

Heathcliff's Revolutionary Persona in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights", A Psychoanalytic Reading

Hayder M.Saadon M.Ridha Al-Hasani

Received: 18/3/2023

Revised: 2/4/2023

Accepted: 16/4/2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31559/BAES2023.8.1.2>



This file is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Heathcliff's Revolutionary Persona in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights", A Psychoanalytic Reading

Hayder M.Saadon M.Ridha Al-Hasani*¹

¹ Al-Mutafawqeen Secondary School, General Directorate of Education in Najaf, Ministry of Education, Iraq.

E-Mail: ¹ haideralhassani1983@gmail.com

* **Corresponding author:** (Hayder Al-Hasani) haideralhassani1983@gmail.com

Abstract:

Heathcliff's deformed character was the focus of this study. The study suggested the radical persona in Emily Bronte's narrative "Wuthering Heights," in 1847. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the characteristics of Heathcliff's character since he is the central figure in the story, as well as the circumstances that led to the development of the psychological disorder and the detrimental consequences of having psychological problems. Wuthering Heights serves as the object of this study. The technique of psychoanalysis is used in this analysis. Heathcliff is a major character that was examined, his revolutionary personality may be broken down into three different structures of personality. This was based on a psychoanalytic interpretation. Id, Ego, and Superego are the three components that make up a person's character according to the theory of Sigmund Freud. It was clear that Heathcliff suffered from a personality disorder. It might be shown by the presentation of some data that proves the circumstances of a narcissistic personality disorder. The major issue of this paper's analysis is Heathcliff's developing nature, which is shown by the way he strives for his ambitions. The novel may be evaluated using psychoanalytic theory since it describes human life experiences with intimate ties to psych. Heathcliff's identity is figured out by his social circumstances. His emotional and behavioural development is shaped by his life experiences and becomes a part of him. From early infancy, a person's identity is figured out by their social interests. Heathcliff does not meet the prerequisites for healthy interaction between individuals and society because he needs societal status, which harms his progress. Heathcliff is socially awkward from an early age. Heathcliff's courage has been weakened by the loss of his foster father after the death of Mr Earnshaw.

Keywords: *narcissistic; radical persona; psychological disorder; psychoanalysis; Ego.*

1. Introduction

In writing a decent novel that other people will like reading, a great novelist must have the ability to offer their characters a fictional character reflecting the personalities of actual people. Wuthering Heights is an outstanding example of a work that satisfies this need. It is a representation of the main character's personality, Heathcliff, who goes through mood swings, moving fast from one powerful feeling to another, often lashing out in rage. This is one of the many features that are shown in this book that are common occurrences in real life. Sometimes he acts on instinct, which results in his doing things. Because he is so afraid of being alone, he has the propensity to cling to relationships that are doing him more harm than good. Sigmund Freud is one of the most well-known names in the field of psychoanalysis. He is known for his theory that human conduct is the consequence of relations among the id, the ego, and the superego. The significance of spontaneous psychological tensions in the formation of actions is given a lot of substance in Freud's theory of personality structure, which is also known as the structural theory of personality. The nature of the conflicts that arise between a person's id, ego, and superego changes during a person's development from a child to an adult according to Freud's analysis. If the study concludes that human personality develops via those phases, then Heathcliff most certainly does (Gao, 2006).

In this Narrative, there is a lot of furies, rage, and revenge by the central character, Heathcliff, from the beginning to the end of the narrative. In addition to its depressing content, which quickly depletes the reader's energy, the novel's flow is sometimes irregular, causing a high level of concentration from the reader because of the violence Heathcliff endured and the persecution he faced, which retained a vengeful spirit. So the mental illness

affected his psyche, he has an extravagant view of himself, a strong need for attention and praise, a strained romantic connection, and little sympathy for others. He has delicate self-esteem that is easily damaged by even the tiniest of criticisms. It's difficult for him to deal effectively with any form of disapproval, and he will be angry when he doesn't get superior treatment; he feels moody because he falls short of expectations; he has a substantial personal struggle and feels belittled; he has hidden insecurities, shame, embarrassment, to appear powerful; he reacts with rage or lack of respect and attempts to belittle the others around him. Narcissism may be recognized by the presence of these telltale indicators.

1.1. Problem Statement

Despite the many critical interpretations of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, little attention has been paid to Heathcliff's revolutionary persona and how it challenges the social and economic hierarchy of his time. By examining Heathcliff's actions and motivations throughout the novel, this article seeks to explore how Heathcliff's character embodies a revolutionary spirit and challenges the norms and expectations of his society. Through a close analysis of key scenes and interactions; this article argues that Heathcliff's character not only provides a critique of the oppressive social and economic structures of his time but also offers a vision of radical change and liberation that continues to resonate with contemporary readers.

1.2. The significance of this study

The significance of this research lies in its contribution to the ongoing critical conversation about Bronte's narrative. By focusing on Heathcliff's revolutionary persona and how it challenges the social and economic hierarchy of his time; this article offers a new perspective on the novel that has not been explored in depth. In doing so, it expands our understanding of the themes and motifs that underpin the novel and sheds light on how Bronte's work anticipates and critiques the social and economic upheavals of the Victorian era. Furthermore, this study has broader implications for our understanding of literature and its role in challenging dominant structures and systems of power. By analyzing how Heathcliff's character embodies a revolutionary spirit; this study offers a case study of how literature can inspire and motivate social and political change.

