### © HAK CIPTA MILIK UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS



Hak Cipta Dilindungi Undang-Undang

- 1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
  - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
  - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar Unand.
- 2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin Unand.

## MATERIALISTIC WAY OF LIFE AS AN IMPACT OF FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS AS FOUND IN EMILY BRONTE'S WUTHERING HEIGHTS

#### **A THESIS**



INTAN PERMATA SARI 05 985 039

FACULTY OF LETTERS-ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ANDALAS UNIVERSITY PADANG 2010

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In the name of Allah SWT, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.....

My first thoughts in this section necessarily go to Allah SWT, the GOD Almighty for his full blessings so I can do completion of thesis. I will never find the words to thank HIM for the only thing in the world. The praise is also given to the prophet Muhammad SAW, the best role who has introduced us Islam and HIS name always called in everywhere we are.

It is difficult to overstate my gratitude to my first supervisor, Mrs. Seswita, SS M. Hum with her inspiration, her great efforts to explain things clearly and simply and supervising me from the preliminary to the concluding level. To my second supervisor, Mrs. Marliza Yeni, SS. MA for correcting the English style and grammar and offering suggestions for improvement. I would like to make a special reference to Mrs. Dra. Eva Najma, M. hum for borrowing me some books and to Mr. Gindho Rizano, SS, M.Hum for the discussion. My greatest gratitude also goes to all lectures have taught me since first year.

I am deeply indebted to my many student colleagues in English Department 05 for providing a stimulating and fun environment in which we learn and grow together about four years. I thank so much for my close friends, DC5 for helping me get through the difficult times and for all the emotional support, camaraderie, entertainment and caring you provide.

Lastly and most important, I wish thank so much for my dear beloved mom who has sacrificed me by her own self and gives me moral support so we can stand together in the hardship life. For my beloved granny, thank so much for caring me and facing me patiently. It is also pleasure to say thank you to my entire extended family for caring me and ever providing a loving environment.

This thesis I dedicate for you all.

Padang, 14 April 2010

The Writer

#### ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisis novel karya Emily Bronte yang berjudul Wuthering Heights. Analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa revolusi industri di Inggris tidak hanya menunjukkan perjuangan kelas pada kaum buruh (pekerja) tapi juga kesadaran berkelas yang pada akhirnya menimbulkan kesadaran yang salah. Kesadaran yang salah itu tergambarkan melalui kebiasaan hidup yang materialistik. Selain itu, melalui skripsi ini penulis juga menggambarkan peranan uang pada masyarakat Inggris pada abad ke18.

Untuk menganalisis permasalahan yang dikemukakan pada skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan kritik Marxisme yang didukung oleh Tyson. Analisis ini juga mengaplikasikan pendekatan mimetik yang mana dalam analisis ini penulis mengaitkan data fiksi dengan data non fiksi. Penulis menerapkan metode kualitatif yaitu pengumpulan data bentuk tulisan, opini, kritik atau argumen. Penulis juga mengutip beberapa bagian dari novel sebagai data primer.

Hasil analisis menunjukan bahwa peranan uang pada zaman industri revolusi di Inggris cenderung memberi dampak buruk pada masyarakat Inggris seperti yang tergambar pada novel Wuthering Heights karya Emily Bronte. Uang membentuk pribadi manusia. Tingkah laku manusia dalam menghasilkan uang cenderung salah sehingga disebut juga dengan kesadaran yang salah. Bentukbentuk kesadaran yang salah disebabkan oleh uang yang tergambar dalam novel tersebut yang juga refleksi dari keadaan masyarakat pada ke abad 18 di Inggris adalah: adanya kebiasaan hidup yang materialistik. Kesadaran yang salah yang mengakibatkan hidup yang materialistik bisa terlihat dalam dua hal, yaitu: menjadikan manusia sebagai objek komodifikasi (commodification) dan memperlakukan manusia berdasarkan harta yang dimiliki (classism).

#### ASSTRAK

Skripsi ini aranganalisis novel karya Emily Bronte yang berjudul Bronterrap Reighte. Amilisis ini menanjukkan haliwa revolusi industri di Inggris tidak hanya menunjukkan perjuangan kelas padu kuum buruh (pekerja) topi juga kesadaran berkelus yang pada akhirnya menimbulkan kesadaran yang salah. Kesadaran yang salah itu tergambarkan melalui kebiasaan hidup yang materialistik. Selain Itu, melalui skripsi ini penulis juga menggambarkan peranan mang pada masyarakai Inggris pada abad ket 8.

Untuk mengadalisis permasalahan yang dikemukakan pada skripsi ini, penalis mengganakan kritik Marxisme yang didukang oleh Lyson. Analisis ini juga mengaptilasikan pendelantan mimetik yang mana dalam amitisis ini penalis mengaitkan data liksi dengan data non liksi. Penalis mengengkan metode kualitatif yaita pengampulan data bentuk tulisan, opini, kritik atau argumen. Penalis juga mengutip beberapa bagian dari novel sebagai data primen.

thesi analisis menunjukan bahwa peranan uang pada zaman industri revolusi di luggris cenderung memberi dampak buruk pada masyarakat luggris seperti yang tergambar pada non et Wadardag Majahu kurya tanih Brome. Uang memberduk pribadi manusia. Hagkah laku manusia dalam menghasilkan uang cenderung salah sehingga disebut juga dengan kesadamu yang salah. Bentokbetatuk kesadamu yang salah disebut juga dengan kesadamu yang salah. Bentokbetatuk yang juga refieksi dari kendaan masyarahat pada ke abad 18 di Inggris tersebut yang tengan bidup yang mangkatak kesadamu yang salah yang menjakibatkan hidup yang materialistik. Kesadamu daa lad, yaitun menjadikan manusia sebagai objek komodifikasi (commodification) dan menjadikan manusia sebagai objek komodifikasi (commodification) dan menjadikan manusia berdasarkan hara yang dimiliki (classism).

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ii
TABLE OF CONTENTSiii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION
1.1. The Background of the Research.
1.2. The Identification of the Problem
1.3. The Scope of the Research
1.4. The Objective of the Research4
1.5. The Review of Previous Studies4
1.6 The Theoretical Framework
1.7. The Methods of the Research
CHAPTER 2: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS
2.1 Characters
2.2. Plot
2.3 Setting22
2.4 Theme 23
CHAPTER 3: A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENGLISH SOCIETY IN THE
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
3.1. A Brief History of Industrial Revolution
3.2. Class Conflict as the impact of Industrial Revolution30
30
CHAPTER 4: MATERIALISTIC WAY OF LIFE AS AN IMPACT OF
FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS AS FOUND IN EMILY
BRONTE'S WUTHERING HEIGHT
4.1. Commodification
4.2. Classism48
CHAPTED 5. CONCLUSION
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION
BIBLIOGRAPHY
APPENDIXES
SYNOPSIS OF WUTHERING HEIGHTS

#### CHAPTER 1

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

The result of Industrial revolution in England in the eighteenth century has shown progress everywhere. It has produced drastic social and economic changes. An agricultural nation is changed into industrialization state and people move to town by doing great urbanization. A new class, bourgeoisie, endeavours to create themselves as the master of industry, subjugates the working class (proletariat) while opposes the old aristocracy for power (Moore, 1999).

Here, the bourgeoisie class are busy to earn property as many as possible, while proletariat are also busy to strive to get freedom from exploitation, slavery and poverty and to get fairer treatment in economic. England really seems like a dilemmatic problem because of this industrial revolution. Groups of people compete each other to gain materialism, so its impacts are class struggle. Bryant sketches out that this is not bringing them into class struggle at all, but vice versa class-consciousness (1974:179). It means that people search for their identity through the existence of private property. England had three important social classes before (Upper class, middle class and the lower class people), meanwhile industrial revolution just introduces two social classes. They are bourgeoisie and proletariat that in the end bring them into conflict. Bryant adds that class struggle was the expression of class conflict had affected class-consciousness and in the end affected False Consciousness (1974:269-271)

#### 1.3 The Scope of the Research

Here, to make the research clearer, the writer focuses on the following issues:

- 1. How the social condition of England in eighteenth century was.
- 2. How materialistic way of life is shown in the novel as the impact of false consciousness

#### 1.4 The Objective of the Research

The aim of this research is to show that there is false consciousness in England in the eighteenth century because of the material possession. In life, people tend to produce private property to increase strata of live and to get freedom from poverty but they do in the false way and in the end their ideology begins to disturb. Material possesion forces them to think materialistically. In creating materialistic things, people get trouble with personality and it can be seen in their bad conduct. This issue can be displayed through the novel. Hence, in the objective of research, the writer will find false consciousness in the people because of material existence as found in *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

#### 1.5 The Review of Previous Studies

After conducting library research, the writer has found some students of English Department, Andalas University who have done research on this novel. One of the researchers is Yuni Eka Sari with her thesis entitled "Women Inferiority in Victorian Age as Seen in Emily Bronte's Novel Wuthering Heights". In her thesis, she applies feminist criticism. The thesis shows image of women in which it examines how the stereotype of women character in literary work. She

describes inferiority of women in Victorian era. She sums up that women's condition in Victorian era is really bad. There is a belief that women's places are determined by their limitations of mind and body. Thus, she also calls that there is a doctrine in Victorian era that women's place is just at home for doing the household things, bearing the babies and serving the husband. Above all, women can not enter into business partnership without the consent of their husband. The husband has the right to decide where family will live. Here, she beholds the contradiction between the inferiority of the women with the Feminists' ideas. The Victorian values have made the women far from the feminist's ideas (2003).

