

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Wuthering Heights is the first and only novel written by Emily Brontë and published in 1847 under the pen name Ellis Bell. Emily Brontë was born in Yorkshire, England, on 30 July 1818. She was the fourth of five children, two of who were Charlotte Brontë (author of *Jane Eyre*) and Anne Brontë (author of *Agnes Grey*). Her mother died when she was three years old because cancer, and her father was a loner who was entrusted with the work of the local pastor. A quiet childhood made the Brontë sisters entertain themselves with readings such as Shakespeare, Virgil, and John Milton, which encouraged them to compose their own stories and poetry.

Wuthering Heights received various criticisms for being too dark, violent, and unconventional for its time. However, its originality and personality make *Wuthering Heights* one of its most recognizable works, inspiring a wide variety of contemporary works.

Wuthering Heights tells about Lockwood—the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before: of the intense passion between the foundling Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, and her betrayal of him. As Heathcliff's bitterness and revenge is

visited upon the next generation, their innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the past.

The reason why the writer for choosing the topic protagonist revenge in Emily Brontë novel *Wuthering Heights* because revenge makes Heathcliff a greedy and heartless man, it's all only because of one thing; love. Before he was betrayed by his favorite woman who preferred a man who came from a high class family, previously he was known as Heathcliff who was kind and never fought back even though he had experienced many injustices in his life. The occupants of his house are made to live in hell because of the revenge that has thickened in his soul.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the factors influencing the protagonist's take revenge in the novel?
2. What are negative impacts after the protagonist's revenge in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem identified in the above section, it is indicated that there are two points needed to gain in this study as the research objective as follows:

1. To reveal factors influencing the protagonist's takes revenge in the novel.
2. To reveal negative impacts after the protagonist's revenge in the novel.

1.4 Scope of the Study

A scope is used to direct research on the subject matter specifically. This study focuses on the protagonist's revenge in Emily Brontë novel *Wuthering Heights* which consists of factors influencing revenge: betrayal, injustice, insult and negative impacts revenge: depression, anxiety. Other topics have no relation to analysis will not be included.

1.5 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretically, this study is to provide motivation that holding a grudge against someone is not a good thing. It's a good idea when you have a problem or mistake with family or friends, to bring it up straight away so that both parties can find a solution, instead of holding a revenge that will lead to more difficult problem.

2. Practically, it is hoped that it can be reference for other students when they make similar topics for their research. And, can be a benefit readers both in terms of information and knowledge. As well as, the writer hoped to be studied by student, lecturer, or other people who will be interested to the novel *Wuthering Heights* novel by Emily Brontë.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Protagonist

Protagonist is a person who plays the main character in a story. According to Wicaksono (2017: 186) protagonist can be present in every incident and can be found in every page of the story. This opinion means protagonist is the easiest to identify because the central character and is certain to appear the most. Meanwhile Nurgiyantoro (2015: 259) states protagonist is the character whose story is prioritized in the novel. He is the character who from beginning to end is mold told and has the most prominent presence.

Abrams (1999:17) states protagonist is the main character who becomes the center of attention in the plot. This means that the protagonist emergence is easy to recognize because he is depicted as a central figure who is always there in every scene and this character carries the message to the end of the story.

The position of protagonist is placed at the top between antagonist, tritagonist, and supporting character. Because he is the main character in a story that takes place. However, protagonist doesn't automatically mean a good character. Protagonist is divided into three types: heroes, anti-heroes, and villain. Means, is that they have to be divided into several more parts for their character in a story and depending on what scene can prove the character. The protagonist generally aims as a plot builder which usually has a specific goal and faces many conflicts and challenges throughout the story.

Wicaksono (2017) state the protagonist refers to a neutral character, can be good or evil, although in general there are many stories with good protagonists. Because most fictional stories use the protagonist's point of view, so they are portrayed as good and positive characters like superheroes. Even though the protagonist only has the definition that he is the main character. Meanwhile, there is also the so-called villain protagonist, namely the protagonist who acts like an antagonist and his character is really evil.

From the opinions of the experts stated above, the writer concludes that the protagonist is the main character who appears the most and is prominent and neutral, not only portrayed as a good character, but can actually be a character who gives a boomerang of danger in the story. He is only the top character among other characters.

2.2 Revenge

Revenge is taking revenge on someone else actions because of an element of hurt or envy. Gollwitzer (2009) sayss revenge is defined as reactionary behavior against a sense of injustice that is intended to rebuild a sense of justice by getting or even giving the person who made a mistake what should be received. This opinion means that usually someone who has harbored anger for too long because he is constantly in a situation where he does not get justice, for example being ignored, he wants to pour out the hurt and anger that has been felt twice as much same pain to the person who has hurt him.

Frijda (1994:263) says that revenge is one of the strongest human passions. This means that if someone has reached the limit of his patience, then at any time he can release his anger at any time if he constantly feels threatened. Like being hungry, one regards revenge as a need to be satisfied. The capacity to engage in revenge emerges in childhood

(Chernyak et al., 2019). And, that its origins lie in our evolutionary past (McCullough, 2008). Even in childhood, when for example being ostracized by friends or being treated as outsiders by parents in a family, it is likely that children will store painful memories in their minds so that hidden feelings of resentment are stored.