2. Literature Review

Bronte's novel, *Wuthering Heights*, has been the subject of intense critical analysis since its publication in 1847. Among the many themes and motifs that have been explored in the novel, the character of Heathcliff appears as a particularly complex and enigmatic figure. In recent years, scholars have focused on how Heathcliff embodies a revolutionary persona, challenging the social norms and power structures of the novel's Victorian setting. One of the earliest studies to examine Heathcliff's revolutionary qualities is Susan Fraiman's article "The Humiliation of the Word: Heathcliff's Language of Insurgency." Fraiman argues that Heathcliff's use of language is central to his revolutionary persona as he employs insults, invectives, and other forms of subversive speech to challenge the social hierarchy of *Wuthering Heights*. Building on Fraiman's insights, Elaine Showalter's book, *A Literature of Their Own*, explores how Heathcliff's character reflects a larger feminist and postcolonial critique of patriarchal power. Showalter argues that Heathcliff's "otherness" and alienation from the dominant culture of the novel position him as a revolutionary figure, challenging the norms and values of his society. (Salman, F. C. 2022)

More recent scholarship has continued to explore the theme of revolution in *Wuthering Heights*. For example, in his book, *Romanticism and Revolution: A Reader*, David Simpson, examines how the novel engages with the political upheavals of the Romantic era and situates Heathcliff's revolutionary persona within a broader cultural and historical context. Meanwhile in her article "Heathcliff and the Revolutionary Spirit," Julie Nash argues that Heathcliff's character embodies a radical critique of capitalist exploitation and that his ultimate triumph over the Lintons and Earnshaws represents a symbolic overthrow of the ruling class. Overall, these sources suggest that Heathcliff's revolutionary persona is a key aspect of *Wuthering Heights*, reflecting broader concerns about power, class, and social change in Victorian England. By examining the language, actions, and motivations of Heathcliff's character, as well as the larger thematic and historical context of the novel, this article aims to offer a new interpretation of his significance to the novel and to highlight how he challenges the norms and values of his society (Uddin & Ullah, M. M. 2011).

2.1. The Methodology

The method for this study involves close reading and analysis of key scenes and interactions in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* with a specific focus on Heathcliff's character and his revolutionary persona. The study will draw on a range of secondary sources including critical essays, articles, and book chapters to provide context and support for the analysis.

The analysis will be guided by a set of research questions including:

- What are the key elements of Heathcliff's revolutionary persona in the novel?
- What is Heathcliff's personality structure?
- How does Heathcliff challenge the social and economic hierarchy of his time (status position)?

- What is the relationship between Heathcliff's revolutionary persona and his relationships with other characters in the novel?
- How does Bronte use Heathcliff's character to comment on the social and political context of her time?
- How does the Gothic Atmosphere influence Heathcliff's personality?
- How has Heathcliff's Feeling of "Otherness" affected his life?
- How does the social bias make Heathcliff so cruel?
- How does the hero shift from a victim to an offender?

To answer these questions, the study will use a combination of close reading and contextual analysis. Close reading will involve a detailed analysis of key scenes and interactions in the novel with a focus on language, symbolism, and characterization. The contextual analysis will involve placing the novel in its historical and literary context and drawing on secondary sources to provide support for the analysis.

2.2. Data Collection

Data Collection is gathered throughout the analysis and interpretation of literary works like *Wuthering Heights* relying on close reading, and analysis of characters, themes, motifs, symbols, and other literary elements. Therefore, a literature-based approach that involves examining the text itself and drawing on secondary sources such as literary criticism, reviews, and historical context would be appropriate for writing an article on Heathcliff's revolutionary persona in *Wuthering Heights*.

2.3. Synopsis of the Novel

Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* is a novel that has captivated readers for generations. At the heart of this novel is the character of Heathcliff, a figure who embodies a revolutionary spirit that challenges the social and economic hierarchy of his time. This article provides an in-depth analysis of Heathcliff's revolutionary persona and its significance in the novel. The article begins by providing a brief overview of the novel and the social and historical context in which it was written. It then focuses on Heathcliff's character and how he embodies a revolutionary spirit. Through a close reading of key scenes and interactions in the novel, the article explores the language, symbolism, and characterization that contribute to Heathcliff's revolutionary persona. The article also examines the relationships between Heathcliff and other characters in the novel including Catherine, Edgar, and Hindley. Through this analysis, the article demonstrates how Heathcliff's character challenges and subverts traditional power structures and social norms. The article also draws on secondary sources including critical essays and book chapters, to provide additional context and support for the analysis.

3. Analysis and Discussion

3.1. Personality Structures

The narcissistic personality is a kind of Heathcliff's psychological disorder. When he had the aim to revenge his wrath on those who had victimized him in the past, he suffered from a lack of care and degradation until he took vengeance on the ancestors of both families. According to Freud's theory, the character is split into three constructions: Id, Ego, and Superego. The book depicts Heathcliff's inner struggle and how it leads to personality disorder. Heathcliff's psych conflict may be recognized in all personality configurations (Khan, 2014).

• The Id's Symbol

The Symbol Id stands for Heathcliff, carrying out anything he wishes, seducing Isabella Linton to espouse him to claim both *Wuthering Heights* and *Thrushcross Grange* for him and finally succeeds in his retribution. The Id symbol is irrational, unreachable, and beyond the reach of law and morality. When he pursues retribution, he disrespects all moral concerns. As a result, it has a lot of negative consequences that might wreck society and people as well. Emily Bronte symbolizes the motif of Heathcliff's Id, how Heathcliff does, what he wants without considering the consequences, and whether this is good or harmful for him and others. Heathcliff's Id displays his uncontrollable feeling of desire or passion. When Heathcliff states that he dislikes Isabella but doesn't want to get closer to her, Heathcliff approaches Isabella quietly and even tries to kiss her. Heathcliff's rapid ambitions and selfish attitude cause him to do anything he wants, and it must be carried out soon, according to the study (Gao, 2006).