Another researcher who has done research on Emily Bronte's Wuthering Height is Susi Suryani. Her thesis is entitled "Structure and Meaning of Idiomatic Expression as found in Emily Bronte's Novel Wuthering Heights" (1999). This research aims to discuss how idioms are shaped based on the structure. It also aims to seek finding of the kind of idiomatic expressions and to see how the structure of the novel. As the result of the analysis, she finds that the most frequent type used in Wuthering Heights is a phrasal compound and phrasal verb. Whereas irreversible is fewer than phrasal verb and phrasal compound. The last, incorporating and pseudo are never occurred.

Different from researchers above, the writer wants to conduct a research on *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte from Marxist point of view. Supported by Tyson, the writer will show people's false consciousness in the novel and how it reflects social condition of England around eighteenth and nineteenth century.

#### The Theoretical Framework 1.6

In observing Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, the writer uses mimetic theory. In mimetic orientation, Abrams acclaims that it is the explanation of art as essentially and has an imitation of aspects of the universe (1976:8). It is literary work that can be considered as the imitation of the universe. Here, the writer analyzes the impact of materialistic life as a picture of English society in industrial revolution.

Marxism is regarded as revolutionary movements. It not only shows revolution that is done by capitalist to oppose the old aristocracy (feudal) for power, but also shapes worker's revolution to achieve human emancipation and enlightment and to overthrow bourgeoisie's power (Noer, 1995: 203). In its theory, Marxism is both the theory and the political as an intellectual movement that has profoundly affected political theory, sociological concern, religion, literature and literary theory. Klarer (1999) says that:

> Marxist literary theory is context-oriented approach in keep with the writing of Karl Marx (1818-83) and others Marxist theorists that analyse literary texts as expression of economic, sociological and political background. Conditions of production in particular periods are examined with respect to their influence on literary writing of the time (89).

Here, Marxist literary theory tends to focus on the representation of class conflict as well as the reinforcement of class distinction through the medium of literature. In other word, Marxist paradigms have not only sought new ways of understanding the relationship between economic production and literature, but all culture production. In addition, Marxist theory can be best understood as the extension of sociology which it is inseparable from historical context when try to analyze text (literary work).

Historically, Marxism was born because the revolution (revolution in French and Industrial revolution in England) had emerged the great poverty in proletariat, there is inharmony between bourgeoisie and proletariat. Here, it emerges two significant classes of society. As Tyson points out:

For the real battle lines are drawn, to put the matter simply between the "haves" and the "have-nots", between the bourgeoisie-those who control the world's natural, economic, and human resources- and proletariat, the majority of the global population who are in substandard condition and who have always performed the manual labour, the mining, the factory work, the ditch digging, the rail road building that fills that coffers of the rich (2006:54)

Marxist theory as a critique of industrial revolution judges that economy is caused by Industrial capitalism and the economic condition has produced human suffering at once. Marx who lived in this time beheld the injustice, oppression, and exploitation toward society in Industrial revolution. There are only two groups of people, that is, bourgeoisie and proletariat that in the end it renders conflicts in society.

For Marx, domination is derived from oppression of property when in fact the possession of property is only a special case of the capacity to dominate (Bryant, 1974:269). This statement means that class struggle emerges because of

private property's reasons. The division of labour and private property raise the relations of domination, class formation and class struggle. Hence, classless society can be achieved and proletariat can gain the liberty by no private property. However, "no private property will be no relations of an authority and no class conflict" (Bryant, 1974:269)

Later on, from his observation, Marx renders his idea that all human live is conquered by economic relations. All activity, such as: religion, education, art, social etc is part of economic relation that is determined by history. He, then, calls it by Historical materialism/Dialectical materialism. For him, history is talking about the changing and developing of human beings determined by economic systems. This changing and developing of human can be seen in the changing of social systems, from primitive system into slavery, feudalism and capitalism which explain the way in which production is organized and help to shape each society (Darsono, 2007: 63). It shows the culture. In Selden and Widdowson's book (2003), Marx points out:

We call culture is non an independent reality but in inseparable from the historical conditions in which human beings create the material lives; the relation of exploitation and domination which govern the social and economic order of a particular phase of human history will in some sense "determine" the whole cultural life of the society (71)

It shows historical condition in which people are inseparable from material condition. Above all, Marx's Historical Materialism has shown about practical action, not physical matter. Practical action refers to man's action in the interest and engage in class conflict with people (bourgeoisie) who oppose them. So, in the end it brings them into false consciousness.

False consciousness is a concept derived from Marxist theory of social class. The concept refers to the systematic misrepresentation of dominant social relations in the consciousness of subordinate classes. As Tyson states that "For Marxism, when an ideal functions to mask its own failure, it is a false ideal or false consciousness, whose real purpose is to promote the interest of those in powers" (2006: 58). Whereas, Meyerson as noted by Jason Myers in *The Truth about False Consciousness* argues that in false consciousness, "there is the suggestion of some mismatch between consciousness and reality: a lack of correspondence between one's views of the world and the world the way it really is" (141-142).

Both of statements mean that people fail to recognize a divergence between their perception and reality. They are systematically prevented by a belief or a view to know the true nature of situation, whether they realize it or not. In practice, false consciousness is not grown out of material possession but just a matter of possession. It views the way how people distribute their possession. Then, Marx added that "workers are victim of false-consciousness" (Bryant, 1974:270). Here, proletariat are unable to see something that is dominating them so they just follow the nature and adopt it as a habit.

As a matter of fact, Marx says very little about literature, but his idea has become the basis for the emergence of literary critics, such as Lois Tyson. In Critical Theory Today: a User-Friendly Guide, Tyson presents some terms that is

#### PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

In fiction, writer uses character, setting, plot, point of view, theme, and various kinds of symbolism and language style to create artistic effect. These elements of fiction are known as the formal elements/intrinsic element. An understanding of the formal elements will enhance the reader's appreciation of any piece of fiction, as well as his or her ability to share perception with other. In this, the writer shows the readers the formal elements of *Wuthering Heights* that can help the readers and the writer to make a sense of the novel. They consist of character, plot, setting, and theme.

#### 2. 1. Characters

The characters of a story are important elements of fiction. Characters are the ones who perform the actions. Ann Charters (1999) suggests that "characters themselves don't always have a conscious awareness of why they do. Characters have reasons for their actions and the readers may discover them before the characters do" (1.557). It refers to a textual representation of a human being. In pieces of fiction, a close identification with characters is crucial to understand the story.

Meanwhile, a stereotype character in literature is dominated by one specific trait and is referred to as a flat character. The term round character usually denotes a persona with more complex and differentiated features (Klarer, 2004:17). There are many characters appear in the novel. These characters have a

strong relationship each other and are important characters. To make it clearer, the writer divides them into two parts, that is, major character and minor characters.

#### A. Major Characters

According to Di Yanni (2000), "Major characters are an important figure at the center of the story's action on theme" (5). It means that the major character is the important figure and has big influence to the story.

#### 1. Heatcliff

He is the central male character of the novel. He can be considered as a round character because there is the change of character between in the early and the ending of story. The first time the reader can know Heatcliff is through his tenant's narrative, Mr. Lockwood. From his visit, he sees Heatcliff as a "solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with" (1). The first paragraph of the novel provides physical picture of him. As reported by Mr. Lockwood that "I beheld his black eyes withdraw so suspiciously under theirs brows, with a jealous resolution" (1).

Then, he has not only grim look, but also seems to be diabolical in manners and action. He growls, does not smile, grins, loves to shout even sneers on each occasion. As viewed, "'you'd better let the dog alone', growled Mr. Heatcliff. 'Then, striding to a side door', he shouted again' (4). Then, he is described as villain and devil. "Is Mr. Heatcliff a man? If so, is he mad? And if not, is she a devil?" (125).

Different from this, in his childhood he is a sullen and a patient child in spite of a dumb. He begins his life as homeless orphan on the streets of Liverpool.

He is saved and taken to live at the Earnshaw's house. Here, the reader is compelled to feel sorry for him because he is discriminated by almost everybody.

#### 2. Catherine

Catherine Earnshaw is born at Wuthering Heights and is raised with her brother, Hindley and Heatcliff, an orphan her father brought home. When she is child, she is loved by everyone. She is naughty, bad tempered and always making mistakes to get others into trouble. But people can pardon her. As viewed: "she laughed if I told her to say she was sorry for her faults, and beg to be forgiven" (38). In her father's eyes, she is a pearl. She can say bad words to her maid and quarrel with her father. But she is so pleasant, so lovely, so nobody wants to make life hard for her. As reported by Nelly: "A wild, wick slip she was-but she had the bonniest eye, and the sweetest smile, and lightnest foot in the parish" (37). Her smile and tenderness can compensate for her mistakes.

#### B. Minor Characters

In accordance with Di Yanni (2000), the minor characters are the secondary characters that support the major characters, minor characters function partly to illuminate the major characters (6).

#### 1. Edgar Linton

Edgar is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Linton that becomes the master of Thrusscross Grange after his father's death. The Lintons are refined people accustomed to have servants and to live a comfortable life. Edgar is not only handsome but also self-indulgent, gentle and passive people. The conditions

perfectly settle the background for his behaviour. He grows up as a perfect man that do well with the education and manner.

From his acquaintance with Catherine, he can make her to be pleasant because he apparently knows how to treat her well. As Catherine says that "because she is handsome and pleasant to with... because he is young and cheerful" (70). His manner and action can make Catherine interested with him.

