investigated the ego defense mechanism and the symptoms of De Clerambault's syndrome in the main character in the "Obsessed" movie. The result of the research shows that there are four ego defense mechanisms that are shown by the main character: displacement, regression, rationalization, and projection. Meanwhile, the symptoms of De Clerambault syndrome of the main character are: delusion, hallucination, harassing behavior, stalking, and lying.

Putri, Nugroho, and Asikin (2020) examined the psychological disorders of Arthur Fleck, the main character in the movie *The Joker*. As a result of the findings, it indicates that the character of Arthur Fleck has psychological disorders such as schizophrenia, dissociative disorder, and trauma. Moreover, the researchers also noticed that the psychological disorders of Arthur Fleck have appeared since he was a kid and are getting worse when he stops his medicines. Adillah (2019) conducted an investigation to analyze the types and causes of delusion that are portrayed in the leading character from the novel *A World Without You*. The findings show that there are three types of delusion suffered by the leading character of Bo: delusion, grandiose delusion, somatic delusion, and delusion of control. In addition, the cause of Bo's delusion is categorized as an environmental cause. Thus, through this research, the writer is interested in describing erotomania as seen in the main character, Arthur Fleck, and its cause in the movie *Joker* (2019), by Todd Phillips. Furthermore, this research can enrich the readers' knowledge, especially in the psychology of literature study, and it is also expected to give the readers knowledge about erotomania (De Clerambault's syndrome).

In analyzing erotomania in the movie, the writer employed Kelly's theory (2005) of erotomania (De Clerambault's syndrome). In this case, Kelly (2005) explained that there are seven main points that show the characteristics or criteria of the sufferers of erotomania:

1. A Delusional Conviction of Being in Amorous Communication with Another Person

One of the essential elements of erotomania is the conviction of being loved, despite the loved person having done nothing to encourage that belief. The patient has an intense preoccupation with the loved person and interprets or distorts any actions of the loved person to fit. They may act on the delusion by approaching or communicating with the loved person, which can include stalking, threatening, or menacing behavior. In some cases, erotomania has led to assault and a potentially fatal outcome for the victim.

2. The Delusion from The Sufferer is of Sudden Onset and Chronic

The onset of delusions (such as communicating with a person that he or she loved) that are experienced by the sufferers of erotomania is mostly sudden and may be gradual (worse) in the future.

3. The Object (the One that he or she loves) is of Higher rank.

The "loved person" of erotomania sufferers is typically a person of higher social status who may even be unknown to the patient but is a public figure. However, another case also shows that the "object of the loved one" in the minds of the erotomania sufferers are those who have a higher social rank than themselves (it does not have to be as famous as a public figure).

4. The Sufferers of erotomania believe that The Object is The First to Fall in Love with him or her and The First to Make advances.

All of the erotomania cases show that the sufferers keep mentioning that the one that they loved was the one who made the move (such as the one who talked to them in the first place, the one who came to them, etc.).

5. The Object of The Amorous Delusions Remains Unchanged

In this characteristic, the research on erotomania explains that since the scenes where their (the sufferers) loved ones only exist in their minds, their "loved ones" appearances remain unchanged in some particular ways.

6. The sufferer or patient provides an Explanation for The Paradoxical (complicated) Behavior of The Loved one.

When the sufferers of erotomania come to a psychiatrist, they tend to be told that they are not hallucinating and that what they feel and do is real, without any real testimonies from their "loved ones" in real life.

7. The Sufferer Thinks that They are not hallucinating.

The sufferer of erotomania might not notice that they have had erotomania for many years since their delusions seem real without attracting anyone's attention. Hence, it is highly possible that many isolated patients with erotomaniac delusions never come to medical attention unless they are committing disruptive social acts.

Moreover, in the case of erotomania, Kelly (2005) also mentioned that there are two main aspects that are considered the causes:

1. Brain Anomalies

Kelly (2005) finds out that the patient with erotomania (delusional love) had a significantly greater degree of temporal lobe asymmetry and also greater volumes of the lateral ventricle than normal people or even those with schizophrenia. In other words, people with erotomania mostly have different sizes in certain parts of their brain (which, so far, have been noticed by the experts to be the temporal lobe and lateral ventricle).

