

The Fictional Development of Heathcliff's Personality as a Byronic hero in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights"

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Abstract:

Heathcliff is one of the fictional characters in Bronte's English novel 'Wuthering Heights' which is written during the literary revolution against the boastful state of human against nature. This novel represented a piece of literature in a period that was concerned with the conflict between human and nature. Many literary works have been written illustrating the society's corruption towards natural goodness in human. Heathcliff is one of the principal characters of this novel represents as one member in the society who did corruption. He is a savage because he is remote of social norms. He is full with dark characteristics of Byronic hero. This type of hero sophisticated from Lord Byron's work, which featured such type of character. "A man proud, cynical, moody, misery in his heart, a scorner in his kind capable of deep and strong affection, and implacable in revenge". The current study follows the descriptive analytical method. It initiates by an introduction composing a background to the study; followed by a summary of the plot, previous studies (Literature review), discussion, and conclusion. The current study revealed that Heathcliff dies of broken heart without reconcile to Catherine's death.

The findings of this study portrait that both Edgar and Heathcliff finally passed away of broken heart. The writer, Bronte, introduces for us with the actual love and the relationship between the two cousins, Cathy and Hareton "one loving and desiring to esteem, and the other loving and desiring to be esteemed". The novel is an investigation into romantic love, blind passion, including a special discourse on social agreements, jealousy, violence, and revenge.

Keywords: Byronic Hero, gender inequality, romantic love, Heathcliff.

التطور الروائي لشخصية هيثكلف كبطل بايروني في "مرتفعات وذرنج" لأيميلي برونتي

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المستخلص:

يعتبر هيثكلف واحدا من ابرز الشخصيات الخيالية في رواية مرتفعات وذرنج للكاتبة ايميلي برونتي والتي كتبت خلال الثورة الادبية ضد التباهي للانسان ضد الطبيعة وقد مثلت هذه الرواية كمقطوعة ادبية في فترة شهدت مرحلة الصراع بين بني الانسان والطبيعة ففي تلك الفترة كتبت الكثير من الاعمال الادبية التي وضحت فساد المجتمع تجاه الخير الطبيعي للانسان فقد كان هيثكلف واحدا من الشخصيات من الشخصيات الرئيسية في هذه الرواية والتي فعلت الفساد في المجتمع وقد كان ذا طبيعة وحشية كونه كان بعيد عن الاعراف الاجتماعية ومليئا بمواصفات البطل البايروني الغامضة والبطل البايروني (هو نوع من البطل الذي يتطور ومأخوذه من اعمال اللورد بايرون والتي تميزت بهكذا نوع من الشخصيات) حيث يكون رجل فخور، ساخر، بؤس في قلبه، قادر على المودة العميقة، عنيد في الانتقام ففي هذه الدراسة اتبعت المنهج الوصفي التحليلي حيث بدأت الدراسة بمقدمة وصفية تليها ملخص للحبكة والدراسات السابقة ومناقشة وخاتمة وقد كشفت الدراسة الحالية ان هيثكلف مات مكسور القلب حيث لم يتصالح مع كاثرين قبل موتها كذلك كشفت الدراسة عن موت هيثكلف وادغار بنوبات قلبية كما قدمت لنا الكاتبة برونتي علاقة الحب المتبادل بيت كاثرين وهيرتون " احدهما محب ويرغب في التقدير والآخر محب ويريد ان يحظى بالتقدير" وعليه فان رواية مرتفعات وذرنج كانت عبارة عن دراسة في الحب الرومانسي والعاطفة العمياء بما في ذلك خطاب خاص عن الاتفاقات الاجتماعية والغيرة والعنف والانتقام.

الكلمات المفتاحية: البطل البيروني، عدم المساواة بين الجنسين، الحب الرومانسي، هيثكلف

1. INTRODUCTION

Wuthering Heights is a romantic novel that expresses various kinds of love. Love on display in the novel includes Heathcliff and Catherine's all-consuming passion for each other, which while noble in its purity, is also dreadfully destructive. The novel informs us of the story of the two families: The Earnshaw who dwell at the Heights, at the edge of the moors, and the pure and genteel Linton's who live at Thrushcross Grange. Heathcliff is one of the main characters in the novel who falls in unbrokeable, intense love with Mr. Earnshaw's daughter, Catherine,. After the death of Earnshaw, his son Hindley used to reproach and abuse Heathcliff. Moreover, treats him as a page boy. Heathcliff is the protagonist of the novel, is well-known as a romantic hero, due to his perpetual love to Catherine. However, in the second half of Wuthering Heights, he is nothing more than a person who is driven by revenge. Structurally, the novel is complex and rich. There are two generations of characters, themes, and relationships of the first generation influenced the second generation.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The paper finds out much problem statement while reading this novel. They are interesting to be discussed such as 1) what kind of human being Heathcliff is? How is the environment affecting his character? 3) Why did the idea of revenge possess his mind? There are many important issues to be revealed in Bronte's novel "Wuthering Heights" as mentioned above, but the researcher tried to limit the paper in revealing about what kind of development in Heathcliff's character?

3- SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Heathcliff is an illegitimate child taken in by Mr. Earnshaw and brought up among his family members of nameless descent. He seems to symbolize stubborn and natural forces which often seem dangerous on the society.

The researcher tries his best to show the aim of the research by shedding the light on the strange character. It also tries to show the kind of love in the novel and how the first generations influenced the second generation. Finally, the principal significance is to help the students of English literature to get benefit from the current paper.

4- LITERATURE REVIEW

Many studies on Wuthering Heights have been done. They dealt with different aspects of the novel and its events. Wolff (2001) claims that one of the promotional themes of

the novel is the conflict. The major factor of the conflict is the division inside the community regarding social classes. The character of Heathcliff represents the lower class while the character Linton represents upper class. This division of the social class is chiefly depending on social differences, economic, and cultural distinctions which change the behavior of each individual in human society at that time.

Farhat (2003) mentions different issues such as power, social violence and the domination. Bastage and Kurspahic (2012). show that the major theme of the novel is "Under Bad Circumstances love turns into selfishness and hatred". They also add that the novel has crossed limit of cruelty and violence. It portrayed hatred rather than love. The ill-treatment towards Heathcliff turned him into savage and violent.

5- Methodology

This section introduces and discusses the approach and design to conduct the current study. The researcher imports data in analyzing this paper is by the speeches on the tongue of the characters. Primary goal of this study is to investigate the fictional development in Heathcliff's persona as a Byronic hero. This can be taken from the speeches created by the author and interacted between the characters. A qualitative method was utilized because it involved interpretations, attitudes, and feeling. (Creswell, 2014). In addition, qualitative approach searches to inform, understand, clarify, and describe a phenomenon established on Lichtman's data (2014). The quality of the data encourages the researcher tackle qualitative research because this study is not in numeric order.

5.1. Data Collection

Data collection is to be considered as the principal process for any kind of study. Tierney and Fox (2010) reported that the collection of data for any study is very essential to gather and evaluate data. It is also a major step in conducting earc research study; data will be collected from the novel by reading the novel for many times and choosing words or phrases on the tongue of Heathcliff and the people around him. The researcher reads the novel for many times. Then the researcher highlighted the text in terms of the research questions. Lastly, the researcher tries to analyze and interpret the texts in the novel.

5.2. Synopses of the Novel

Wuthering Heights is to be considered as one of the prominent literary fiction in English literature. It is a Victorian novel was written by Emily Bronte. The novel published in 1847. Emily Bronte portrayed the identification of the whole characters especially Heathcliff. The novel centers around a "Gypsy" boy that Mr. Earnshaw brings him from the street of Liverpool to live with his family. Then Earnshaw gives him this name. The writer depicted him just like cannibal in taking revenge. All the characters suffered from the society at the Heights, but Heathcliff suffered a lot. He lived the life of beloved and the life of revengeful person. The novel is divided into two parts. The first part of the novel depicted the love affair of Catherine Earnshaw (Cathy). The second part of the novel portrayed the love affair of Catherine, the daughter of Cathy,. The story was told by two narrators Nelly Dean and Mr. Lockwood.

5.3. DISCUSSION

There are different interesting factors to be noticed in Bronte's novel. Not just romance, Wuthering Heights is about revenge, class conflict, hatred, and complicated relationships. Starting from the point of innocence, the romance in Wuthering Heights gloomy, blooming into obsessive revenge. The love between Catherine and Heathcliff blooms at a young age. Through the course of the novel, Heathcliff proves himself to be an embodiment of wickedness. The current study as depicted in "Wuthering Height" shows the artistic quality of this fiction by tackling the underline themes. It also attempts to explain how motifs, symbols, characters, and images are shaped to reinforce the theme of the story that it displays the difference between spiritual and material love. The current study followed the descriptive analytical approach. It started with an introduction including background of the study, plot summary, literature review, a discussion and conclusion. Heathcliff is one of the main characters in the novel. He is considered as an archetype of the torched character. Mr. Earnshaw brings him from the street and takes him to live at Wuthering heights where he and Catherine have an intimacy. After living at their home, he becomes the owner of the house as well as the Heights.

Nelly Dean and Hindley are the main narrators who narrated the whole story of the novel. They are affected in their involvement in Earnshaw's famil meanwhile Heathcliff and Catherine get closer. The creation of Heathcliff and Earnshaw gives us a clear picture about the great imaginative case the writer possesses "Her imagination,

which was a spirit more somber than sunny, more powerful than sportive, found in such traits material whence it wrought creations like Heathcliff, like Earnshaw, like Catherine. Having formed these beings, she did not know what she had done" (Charlotte Brontë, preface para. 4). Here she proves that Emily Bronte was under her imagination control and did not know what she was writing when she invented the protagonists of the current novel. Charlotte Bronte also manifested Heathcliff as a type of person that suffer from the bitterness of past and lack of humanity.

"Heathcliff betrays one solitary human feeling, and that is not his love for Catherine; which is a sentiment fierce and inhuman; a passion such as might boil and glow in the bad essence of some evil genius; a fire that might form the tormented centre – the ever-suffering soul of a magnate of the infernal world: and, by its quenchless and ceaseless ravage effect the execution of the decree which dooms him to carry Hell with him wherever he wanders. No; the single link that connects Heathcliff" with humanity is his rudely-confessed regard for Hareton Earnshaw – the young man whom he has ruined; and then his half-implied esteem for Nelly Dean. These solitary traits omitted, we should say he was child neither of Lascar nor gipsy, but a man's shape animated by demon life – a Ghoul – an Afreet". (Charlotte Brontë, preface para. 7)

In the above passage, Charlotte Bronte portrays Heathcliff as a non-human, but has the features of humanity. She also claims that Heathcliff's love for Catherine is a matter of inhuman.

6. METHOD

The researcher uses Wuthering Heights as the main object of this paper. A Qualitative research is used to collect the data. The data materials are divided into two types, primary data and secondary data. The source of the primary data is Brontë's novel "Wuthering Heights". The secondary data are imported from other studies such as websites, article, books and journals.

The researcher collects the data following these steps a) Reading the chosen novel carefully. B) Identifying the topic of the novel. C) Choosing the principal character that will be analyzed, d) searching in the internet to get similar studies so as to get information from articles that are related to the objective of the study, e) arranging the data into several parts. The researcher uses a descriptive analysis which makes some concerns to understand interpretation and deals with the novel.

7- DATA ANALYSIS

This study deals with the elements of fiction, such as themes, plot, characters, style, tone, setting, and points of view. Here are the list of the characters in the current novel as the researcher got from <http://www.gradesaver.Com/wuthering-heights/study->

guide/character-list / (21 October 2011): It could be claimed that the two main themes of *the novel* are love and revenge. Heathcliff and Catherine meet at an early age and grow up together. At their first encounter, Catherine does not like Heathcliff at all. She scorn him and grins at him (Brontë, E. 40, Ch. 4). Later on she changed her thinking towards him and accepted him just like her brother. The relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine developed powerfully. Each one identifies himself with the other and believes that they are each other's soul. This can be traced clearly through the conversation between Catherine and Nelly Dean. Finally, Catherine declares her love for Heathcliff saying:

"If all else perished, and *he* remained, I should still continue to be; and, if all else remained, and he were annihilated, the Universe would turn into a mighty stranger. I should not seem a part of it. My love for Linton is like the foliage in the woods. Time will change it, I'm well aware, as winter changes the trees – my love for Heathcliff resembles the eternal rocks beneath – a source of little visible delight, but necessary. Nelly, I *am* Heathcliff – he's always, always in my mind – not as a pleasure to myself – but, as my own being – so don't talk about our separation again – it is impracticable". (Brontë, E. 88, Ch. 9).

8. CONCLUSION

As the discussion mentions, Heathcliff is tough and devilish character. Yet, it has a smaller part of human. That part of human which is his love for Cathy. Then the death of Cathy makes Heathcliff full of sorrows which gives him as a fuel on his mysterious character. The narrative style of the novel has a great impact on how Heathcliff is perceived as a character because he doesn't have the courage to tell his personal story.

Emily Bronte shows us the deficiency of love to link esteemed families which are the small core of the society. All characters in the novel lived the experiences of love, but they failed to achieve their desires and happiness. Catherine Earnshaw tries to establish love relationships with two lovers. She got married one of them and left the other one suffers. Her choice proves her wrong marriage from Edgar. She woke up the idea of revenge inside Heathcliff. Heathcliff loses his life to marry Catherine.

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