#### 2. Isabella Linton

She is Edgar's sister and Heatcliff's wife who born in the same year that Catherine is. Because of born from aristocrat family, she represents culture, civilization and well-manner. She really loves Heatcliff, but in the end she gives up to love his because Heatcliff never loves her. She thinks that she's fool because of making mistakes of falling in love with him. Her love has been storm for herself, so in the end it brings him into hate Heatcliff. As he says: "I do hate him-I have been a fool!" (133)

#### 3. Hindley Earnshaw

Hindley is Chaterine's brother. Because he is jealous of his father's attentions to Heatcliff, he hates Heatcliff very much and makes Heatcliff as servant after his father's death. It can be proved through Chaterine's statement: "I wish my father were back again. Hindley is a detestable substitute, his conduct to Heatcliff is atrocious and are going to rebel-we took our initiatory step this evening" (6). He later ends up mortgaging his property due to his gambling and drinking debts and Heatcliff becomes master of Wuthering Heights.

#### 4. Hareton Earnshaw

He is the son of Hindley and Frances who is tended to by Nelly Dean but later comes under the control of Heatclift after his father dies and leaves him nothing because of being trapped in gambling. Under Heatclift's guardianship, he grows up as crude, mean and rough like devil. The circumstances have made him grow badly, he doesn't receive an education. He is used to use rascal words and be impolite. It can be viewed through passage below:

"Who has taught you those words, my bairn?" I inquired. "These curate?"

"Damn the curate, and thee! Gie me that," he replied.

"Tell us where you got your lessons, and you shall have it", said I.

"who's your master??" (100)

But, later on, he is saved from his brutal, an uneducated life by Cathy Linton who first tutors him so that he turns into a gentleman and then eventually marries him.

#### 5. Cathy Linton

She is the daughter of Catherine and Edgar. She is inherited the naughtiness of her mother and seems to be kindly people like her father. She shows the collaboration of two different people that become one. As Nelly pictures her through passage below:

She was the most winning thing that ever brought sunshine into a desolate house: a real beauty in face with the Earnshaw's handsome dark eyes, but the Linton's fair skin, and small features, and yellow curling

hair. Her spirit was high, though not rough, and qualified by a hearth sensitive and lively to excess in its affections. That capacity for intense attachments reminded me of her mother: still she did not resemble her: (173).

The quotation above means that she is pictured as a genteel attitude like her father. She is soft and mild but simultaneously she is also like her mother, a beautiful lady who higher spirit and naughtiness.

#### 6. Linton

He is the son of Issabella and Heatclift. Heatclift takes him after Issabella's death in order to use him to gain property of his uncle, Edgar. Linton is sickly, spoiled, brutal and rather selfish. As Nelly Dean tries to picture his condition:

A pale, delicate, effeminate boy, who might have been taken for my master's younger brother, so strong was the resemblance" but there was a sickly peevishness in his aspect that Edgar Linton never had (183-4).

#### 7. Nelly Dean

She is a servant to both Earnshaw and the Lintons but certainly her intellectual is equal to anyone in the novel. She is a major participant in the action of story and as the secondary narrator simultaneously. She seems to be reliable, responsible and intelligent, unlike most of the servants. She is a well-educated woman through her own efforts. This can be seen when Nelly faces the trouble both in Wuthering Heights and Lintons. She gives a nice solution for the trouble of Heatclift and Catherine's love, nurses Hareton and Cathy Linton so well, acts

as the agents for Cathy Linton, and becomes a single narrator for Lockwood then.

Lockwood presents her as a fairer narrator. As he says:

... as the housekeeper could spare time from more important occupations. I'll continue it in her own words, only a little condensed. She is, on the whole, a very fair narrator, and I don't think I could improve her style (142).

#### 2. 2. Plot

Plot is often listed as one of the fundamental elements of fiction. It is rendering and ordering of the events and actions of a story. On a micro level, plot consists of action and reaction and also refers to as stimulus and response. On a macro level, plot has a beginning, middle, and an ending. Based on Perinne (1970) that "Plot is the sequence or events of which story is composed" (105). It is clearer that plot provides the reader the information about the author's message or themes, characters and conflicts.

In this novel, the writer beholds that major conflict is Heatcliff's great natural abilities, strength of character and love for Catherine Earnshaw which all enable him to raise himself from humble beginnings to the status of a wealthy gentlemen. But his need to revenge himself for Hindley's abuse and Catherine's betrayal leads him into a twisted life of cruelty and hatred. Catherine is torn between her love for Heatcliff and her desire to be a gentlewoman and her decision to marry the genteel Edgar Linton. It drags almost all of the novel's characters into conflict with Heatcliff. Then, to make it clearer, plot can be pictured through sequence.

Firstly, it is introduction. The novel begins in 1801 with the arrival of Lockwood, one of the main narrators at Trushcross Grange. He spends the night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord Heatcliff and has a dream in which he is apparently visited by the ghost of Catherine Earnshaw and asks the housekeeper Nelly Dean to tell their story. Let see the quotation that "Mr. Lockwood your new tenant, Sir. I do myself the honor of calling as soon as possible after my arrival, to express to hope that I have not inconvenienced you by my perseverance...." (1). This quotation proves the first arrival of Mr. Lockwood to Heatcliff's house. For the first time, he meets and comes to Heatcliff.

Secondly, it is called Raising action. Its purpose is usually to build suspense all the way up the climatic finish. The rising action should not be confused with the middle of the story but it is the action right before the climax. In the novel, rising action is pictured when Heatcliff's arrival at Wuthering Heights. Hindley's abusive treatment of Heatcliff and Catherine's first visit to Trushcross Grange set the major conflicts in motion. Once Heatcliff hears Cathy says it would "degrade" her to marry him. As she says:

"It would degrade me to marry Heatclift now; so he shall never know how I love him: and that, not because he's handsome, Nelly, but because he's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same; and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire." (73)

Catherine loves Heatcliff very much beyond Heatcliff knows. But, it is impossible for them to live together because Heatcliff is just usual people who is

called gypsy by her family, in particular Hindley. It will degrade her if she wants to marry him. The conversation between Nelly and Cathy, which he secretly overhears, drives him to run away and pursues his vengeance. Heatcliff disappears for three years. When he returns, he intents on getting revenge on all those who have hurt him, beginning with Hindley, from whom he tricks ownership of Wuthering Heights by taking advantage of his increasing drunkenness.

Climax is the next sequence. Here, the plot is regarded as the most dramatic and revealing the moment that usually the turning point of the story. It is seen in Catherine's death. It is the culmination of the conflict between herself and Heatcliff and removes any possibility that their conflict can be resolved positively. After Catherine's death, Heatcliff merely extends and deepens his drive towards revenge and cruelty. It can be best proved by the following passage:

"You teach me how cruel you've been — cruel and false. Why do you despise me? Why did you betray your own heart, Cathy? I have not one word of comfort. You deserve this. You have killed yourself. Yes, you may kiss me, and cry, wring out my kisses and tears; they'll blight youthey'll damn you. You loved me—then what right had you to leave me? What right — answer me for the poor fancy you felt for Linton? Because misery, and degradation and death, and nothing that God or Satan could conflict would have parted us, you of your own will did it. I have not broken your heart—you have broken it; and in breaking it, you have broken mine" (170).

When Catherine is ill and dying she blames Heatcliff for each her sufferings whereas Heatcliff also blames her and tells that she who has left him for Edgar's sake. She destroys their love and deserves to get that sorrows. So, in its core, this quotation marks the conflict between Heatcliff and Catherine and ended with Catherine's death.

Then, in falling action, Heatcliff destroys Isabella and drives her away. He then takes possession of young Linton and forces Catherine and Linton to marry. He hopes young Catherine to inherit Trushcross Grange but he then loses interest in the whole project and dies. Hence, in the end of the story, the condition changes because Hareton and young Catherine are engaged to marry and promising to the cycle of revenge.

#### 2. 3. Setting

Simply says, setting is the story's time, place and also include complex dimension such as the historical moment of the story occupies or it is also best understood as social context. In other ways, social context itself is the significant cultural issues affecting story's setting or authorship. Klarer (2004) judges that setting denotes the location, historical period and social surrounding in which the action of a text develops (24).

The realistic setting of Wuthering Heights is the Moorland on the countryside of England at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the nineteenth century. As found in the beginning of the story: "1801- I have just returned from visit my landlord- the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with. This is certainly a beautiful country! In all England, I do not believe.... (1).

This passage can show that the novel sets in England around 18<sup>th</sup> century. So, concern on this time, the writer can sum up that the novel is regarded to happen in Victorian era in which there is industrial revolution took a place.

Later on, most of the events occur in two houses, that is, Wuthering Heights, the home of the Earnshaws and Thrushcross Grange, the house of Linton family. The two houses are not too far away and are separated by the moors. Their inhabitants are the two wealthiest families in the area. However, there are differences between both places. Wuthering Heights is a rugged house located on top of a hill exposed to windy conditions. It is like a fortress for the inhabitants. While Thrushcross Grange, on the contrary, is located in a tranquil valley and is depicted as a luxurious and civilized place in which this marks the resolution of the story.

#### 2.4. Theme

A theme is a broad idea, message, or lesson conveyed by a written text. This message is usually about life, society, or human nature. Themes often explore timeless and universal ideas. Most themes are implied rather than explicitly stated. It is normally the meaning of the text on a more abstract level. As noted from Kenney (1966), "theme is the meaning of the story" (88). In this core, theme is the meaning or concept which the readers are left with after reading a piece of fiction.