2. Brain Injury

In some reports written by Kelly (2005), it is shown that patients with erotomaniac delusion are having brain injuries (especially the traumatic ones) as children, with residual right hemiparesis and complex partial. Another case shows that a man with a history of multiple head injuries (and bipolar disorder) also developed an erotomaniac delusion. Hence, it can be said that the injuries that accidentally harm humans' brains are highly likely to be involved in the development of erotomania (delusional love). In addition, Hurley and Moore (1999) also mentioned that an imbalance of certain chemicals in the brain (neurotransmitters) has been linked to the formation of delusional symptoms and causes developmental disabilities as well. Thus, because of the developmental disabilities, the sufferer of erotomania tends to live alone or with his or her parents since he or she feels abandoned or neglected by society.

METHOD

In conducting this research, the writer applied the qualitative method. Holosko in Ivana and Suprayogi (2020) explained that the descriptive qualitative method focuses on discovering the nature of the specific topic under study. Hence, by applying the descriptive qualitative method, the writer focused on the content of the analysis and the actions that were taken by the main character (Aryangga & Nurmaily, 2017). Here, the analysis of the qualitative method is different from the quantitative method because the object and the result are not focused on numbers (Rido, 2015; Kuswoyo & Susardi, 2016; Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020). Here, the data are in the form of dialogues, pictures, and scenes; the writer focuses on the object of the research used in the analysis as the main source of data (Istiani & Puspita, 2020; Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019). Hence, since the data in this research is in the form of texts (words, phrases, and sentences) and also screenshots from the movie *Joker* (2019) by Todd Phillips that are related to erotomania, the writer needs to apply the descriptive-qualitative method.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Here, the writer describes erotomania as seen in the character of Arthur Fleck and its causes in the movie *Joker* (2019) by Todd Phillips by using the theory of erotomania from Kelly (2005) (De Clerambault's Syndrome). Further, the result can be seen as follows:

4.1 A Delusional Conviction of Being in Amorous Communication with Another Person

As explained by Kelly (2005), one of the essential elements of erotomania is that the sufferer has the conviction of being loved by someone that they like, despite the loved person having done nothing to encourage that belief, and it is included in the act of the delusion where the sufferer is being approached or communicated with by their loved one.

Further, in line with that explanation, the writer found this characteristic in the selected scenes of the



movie that happened to Arthur. The findings can be seen as follows:

(00:27:06)

(01:18:38)

Dialogues (00:27:06):

Arthur: "Oh, hey."

Sophie: "Hey. Were you following me today?"

Arthur: "Yeah."

Sophie: "I thought that was you. I was hoping you'd come in and rob the place." Arthur: "I have a gun. I could come by tomorrow."

Sophie: "You're so funny, Arthur."

Arthur: "Yeah. You know, I do stand-up comedy. You should maybe come see a show sometime."

Sophie: "I could do

that." Arthur: "Yeah?"

Based on the images above, it can be noticed that this is the first scene in the movie when Arthur is having his delusional love affair with one of his neighbors, Sophie. As can be seen, the scene shows that Arthur is having a conversation with Sophie, his neighbor (see the image at '00:27:06' and there is also dialogue). However, on the image at '01:18:38', it is the scene where Arthur realized that his conversation with Sophie never happened. Notice that the timeline of both images is different, which indicates that there are moments where Arthur thinks that he is speaking with Sophie, but after many scenes pass and Arthur is visiting Sophie without her knowing (directly coming into her apartment), Arthur just realizes that all the moments with him and Sophie only happened in his mind. Thus, this is highly correlated with Kelly's (2005) explanation of erotomania, where the sufferers have the conviction of being approached or communicated with by their loved one, but in reality, that moment never happens.

