

Themes of Wuthering Heights

Degree 2 (English
Honours)

Paper 4

“Wuthering Heights” is the first and the only single novel written by Emily Bronte in her whole life. This novel shows the reflection of her elevated individual poetic style. Since the date of publication, it has faced very deadly criticism, so many people even resemble it to the Shakespearean play, Romeo Juliet (Watson, 1949). Wuthering Heights is also known as a romantic novel having a passionate love story, but at the same this is also a revenge story. It is

based on the life of Heathcliff, a mysterious person who is the main character of the novel. He was adopted by a family and was brought up as a servant. As the story proceeds, he falls in love with the lady called Catherine. He runs away with Catherine in order to get married to her. But fate has decided something else. Catherine decides to marry another young and handsome man just because of his status. His name is Edgar Linton. It becomes the reason of change in his nature of good to evil. His nature is now fully charged with an evil, in order to take revenge. He disappears for a long time, and then a dramatic change takes place

in the story of the novel. He returns back as a rich person with higher education. His aim is now only to take revenge from two families to which he assumes that these are the responsible for his spoiled life.

Wuthering Heights is a pleasant novel with the artistic touch of gothic atmosphere, gothic imagery and passions with a bleak, gloomy and windy night. It is full of horror landscapes and whispered sounds that permit your heart to be seized. And drive you into madness. The portrayal of the characters is so cruel. Somehow the characters are responsible for their tragic end. And almost all haunted by their emotions and fates. There are no suspicions that love is so passionate in this novel, but at the same time violent too. That later reveals its wild aspect. The use of diction in this novel by Emily Bronte is so fantastic. And she also employs interesting description techniques. This makes Emily different from her contemporaries. The technique of narration called suspension of disbelief used by Emily Bronte in Wuthering Heights. Without any complaint she did a fine job with this technique. It keeps the novel efficient well. But there are some arguments of critics regarding the structure of the novel. Some of them believe that it is a very carefully constructed novel in English literature (Varghese, 2012). But on the other hand, others say that it is a splendid imperfect novel in which Bronte loses her control over occasionally (López, &Corazón, 2013). The novel

provides a very comprehensive interpretation which presents the whole novel as unified.

The depth analysis of the novel reveals that Emily was concerned with what life actually, means for her. She focused on her character's lay in the universe. In which everything is alive, but not intellectual and is animated by spiritual force and one of the forces is a storm. That is harsh, cruel, and wild. The world of our experience is one of the faces of it, full of discord. But that is only because of in the overcrowded condition of their earthly personification. These rules are diverted from following the course that their nature dictates and get in each other's way. They all change from positive into negative forces. The calm becomes a source of weakness, not of harmony in natural scheme; the storm is a force not a fruitful energy.

It's one of the themes is co-existence of good and evil. This reminds us of the Milton's epic "Paradise Lost" where the conflict between good and evil constructed the whole plot. Similarly, Wuthering Heights is the story of Love and Revenge, where Heathcliff the protagonist is brought in to the Earn's family, but his evil designs proceeds the story forward and his death marks the conclusion of the novel. He was himself responsible for his destruction, though he did love Catherine deeply, but it could be considered as a tortured love. His character is seen as a nightmarish

representation of fears about self-making which has exceeded so far. As it is rightly said that to gain self-awareness, is important to study the human nature. Emily's deep understanding of human nature is clearly manifested in her novel and she has portrayed that the essence of human nature is selfish and cruel. The story tries to draw the line between neutral self-love and harmful selfishness. The character of hero in the novel has a wild spirit and tendency towards violence which are very much visible through his desire for Catherine's love and his need for revenge. So, in the words of Nalbant, (2010) Un-destroyable love and passionate desire for revenge are the two main elements that grow up the whole story of the novel.

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