The central theme of *Wuthering Heights* is a love story that challenges the establish social rules in which Catherine and Heatcliff have lived. It is a story that survives the unfortunate choices that both lovers make and even mystically survives Catherine's death. Catherine and Heatcliff fall in love despite the opposition of Hindley Earnshaw. Catherine's attraction for Heatcliff is so strong that she feels compelled to go against her brother's wishes and the social class conventions existing at the time. However, after courting for a while, Catherine makes a tragic decision on accepting Edgar Linton's proposal for marriage. This decision brings about a conflictive situation between Heatcliff and both the Earnshaws and the Lintons. One day, Heatcliff overhears Catherine telling Nelly "it would degrade me to marry Heatcliff now" (173). This comment enrages Heatclift and the storms out of the house. He comes up with the idea that he needs to gain power in order to worthy of Catherine's love. However, in the process, Heatcliff loses sight of his love and degenerates into a heartless and cruel man with an infinite craving for revenge.

Thus, the next message that seeks to be left by Emily Bronte, that is, about issues of class. Hindley dislikes Heatcliff and loves to call him gypsy because Heatcliff's appearances. Heatcliff is described as a dark skinned boy with dark hair. He is just a child brought by Mr. Earnshaws from the Liverpool's street.in addition, both of Wuthering Heights and Trushcross Grange are the best understood to represent of two castes both lower class and higher class. Meanwhile, concerning on the previous statement that it will degrade Catherine if she marries Heatcliff, it openly pictures the conflict of classes. It is impossible for them to live together because they are different each.

This novel also presents hatred and revenge as theme. Heatcliff's hatred toward people who treat him badly makes him to decide revenge. Hindley treats

him badly and seeks to send him away from Wuthering Heights because of his poor appearances. Heatcliff's absence for three years has given him wealth mysteriously. His arrival back to Wuthering Heights is one of the aims to revenge Hindley.



#### **CHAPTER III**

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENGLISH SOCIETY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

In this chapter, the writer portrays briefly the real condition of English society in the eighteenth century. The main purpose of this investigation is to find out some facts to be compared and to deal with analysis in the next stage.

There are two stages in this section that is going to be exposed. Firstly, a brief history of industrial revolution in England in the eighteenth century. Then, class conflict as an impact of industrial revolution. By discussing these points, it is expected to be a guidance that can be attained in order to go further for the analysis based on the novel.

## 3. 1 A Brief History of Industrial Revolution

Before about 1800, power was supplied by human or animal muscle. The work of the world was done with hand tools. Since then the great invention of machinery to the application of the industry was found, it had contributed to the occurrence of the industrial revolution in England. Here, power had been supplied by form of energy found in steam, electricity, and the combustion of the gasses and most recently within atom. This process of shifting from hand tools to power machinery is what is meant by industrial revolution. As noted from Rowse in *The Spirit of English History* (1943) that:

Industrial revolution was the application of mechanical power to industry, constantly accelerating productions, with all its consequences

in transforming older social forms and bringing into being forces not only in the economic sphere but throughout society (110)

The development of using machine in production had been making advances so these manifested Great Britain became industrialization countries. This forms also brought into being the forces in economic and society.

The application of mechanical power to industry had been started in several inventions of importance for the future. There was a newcomer's engine that was supposed to give a new contribution toward the next phase of industrial revolution. The invention of the steam engine proper by Watt in 1765 was the cardinal event in the process. Rowse points out that "it made use of coal as the source of power [...], the application of coal to iron-smelting, at a time when our timber resources were becoming depleted, became the leading characteristic of the next phase of industrial revolution" (1943:110). Simultaneously with this was the transforming of the textiles industries. There are three cardinal inventions, which were ultimately to transform the industry. They were all concerned with cotton and all the work of Lancashire men: that invention of the spinning Jenny by Hagraves, and water frame by Arkwright (Rowse, 1943: 111)

Then, the development of transportation was also rising with the coming of the invention. As noted from the quotation below.

A first came the canals, which knit together the industrial districts, particularly the mid lands and the northwest. Then came the new coach roads with their "macadamised" surfaces, which made speedler travelling possible (Rowse, 1943:111)

The prodigious accomplishment was displayed then by the coming of railway. As Rowse adds that "next came the railway age, which more than anything else brought the country together a one unit, with its communication pivoting upon London (1943:111).

Further, the successive phase of revolution was also signed by the emergence of facilities of transportation, like the train. It had supported the existence of industrial revolution in England. By train, people could move from one place into others easily. As Janet Says that "the train made people and goods more mobile, made possible a closer economic and social connection between town and country and region and region, and promoted the development of suburban sprawl" (1973:4).

Since occupied by those facilities, England became commercial and maritime country of the world. There was trading activity that possibly brought England to export and import. It means that there was a great development of England by inventing a profit invention. This condition gives a sign that England was in process of production. Whereas, in other ways, it was not only changing the traditional economic system to production, but also changing the whole society.

Thus, England was already in revolution. It was called a revolution because it changed society both significantly and rapidly. It changed the agricultural economies into industries, replaced manual labor by machines. In other ways, economic activities in many communities moved from agricultural

into manufacturing, production shifted from its traditional locations in the home and the small workshop into factories.

These changes had attracted people to immigrate to England. It was also supported by continually the facilities of transportation grew rapidly. Hence, as the sole consequence was the great urbanization that occurred in England on that age. People thought that city promised a new perfect live. Above all, their coming to city was just producing human suffering, unemployment and crime in city that grew continually. So, in the end, they lived in unsatisfactory conditions that made them need to struggle to survive in towns. This line of passage can be proved through Janet's statement that:

The urban growth also had its dark side. It produced human problems of its own, such as the insecurity of some high-rise flat dweller, the loneliness of old people who lived in little flats and house faraway from their children, and "urban neurosis", a vague feeling that cities were unsatisfactory and disturbing living process (1973:13)

Here, the writer sees the fact that the development of industrial revolution began by the invention of mechanical tools, followed by the development of transportation that erased all the boarders of England as a whole. Whereas, people came to town for working had made England crowded and raised some advantages and simultaneously more problems. It also changed the condition of industrial revolution in society, in particular industrialist and workers. As the cardinal consequences, there were two strata of life which in the end resulted in class struggle. In detail, it is elaborated in the following discussion.

## 3.2 Class Conflict as the Impact of Industrial Revolution

The active economic revolution (industrial revolution) had crystallized the surprising degree in England. The industrial revolution was marked by the emergence of modern machines which needed skilful people such as, technicians. But, only some of them that lead into surface as technicians. Beyond it all, many others people were trapped into poverty and miserable condition. The value of man power fell and got cheaper. Man power was not used anymore because they had been replaced by machine. The writer believes that the modern industry had brought England into dilemmatic problem. The emergence of a new machine had brought hatred in laborer's side. Further, as the sole consequence there was the destruction of a new machine by them. Thus, laborers were not only struggling with the machine as power of industry but also one another among of them. Laborers sought to maintain freedom by getting property as much as possible. Meanwhile, on the other side, capitalists as the owner must have to gain property by applying the exploitation of laborers to defend their existence. So here, the struggle was just begun.

Simultaneously two groups of people, laborers and capitalist, were in process of doing competition to maintain property. They had the same goals but they could not work well to reach the goal. It was caused by the fact that the capitalist had power to dominate the laborers meanwhile laborers were dependent on the capitalist in working in factories. The condition became worse and worse by the immigration of people from village to town to continue a new life and to get the job. As Janet informs us that "the growth of towns over the previous half-

century had involved the movement of vast numbers of people, not only from country to town but also from region to region" (1973:1). People voluntarily moved to town can be guessed is to get a new opportunity. Beyond their comprehension, their coming had invited a new problem so that in town they had to struggle to survive.

Hence, the primary consequence from industrial revolution took a role, that was, the class struggle. Taborsky (1967) notes that:

Class struggle is to be waged with relentless vigor even against the national bourgeoisie, in order to expose their vacillations, make them lose the confidence of the masses, and thus produce a shift in the "alignment of class forces in favor of the proletariat" (371).

It means that class struggle show off the effort of proletariat against bourgeoisie. Whereas Rowse also points out that "the effect of these profound changes was to break up the harmony of the old social order, to bring new classes into being, and create antagonism between capital and labour characteristic of modern society (1943:114). This lines, of course, depicts the inharmonious between capitalist and laborers that in the ends it renders to conflict. Both of them had the mission to defend their will to get private property but the condition made them struggle to get them.

The power of means of production brought people into a new competition to maintain property. That competitions show the real proves of class struggle. It can be viewed through two stages bellow:

### A. The Socialization of Labour

The socialization of labour in industrial revolution can be exampled into two things, that is, the socialization of women's labour and the socialization of people that work for factories. In accordance with Encyclopedia of Marxism: Glossary of term, the socialization of women's labour can be illustrated through the line below:

.... preparing meals, caring for children, repairing and cleaning clothes and so on, now being purchased on the market, very often from women who are selling their labour power for a wage rather than offering the same service within relationship of domestic servitude called marriage.

This openly means that if preparing meals, caring for children is recognized as a duty in house first, the power can be sold then for a wage. Women are not only working in the house as the obligation as the result of marriage, but they can do the same to get money.