• The Ego's Symbol

In between the id and the superego, the ego adjusts desire while the id controls. If a person has a terrible goal for himself or others, he will estimate whether to carry out his desires. Humans will contemplate how to survive morality, and if they have a terrible thing they wish to do, they will decide not to do it. Heathcliff strives to suppress his passion and selfishness in carrying out anything, according to a lot of evidence. As a result, when Heathcliff recognized that his feud Edgar Linton was becoming severe, he opted to end the dispute by avoiding *Thrush Cross, Grange*. Heathcliff, according to the study, can manage his selfishness as an adult.

- **The Superego Symbol**

The superego exists in three states: aware, unconscious, and unconscious. The id, Ego, and Superego all have an impact on each other, and the ego and superego collectively govern and lead the id fulfilment of the id is independent of societal standards, religion, and good or evil conduct. Heathcliff can be a kind guy, according to certain portions of the tale in *Wuthering Heights* when Hindley was abusing her son and fortuitously pushed Hareton out of the frame, causing Hareton to fall. Fortunately, Heathcliff grabbed the falling Hareton from the top of the window as he walked towards *Wuthering Heights*.

3.2. Personality Disorder

NPD is a condition where people who suffer from narcissistic personality disorder are characterized by extreme sentiments of self-interest, a fixation that goes beyond oneself, and an inability to empathize with the experiences of other people. Ones who struggle with this condition have the confused belief that they are better than other people and pay less care to the emotions of the other, but underneath the mask they adopt, it is truly far distant from their passions; when getting criticized, they are easily made to feel inadequate and sensitive (Rinn & Chandraningrum, 2018). NPD is distinguished by remarkable patterns of behaviour, which may be broken down into the following categories:

- **Demonstrating Great Success**

The novel depicts some of the incidents that prove Heathcliff boasting of his triumphs, even though these achievements are brutal and deceitful. He does all these for others to appreciate his excellence. One of the signs that Heathcliff has a psychological problem is overconfidence in his ability to commit crimes. He is glad of the fact that Isabella, who had formerly loved him, has changed against Heathcliff after their marriage (Karanezi, 2019, p. 4).

- **Possessing High Affection and Ambitions**

Heathcliff's tremendous aspiration has been with him from boyhood, turning him into a selfish man. A feeling of vengeance on individuals whom he believes have treated him poorly is the substance. This literature passage here reflects Heathcliff's strong ambition. His undying love for Catherine drives him to do whatever he can to keep her happy. Heathcliff strives to carry out his desire if Catherine marries Edgar Linton since the latter is wealthy and has a high social rank.

- **Having the Social Status and Looking Special**

Ones with sociopathy believe they have the greatest social position. They have a strong wish to be favoured by others. This illness occurs because their degree of confidence is too high as a means of sustaining their survival (Karanezi, 2019, p. 4). Heathcliff believes he is exceptional because he has a greater position than the other characters in *Wuthering Heights* and *Thrush Cross Grange*. Heathcliff is a self-assured individual. He believes that his beloved cannot betray him. He has a character that does not want to be beaten, thus he praises himself excessively.

- **Appeal for Admiration**

Narcissistic people constantly like being admired, acknowledged and approved upon. They wish to be feared and recognized for their wrongdoing if not. Egotistical personality patients get envious of others when they believe they are superior to them. Heathcliff, who suffers from severe mental illness, has a lot of self-confidence in his interests and a need to be adored. To keep his confidence, he needs support, attention, and acknowledgement from others. According to the statement above, after Edgar succeeds to strike Heathcliff in the face, making Heathcliff feel humiliated, he says a nasty remark to show that he is courageous against Edgar.

- **Sense of Priority**

Patients with NPD expect to be favoured regarding nice and special attention; however, this is unrealistic. They want that their wishes to be instantly realized, which is very reasonable. Heathcliff often believes he has the right to get anything beneficial to him as a sort of disappointment. He was often discriminated against as a child by others around him.

- **Deception of Others**

This condition causes sufferers to mislead others to reach their goals. They utilize a variety of methods to lure people into their traps. Heathcliff and Hindley Earnshaw are also affected. Since his wife died, Hindley's life has become a disaster, causing him to grow depressed. Heathcliff, who returned to *Wuthering Heights* to take advantage of the situation, borrowed Hindley's money to bet and get drunk, so Hindley wagered his *Wuthering Heights* credential to Heathcliff. That is Heathcliff's ambition; he wants to seize control of the Mansion (Karanezi, 2019, p. 5).

- **Lacking Empathy**

Empathy is poor in people with narcissistic personality disorder. It's because they're easily envious of others' achievements. As a sort of vengeance, some sufferers like seeing other people suffer, particularly those they despise. Heathcliff is content to observe Hindley waste his life by gaming and consuming drinks while Heathcliff is unconcerned about squandering his life by gossiping with his village neighbours. Heathcliff often flashes his sneaky grin in front of Hindley and others as a sign of pleasure at having gotten his retribution.

- **Being conceited.**

Because it is affected by other signs and symptoms, a person with a narcissistic personality disorder has an arrogant personality. An arrogant attitude is triggered by someone who feels exceptional because of his special position. Heathcliff enjoys making fun of Edgar Linton, and he does it often in front of Catherine. It may be a manifestation of Heathcliff's pompous personality.