4.2. The Object (the One that he or she loves) is of Higher rank.

Kelly (2005) explained that the object (also known as the one that he or she loves) of the erotomania sufferers is typically a person of higher social status who may even be unknown to the patient but is a public figure. Interestingly, Kelly (2005) also stated that "higher rank" in this case is not always a famous public figure, but it can also refer to someone who has a higher rank than themselves (the patients of erotomania). Hence, regarding that explanation, the writer finds a similar situation in the movie, where the character of Arthur Fleck is actually categorized as lower class while his object (the one that he loves) has a higher rank in society than Arthur. The further explanation can be seen as follows:



(00:01:58)



(00:28:02)

As it seen from the image that is taken at '00:01:58' (at the beginning of the movie) and on theminutes '00:28:02', those are showing Arthur's occupation where he acts as party clown (also as rental clown). On the first image which is taken at '00:01:58', it is the scene when Arthur is paid to invite people to "Kenny Music Shop" where in this scene, Arthur dressed as clown whileholding a small billboard and performing funny dance to public in front of the music shop. Meanwhile on the second image that is taken at '00:28:02', it is the scene when Arthur has dutyto go to hospital and entertains children with cancers and again, Arthur dressed himself as clownand doing funny dance. However, unlike Arthur, Sophie has better occupation because she works at the bank in Gotham City as customer service which can be seen as follow:



(00:24:39)



(00:38:20)



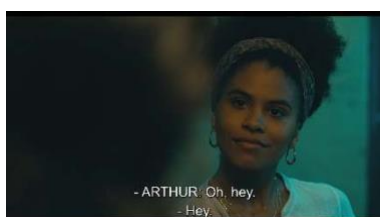
(00:38:54)

As can be seen from the image that was taken at '00:24:39', this is the scene when Arthur is stalking Sophie after she dropped her daughter off at school, and he notices that Sophie seems to work at Gotham City Bank. Further, in the images that are taken at '00:38:20' and '00:38:54', those are the scenes when Sophie works at the bank and her manager wants her to find specific information about money transfers. Thus, from this situation, it can be noticed that the one that Arthur loved (in this case, Sophie) is indicating that she has a higher social rank than Arthur himself.

As explained by Kelly (2005), the object (also known as the one that he or she loves) of the erotomania sufferers is typically a person of higher social status who may even be unknown to the patient but is a public figure. However, Kelly (2005) also added that the term "higher rank" in this case does not always refer to a famous public figure but can also refer to someone who has a higher rank than the patients of erotomania. Accordingly, based on the situation that happened in this date, it vividly shows that Sophie is considered to have a higher rank than Arthur.

4.3. The Sufferers of erotomania believe that The Object is The First to Fall in Love with him or her and The First to Make advances.

In this characteristic, Kelly (2005) explained that the patients (sufferers) of erotomania keep mentioning that their object (the one that they loved) is the one who makes the move (such as talks to them or comes to them in the first place). Hence, correlated to the explanation, the writer finds the moment where Arthur also presumes that Sophie came at him in the first place. The result of the datum can be seen as follows:



(00:27:06)



(01:18:38)

Arthur: "Oh, hey."

Sophie: "Hey. Were you following me today?" Arthur: "Yeah."

Sophie: "I thought that was you. I was hoping you'd come in and rob the place." Arthur: "I have a gun. I could come by tomorrow."

Sophie: "You're so funny, Arthur."

Arthur: "Yeah. You know, I do stand-up comedy. You should maybe come see a show sometime."

Sophie: "I could do that." Arthur: "Yeah?"

Here, it can be noticed that the first image that is shown is similar to the first sub-chapter, where Arthur and Sophie are talking (on 00:27:06), where it happened after Arthur was following Sophie into her workplace (Gotham City Bank), and it makes Sophie say, "Were you following me today?". Moreover, at this scene, Sophie also seems to be teasing Arthur by saying, "You're so funny, Arthur," after Arthur claims that he has a gun and could come back tomorrow to the bank. Then, after Sophie laughs, Arthur invites her to watch his stand-up comedy performance, and Sophie directly utters positive feedback by saying, "I could do that." Unfortunately, at the climax of the story, Arthur just realized that his conversation with Sophie was only part of his delusional love (on '01:18:38').