Thus, the socialization of people who worked in factories could be seen through the functions of people in the factories as laborers. In the factories people had to work long hours and harsh condition. They were instead recruiting women and children due to they could be hired for very low wages. The nature of work had already changed and as a result there was a division of labor in which they were also forced to compete too with the workmen. Worker faced exploitation, oppression and domination from capitalist. They had to employ for many hours. It had already produced

human suffering. Here, laborers became more unsatisfactory, more repulsive, do competition increased and wages decreased. In his *article The Industrial Revolution: Working Class Poverty or Prosperity?*, Majewski notes:

The laborer seeks to maintain the total of his wages for a given time by performing more labor, either by working a great number of hours, or by accomplishing more in the same number of hours. Thus, urged on by want, he himself multiplies the disastrous effects of division of labor. The result is: the more he works, the less wages he receives. And for this simple reason: the more he works, the more he competes against his fellow workmen, the more he compels them to compete against him, and to offer themselves on the same wretched conditions as he does; so that, in the last analysis, he competes against himself as a member of the working class (1986)

Further, the exploitation of children in factories which is well-known as child labor existed in England in the eighteenth century. Here, the children who came from a poor family and never got education must work to support family's financial. They worked in factories like men. They worked hard and were exploited by factories that treated them like machine. In point of fact, it is undeniable that "The work was long and hard but wages were weagre. Men could not hope to keep large families on their pay alone, and their wives and children often had to work too to help support themselves" (Janet, 1973:26).

Attitudes toward child labour (the regular employment of boys and girls under the age of 15 or 16) had altered dramatically since this age, when it was generally assumed that from about age 7 children should contribute to the family economy. So, in the end they lived in miserable condition. To make Janet's statement completes, Douglass also sketches out in his book *Structure and Change in Economic History* that:

For the great majority of the laboring class the results of the policy (of laissez faire) were inadequate wages, long hours of work under sordid conditions, and the large-scale employment of women and children for tasks which destroy body and soul. Reports from investigating committees on coal mines found male and female children ten or even five years of age harnessed to heavy coal-sledges which they dragged crawling on their hands and knees...(1979:3).

Finally, the socialization of workers in factories was the effort to improve live. All members of family needed to render their power to work to support economics' problem in house. They had to work long hours. Beyond their comprehension, they had been exploited and regarded as the creatures who had change value. They continually worked so that finally they lost something. In other words, the writer can judge that they worked for private property because private property meant something from them. But in point of fact, they had been enslaved by private property so that they continually worked and worked and became the crucial goal of capitalist to exploit their power. Hence, laborers seemed to be the single unit of commodity.

#### B. Social gap

Machines in industrial revolution were dangerous. Many workers were killed or seriously injured in accidents. Some riots happened to go against the poor living and working conditions. Some people improved their lives in the new economy. The middle class made up of skilled workers, professionals, business people, and wealthy farmers did well. They enjoyed comfortable lives in pleasant homes. This class began to grow in size, and some people grew wealthier than the nobles who had dominated society for many centuries. Still, nobles looked down on the people who gained their wealth from business. They, in turn, looked down on the poor workers.

That's why social gap could emerge into the surface. People just judged others from what they had, it means, private property. Naturally, people in England in the eighteenth century tended to respect the men who had private property. Thus, poor people could not be respected because in fact they had nothing and lived in miserable condition. Janet in her book entitled Development of English Society: The Making of modern English Society From 1950 says that "The condition of the great bulk of the people, variously called the poor, the working, or the lower classes, had always been bleak, squalid and miserable, and they had always live perilously close to the edge of survival" (Janet, 1973:3). Further, in the next page she also added that:

The miserable living condition of poor families were bad enough in single households and small rural communities, but when these same

conditions were multiplied by the thousand in large towns, the sum of their little evil proved to be much worse than simple addition or multiplication might suggest, and the factories added their foul contributions to the resultant mess (1973:4).

This line strengthens the issue that industrialization had brought them into a mess and it was also appalling that they seemed to live in very miserable life. Whereas in other parts of England, surrounding the factory or residential district of the cities were the middle class that like in much better off than those of the poor working class. Here, the writer can take a note that there was an unstable level of live. The growth of industrialization had changed the feature of social condition in England a whole.

The distinction between the rich and the poor was raising to the level that almost undeniable by anyone. The advantages only came from one side of two, that is, industrialist. They got satisfactory, profit and interest form from capitalist system that they managed. Whereas laborers were forced to work overtime in factories. This really made industrialist become a monster for laborers. Hence, as the sole result is the wide gap between the rich and the poor. The rich could enjoy their live because industrial revolution promised them a mortality wealth whereas the poor live under pessimistic. They lived in miserable of poor families, dirty, unpleasant and unhealthy.

Later on, according to her book, Janet openly says that the differences between two strata of live could be depicted through their appearance. As she informs us:

The wide gap between rich and poor was reflected by marked differences in their appearances. Only rich people, members of the upper and middle class, could afford clean linen and elegant clothes, and because their clothing was such a clear indicator of social status, most of them paid great attention to it. The majority of the people were to poor to buy either good clothes or clean lines. Their clothing was coarse, of poor quality, generally ill-fitting and dirty (1973:5).

It means the rich, of course, were displayed as the perfect condition because they had trapped in the best of chance, in this individual regard, it means that they had private property. Badly, the poor got the worse turn. They were just poor who had nothing to buy any good clothes. Finally, the competition of people not only rendered to class struggle, but also class consciousness.

Writing in *The Class Struggle, the Proletariat, the Developing Nations* (1967), Taborsky assumes that in class consciousness, "workers understand that the only way to improve their conditions and to achieve their emancipation is to conduct a struggle against the capitalist factory-owner class" (304). Here, people, in particular, workers become consciousness that individual success is needed. So, they would do anything to change miserable condition that was created by existence of material aspect. They would search for the other way to apart from oppression. But, in other side, the workers failed to acknowledge their objective interest. It is called false consciousness. Here, it shows a wrong

way to see the world. Bryant adds "it was a concept of bourgeoisie ideology" (1974:20).

So, the growth of industrialization had inherited a new acknowledge for people that life was harsh and they must have to have private property to survive in live. Without money they would be anything and by having money, they would make people respect them because money proved one's dignity. Hence, money or private property could be the goal of live then. They would do anything to get them. At that time, people in England seemed to be real materialistic



## **CHAPTER IV**

# MATERIALISTIC WAY OF LIFE AS AN IMPACT OF FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS AS FOUND IN EMILY BRONTE'S WUTHERING HEIGHTS

In this chapter, the writer presents some evidences about the kind of false consciousness as the result of materialistic way of life as seen in the novel Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, and analyses the problem in keep with Marxist point of view. The writer quotes and puts some statements and events from the novel that reflects social condition in England at the time to strengthen her observation.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte is one of the most extraordinary novels in the history of English literature. The novel represents social life as a crucial discussion. It depicts that the ownership of property is a perplexing problem to people. People will be addicted to have the ownership of property so in the end it will bring them to get used to live materialistically and at once they have false consciousness.

To support her observation, the writer applies Marxist literary criticism especially the term False Consciousness. Through the novel that pictures the story of two families within the frame of Mr. Lockwood's visit encompasses the background of industrialization in England in the eighteenth century. The harsh condition because of industrialization makes people struggle to defend their existences amongst society. They need to have much more money. Indirectly, this

way of life influence people in the way of thinking. The habit of life that tends to access money has unconsciously made them think materialistically. Here, the writer tries to figure out the role of money toward human's life especially human in pattern of thinking.

As parts of the habits of materialistic life, in evaluating her problems, the writer finds two terms related to it. They are classism and commodification. In classism, people are divided into the haves and the have-nots. The haves can do anything with the money they have, including tyrannizing and exploiting the have-nots. In the end, it is not only causing the social gap but at the same time also leading to unrespectable action toward the lower class people. In commodification, people treat others as object of commodity to produce money. Here, human function is based on economics' value. It means that people have tendency to be regarded as single unit commodity that has value for others. To make the observation clearer, the writer will depict them into subchapter below.

# 4.1 Commodification

In this sub chapter, the writer describes events in which people do commodity action toward others to defend, even to get the ownership of property. Around the eighteenth, it is well-known as commodification. Through the figure in the story, in particular Heatchliff, this commodity action can openly be pictured.

As a matter of fact, commodification expresses a fundamental concept to Marx's understanding of the way capitalism develops. Formerly, it means the transformation of relationship that is untainted by commerce into commercial

relationship, relationship of changes of buying and selling. In other words, commodity action is something that is produced for the purpose of exchanging for something else. Rather, from *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, it also represents the ability of one's purchasing power to command other (2009). Here, an individual is regarded as a source of commodities and eventually leads to treatment of human being as abstract an economic quantity that is valued not for their own individual characteristic but for their economic function.

In writing A Practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (1996), Booker assumes that in commodification, people are judged not according to their "use value" but according to their "exchange value". Then, "they are valued not for their own genuine characteristic but for the ability to participate in a money economy the workings of which are inscrutable to most individuals" (73). He famously claims that all commodities have value, that is, use value and exchange value. It has a use value that can satisfy some human need or want, physical or ideal. The object is useful not just to the producer but has a use for others. Then, it has an exchange value, meaning that a commodity can be traded for other commodities and thus gives its owner the benefit.

The commodity action is a kind of the human failure to see the true condition as far as it is dealing with the way to produce money. In the way of producing money, people have a tendency not to realize the false thing when treating people as object of their commodity. This can be seen through the novel. In *Wuthering Heights*, commodification is so clearly embodied in the character of Heatcliff and Catherine. Their commodity-consciousness happens because he

beholds any chance that someone can assure him to possess money. He has unconsciously trapped to live materialistically so it also influences him to think materialistically. He will do anything to earn money, including sacrificing someone.