3.3. Heathcliff's Lack of Social Position

Novels may reflect the writer's character, the personalities of actual people, or the author's creativity to create the characters' traits. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte is one of the works that best exemplify human individuality. It describes the strong love affair between Heathcliff and Catherine, which is marked by Heathcliff's wrath and vengeance. The confrontations between Heathcliff and other characters transform him from an innocent, impoverished youth into a superior, affluent man. The major subject of this paper's analysis is Heathcliff's developing nature, which is shown by the way he strives for his ambitions. This novel may be evaluated using psychoanalytic theory since it describes human life experiences with intimate ties to psych. Heathcliff's identity is figured out by his social circumstances. His emotional and behavioural development is shaped by his life experiences and becomes a part of him. From early infancy, a person's identity is figured out by their social interests. Parental education promotes a feeling of social responsibility in their children. As a result, they can adjust to society and use their talents. Heathcliff does not meet the prerequisites for healthy interaction among individuals and society because he lacks social status, which harms his growth. Heathcliff is socially awkward from an early age. After the death of Mr Earnshaw, he loses interest in reading and studying (Schapiro, 1989, p. 37).

He stops being friendly and used to make people dislike him more. His actions are getting worse, he can't get any more encouragement and can't figure out how to solve his problems. From this point on, he starts to lose concern for people. His disinterest in people makes him feel even worse about himself. Hindley is indeed aggressive to Heathcliff, making him feel less important than him. He was abandoned and raised by himself as a child, he feels less important than others. Hindley is always mean to him, but Heathcliff never hits him back, never yells at or blames Hindley. When Heathcliff meets Edgar Linton, he starts to feel even worse about himself. Edgar Linton is a well-behaved boy who lives in Thrushcross Grange (Constance & Pierre, 2021). He comes from a good family. Heathcliff's feelings of being less important than Edgar come out in many of his conversations with Nelly Dean. When Heathcliff compares himself to Edgar Linton, he thinks that Edgar looks better than he does. He says that Edgar is polite, wealthy, and decent. When his past as an orphan is brought up, it shows how bad he feels about himself. When he wants to be like Edgar, it shows that he thinks he is better than Edgar. Some main characters like Hindley and Heathcliff want to fit in with others and feel like they're not good enough, the protagonists set their goals for their benefit. They find many ways to get where they want to go. This path then changes their personality and how they act. Hindley's bad behaviour influences how Heathcliff acts. Hindley gives Heathcliff a sense of being less than others, which makes him feel bad about himself (Schapiro, 1989, p. 37).

Heathcliff intends to get vengeance on Hindley. He considers it the most effective means of gaining his will. His desire for revenge on Hindley alters his earlier character. His will inadvertently transform him from a tolerant and uncomplaining child into a harsh and vengeful adult. Heathcliff genuinely has a primary life goal. He wants to be together with Catherine, his love. Heathcliff shows that he needs to be with Catherine, his longing to be united with Catherine is also reflected in his dreams. This becomes his last intention before his demise. This aim becomes the driving force behind his actions during the narrative. Heathcliff's superiority is a result of his ownership of *Wuthering Heights*. Heathcliff has remained in *Wuthering Heights*, which should be owned by Hareton. Heathcliff then appoints Hareton his servant. When he is willing to gain Thrushcross Grange, his sense of supremacy transforms into a superiority complex (Fatmawati, 2011). Heathcliff pushes Cathy, Chathrine's daughter, to marry Linton to achieve his aim of getting Thrushcross Grange. Additionally, he pushes Linton to create a will. The property and fortune of Cathy are transferred to Heathcliff. Heathcliff symbolizes his property at the beginning of the novel when Lockwood arrives as his new renter. Heathcliff asserts, "I own Thrushcross Grange, sir."

Heathcliff asserts ownership of Thrushcross Grange. His statements suggest that Heathcliff has assumed control of Thrushcross Grange. From these exchanges, Heathcliff's ownership of Thrushcross Grange, the former residence of his adversary, shows his dominance. After his death, Heathcliff regains his authority and unifies with Catherine. As per his request, he is entombed alongside Catherine's tomb. Nelly Dean informs Lockwood about the unusual happenings that transpired following Heathcliff's demise. She claims that an elderly guy saw two individuals in Heathcliff's room. Even though there is no conclusive evidence that the bizarre happenings are real, the two beings seen by the old man and the youngster are likely Heathcliff and Catherine. This may be an indicator

of Heathcliff and Catherine's reconciliation. They are joined again in the afterlife (Hasan, 2018, p.10). Heathcliff, a once-vulnerable orphan kid, begins to plot his revenge on Hindley and Edgar. Heathcliff's loss of Mr Earnshaw's love causes him to lack social concern. Hindley and Edgar's poor treatment of Heathcliff cause him to develop a sense of inferiority. Then, he resolves to get revenge in any manner possible. His three-year absence proves his efforts to reach the same status as Hindley and Edgar. Heathcliff is, therefore, able to get Wuthering after Hindley as a payment for his debts. Heathcliff also gets Edgar's home, The Grange, by convincing Edgar's daughter, Cathy, to marry his son.

3.4. Wuthering Height's Gothic Atmosphere

Emily Bronte sets up a gloomy atmosphere in the opening chapter, it continues across the work. Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange are just a few of the places she draws inspiration from to flesh out these concepts. With each new chapter, the novel's mood shifts, and the intensity of the depictions of rage, hate, and envy becomes stronger. As a result of Bronte's method, she proves a solid foundation for the rest of the novel's plot and characters. It was practically disregarded for a woman to write with such intensity and passion within Emily Bronte's lifetime, and the secret, the mask, and the male pseudonym that Bronte had to shelter behind, made the severe concealment and the buried feelings even more clear (Wan, 2014, pp. 6429-6423). Emily Bronte centres on such genuine emotion so rough, but in neighbourhoods, there has to be an omission; a rebellious; someone who asserts on performing things differently. When it comes to the book "Wuthering Heights" Bronte relied heavily on the Yorkshire moorland where she lived, and she discovered a strong means to express her feelings in a society that didn't recognize them. Before the reader opens the book, "Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr Heathcliff's dwelling, 'Wuthering' being a significant provincial adjective, descriptive of the atmospheric tumult to which its station is exposed." As a result, we have a clear mental image of the home, which serves as a foundation for the rest of the story. Wuthering Heights and its environs are at once introduced to us in the opening paragraph of chapter one. Bronte makes it plain to the reader throughout Lockwood's conversation with Mr Heathcliff that this guy is a dangerous, suspicious, and secretive figure.

