

**PROTAGONIST'S REVENGE IN EMILY BRONTË'S  
NOVEL *WUTHERING HEIGHTS***

**A THESIS**

**BY:**

**LIA SYAFITRI**

**Reg. No: 71190411023**



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF LITERATURE  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM SUMATERA UTARA  
MEDAN  
2023**

**PROTAGONIST'S REVENGE IN EMILY BRONTE'S  
NOVEL *WUTHERING HEIGHTS***

**A THESIS**

**BY:**

**LIA SYAFITRI**

**Reg. No: 71190411023**

**Supervisor,**

**Asnani, S.S, M.Pd**

**Dean of the Faculty,**

**Head of the Department,**

**Dr. Purwanto Siwi, S.S, M.A**

**Zulfan Sahri, S.S, M.S**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF LITERATURE  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM SUMATERA UTARA  
MEDAN**

**2023**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,*

In the name of Allah SWT, the most Grateful and Merciful. I wish to express my great thanks to God, who has given me healthy body and opportunity to complete this thesis “Protagonist’s Revenge In Emily Brontë’s Novel *Wuthering Heights*”. And shalawat and Salam are delivered to the last Prophet Muhammad SAW.

In the process of this research and the completion of this thesis, I received suggestions, assistance, and guidance from many respectful persons; therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to all of them.

1. My beloved parents, **Harianti** and **Idris**, for their love, support, pray, patience, and sacrifice during my life.
2. My great thank is given to The Dean of the Faculty of English Literature, UISU, for his approval of this thesis, **Dr. Purwanto Siwi, S.S., M.A.**
3. The Head of the Department of the Undergraduate Program of English Literature, UISU, **Zulfan Sahri, S.S., M.S.**
4. Special thank is addressed to my supervisor, **Asnani, S.S., M.Pd.**, who has given her support, suggestion, and correction during the writing process of this thesis, which are very helpful for me in order to make my thesis better.
5. All my lecturer at the Faculty of Literature, UISU, for their valuable knowledge, May Allah, the Almighty God, bless them all.

6. My special thank go to the members of **GAJE CLUB**, Rizka Ananta, Desriani Caniago, and Sri Ramadana Gultom for the first semester until the last semester and for all of the kindness, happiness, support, advices, prayes, love and humors.

7. The writer also would like to say thank you to my another best friend **Nur, Ainun, Tri Hartika, and all members of Faculty of Literature 2019, UISU**. They will always cheer me up through joy and sorrow.

8. Also, thank you to all of my friends that I cannot mention one by one and everyone who encouraged me to make this thesis complete. Life will never be so fun without you, guys.

Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is incompletely perfect. Therefore, the writer hopes for any suggestions for the next researcher.

**Medan, 22 July 2023,**

**Lia Syafitri**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>APPROVAL .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of the Problem.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .....	2
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	2
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	3
1.5 Significance of the Study .....	3
<b>CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Protagonist.....	4
2.1 Revenge .....	5
2.3 Factors Influencing Revenge.....	7
2.3.1 Betrayal .....	7
2.3.2 Injustice .....	8
2.3.3 Insult .....	8
2.4 Negative Impacts After Revenge .....	8
2.4.1 Depression .....	9
2.4.2 Anxiety .....	10
<b>CHAPTER III: METHOD OF THE STUDY</b>	
3.1 Study Design .....	11
3.2 Data Collection.....	11

3.3 Data Analysis .....	12
<b>CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS</b>	
4.1 Analysis Factors Influencing Revenge.....	13
4.1.1 Betrayal .....	13
4.1.2 Injustice .....	15
4.1.3 Insult .....	17
4.2 Analysis Negative Impacts After Revenge .....	19
4.2.1 Depression .....	19
4.2.2 Anxiety .....	25
4.3 Findings.....	27
<b>CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	
5.1 Conclusion.....	29
5.2 Recommendation.....	30
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	

## REFERENCES

- Abrams, M.H. (1999). *A Glossary Literary Terms Sevent Edition*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle.
- Aristotle (1906). *The Nicomachean Ethics (F. H. Peters, Trans)*. London, England: Trench, Trübner & co.
- Ary, Donald. (1972). *Introduction to Research in Education*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.
- Background to Wuthering Heights (1997)*. Retrieved from <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~splash/Wback.html>.
- Barcaccia et al. (2022). *Mindfulness, Social Safeness and Self-Reassurance as Protective Factors and Self-Criticism and Revenge as Risk Factors for Depression and Anxiety Symptoms in Youth*. Savienza University of Rome: Springer.
- Bloom, S. L. (2001). Commentary: Reflections on the desire for revenge. *Journal of Emotional Abuse*, 2(4), 61-94. UK: *Taylor & Francis Journal*.
- Boon, S. D., Alibhai, A. M., Deveau, V. L. (2011). Reflections On The Costs and Benefit ff Exacting Revenge In Romantic Relationships. *Jurnal Of Behavioral Science*.
- Bronte, Emily (2021) *Wuthering Heights/Emily Bronte; penerjemah, A. Rahartati Bambang Haryo;penyunting, Prisca Primasari—Cet 1*. Bandung: PT Mizan Pustaka,2021.
- Brontë, Emily. (1847). *Wuthering Heights*. New York: Penguin Books
- Carlsmith and Darley (2008). *Psychological aspects of retributive justice*. Elsevier.
- Chernyak, et al (2019). *Paying back people who harmed us but not people who helped us: Direct negative reciprocity precedes direct positive reciprocity in early development*. *Psychological Science*, 30(9), 1273-1286.