In the novel, Heatcliff is considered as a doer of commodity action toward Issabella Linton and his son, Linton. Issabella Linton is from the aristocrat family. She has anything to be proud of herself in society. Then, she falls in love with Heacliff but he does not. Whereas, Heatcliff is a bad child in his childhood. He is just a kid who live in the street, then adopted by Mr. Earnshaw because of mercy. He has anything to strengthen his pride in society. Later, he grows up like a man who is maniac of money and will do anything to get it. Hence, when Issabella Linton falls in love with him, he seems like to have the best chance to be rich and to increase his position in society. Eventually, Heatcliff marries Issabella not because of love but for mercenary reasons. The passage below will prove it.

He says, he has married me on purpose to obtain power over him: and he shan't not obtain it- I'll die first! I just hope, I pray, that he may forget his diabolical prudence, and kill me the single pleasure I can imagine, is to die, or to see him dead (139)

The quotation above depicts Heatcliff's commodity action toward Issabella in which Heatcliff marries her as weapon to obtain the property. She has loved Heatcliff very much but he just destroys it. He exchanges herself and her love with property.

The condition above implies that women cannot hold property after marriage. When a woman gets married, the control of property is possessed by the husband. The issue found in the novel can be compared to England. As reported by Mezo that "around the eighteenth century, the legal ownership of property was often a perplexing problem. Women who were married did not own property. The title of everything they owned went to their husband" (2002). So, women seemed to be in an unsatisfied side here because they were just used as tools.

They tended to make a marriage as a weapon to produce money and for the best strata of life. Naturally, it developed in people to save their image from others. People had been influenced by the circumstances that make money as important things. There was something that blocked them to know the real condition and far away from thinking normally, so in the end this value brought them think materialistically. People made money or private property as the top priority to increase social level. This way would do-well if they got married the noble man. So this time, consciousness was denied instead of suppressed.

"she's her brother's heir, is she not?"-he asked, after a brief silence. [...]. "if they were mine, they would be none, the less that", said Heatcliff.... (98). This strengthens previous quotation. Here, Heatliff has considered about Issabella. She will be inherited something from her brother and it can be his if he marries her. He seems to believe he will get it after the marriage despite he does not love Issabella. He never recognizes Issabella will suffer above this. In his mind, he just thinks all how to get it. Anyhow, the property will help him to increase his social rank in society.

In case it is seen from Economics' view, women are treated as object of commodity by her husband. A marriage could have exchanging value to get property for a man because all women's possession would be her husbands' property then. In England, a husband who was poor had to ask his wife to work in factory and in other place to support the financial needs of the family. Indirectly, this made the socialization of women labour continually growth rapidly. The poverty which was gnawing away in society layers made women bring the duty of household outside to get a wage. A wage could be judged as exchange value. So here, they were valued not for their function but for what they could give from themselves.

Return to the novel, Heatcliff's next commodity action is also displayed when he also treats his own son, Linton as object of his commodity. He views and uses Linton not as human but as commodities to augment his economic power. "Hallo, Nelly! Cried Heatcliff, when she saw me. "I feared I should have to come down and fetch my property my self. You've brought it, haven't you? Let us see what we can make of it" (90). From this, the writer can acclaim that Heatcliff seems like a cruel man because of money. He blinds to realize that Linton is his own son that should have been saved, but on contrary he makes his own son as a tool to earn money. He seems to have a proper right to do everything toward Linton, including sacrificing him to produce a new private property. He clearly describes Linton as paltry. To make this passage complete, let see the next quotation.

My son is prospective owner of your place, and I should not wish him to die till I was certain of being his successor. Besides, he's mine, and I want the triumph of seeing my descendents fairly lord of their estates: my child hiring their children to till father's and for wages (191)

Heatcliff hopes his son will be hiring something then before his death. He does not care how Linton does it, but he is really certain that Linton will make his will comes true. Heatcliff's commodity action toward his son gives evidence that he is a man who is maniac of money who has been trapped in materialistic life so he does everything, including unconsciously sacrificing his own son.

Later, his action is continued after seeing the meeting between Catherine and his son. This condition implies something that makes Heatcliff lucky later. He will make, even seems to force, both of them love each other and thus get married. This is depicted through the quotation below:

That the two cousins may fall in love, and get married. [...]

'If Linton died, I answered, and his life is quite uncertain, Catherine would be the heir'.

'No, she would not', he said.

'There is no clause in the will to secure it so, his property would go to me.... (197)

The passage above openly pictures that Heatcliff desires to make both of Linton and Catherine fall in love each other and get married because Catherine is supposed to inherit his father's wealth. The marriage will soon make Linton as a new owner of the wealth. Ironically, he is certain that Linton shortly dies after

marriage. Thus, he has predicted that in case Linton dies, Grange, the house of Catherine's father, will be inherited to Catherine, but he will not let it happen because he will take Grange from Catherine's hand.

Through this case, it implies that commodity action that is done by Heatcliff is his obsession to do vengeance to old enemies, Linton and Hindley who treat him badly. Heathcliff's way of taking revenge on his enemies is to degrade them socially and dominate them economically. Vengeance is the ideology in which Heathcliff fools himself into a perspective that he can find contentment in life. At once, he deceives himself that vengeance by doing exploitation people economically will bring satisfaction. Here, Linton, because he is connected with Edgar, becomes a target of Heathcliff's retaliation.

Here, the writer can behold that Linton has value for his father. This case being equal with the condition of children in the eighteenth century in England. Children had lost their essence because they had to work to support financial trouble in family. They had never been introduced about education and lost their childhood. They worked in factory and street to earn money. Here, poverty was not any choice but they must survive by forgetting all their essence as real children and earn money as much as possible.

Then, to make this section complete, commodity action has also been done by Catherine. It can be displayed when finally she accepts Edgar Linton's proposal despite her loves Heateliff. She knows she has loved the poor boy since childhood. Staying with Haeteliff makes her so happy. But she does not keep their companionship later after her injury from Linton's bulldog. After she goes to

Thrusscross Grange she begins to appear as a different lady. The Linton's luxury has changed her become a ladylike. Thus, this transformation has alienated Heatcliff, her soulmate and love. This is occurred because Catherine considers the different social status of both her and Heatcliff will bring bad luck for her later. Hence, for all wrong reasons, Catherine justifies her union with Edgar Linton. As she says that "And he will be rich, and I shall like to be the greatest women of the neighborhood, and I shall be proud of having such husband" (70-71)

From here, the writer can behold that when Catherine chose Edgar Linton, it means that she puts the material as the first importance. It will be proud of her and increase her class position in society in case she marries the noble man, Edgar Linton, because he will inherit a wealth from old ancestors. In society, women tended to the same thing as Catherine does. Their parents would let their daughter to marry a man who came from higher strata. It would help them to increase their social rank and to get god image in society. To make this statement stronger, the article in the years 1993 by Rebecca Smith will support this. She claims:

The majority still married for the money, though, I can imagine parents in those days would be more willing to see their daughter marry a rich man than see their daughter marry homeless person because, yes, families were worried about their image, about the way others saw them.

However, the tantalize of material aspect has made her exiled from Heatcliff. Catherine knows in her heart she should have not married Edgar Linton because she loves Heatcliff and such a marriage will be detrimental to her nonconformist spirit. But, in other option, in case she chooses to marry Heateliff, it will degrade her later because Heateliff has nothing to raise her social rank in society.

As happened in English society in the Eighteenth century, treating people as object of commodity was common issue. It can be displayed in people that worked in factories. In factories, people or worker worked hard even over the proper time that provided but waged lowest. Here, workers were exploitated, even seemed to be a victim of commodity action that is done by the host. From case above, Issabella, Edgar and Linton are victims of commodity action that is done by Heatcliff and Catherine.

Here, the writer beholds that the essence of people are not seen from their 'use value' but from their 'exchange value'. It means that they are not seen from their function as human being but as object of commodity, what they can give economically from themselves. Hence, in realization the copious efforts in treating women, children and worker as object of commodity are the exploitation. That's why we are introduced about term "The exploitation of women", "The exploitation of children" and "The socialization of labour", as is happened in the case above. This occurs because of commodity-conscious that is inherited in people's life because of materialistic life.

# 4.2 Classism

As the writer said in the previous chapter, Heatcliff is the hero who fails to know the true nature. The circumstance has driven him into materialistic way of life so that in the end he will do everything to conquer private property. In fact, he

becomes so close with materialistic way of life because of the mirror of his past life in childhood. People treat him badly and show disrespectable manners because he has nothing to strengthen his pride in social. The bad treatment that he has endured has lead to class-consciousness. He begins to be conscious about his identity and tries to increase his social rank. In this subchapter, the writer displays that Heatcliff is a victim of the social gap and it brings people into disrespectable action.

Before the writer goes to the main analysis, she needs to discuss about the definition of classism. It is about class or social class in a relative social rank in terms of income, wealth, education, status/position or power. It also represents the different treatment based on social class or perceived social class. Whereas, it can be the systematic oppression of subordinated classes for the advantage of and to strengthen groups the dominant classes. However, it is clear that everyone on the top is mostly dominant with respect to class and gets substantial benefit and privilege, while everyone on the bottom is mostly subordinated and has limited access to resources and opportunities. Refer to Merriam-Webster dictionary, classism can be defined as:

the systematic assignment of characteristics of worth and ability based on social class that includes individual attitudes and behaviors, systems of policies and practices that are set up to benefit the upper classes at the expense of the lower classes, resulting in drastic income and wealth inequality, the rationale that supports these systems and this unequal valuing and the culture that perpetuates them.