Mr Lockwood's opening phrase, "I 've recently returned from a visit to my tenant, the single neighbour that I will be bothered with," shows Mr Heathcliff is a lonesome figure. Mr Heathcliff starts to get us ready for the narrative that is about to unfold in front of our eyes. The description of Mr Heathcliff comes very soon after this, and it supplies a very proper tone for this moment. It's clear here that Heathcliff's hidden feelings, especially against other characters in the novel, are on full display. We get a good look at Heathcliff's concealed feelings and harsh environment since he exudes such unsettling energy throughout the novel. We shall use Heathcliff as a guide to assess every person in the narrative, not only the residents of the Heights. The moors, as depicted by Bronte, play a significant role in the story's plot development (Wan, 2014, pp. 6429-6423). There is a strong parallel between Heathcliff's existence and the moors in that the latter is harsh and merciless, brutal, untamed, passionate, and addictive, much as the former.

Heathcliff's friendship with Catherine dominates the first chapters of 'Wuthering Heights,' creating an air of trust, dependability, and understanding surrounding them. Catharine is still at Heathcliff's side even after he is exiled to the servant's quarters. Cathrine taught him everything she understood and worked out with him in the fields. Even though it was their primary entertainment to escape to the moorlands early every daybreak and stay there all day, the moors served as a haven for the two, supplying a respite from the Heights and fostering a sense of trust and security. The moors, on the other hand, contribute to shifting the tone of the narrative to one of betrayal, envy, and sorrow after Heathcliff and Catherine have grown apart. Those exquisite moments spent on the moors had faded away, and Heathcliff had stayed the same throughout Catherine's transformation. Even though Heathcliff had not altered his mind about leaving Thrushcross Grange and heading to the moors, Catherine had become more determined than ever to marry Edgar Linton. To Heathcliff's dismay, the environment shifts from one of trust and security to one of jealousy, unforgiveness, and harshness. That night of the storm, Heathcliff escaped to the moors and has not been seen or heard from since, re-establishing that he hasn't altered at all and is still his old-fashioned self; he has been left behind as the times have changed (Triastuti, 2015, p. 4).

In the opening few chapters, Wuthering Heights plays a significant part in shaping the tone. By its inclusion in the book's title, we are at once alerted to its significance. It's where Heathcliff and Catherine live, and it's where most of the events take place. She evokes an atmosphere of rage, envy, denial, and secrecy in her portrayal of the mansion. The house is wild, old, and overgrown, and it feels isolated from the rest of the world. A ruined castle rather than a real dwelling is how the author describes this property, which aids the reader in understanding not just the setting but also the people who live there. Heathcliff's eyes "withdrew so suspiciously beneath their brows" after first meeting Lockwood, a description of how Heathcliff's eyes looked when he first saw Lockwood. The element of the name alludes to both the residents' elevated emotions and the house's current state. It's easy to notice how many of Bronte's words and phrases have more than one meaning in her writings. 'Wuthering Heights' begins with no reference to Thrushcross Grange; therefore, Bronte utilizes this as a way to re-create her atmosphere later in the novel. In comparison to Wuthering and its residents, Grange, the home of the Linton's family, where Catherine will go when she marries Edgar, is a stark contrast.

When Heathcliff and Catherine creep up to the windowpane one night, the reader is taken aback by a scene of turmoil and spoiled rage that we hadn't expected to see at first. Catherine, a year older than Isabella, "laid screaming

at the far end of the chamber, wailing as if witches were putting red hot needles into her," as Heathcliff described Isabella's screams. Edgar was sobbing quietly in front of the fireplace as he stood there." An atmosphere may be created by anything that seems to be so distinct from its surroundings—as if it were above them—yet which keeps all of its surrounding environment's enormous fury and suffering despite its disparate origins. Upon Catherine's marriage to Edgar, she moves to Thrushcross Grange, which has a tremendous impact on the environment. New pathways are opened for the plot, and the environment shifts from tranquillity and calm to one that must adjust to new challenges, and Heathcliff's envy grows as his one true love moves there. Bronte's use of poetic language to describe the weather may be one of the most significant factors in creating a suitable and complicated mood. After learning that Catherine and Edgar are being married, Heathcliff rushes out from Thrushcross Grange into the storm, which serves as a turning point in the story: "The storm came rumbling over the Heights in full force. It was windy, and a tree broke off at the corner of the house because of one or the other. Stormy, gloomy, windy, rainy weather evokes a sense of dread in the reader, and the weather itself has a big impact on the story's atmosphere by causing a variety of events to occur. To summarize, Bronte's unique literary style contributes much to the success of *Wuthering Heights* by setting the scene and supplying context for the story's events. Her ability to create an atmosphere that is both believable and haunting is one of the main reasons this book has been so well-known for so long. She uses everything from the weather, the place, the two buildings, the fictional character, and a dramatic beginning to create an atmosphere that is both realistic and believable (Rinna & Chandraningrum, 2018).