- Frijda, N. H. (1994) *The emotions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gollwitzer and Sheeran (2009) Self-regulation of consumer decision making and behavior: The role implementation intentions. *Journal of Consumer Psychology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcps.2009.08.004>
- Lifton (1983). *The Nazi Doctor: Medical Killing and The Psychology of Genocide*. New York: Basic Book.
- McCullough, M. (2008). *Beyond revenge: The evolution of the forgiveness instinct*. America: John Wiley & Sons.
- Nurgiyantoro and Burhan. (2015). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi. Cetakan X*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press.
- Patton, M. Q. (1990). *Qualitative evaluation and research methods*. SAGE Publications, inc.
- Schwartz Allan (2010). *Insult, Revenge and Captain Ahab*. New York City: MentalHelp.net.
- Wicaksono, A. (2017) *Pengkajian Prosa Fiksi (edisi revisi)*. Yogyakarta: Garudhawaca.
- World Heart Organization. (2023). *Depressive Disorder*. American: WHO.



## APPENDIX

### 1. Biography of the Author

Emily Jane Brontë was an English Novelist, poet and considered a classic English Literature. She was born on 30 July 1818 in Thornton, Yorkshire, England. She was the fifth child of Patrick Brontë and Maria Branwell Brontë. In 1820, shortly after the birth of Emily's younger sister, Anne, the family moved to Haworth. In Haworth, Patrick was employed as perpetual curate, here the children developed their literary talents.

At the age of six, Emily joined her sisters Elizabeth, Maria and Charlotte at Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge. Unfortunately, Elizabeth and Maria became seriously ill of tuberculosis and returned home. In 1825, Elizabeth and Maria died of that disease and as the death of their siblings Brontë's father removed both Emily and Charlotte from the school as well. The remain Brontë three children; Charlotte, Emily and Anne are educated at home in Haworth. The children began to write stories and fiction at home.

In 1835, at the age of seventeen, Emily left home for school and attended Roe Head Girls' School where Charlotte worked as a teacher. However, they didn't stay long and came back to Haworth. Coming from a poor family, Brontë tried to find work. She became a teacher at the Law Hill School in September 1837, but she left her position the following March. Brontë and his sister Charlotte went to study in Brussels in 1842, but the death of their aunt Elizabeth forced them to return home.

In 1844, Emily recollected all the poems she had written into two notebooks. One was labelled *Gondal Poems*, the other was unlabelled. Charlotte discovered the notebooks and insisted Emily to publish the poems. At first, Emily rejected but she changed her mind when her sister, Anna brought her own manuscript and revealed that she had written poems in secret. The poems were published in one volume as *Poem by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell*. The book only sold a few copies. After Published *Ellis Bell*, Emily Brontë published her work *Wuthering Heights*.

She died of tuberculosis on December 19, 1848, nearly two months after her brother, Branwell, succumbed to the same disease. Her sister Anne also fell ill and died of tuberculosis the following May. Emily Brontë never knew her achievement with her only novel because she died a year after the publication. *Wuthering Heights* is now considered as classic novel of English Literature. It withstands time and survives until now. The story still can be read today since it has been translated into many languages and adopted many times in film.

## **2. Summary of the Novel Wuthering Heights**

The story begins with a man named Lockwood visiting his landlord, Heathcliff, to rent the house known as Thrushcross Grange. Heathcliff lived in *Wuthering Heights*, which was about four miles away from Thrushcross Grange. Lockwood was intrigued by *Wuthering Heights* and everything within it, so he asked Nelly Dean, a servant in Thrushcross Grange who used to be a servant in *Wuthering Heights*, to tell him the story.