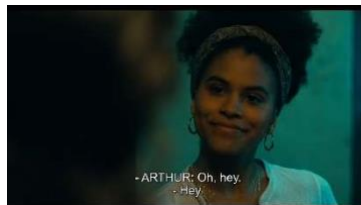
Accordingly, based on the situation, it can be noticed that Arthur thinks that his loved one, Sophie, is the one who makes advances towards him, and this situation is quite similar to the explanation of Kelly about erotomania, where the patients (sufferers) of erotomania keep mentioning that their object (the one that they loved) is the one who makes the move (such as talks to them or comes to them in the first place) (Kelly, 2005).

4.4. The Object of The Amorous Delusions Remains Unchanged

Kelly (2005) stated that in this characteristic, the patients (sufferers) of erotomania always see and meet their objects (their loved ones) with quite similar looks or appearances because when the patients are having a scene such as meeting them (their objects) and talking to them, it only happens in their minds but never happens in reality. Further, related to this characteristic, the writer finds it in the movie Joker (2019), where the finding can



(00:20:05)



(00:27:07)



(00:44:44)



(00:45:23)



(00:58:40)

On the image that is taken at '00:20:05', this is the scene where Arthur first met with Sophie in the elevator, and here, when the elevator is having a glitch for a brief moment, Sophie looks at Arthur and says, "This building is so awful, isn't it?", but Arthur is just smiling and looking at her tired face. Hence, it is highly possible that from this situation, Arthur puts his interests towards Sophie because, in the morning, he starts to follow her from her daughter's school to her workplace. As a result, the image of Sophie begins to be more vivid in Arthur's mind, and he seems to have delusions where Sophie is "into" him from the very beginning. However, in this context, the writer wants to show how Sophie's appearances have not quite changed, especially when she is with Arthur.

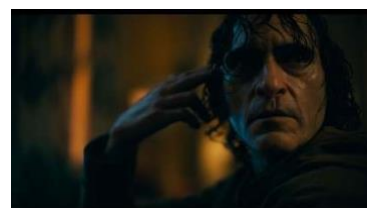
On the image that is taken at '00:27:07', where this is the scene where Arthur first thinks Sophie is visiting him, notice that Sophie is wearing oval earrings with headbands, which is quite similar to the image that is taken at '00:20:05', where Sophie is wearing similar oval earrings and headbands. Further, in the image that is taken at '00:44:44', where this is the scene where Arthur sees Sophie at Pogo's Comedy Club (the place that Arthur is performing and practicing his stand-up comedy), it also shows that Sophie is wearing similar oval earrings and similar headbands (just like the first time Arthur met Sophie).

Later on, when Arthur and Sophie walk together on the street after Arthur's performance at Pogo, they notice Sophie's appearance in the image that was taken at '00:45:23'. In that scene, Sophie is wearing a headband that is identical to the image that is taken at '00:27:07' (the moment when Arthur first met Sophie) and also carrying the identical orange sling bag, just like the first time Arthur met her in the elevator. Lastly, the image that is taken at '00:58:40' is the scene where Arthur is accompanying his mother to the hospital, and as seen, Sophie sits next to

him. Unfortunately, in this scene, Arthur also has erotomania, or delusional love syndrome, so Sophie in this scene actually did not exit. However, I noticed that Sophie is wearing a headband (although in a different color), a red jacket (similar to the red jacket that she wears in the image 00:27:07), and she is also carrying a very similar orange sling bag, just like in the images '00:27:07' and '00:45:23'. Therefore, in accordance with those scenes and the description of the situations, the writer noticed that this is one of the characteristics of erotomania that is possessed by Arthur Fleck in the movie. As explained by Kelly (2005), the patients (sufferers) of erotomania always see and meet their objects (their loved ones) with quite similar looks or appearances because when the patients are having a scene such as meeting them (their objects) and talking to them, it only happens in their minds but never happens in reality.