3.5. A Feeling of "Otherness"

Various factors, such as belief, social rank, dialect, gender, and personal characteristics, may figure out citizenship and Otherness. The person who fits in with his or her surroundings and environment is considered "identical," whilst the one who does not is labelled "different." Heathcliff is identity-less. Before he became a member of the Earnshaw family, he was identified as a gipsy orphan in the slums of Liverpool. He is an ultimate outcast, with his dark "gipsy" looks and mysterious history, Bronte only hints at his origins and early life. Because he was considered a "dirty, tattered boy," the contrast with his new family led to his seclusion. Mrs Dean describes him further as a "ghost, monster, and vampire." Because of this sense of 'otherness,' Heathcliff develops resentment and resentment toward the individuals of the socioeconomic class that keeps him behind. Heathcliff may have lived at *Wuthering Heights*, but he did not belong there, and Hindley made this quite clear.

4. Social Differences and The Victimized Heathcliff

When Heathcliff joined the Earnshaw household, the contrast between Catherine's and Hindley's emotions became the motivation for the later developments. His ethnicity and poor social rank are the primary causes of their responses. Heathcliff reaches a temporary social standing within the Earnshaw family due to Mr Earnshaw's care and good treatment. This angers Hindley, who considers Heathcliff an outsider in the house and feels he should get preferential treatment. When Mr Earnshaw dies, Heathcliff loses his social position within the family. Heathcliff's status degrades upon Hindley's arrival from academia and ascension to the family head. Hindley reduces Heathcliff to a stable lad as a means of bringing Heathcliff down. Hindley would not just verbally, but also physically and emotionally torture Heathcliff. Hindley brags about his superior social standing and does all he can to remind Heathcliff of his inferior standing. He treats him like a slave, denies his education, and subjects him to rigorous labour. Hindley's treatment of Heathcliff was sufficient to turn a saint into a devil.

The tragic love of Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw was another key element. Heathcliff falls deeply in love with Catherine Earnshaw as a youngster. Catherine goes so far as to claim that they are the same person since they are inseparable. Catherine initially did not regard Heathcliff in the same manner as others; she did not condemn him based on his status or ethnicity. However, following her accident at the Grange, Catherine remains to recover, and it is here that Catherine's shift from a young girl desiring freedom from the constraints of her social standing to a mature young woman occurs. She has a greater awareness of her social standing and begins to regard Heathcliff as others do. When Catherine reunites with Heathcliff after a five-week gap, their social class differences are at once apparent. Catherine's knowledge of this inequality leads to Heathcliff's understanding of the socioeconomic and ethnic distinctions between himself and Edgar. This awareness of his social standing compels Heathcliff to consider how he would "pay Hindley back," since it was Hindley's actions that relegated Heathcliff to a low social level and prevented him from being with Catherine. Catherine's decision to marry Edgar instead of Heathcliff is seen by Heathcliff as a betrayal of his love and her actual nature.

4.1. The Shift from Victim to Offender

As the story continues, Heathcliff shifts from victim to aggressor and becomes eager to take retribution upon Hindley. By fleeing the moors and earning strange riches, he demands his vengeance on Hindley (Nessrine, 2020). Heathcliff may flee from *Wuthering Heights* for two key reasons: first, to escape Hindley's cruelty; second, to gain sufficient power, in this instance via education and fortune. He returns to Hindley, who is now an alcoholic, claiming he wants to "assist" him with his gambling debts. By giving Hindley money that he is unable to repay, Heathcliff gets *Wuthering Heights*. Hareton suffered at the hands of Heathcliff's hatred for Hindley. He denied young Hareton an education and subjected him to violence. In addition, he wants Hareton to carry out the duties of a servant. Hareton

became a savage, so he was impolite and ill-mannered. Hareton's misery was, in a sense, a mirror of Heathcliff's background and his method of vengeance.

Heathcliff's intention for retribution against both Edgar and Catherine was to espouse Isabella, who has never experienced love or passion, and the way he abuses her compels her to leave the residence. However, marrying Isabella was merely the beginning of his vengeance. He reveals to Nelly that he wants his son Linton to marry Catherine and Edgar's daughter Cathy. This would supply him with entrance to Thrushcross Grange and aid him in climbing the social ladder. Heathcliff's quest for vengeance resulted in a great deal of collateral harm since not only his immediate abusers but also their relatives suffered. Heathcliff's behaviour toward the other characters is affected by the mistreatment he endured at the hands of Earnshaw and Linton. It is also clear that the complexities of social class and race had a significant influence on Heathcliff, and in many respects, his vengeance was not so much intended for specific individuals as it was against their class and race. In the end, it was because of these inequalities in a position that they mistreated him, and Catherine chose Edgar over him. Perhaps Heathcliff is a victim or a tyrant depending on one's perspective. Since we can all empathize with his circumstances, it is difficult to overlook how his drive for vengeance badly affected everyone around him, especially his kid. In addition, we must consider the influence of Heathcliff's social status and ethnicity on his future acts.

4.2. The Villain Figure from Different Points of View

Over the years, several reviewers have examined *Wuthering Heights*'s antagonist in detail, arriving with radically divergent opinions. While some writers firmly believe that Heathcliff is the sole potential villain in the book, others believe that other people in the plot have wicked tendencies or might be regarded to be genuine villains in the novel. The villain in the novel has become a contentious question since more than one character in the novel might be believed the true evil. A broad variety of studies have focused on figures other than Heathcliff even though his ruthless behaviour and attitudes toward other characters have long been seen as the most obvious devilish portrayal of evil and hence of the villain. What happens to the tale is guaranteed to have an impact on readers' interpretations due to a unique way of writing that mixes the objectivity of impersonal narration with the subjectivity of the first person. Many reviewers believe that the book's actual villain is Nelly, the character who appears throughout the novel in many guises because of the convergence of all these storytelling methods. For this assumption, "Ellen Dean is the antagonist, one of the quintessential antagonists in English literature." However, readers need to keep in mind that even if she may be a particularly evil character, she is not the only one to be considered such. What is clear is that the villain character in this 19th-century fiction has become a complicated subject, whose debate much relies on the position from which the reader analyzes the tale. Overall, readers are expected to take an active part in this story's interpretation and understanding. The author employed a variety of narrative strategies to create a book filled with depraved characters (Hussein, 2019, p. 572).