Nelly told the story and then went back in time. As a young girl, Nelly began working as a servant for Mr. Earnshaw (the owner of *Wuthering Heights*). Mr. Earnshaw

took a trip to Liverpool one day and brought home an orphan named Heathcliff. Mr. Earnshaw raised Heathcliff alongside his own children, Hindley and Catherine. Catherine loved him, but Hindley did not like him because of his jealousy toward Heathcliff for what his father had done to him. After Mrs. Earnshaw died, Mr. Earnshaw sent Hindley away to college in order to make Heathcliff safe from Hindley. He kept Heathcliff nearby and became his favourite son. A few moments later, Mr. Earnshaw died and Hindley returned back to Wuthering Heights with his wife, Frances. Having a long time for college did not change Hindley's cruelty toward Heathcliff. Hindley decided to make Heathcliff's life miserable and treated him as a servant. On the other side, Catherine and Heathcliff became closer.

One night, Catherine and Heathcliff played and wandered to Thruscross Grange. They're lived Linton family. Suddenly, Catherine was bitten by a dog and she was forced to stay in Thruscross Grange by Mrs. Linton. Stayed in Thruscross Grange for five weeks, Catherine became closer with Edgar and her relationship with Heathcliff became more complicated.

Frances died when she was born a baby boy named Hareton. Hindley became alcoholic because his wife was dead and became more abusive toward Heathcliff. Heathcliff became more miserable when his only love, Catherine engaged to Edgar Linton because of social class. Heathcliff decided to stay away from Wuthering Heights, he went away for three years, and then came back with much money. He found out that Catherine have married with Edgar Linton. His return was to take revenge toward Hindley. Heathcliff lent money to Hindley because he knew that Hindley could not pay the debts

therefore when Hindley died, he could acquire Wuthering Heights. Relationship was more complicated when Heathcliff married Isabella Linton. Heathcliff did not really love her, he just wanted to acquire Thruscross Grange and Edgar's wealth.

Catherine was ill and soon died after giving birth to baby girl who was also named Catherine. Unable to resist Heathcliff's cruelty any longer, Isabella runaway to London and was born a Babyboy named Linton Heathcliff. One day little Catherine wandered through the moors and discovered Wuthering Heights. In Wuthering Heights she met Hareton and became friend with him. Hareton became grunting and uneducated man because of Heathcliff's revenge toward Hindley.

After that, Isabella Linton died and Linton Heathcliff came back to Wuthering Heights and lived with Heathcliff. One day, little Catherine visited Wuthering Heights and met Linton. She began to start a secret romance with him. One day little Catherine went to Wuthering Heights because Linton asked her to visit and nursed him. Later, it was revealed that Linton asked little Catherine to nursed him because he was forced by Heathcliff. Sick Linton would be used by Heathcliff as a reason for revenge because if Linton married little Catherine, his claim upon Thrusscross Grange would be legal and his revenge upon Edgar Linton would be complete.

One day, Heathcliff arranged meeting between Linton and little Catherine, when they met Heathcliff imprisoned little Catherine and forced her to marry Linton. Soon after, Edgar died and sick Linton also died. After that, Heathcliff controlled both Wuthering Heights and Thrusscross Grange. Little Catherine lived in Wuthering Heights as a common servant and Thrusscross Grange was rented to Mr. Lockwood.

Nelly's story was finished. Lockwood would end his tenancy toward Wuthering Heights. Six months later, he came back to visit Nelly and found out that Heathcliff died. Hareton and little Catherine inherited both Wuthering Height and Thrusscross Grange. They planned to marry in New Year's Day. After hearing the story, Lockwood went to visit Heathcliff and Catherine's grave.

### **3. Character in the Novel**

#### **3.1 Heathcliff**

Heathcliff was a homeless orphan boy that Earnshaw met on his way back from Liverpool. Earnshaw introduced the boy to his family and gave him the name Heathcliff. Heathcliff was a name for a deceased son to Earnshaw. Earnshaw preferred Heathcliff to his son Hindley. Hindley hated Heathcliff. Cathy was a childhood friend of Heathcliff. The hatred of Heathcliff by Hindley surfaced when he forced Heathcliff to be a servant upon the death of his father, Earnshaw. Heathcliff suffered humiliation, violence, and prejudice. Heathcliff downgraded from an adopted son to a servant. Cathy broke Heathcliff heart by marrying a wealthy neighbor, Edgar Linton of the same social standing. Heathcliff ran away. He came back wealthy and handsome after three years absence. Heathcliff was a bitter man and wanted revenge over humiliation he experienced before. Heathcliff terrorized many people. His love for Cathy was extreme. Cathy died during childbirth. Heathcliff gave up vengeance after he stumped upon Hareton and Catherine relationship. Heathcliff died a disappointed man unable to execute his revenge plan.

### **3.2 Cathy Linton**

She was Heathcliff's childhood friend. Cathy was ill-tempered. She married Edgar Linton against her own will; her heart belonged to Heathcliff. She died giving birth. Cathy's memory haunted Heathcliff in life becoming a motivation for revenge from childhood affliction. Cathy was jealous she could not provide Isabella and Heathcliff peace. Cathy was manipulative; she used people to land opportunities. Cathy is a heroine as well as a victim. She is responsible for breaking the relationship with Heathcliff. She truly loved Heathcliff, but could not decide to follow her heart. Her marriage to Edgar was intellectual; it lacked passion and energy. Cathy had a complex personality.

### **3.3 Catherine Earnshaw**

Catherine differed in temperament compared to her mother, Cathy. Catherine loved, was kind and even-tempered. Catherine lived with her father, Edgar at Thrushcross Grange. Catherine despised her cousin Hareton for being an uneducated servant. She was surprised that Hareton was her cousin as well as a servant. Catherine was a caregiver who nursed Mrs. Dean, Edgar, and Linton. Linton, who was sickly, married Catherine. Upon Linton's death, all her inheritance was taken away by Heathcliff. Loneliness forced Catherine to seek company in her cousin, Hareton. While teaching her Cousin Hareton to read and write, Catherine and Hareton fell in love. When Heathcliff died, the family wealth was restored to Hareton and Catherine. They owned Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange.

### **3.4 Mrs. Nelly Dean**

Mrs. Nelly Dean is a storyteller in *Wuthering Heights*. She lived at the time and knew the history of Heathcliff which she narrated to Mr. Lockwood. Mrs. Nelly Dean was a foster sister as well as a servant. She grew up with Cathy, Hindley, and Heathcliff. Mrs. Nelly Dean was a central character in the novel that joins Hareton, Cathy, and Catherine. She was a confidant to Cathy. Mrs. Nelly Dean played different roles as a mother, protector, judge and conscience of the novel's characters. Mrs. Nelly Dean was a servant like other servants who kept their masters in good health and informed. The servants were entirely loyal while the masters were judgmental. The servants prefer to give information as a duty. The relationship maintained as master and servant are social positions and respected as that.

### **3.5 Edgar Linton**

Edgar was described as snobbish. He later transitioned to a kind gentleman as an adult. He became the master of Thrushcross Grange. Edgar married Cathy and remained loyal to her. Edgar had differences with Heathcliff because of jealousy emanating from their love for Cathy. Edgar was very protective of his family; he preferred leaning towards social classes than extending a hand to Heathcliff. He stayed God fearing even after the loss of his wife, Cathy. Edgar was apprehensive of what Heathcliff could do in taking over Thrushcross Grange ownership out of revenge. Edgar protected his daughter until his death.

### **3.6 Hareton Earnshaw**

Hareton's mother died giving birth; leaving the father in prolonged mourning. Hareton was mentored by Heathcliff disliking the trapping of wealth and high society. He lived a humble life unknown to him of his heritage as a socialite. When Hareton met Catherine, she despised him for his lack of education, as fate would have it the two fell in love. Catherine teaches Hareton to read and write as they live together in Wuthering Heights. Hareton inherited wuthering heights property upon the demise of Heathcliff. Hareton recovered his social status. The novel gives the reader a glimpse of what to expect without giving many details.

### **3.7 Hindley Earnshaw**

Hindley disliked Heathcliff with a passion. He forced Heathcliff to servitude, suffering from physical violence and prejudice. Hindley treatment motivated hurt Heathcliff to seek revenge out of bitterness. He was behind Heathcliff vengeance plan. When Hindley's wife died, he lost faith in God and became an alcoholic and an abusive dad. He lost Hareton's love and Wuthering Heights property (inheritance) to Heathcliff through gambling. Hindley could not comprehend how a former servant was now a master in his community. This character had an opportunity to assist people to start a new life, instead of the violence and mistreatment that he chose towards Heathcliff.

### **3.8. Isabella Linton**

Edgar Linton's sister, who falls in love with Heathcliff and marries him. She sees Heathcliff as a romantic figure, like a character in a novel. Ultimately, she ruins her life



by falling in love with him. He never returns her feelings and treats her as a mere tool in his quest for revenge on the Linton family.

### **3.9 Linton Heathcliff**

Heathcliff's son by Isabella. Weak, sniveling, demanding, and constantly ill, Linton is raised in London by his mother and does not meet his father until he is thirteen years old, when he goes to live with him after his mother's death. Heathcliff despises Linton, treats him contemptuously, and, by forcing him to marry Cathy, uses him to cement his control over Thrushcross Grange after Edgar Linton's death. Linton himself dies not long after this marriage.

### **4.0 Frances**

Frances is a minor character and she is wife of Hindley and the mother of Hareton Earnshaw. Frances arrives at Wuthering Heights as a simpering woman but later dies after the birth of her only child.

### **4.1 Joseph**

Joseph is an elderly servant at Wuthering Heights who serves its residents for multiple generations. Despite his strong adherence to ritualistic Christianity, Joseph is not a nice person. His beliefs are based on using the Bible to cast judgment on others rather than any desire to show love or mercy to others.