According to McCullough (2008), revenge may enable victims to reduce their distress by restoring equity with the transgressor. When discussing revenge, it means hatred. Usually someone takes revenge because he became a victim of an act that was not actually done, received very inhumane treatment, was harassed, betrayed, and received very hurtful words. McCullough (2008) states revenge is a behavior that is rife and often appears in the form of aggression or conflict. The desire for revenge can be a motivation for someone to kill, hurt others and even international conflicts. McCullough (2008) adds that revenge is a response to restore self-esteem that is felt to be lost. (Boon, et al. 2011) said revenge that is carried out in addition to causing negative consequences also has positive consequences to restore the feelings of the avenger who is hurt, to teach the aggressor a lesson to improve relationships, to restore a sense of justice and self-esteem to the avenger.

Bloom & Waal (2001), revenge is wild justice, or justice gone wrong. Revenge as a response to unfair treatment, not appreciated, gives rise to efforts to uphold dignity and justice in a wild manner and is sometimes contrary to law and ethics. When in fact revenge can also be done by way of achievement. Everyone has different reasons and ways to fight for justice and self-esteem that they feel they have lost depending on how they internalize and interpret the value of self-esteem in everyday life.

From the explanation above, the writer draws the conclusion that revenge is a desire to bestow or punish someone who has given a feeling of hatred in the heart, has betrayed or injured the victim's pride.

2.3 Factors Influencing Revenge

According (Frijda: 1994), when individuals feel that they or their group members have been unfair, feel aggrieved, they experience a series of negative emotions, including anger, sadness and humiliation. Of these emotions anger is the most strongly associated with the urge to seek revenge. Why are some people obsessed with thoughts and fantasies of revenge while others are not? The answer lies partly in how tough a person is and how strong and intact their ego is (Schwartz, 2010). The idea is that the more humiliated a person feels, the more likely they are to become obsessed with revenge. It was as if their human dignity had been compromised and they felt so defeated that they couldn't let go of the idea of revenge.

Schwartz (2010) states, although it seems that acts of revenge will restore a person's self-esteem, it is not because self-esteem is not damaged by humiliation. The damage had been done a long time ago, perhaps due to the way that person had been raised as a child. Revenge growing up with betrayal, injustice, and insult are some of the ingredients that help produce humans with limited resilience and poor ego strength.

2.3.1 Betrayal

Betrayal is one of moral crimes or social injuries that could break a trust of someone or even of society. Lifton (1983: 11) claims relation of moral development to trust betrayal has not been extensively developed in literature, nor has moral stage to be

connected someone's personality, except in a few instances. Lifton (1983:11) adds that a long term relationship cannot guarantee that there would be no betrayal in it, no matter how small it is betrayal still betrayal.

Betrayal can occur between friends and beloved partner. When you feel cheated, you definitely feel angry, sad, and disappointed. In the end this betrayal can end up being a revenge.

2.3.2 Injustice

According Aristotle (1906), injustice is an act that lies between giving too much and too little which can be interpreted as giving something to everyone according to what is due. Personally, people only care about their own wealth and happiness, without thinking about the rights of others. What's more, people who can't deal with the situation in a great way, then suddenly their actions turn into negative actions that can opportunities for revenge.

2.3.3 Insult

Insult are expressions or statements that are disrespectful. Psychological violence often occurs in everyday situations. If you constantly hear statements that make feel insecure and threatened, it can leave you feeling traumatized. Wounds will cause anger and revenge and then be expressed in the form of aggressive behavior.

2.4 Negative Impacts of Revenge

Automatically, someone who takes revenge actually gets a permanent negative impacts instead of satisfaction after successful revenge is only felt in a short time. Barcaccia et al (2022) states the relationship of revenge is depression and anxiety.

2.4.1 Depression

Heartache that is not channeled can make a person experience depression. Unlike ordinary grief, depression can drag on for weeks, eventually interfering with work, relationships, and keeping you from enjoying life. According to the World Health Organization (2023) depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide. Globally, more than 300 million people of all ages suffer from the disorder. And the incidence of the disorder is increasing everywhere. Americans are highly concerned with happiness, yet they are increasingly depressed: Some 15 million Americans battle the disorder, and increasing numbers of them are young people. Depression comes in forms ranging from major depression to dysthymia and seasonal affective disorder. Depressive episodes are also a feature of bipolar disorder. Depression is a complex condition, involving many systems of the body, including the immune system, either as cause or effect. It disrupts sleep and it interferes with appetite; in some cases, it causes weight loss; in others, it contributes to weight gain. Depression is also often accompanied by anxiety. Research indicates that not only do the two conditions co-occur but that they overlap in vulnerability patterns.

2.4.2 Anxiety

Everyone can feel anxious when they are about to face or are in a situation that is felt threatening or frightening. Bad experiences from bullying incidents make victims always vigilant. There is a fear that the incident will happen again, so he is always alert and anxious. People with anxiety disorders usually have recurring intrusive thoughts or concerns. They may avoid certain situations out of worry. They may also have physical symptoms such as sweating, trembling, dizziness, or a rapid heartbeat.