

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background of the Study

Literature is closely related to life because it is the work of human being which represents some aspects of life, such as human problems, human experiences and human conducts. The objects of literature are obtained from the experience of life. In An Introduction to the Study of Literature, William Henry Hudson says that literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us (1985:10). Then it is obvious that literature has a certain role in human life. It guides people to obtain a better understanding of life and what it concerns with.

"Literature is designed to help its readers cultivate skill in understanding and appreciating the fiction, drama, novel and poetry which they read, and to help them to tell what they see and what they find good or bad in works of this kind" (Blair and Gerber, 1948:xviii)

When we read a literary work, we need skill of reading in understanding and appreciating the fictional works that will

enable us to realize those values which are specially treated in literature. What we are about to discuss here is a kind of fiction called novel.

In The American College Dictionary it said that novel is a fictive prosaic story in certain length that describes the action of the characters as the representation of real life (1960:830). The novel and its characters, however, contains many good values because it shows the significance of life.

In writing a novel, the author tries to look upon life as what is found in the society and then brings it up into his work by the help of language. Since a novel is based on reality, many aspects of life appear in a novel. Thus, in short, novel is also an expression of life whose ideas oftenly got from real life. The author attempted so hard to make his work really alive.

The novel discussed in this analysis is entitled **Wuthering Heights** written by Emily Bronte. She wrote only one novel, one of the masterpieces of English fiction, which was published under her pen name, Ellis Bell, in 1847. She wrote it at the age of twenty-nine, one year before she died of

consumption. Certainly Emily Bronte's imagination is the most extraordinary that ever applied itself to English fiction. It is also an imagination appropriate to the material on which she chose to work. Her novel was carefully arranged that all the action takes place in only two places, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. Emily Bronte takes care that, at any one time, there shall be only a few characters on the stage.

Emily Bronte's skill in the description of her characters is shown by the way she contrives or introduces the violence of the human emotions. One of her most impressive feats in this novel is making Heathcliff credible. She does this by placing him in a position where those around him hates and despise him.

Above all, Emily Bronte's intensity gives her the power to describe one aspect of human nature which never appears in the works of her contemporaries at all. It makes Emily Bronte able to show how the personality develops. She can present man at the climax of his spiritual crises - in spiritual ecstasy, in the turmoils of spiritual hatred and despair, and at the moment of death.

Emily Bronte uses a special technique in revealing her characters. She connects the positions of the two houses, Wuthering Heights on the hill and Thrushcross Grange in the valley, to represent the characters who live in them. Heathcliff, who lives in storm beaten Wuthering Heights, has bad attitudes. On the contrary, the Lintons, who live in the protected valley, has calm attitudes. In reality, the valley and the hill have no connection with the attitudes of the people who live there. However, these settings seem to reflect their attitudes.

What makes the writer of this thesis interested in choosing the character of Heathcliff and the motive of his revenge is that *Wuthering Heights* tells about Heathcliff's history, his coming to Wuthering Heights until his death and burial. It clearly reflects the character of Heathcliff and centers the personality of him. On his character it takes us some time to realize that he is inhumanly bent on revenge. Most of his actions and attitudes are evil. He violates human and spiritual realities in pursuit of his egoistical vengeance. Then, Heathcliff is therefore the central problem in any critical study. It is necessary to say this because there is a tendency to regard Emily Bronte's work as a study of character.

On one level *Wuthering Heights* is a novel of revenge, with Heathcliff as the revenger. This novel is a psychological study of a man whose soul is torn between love and hate. Through the study of Heathcliff's character and the motive of his revenge, therefore, the writer of this thesis considers it as something worth-discussing.

I.2 Statement of the Problem

On the basis of the background of the problem, the writer finds out that the statement of the problem here is that what motive does Heathcliff do through his actions.

I.3 Objective of the Study

- I.3.1 To give a deeper understanding of Heathcliff's character and to reveal the motive of his revenge.
- I.3.2 To encourage the students to sharpen their interest in literary works and to find out the study of character in Emily Bronte's work.

I.4 Significance of the Study

- I.4.1 The writer considers that literary works gives us some aspects of our life, so they may give us a deeper insight into human problems and human characters.

I.4.2 The result of this study is expected to be an input for other further studies of Emily Bronte's work and it is also hoped that this study to be useful and meaningful for students who have attention to the work of literature.

I.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer of this thesis is willingly concentrates on a study of Heathcliff's character and the motive of his revenge for a subject matter.

I.6 Theoretical Background

As stated in the background of the study, the writer will try to understand the content of this novel through its form, namely from the one of the intrinsic elements in a literary work that focus on the character. As there is about Heathcliff's character, the supplement theory used in this thesis is objective theory, that views the nature of literary work in relation with its form or intrinsic aspect of literature. As M.H. Abrams said in his book The Mirror and the Lamp:

"... The objective orientation which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyzes it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its mode of being" (1971:26)

Since for the purpose of the study, the writer may work by presenting a study of character in an objective way, that is by entering into the mind of the character and to study the chief means of revealing the character, in this case, is through his behaviour, thought, feeling, and emotion. Partly for this necessity of introducing and orienting the character study, therefore, the writer must should feel that the character is soon be able to identify.