4.5. The Sufferer Thinks that They are not hallucinating.

The patients (sufferers) of erotomania might not notice that they are having erotomania or De Clerambault's



syndrome for many years since their delusions seem real without attracting attention to anyone (Kelly, 2005). Thus, many isolated patients with erotomaniac delusions never come to medical attention unless they are reported to be committing disruptive social acts (Kelly, 2005). Further, in conjunction with the explanation, the writer also finds the data that are correlated with this characteristic, which can be seen as follows:

(01:17:22)

(01:17:56)

(01:18:32)

In this case, the situation happened in Sophie's apartment at night, and this scene is highly correlated with Arthur, who seems to think that he has no delusional love (erotomania) for Sophie. Here, after he knew the truth about his life and how his mother had lied to him for so many years, he decided to go to Sophie's apartment. However, he does not even knock at the door; he just directly enters her apartment and sits in the living room, as seen in the image that was taken at '01:17:22'. Further, a few moments later, Sophie just came out of his daughter's room and was very surprised to see Arthur sitting in her living room, which can be seen in the image that was taken at '01:17:56'. Moreover, at a similar moment around '01:17:56' to '01:18:50', a short conversation happened between Sophie and Arthur. Here, notice that when Sophie first looked at Arthur in her living room, she was gasping and saying, "Oh, my God! What are you doing in here?" as if Sophie never wants to expect Arthur to come to her place. In addition, when Sophie also asks, "Your name's Arthur, right?" to Arthur, it indicates that Sophie barely knows Arthur and when she also asked Arthur to leave by saying, "I really need you to leave.", it also shows that Sophie just considers Arthur a stranger (although they are neighbors). Then, after Arthur says, "I had a bad day," Sophie also asks Arthur, "Can I call someone? Is your mother home?" which is quite strange for Arthur because just a couple days ago, Arthur remembered that Sophie was sitting next to him at the hospital when his mother, Penny Fleck, was in critical condition. Thus, in the image that is taken at '01:18:32', Arthur turns his body to Sophie, and then he mimics as if he is holding a gun pointed to his head (just like Sophie did in front of him in the elevator when they met). However, from Arthur's expression in the image that is taken at '01:18:32', he looks confused for a while (maybe after seeing Sophie's reactions towards him), but then he just realizes that something is wrong. Further, there are several scenes shown in the movie that show when Arthur is talking and walking together with Sophie, which never happened. All along, Arthur has been just talking to himself and walking by himself without Sophie's presence.

As explained by Kelly (2005), the patients (sufferers) of erotomania might not notice that they have had erotomania for many years since their delusions seem real without attracting attention to anyone, and from the scenes that are taken, Arthur never realized that his relationship with Sophie is nothing but just his hallucinations because it never happened in real life. Thus, in accordance with the situation, the writer considers that Arthur has one of the characteristics of erotomania, or De Clerambault's syndrome.

4.1 The Cause of Erotomania in Arthur Fleck

Kelly (2005) mentioned that there are two main aspects that can cause someone to suffer from erotomania or De Clerambault's syndrome: brain anomalies and brain injury or damage. However, since the writer does not find

any proof that Arthur Fleck is having any brain anomalies in the film, there is a high possibility that the cause of Arthur's erotomania is brain injury because there is a scene in the movie that indicates the past of Arthur Fleck where he was being tortured by his own mother and her ex-boyfriend, so that Arthur is having a severe trauma to his head. The data findings can be seen as follows:



(01:14:23)



(01:14:37)

Dialogues:

Stoner: "We went over this, Penny. You adopted him; we have all the paperwork right here."

Penny: "That's not true. Thomas had that all made up, so it stayed our secret."

Stoner: "You also stood by while one of your boyfriends abused your adopted son and battered you."

On the data above, there are two images that are taken at 01:14:23 (shows the image of the young version of Penny Fleck) and '01:14:37' (the image of Dr. Stone), and both of them are the scenes that are illustrated by Arthur while he is reading a file report from Arkham Asylum (a mental hospital) about his mother, Penny Fleck. In that file, there are many documents, including an adoption paper and newspaper clippings. On the adoption paper, there is Arthur's name written on it, and he was adopted by Penny and her boyfriend in the past. However, as seen from the dialogue in this scene, Penny seems to reject the truth and says that Arthur is her biological son with Thomas Wayne (one of the richest and most powerful men in Gotham City).