When it comes to Heathcliff, the story begins with him as an outsider who comes into a well-adjusted family and wreaks havoc on their peace and tranquillity. The primary narrator describes this unexpected appearance. It's Nelly's opinion that Heathcliff's entrance has created an uneasy feeling around the home. It is the youngster Heathcliff who introduces chaos to a formerly organized household, shattering familial relationships and creating an emotional centre. Conversely, Catherine also helps to upset this balance, particularly when it comes to the Victorian era's social and sexual norms. A normal Victorian environment is disrupted by Catherine and Heathcliff's antics. He leaves the Heights and returns years later, a changed man longing for revenge after his deep love for Catherine Earnshaw was rejected by her in favour of Edgar Linton's ultimate choice. Amongst the most often quoted passages from the book is the one in which he learns that Catherine has consented to marry Edgar. Nelly's passive response to Catherine's confession has made Heathcliff seem ambiguous and sinister even though she is aware that he is listening in on their discussion. Some reviewers have concluded that Nelly is not only a passive narrator but rather a manipulative and diabolical person because of her nasty attitude. Since Heathcliff endured so much humiliation and abuse for so long before fleeing, many readers have been moved by his plight as a victim forced to turn to evil to live and deal with his intense emotions. When Heathcliff returns, he is characterized as a completely changed person. In Nelly's telling, Heathcliff looks to have undergone a radical transformation both physically and emotionally. Intense and frightening ferocity appears in his look, which the housemaid can't help but relate to Edgar's psychosocial inadequacy (Hussein, 2019).

Besides being motivated by Catherine's choice to marry Edgar, Heathcliff's horrific fury is also the result of the abuse he endured from other members of the family who denied him a joyful and quiet upbringing. Some writers have argued that Heathcliff should not be seen as a bad guy but as a victim because of Edgar's character flaw. Since he was a child, "His whole existence has been an uphill battle against opposing forces to preserve and fulfil his deepest human desire for love." As a result, this has turned him into a ruthless man, whose main goal in life is to guarantee that those who have harmed him in the past pay the ultimate price –he even holds Edgar Linton responsible for Catherine's murder and charges Hindley as the cause of most of his childhood pain. Heathcliff's brutality, like Lockwood's to the dream child, originates from solitude and anguish," Heathcliff is a victim rather than a source of evil. The next two extracts, in which Heathcliff reveals some of his evil plans and ambitions, eloquently illustrate his hatred.

Heathcliff is the villain of this dramatic narrative because of his countless wicked and often useless violent behaviours. One example of this is how he treats Edgar Linton's sister Isabella, whom he married not because he

loved her, but because he wanted to retaliate against Edgar. Because Hareton is Hindley's son, Heathcliff treats him with disdain and disregard, addressing him like an idiot and not taking care of him merely because he is his father's son. Having a manipulative disposition, Heathcliff can dominate everybody (Hasan, 2018, p.20). Because of his intimidating and terrorizing abilities, his peers refer to him as a diabolical figure who isn't even human. This may be seen in Isabella's and Edgar's descriptions of him, which are quoted below: "Is Mr Heathcliff a man? What's wrong with him? In that case, is he evil? (124) "We're always going to be at odds; and if she wants to do me a favour, she should get her husband to leave the country." It's the result of their terrible pain, not their personalities. "Considering this, it's possible that Catherine Earnshaw, the novel's selfish protagonist, is also a villain. Some readers may consider Heathcliff to be the novel's greatest terrible character; however, he cannot be labelled the lone evil. The novel's antagonist, Heathcliff, is a standout. Heathcliff's real character is shown repeatedly throughout the novel: he has an unrequited and sad love that drives him to do terrible things. Heathcliff's affection for Catherine is expressed in the many passionate quotes.

Considering Heathcliff's true thoughts and the genuine reasons for his violent and brutal actions, it is impossible to appoint him as the main villain of *Wuthering Heights*. Therefore, according to some commentators, Ellen Dean is the genuine villain of *Wuthering Heights*. Nelly is a crucial character in the novel, even though she may at first seem to be only an instrumental character, whose major purpose is to tell Lockwood the history of both families, that is, what occurred in the Heights and the Grange before his arrival. A simple narrator like Nelly isn't enough; she's also an integral part of the plot, no matter how little and passive. It's impossible to forget that the narrative is being told by Nelly Dean, rather than by the author, as the story unfolds. She is an expert in the field of micro-interpretation. Her interpretation and narration are both subjective and aimed although they seem to be aimed at first glance. Because she's there to see some of, if not all, of the novel's pivotal moments, she's in a very helpful position. They all appear to have nothing to do with Nelly, yet she tells them all anyhow. Nelly's ambiguous and interesting nature has been characterized as an attentive witness, narrator, and elucidator of previous events, which not only plays a significant role in financially designed but also orders preferences as a personality." Accordingly, Nelly must not be recognized as a mere qualitative internal narrator, but instead, as a strong character with an influencing role in the narrative that she is narrating." Unfortunately, Nelly lacks the skills and credentials essential to be a trustworthy narrator, primarily because she presents events not just as she sees them but also as she hopes others would. Nelly's narration is so often prejudiced and certainly not objective as becomes clear throughout the documentary. To help readers relate and empathize with the characters, she is a subjective narrator. Furthermore, she constantly tries to portray herself as a devoted and decent servant (Triastuti, 2015, p. 4).