Shortly, the passage above means that classism is talking about different social classes in society, in the end it also causes the different attitudes of the higher class people toward the lower class people. Moreover, Classism affects people not only on an economic level, but also on the emotional level. That's why disrespectable action toward people who are regarded as the lower people happens. Thus, the writer assumes that the existences of money make people see others from materialistic point of view, that is, based on money they posses. It means money makes people praise other from the good appearances. However,

In the novel, based on Nelly Dean's frame, as the second narrators in the story, little Heatliff is the poor boy who has nothing. Mr. Earnshaw brings him home and becomes foster parents for that poor boy. He is really mess first, as Nelly dean pictures him in his first coming to Heights that ".... A dirty, ragged, black-haired child, [...] he was really half dead with fatigue, and all that I could make out, amongst her scolding, was a tale of his sneering it starving and houseless... "(32).

the good performances mean the best position in society.

Heatcliff's coming to the house invites big hatred in Hindley, the son of Mr. Earnshaw. Hindley sees Heatcliff as the usurper of his father's affections and his privileged. The reason of Haetcliff's lineage and Hindley's bad treatment toward him makes his position as the favorite of Mr. Earnshaw so it causes Hindley to push Heatcliff away and eventually exiles him as a servant after Mr. Earnshaw's death. From here, the writer can capture that Heatcliff is openly a victim of his lower class position in society. He accepts the poverty as fate and as

the consequences; he is tyrannized, oppressed and colonized by people like Hindley. In Heights, he is not considered as the crucial members of family by Hindley even though his father has adopted him, except, by Catherine. But, his bad performances as the poor boys makes Hindley seek to break this bound. As Catherine says:

Poor Heatcliff! Hindley calls him vagabond, and won't let him sit with us, nor eat with us anymore: and he says, he and I must not play together, and threatens to turn him out of the house if we break his orders (19)

That line gives an evident that there is contradiction between HIndley and Heatcliff since childhood. Hindley creates a gap between Catherine, himself and Heatcliff. Heatcliff is really made miserable so that he never lets his little sister play together and eat on the same place. Above all, the line above gives detail that someone values others from his appearance and social status in society. In short, people are defined from the social status and what they can bring in society.

Classism takes a role here in which people are inherited a knowledge that human being are not created equal but different based on how much money they possess. It is all about social status in society. This is openly displayed in the novel. Whereas, in society, money was also supposed to be a wonderful thing to posses so it categorized people into two stages, that is, those who had money and those who did not. As Smith emphasizes that the people in higher position always had plenty of money for eating and drinking. They used to live a relatively

comfortable life and sit in their spacious rooms enjoying fine wine and delicious food. Ironically, the poor people were not all that nice. They would be scavenging the dirty streets for potential meals. In worst case, they could be found sharing a loaf of rotten bread with their ten children (1993).

Above all, they could be different each other by seeing their performance in society. As reported in previous chapter, the haves were believed to be often self-made, who owned their position to their own intelligences, persistence and foresight. They lived in comfort and covered by luxurious things. Inside, proletariat as the lower class was ugly and worse and defined shiftless, lazy and irresponsible. It marks that the upper class seemed to have particular in manners and ways, whereas the lower class were represented as bad ones.

Based on what they are wearing, the writer can also illustrate the differences. The upper class had clean linean and elegant clothing. Whereas, the poor were generally in bad condition, they were too poor to buy good clothes. They had generally poor quality, ill-shifting, coarse and dirty. They had, of necessity, little clothing because most of their incomes were spent for food. And in society, it sank down their social rank. Finally, the differences strata of life also influenced their way to treat others. The poor tended to be treated badly by the rich. The rich had no self-respect to poor man. They could do exploitation, oppression and lead to human suffering toward poor man.

Through the novel *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, money can best influence people to respect to others. They just see someone from the appearance and the social status. This occurs to Heatcliff as seen in case above. He is pictured

as the dark-haired, dark skinned "Gypsy" that Mr. Earnshaw brought home. He grows up as the foster child in Earnshaw home and is regarded as an outcast by family members. He has nothing to show to society and what he performs just categorize him into the lowest strata of live.

In addition, in other case, through the novel, the writer can see that classism is especially compelling in the following description of the house "Wuthering Heights" and "Thrusscross Grange". Wuthering Heights is the house of Earnshaw family. It is a kind of middle class family's house. There is any important furnitures in the house even though the lowest quality than the furniture in Grange that placed by Linton's family. Thus, Heights is viewed as a rough mess. To make this statement clear, the passage below will portray it

There was a carpet: a good one, but the pattern as obliterated by dusts: a fireplace hung with cut paper, dropping to pieces: a handsome oak-bed stead with ample crimson curtains of rather expensive material and modern make: but they had evidently experienced rough usage:[...]. The chairs were also damaged, many of them severely: and deep indentations deformed the panels of the walls (131)

By all account, the contradiction can be viewed in Thrusscross Grange that shows the kind of self-made people, intelligences and all covered by luxury things. The atmosphere of Thrushcross Grange illustrates the upper-class lifestyle.

It was beautiful-a splendid place carpeted, with crimson, and crimsons covered chairs and tables, and pure with ceiling bordered by gold, a

shower of glass-drops hanging in silver chains from the centre, and shimanering with little soft tapers (142)

As matter of fact, the contrast between them is more than physical, rather these two houses represent opposing forces which are embodied in their inhabitants. It represents two entirely contrasting mentalities and states of mind. One of unrestrained passion and dark broodiness, the other of politely refined affection and soft tenderness. Grange seems like a loving family and comfortable house, that's why members of family have become a well respected, dignified gentleman in the neighbourhood and a kind master. It is a symbol of civilization, warmth, and goodness. Rather, The Heights is a symbol of wildness, cruelty, and evil. Such utter difference between the environments and climates of the two households symbolizes the distinction between the temperaments of their inhabitants. More and more, through the description of the house, the writer can indicates the performance of the people.

Moreover, the writer assumes that classism happens because of the inharmonious two levels of life in society. The rich are believed as a group of people that can do everything with the money they have and it influences their action in society. That's why the rich/bourgeoisie in England in the eighteenth century did not show reluctance to do worse things, such as, oppression, tyrannization, and colonization toward the people who were considered as lower than them. So far they had money; they could conquer and control the condition. Thus, in case property and money are believed as everything, of necessity, the

poor are the proper people to accept the impasse circumstances because they have nothing to improve their social rank in society.

Here, the writer can view that the respectability can happen in society because of the higher rank of social position that people posses. People will respect a man who is considered as the rich people/bourgeoisie/aristocrats because they are determined to be born with its respectability. Whereas, the poor or also calls middle class or more inferior than aristocrats have to work hard to improve their social-recognition in order that others can show their respect to them. Therefore, the inferior man has to work hard to earn money, because money is supposed to be the sole alternative to maintain social rank and the respect from others. But, in case a man fail to increase their level of life, they will lose others respectability. That's why the rich tend to not appreciate to inferior man so they can intimidate, tyrannize and colonize them.

This happens because people try to access money as much as possible, ignore the real functions of humans and appraise human from material aspects.

This will be strengthened by passage from Khadijeh Safiri below:

If people attempt to access wealth and money as much as possible and from any possible way: if people judged another with the external and material living criteria and believe that material criteria and believe that material criteria brings about reputation and their absence would be reason for disrespectability (2008:969).

Through her Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte depicts this issue that the social gap takes a place because it is started by treating other based on the money

people posses. Heatcliff is much more inferior than Hindley. That's why Hindley can't control himself toward Heatcliff. Hindley's disrecpectable action is pictured when Hindley speaks rascally even accurses Heatcliff. "Take my colt, Gipsy, then I", said young Earshaw. [...]: take him, and be damned, you beggarly interloper! [...] imp of satan...." (35)

In the same case, it also occurrs amongst Heatcliff, Catherine and Edgar Linton. Catherine loves Heatcliff so much eventhough his brother, Hindley, hates him and treats him badly. It never scrapes her love to the poor guy even the more Hindley tries to separate them, the more they enjoy their companionship. But, the condition changes in short. In one of their expeditions in which they reach the Grange, the reality come true fastest. The unplanning visit to Grange make Catherine stays as Linton's guest for several weeks. When she returns to Heights, she changes a lot. She has been deeply attracted by the dress and covered by luxury of Linton's, especially the handsome and gentle Edgar. She is absolutely ladylike who is ascribed from the aristocrat's family, even it makes her lost her wild. As Hindley surprised when he sees her, "Why Catty, you are quite beauty! I should scarcely have known you: you look like a lady now" (46).

Although she still loves Heatliff, she cannot compare Heatcliff's snobbishness with the gentily of her new friends. In short, Linton has improved Catherine's social rank so in Heatcliff's view or vice versa, in Catherine's, herself, they are not fitting to be in love anymore. She even makes a joke about the worse condition of Heatcliff. "Why, how very black and cross you look! And how-how funny and grim! But that's because I'm used to Edgar and Issabella Linton"

(Catherine) (47). Later, the condition become worse because Hindley's action who is ashamed of him in front of Catherine and Edgar Linton. "You may come and wish Miss. Catherine welcome, like the other servants" (47)

Based on the event, Catherine, Hindley and Edgar Linton depict the fact that there is a different class of life amongst Heatcliff againts Catherine, Hindley and Edgar Linton. Heactliff is much more inferior so others treat him badly and look down on him. It happens naturally. Heatcliff is a mess and Hindley can call him servant. Whereas, Edgar Linton is supposed to be a hero for Catherine. He establishes Catherine's social position, makes her lose the wild, at the same time he also makes Heatcliff lost Catherine's respectability.