On the dialogue, notice that Penny says, "Thomas had that all made up, so it stayed our secret," which indicates that Penny seems to have a similar mental problem to Arthur, which is erotomania, because she claims that Arthur is also Thomas Wayne's son. Moreover, her interlocutor, Dr. Stone, also confirmed that one of Penny's boyfriends abused both herself and Arthur by saying, "You also stood by while one of your boyfriends abused your adopted son and battered you."



(01:14:50)



(01:15:20)

Dialogues:

Stoner: "Penny, your son was found tied to a radiator in your filthy apartment. Malnourished with multiple bruises across his body and severe trauma to his head,"

Penny: "I never heard him cry. He's always been such a happy little boy."

As seen on the image that is taken at '01:14:50', it shows a piece of newspaper clipping that says, "Mother of Adopted Child Allowed Her Sons's Abuse," which at that scene is read by Arthur while he is in the Arkham Asylum. In this scene, Arthur is very surprised when he finds out that he is not Penny's biological son but adopted, and he is shocked when he knows that Penny was doing nothing when Arthur was abused by her boyfriend.

Further, on the image that is taken at '01:15:20', it shows the situation that is illustrated in Arthur's mind when his mother, Penny, is being diagnosed by Dr. Stone in the asylum. As it is noticed from the dialogues, Dr. Stone says, "Penny, your son was found tied to a radiator in your filthy apartment. Malnourished with multiple bruises across his body and severe trauma to his head," which indicates that when Arthur was still a child, he was abused very seriously, and he even got severe trauma to the head. Hence, the writer considered that the cause of Arthur's erotomania was a brain injury when he was still a child and lived with Penny and her abusive boyfriend. As explained by Kelly (2005), patients with erotomania can have delusional love when they have suffered a brain injury (especially a traumatic one) as children, which paralyzes certain parts of the brain. Thus, because Arthur suffered severe trauma to his head as a child, it is very possible that it caused him to possess erotomania (De Clerambault's syndrome).

CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the analysis, the writer concludes that the main character, Arthur Fleck, in the movie *Joker* (2019), by Todd Phillips, is possessing erotomania or De Clerambault's syndrome (delusional love), which can be noticed by using Kelly's theory (2005). According to the theory, there are seven characteristics of erotomania sufferers. However, of the seven characteristics that are mentioned by Kelly (2005), the writer only finds five of them in the movie: a delusional conviction of being in amorous communication with another person; the object is of higher rank; the sufferer believes that the object is the first to fall in love with him and the first to make advances; the object of the amorous delusions remains unchanged; and the sufferer thinks that they are not hallucinating.

However, the other two characteristics, such as the fact that the delusion from the sufferer is of sudden onset and chronic, and that the sufferer provides an explanation for the paradoxical behavior of the loved one, are not shown in the movie. In this case, the writer finds that the delusional love (erotomania) of Arthur does not always appear at the onset but only on certain occasions; for instance, when he feels lonely and needs someone to talk to, the image of Sophie somehow appears. Moreover, the writer also did not find any scene that shows Arthur telling others about how complicated his object (his loved one) is, not even with his mother, Penny Fleck.

Furthermore, regarding the cause of Arthur's erotomania, the writer finds that it is highly possible that Arthur is suffering from erotomania because he suffered a brain injury when he was a child. In the movie, there is a scene where Arthur reads the file about his mother, and inside that file, he finds out that one of his mother's ex-boyfriends abused both Arthur and his mother, Penny. Surprisingly, Arthur also notices that during the abusive events, he had a severe trauma to his head, so it is highly possible that Arthur suffers not only erotomania but also PBA (Pseudobulbar Affect), since according to Kelly (2005), there are only two main causes of erotomania: because of a brain anomaly or because of brain injury (damage). Therefore, because of that brain injury when Arthur was still a child, is affecting his mental condition as well.

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