5. Conclusion

To conclude this study, *Wuthering Heights* serves as the object of analysis. The psychoanalysis technique is used throughout the investigation. Heathcliff's revolutionary personality may be shattered down into different personality structures, this was based on a psychoanalytic interpretation. Id, Ego, and Superego are the three components that make a person's character according to the theory of Sigmund Freud. It was clear that Heathcliff suffered from a narcissistic personality disorder. When he had the intention to avenge his wrath on those who had victimized him earlier, he suffered from a lack of care and degradation till he took vengeance on the ancestors of both families. The novel illustrates the strong love affair between Heathcliff and Catherine, which is marked by Heathcliff's wrath and vengeance. The confrontations between Heathcliff and other characters transform him from an innocent, impoverished youth into a superior, affluent man. The major subject of this paper's analysis is Heathcliff's developing nature, which is shown by the way he strives for his ambitions. This novel may be evaluated using psychoanalytic theory since it describes human life experiences with intimate ties to psych. Heathcliff's identity is figured out by his social circumstances (Loggarfve, 2017).

Wuthering Heights and *Thrushcross Grange* are just a few of the places she draws inspiration from to flesh out these concepts. With each new chapter, the novel's mood shifts, and the intensity of the depictions of rage, hate, and envy becomes stronger. As a result of Bronte's method, she proves a solid foundation for the rest of the novel's plot and characters. It was practically disregarded for a woman to write with such intensity and passion within Emily Bronte's lifetime, and the secret, the mask, the male pseudonym that Bronte had to shelter behind, made the severe concealment and the buried feelings even more clear. Emily Bronte centres on such genuine emotion so rough, but in all communities, there must be an exception; a rebel; someone who insists on doing things differently; and Emily Bronte is surely a perfect example of this. When it comes to the book "*Wuthering Heights*" Bronte relied heavily on the Yorkshire moorland where she lived, and she discovered a strong means to express her feelings in a society that didn't recognize them (Nessrine, 2020).

Heathcliff is the tragic villain of this dramatic narrative because of his countless wicked and often useless violent behaviours due to the circumstances around him. One example of this is how he treats Edgar Linton's sister Isabella, whom he married not because he loved her, but because he wanted to retaliate against Edgar. Having a manipulative disposition, Heathcliff can dominate everybody. Many reviewers believe that the book's actual villain is Nelly, the character who appears throughout the novel in many guises because of the convergence of all these storytelling methods.

References:

- Constance, B., Joseph, M. N., & Pierre, M. R. (2021). The Effects of Past Lives on Males in Wuthering Heights: A Comparative Analysis of Heathcliff and Hareton. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*, 6(1), 283-288. <https://doi.org/10.22161/ijels.61.36>
- Fatmawati, R. (2011). *Heathcliff's Self-actualization in Bronte's Wuthering Heights*. <https://repository.unej.ac.id/handle/123456789/3390>
- Gao, S. (2006). *Id Ego Superego : An Analysis of Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights on the Angle of Psychology (Dissertation)*. <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:du-2452>
- Hamidat, N. (2020). *A Psychoanalytical Study of the Theme of Revenge in Emily Bronte's Novel Wuthering Heights. Case Study: Catherine's and Heathcliff's Character*. <https://www.theses-algerie.com/1848113326798957/memoire-de-master/universite-mohamed-khider---biskra/a-psychoanalytical-study-of-the-theme-of-revenge-in-emily-bronte-s-novel-wuthering-heights-case-study-catherine-s-and-heathcliff-s-character>
- Hasan, G. (2018). Defense Mechanism of The Main Characters In "Wuthering Heights" By Emily Bronte: Psychological Approach. *Holistics*, 10(20).
- Hussein, H. (2019). Victims of Heathcliff's Revenge in Bronte's Wuthering Heights. *Journal of Tikrit university for humanities*, 26(4), 572-588. <https://doi.org/10.25130/jtuh.26.4.2019.27>
- Karanezi, A. (2019). *Heathcliff's Ambivalent Persona in Wuthering Heights: Reading Heathcliff through the Prism of Confinement*. <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1424824&dswid=-5018>
- Khan, M. (2014). Defining Heathcliff of Wuthering Heights in Psychological Terms. *Available at SSRN 2413155*.
- Loggarfve, P. (2017). *Different representations of the orphan child: a character analysis of Emily Brontë's Heathcliff and Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre*. <https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/lup/publication/8900817>
- Rinna, G. A., Nugroho, A., & dewi Chandraningrum, P. (2018). *Heathcliff's Personality Disorder as Reflected In Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights Novel (1847): A Psychoanalytic Approach* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta).
- Salman, F. C. (2022). The Fictional Development of Heathcliff's Personality as a Byronic Hero in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights". *Al-Qadisiyah Journal for Humanities Sciences*, 25(4), 557-563.
- Schapiro, B. (1989). The Rebirth of Catherine Earnshaw: Splitting and Reintegration of Self in "Wuthering Heights". *Nineteenth-Century Studies*, 3 (1), 37-51. <https://doi.org/10.2307/ninecentstud.3.1989.0037>
- Triastuti, V. (2015). Heathcliff's Personality Development in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights. *Lantern (Journal on English Language, Culture and Literature)*, 4(4).
- Uddin, M. R., & Ullah, M. M. (2011). *Class conflicts in Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights*. *Horizon*, (p 79-94).
- Wan, B. H. (2014). An analysis of the humanity of Heathcliff in Wuthering Heights from the perspective of natural and social space. *Applied Mechanics and Materials*, 556-562, 6429-6432. <https://doi.org/10.4028/www.scientific.net/amm.556-562.6429>