So, the crucial point of the research of this subchapter is materialism can cause social gap. The existence of money divides people into two crucial level of life, higher and lower levels. Their difference is clearly shown through their performance. The higher class is believed much better than the lower. In the end, this difference just leads to the disrespectable action of the higher class people toward the lower. This occurs because people just appraise others from material aspect

## **CHAPTER V**

### CONCLUSION

In accordance with the analysis, the writer sums up that the revolution that happens in England in the eighteenth century not only shows the success of bourgeoisie to overthrow the old aristocracy (feudal). Above all, it also pictures the revolution that is done by the lower class to gain freedom from exploitation and to get fairer treatment in economic. So, the effects are class struggle and simultaneously class consciousness. People become conscious about their existence and try to access money as much as possible to improve their life. Unconsciously they used to live materialistically. In the ways of accessing money as much as possible, they tend to do false ways, so that they do bad conduct. Thus, it can be best understood as false consciousness.

The emergence of private property in England in the eighteenth Century tend to lead a bad contribution toward human consciousness as reflected in the novel Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte. Through the novel, Bronte brings the issues that social conditions in England in the eighteenth century make people hard to define the nature of life. People face the fact that they need to struggle and do everything to exist in life by having property. But, in the end, people fail to know about true nature and they instead do a false thing.

The addiction of money makes people unconsciously enslaved by money. It can answer why the materialistic way of life grows up rapidly. Thus, false consciousness makes people to be materialistic and in the end it brings people into classism and commodification. Through the novel, Heatcliff can be judged to sell out her son by marrying him to young Catherine. Heatcliff thinks he will get property of Young Catherine's father after he dies. Then, the bad treatment that he gets in lifetime before makes him to pay back to everyone. When he is top end, he tries to do the same bad treatment to everyone. It means that he seems to be deceiver and deceived by situation.

To sum up: the research depicts how money becomes the prime motive of actions, it causes bad conducts and uncomfortable action. Materialism can interrupt the balanced attitude of people towards money. That is why In the way of producing private property or money, people have tendency to do, even to be trapped in the bad conduct. Materialism leads to class-consciousness in which people begin to be conscious toward their identity. In society, they believe they need to have much money to exist in life. Here, both of two layers of society will struggle to gain this purpose. In the end, this interest brings them into the unstable social life. Then, materialism drives them into commodity-conscious in which they will treat other as object of their commodity. Treating people based on how much their material possession and doing commodity action are bad conduct that marks false consciousness.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abrams, M.H. The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition. New York: Oxford University press.1976.
- Booker, M. Keith. A Practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism. New York: Longman Publishers USA. 1996.
- Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights. 23rd, London: A Bantam Book. 1981.
- Bryant, Christopher G. A. Sociology in Action. New York: Halsted Press, a Division of John Willey & Sons, inc. 1974.
- Charters, Ann. The Story and Its Writer. 3rd Ed. Boston: St. Martins. 1999.
- "Classism" Meriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2009
  Merriam-Webster Online. 21 June 2009.

  (http://www.Merriam-Webster.com/dictionary/classism)
- "Commodidfication". Encyclopedia of Marxism: Glossary of Terms. 2009. (http://term%20na%20/Glossary%20of%20Terms %20Co.mht)
  Online: 07/10/09
- "Commodification". Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2009.

  (http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/commodification)
  Online: 21/12/2009
- Darsono. Karl Marx. Ekonomi Politik dan Aksi revolusi. Jakarta: Diadit Media. 2007.
- "Individualism" All-Word-English dictionary. 2009.

  (http://www.allwords.com/words-individualism.html)
  Online: 07/10/09
- Roebuck, Janet. Development of English Society: The Making of Modern English Society from 1950. Great Britain: Red Wood Burn. 1973.
- Kenney, William. How to Analyse Fiction. New Yorks: Monarch Press. 1966
- Klarer, Mario. An Introduction to literary Studies. New York: Routledge. 1999.
- Laurence, Perinne. Literature: Structure, Sound & Sense. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Southern Methodist University. 1970.

Leon, Daniel De. Socialism Vs "Individualism": De Leon Carmody Debate. New York: New York Daily People. 1912.

(<u>www.SIP.org</u>) Online: 13/05/09

- Lester SR., J.D., & Lester., J.D. Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide. 7<sup>th</sup> ED. New York: Pearson Education, Inc. 2005.
- Majeski, John. The Industrial Revolution: Working Class Poverty or Propesty?. Vol 36 (7). 1986.

(http://The%20Industrial%20Revolution%20%20Working%20Class%20Poverty%20or%20Prosperity%20%20 %20The%20Freeman%20%20Ideas%20On%20Liberty.htm)
Online on 21/03/2009

Mezzo, Richard. E. A Student's Guide to Wuthering Heightsby Emily Bronte.

USA: Brown Walker Press. ISBN: 1-58112-406-6.

www.brownwalker.com/books/mezo6.htm.

Online: 19/04/2009

Moore, Christoper. E. Victorian Age Literature, Marxism, and the Labor Movement. 1999.

(http://www. Drury.edu./multinl/story.cfm?ID=2466&MLID=1666)
Online: 17/01/2009

- Noer, Deliar. Pemikiran Politik Negeri Barat. Jakarta: Mizan. 1996.
- North, Douglass. Structure and Change in Economic History. New York: Norton.
- Rowse, A. L. The Spirit of English History. New York: Longmans Green 7 Co. 1943
- Sari, Yuni Eka. (98185028). Women's Inferiority In Victorian Age As Seen in Emily Bronte's Novel Wuthering Heights. Padang: Andalas University. 2005 (Unpublished).
- Selden, Raman and Petter Widdowson. A Reader's Guide to Contemporary literary Theory. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. The University Press of Kentucky. 1993.
- Smith, Rebbecca. The Temperance Movement and Class Struggle in Victorian England.

(http://www.loyno.edu/history/1992-

3/documents/thetemperanceMovementClassStruggleInVictorianEngland.pdf//

Online: 12/12/2008

Safari, Khadijeh. Study Social and Cultural Factors on Youth Attitude toward Material Values. Pakistan: Medwell Journals. 2008.

5(9):968-975,2008 ISSN: 1681-8831 Online: 04/02/2009

Suryani, Susi (94185038). Structure and Meaning of Idiomatic Expressions as Found in Emily Bronte's Novel <u>Wuthering Heights.</u> 1999 (Unpublished).

Taborsky, Edward. The Class Struggle, the Proletariat, and the Developing Nations. Vol. 29, No. 3. (Jul, 1967), pp. 370-386.

http://www.jstor.org/

(http://links.jstor.org/sici=0034-

6705%28196707%2929%3A3%3C370%3ATCSTPA%3E2.0.CO%3B

2-1)

Online: 13/12/2009

Tyson, Lois. Critical Theory: A User Friendly Guide. New York: Routledge. 2006.



### SYNOPSIS OF WUTHERING HEIGHTS

In the late winter months of 1801, a man named Lockwood rents a manor house called Thrushcross Grange in the isolated moor country of England. Here, he meets his dour landlord, Heathcliff, a wealthy man who lives in the ancient manor of Wuthering Heights, four miles away from the Grange. In this wild, stormy countryside, Lockwood asks his housekeeper, Nelly Dean, to tell him the story of Heathcliff and the strange denizens of Wuthering Heights. Nelly consents, and Lockwood writes down his recollections of her tale in his diary; these written recollections form the main part of Wuthering Heights.

Nelly remembers her childhood. As a young girl, she works as a servant at Wuthering Heights for the owner of the manor, Mr. Earnshaw, and his family. One day, Mr. Earnshaw goes to Liverpool and returns home with an orphan boy whom he will raise with his own children. At first, the Earnshaw children—a boy named Hindley and his younger sister Catherine—detest the dark-skinned Heathcliff. But Catherine quickly comes to love him, and the two soon grow inseparable, spending their days playing on the moors. After his wife's death, Mr. Earnshaw grows to prefer Heathcliff to his own son, and when Hindley continues his cruelty to Heathcliff, Mr. Earnshaw sends Hindley away to college, keeping Heathcliff nearby.

Three years later, Mr. Earnshaw dies, and Hindley inherits Wuthering Heights. He returns with a wife, Frances, and immediately seeks revenge on Heathcliff. Once an orphan, later a pampered and favored son, Heathcliff now finds himself treated as a common laborer, forced to work in the fields. Heathcliff continues his close relationship with Catherine, however. One night they wander to Thrushcross Grange, hoping to tease Edgar and Isabella Linton, the cowardly, snobbish children who live there. Catherine is bitten by a dog and is forced to stay at the Grange to recuperate for five weeks, during which time Mrs. Linton works to make her a proper young lady. By the time Catherine returns, she has become infatuated with Edgar, and her relationship with Heathcliff grows more complicated.

When Frances dies after giving birth to a baby boy named Hareton, Hindley descends into the depths of alcoholism, and behaves even more cruelly and abusively toward Heathcliff. Eventually, Catherine's desire for social advancement prompts her to become engaged to Edgar Linton, despite her overpowering love for Heathcliff. Heathcliff runs away from Wuthering Heights, staying away for three years, and returning shortly after Catherine and Edgar's marriage.

When Heathcliff returns, he immediately sets about seeking revenge on all who have wronged him. Having come into a vast and mysterious wealth, he deviously lends money to the drunken Hindley, knowing that Hindley will increase his debts and fall into deeper despondency. When Hindley dies, Heathcliff inherits the manor. He also places himself in line to inherit Thrushcross Grange by marrying Isabella Linton, whom he treats very cruelly. Catherine becomes ill,