Since the novel tells the complexity of human problem and it is about Heathcliff's character, the study will achieve its best only by using the psychological approach. As in the Encyclopedia Americana Vol. 22 (1977:723), it said that psychology is the scientific study of the behaviour refers both to overt, observable actions and to covert, unobservable (internal) mental processes and states such as perception, thought, emotion, reasoning, and feeling.

Due to the fact that the study closely related to human problems, in relation to this approach, the relationship between psychology and literature is to learn something about the psychology of a person in studying the language of a literary work. The reading of good literature can bring a person more closely into contact with the real world. The important thing is that his or her reading has made him or her aware of new ways of looking at life, whether he or she likes the ways or not. Besides, the book will enlarge his or her sense of what life is whether good or bad to his or her own life (Mayhead, 1965:12-13).

This is supported by David Daiches in his book entitled Critical Approaches to Literature (1981:337). He said that modern psychological knowledge can be used to look at the behaviour of characters in a novel. He adds:

"We can look at the behaviour of characters in a novel or a play in the light of modern psychological knowledge and, in their behaviour confirms what we know about the subtleties as a means of elucidating and interpreting the work"

Studying a character, especially his moral quality and motive of action as what is done here is interesting. By contrasting the incidents discussed in the story and the

state of mind of the characters and the relation between them, hopefully, the true description of a character may be obtained. In this case, it is the motive of the action that is going to be used to reveal out the phenomena as stated by Reaske (1966:48) that "in motivation in real life reflects in action, and thus there is no reason that the same condition cannot be applied in the world of characters on stage". This statement shows that there is a close relation between motivation and action.

In *Wuthering Heights*, for during most of the action Heathcliff performs like a villain or like a hero who has consciously chosen evil for his companion. His actions are produced by the distortion of his natural personality. Because he is revengeful, Heathcliff becomes evil. Overpowered by his worldly passion, he changes himself into devil. His behaviour shows that he is a devil whose duty is to tempt and torment human beings.

In this novel, Emily Bronte implies that a person who is intent to revenge tends to use his emotion instead of his reason. Revenge, according to dictionary is "deliberate infliction of injury upon the person(s) from whom injury has been received" (Hornby et al, 1973:414). Frederic I.

Carpenter says that "the unpardonable sin might consist in a want of love and revenge for the human soul and the work up an embodiment to fit it" (Bradley, Op. cit., 286).

Through this story, the writer sees that revenge causes one to become one-sided. If a person is controlled with revenge he would be obsessed with the object whom he wants to destroy.

So, the character is an integral part of the action, then, the way in which character is brought on to the novel and how naturally he is disposed is a mouthpiece for the broadcasting of information.

I.7 Method of the Study

In doing this thesis, the writer applies the library research to support the analysis of the topic, Heathcliff's character and the motive of his revenge. The writer collects the data and the sources which support the analysis from the reference books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or other printed materials dealing with Emily Bronte's work, especially her only novel, *Wuthering Heights* and its criticism. The writer also tries to find out some

information from other books dealing with the theory and approach used in the analysis.

The writer also uses the interpretative analysis to interpret the data in order to analyze the character's problem in *Wuthering Heights* and interpret it in a discussion. This idea immediately involves the writer's conception of observing a character in a novel and then through this analysis, the writer believes the readers will be given a true understanding of Heathcliff's character and the motive of his revenge.

I.8 Definition of Key Terms

Wuthering Heights serves as both the title of the novel and the name of the house where the main characters live. It is considered as the family home of the Earnshaws.

Character may be presented mainly through description and discussion, or, in a more dramatic manner, by the author's simply reporting the character's speech and action. A character in a story does something to fulfil some motive, but in doing so he starts a train of action; then this train of action has certain effects on him (Little, 1966:89).

Character is an author's representation of human being, especially of those inner qualities that determine how an individual reacts to various conditions, or attempts to shape his or her environment (Robert, 1977:54).

Revenge is something done as a means of vengeance; the desire to take vengeance; mean to punish someone in return for a wrong; an opportunity for getting satisfaction (The Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus, 1987:856).

Motive, objectively defined, is a hypothetical state in an organism used to explain its choices and goal-oriented behaviour. Subjectively defined, a motive is experienced as a desire or wish (Corsini, 1984:140).

Motivation is the combination of character traits and circumstances that causes a character to act in a certain manner (Pooley et als, 1967:517).

Behaviour is anything an organism does, any of its actions. Aggressive behaviour takes place when one organism makes a hostile attack, physical or verbal, upon another organism or thing (Corsini, 1984:24).

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK