

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

A novel is one specific type of literary work. Novels usually describe life's reflections or as a representation of everything that exists in reality. A novel is also a mirror of the thoughts, emotions, and lifestyle of the writer. It might feel like the world we experience on a daily basis. However, they remain a creation of the imaginations of novelists. A novel is defined as a fictional prosaic story of a specific length in The American College Dictionary, where the characters actions are described as representations of real life (1960:830). Nonetheless, the book and its characters uphold many moral principles by highlighting the importance of life.

The novel that the researcher chose to discuss in this research is Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, it was first published in London in 1847 by Thomas Cautley Newby, The authors were printed as being Ellis Bell, Emily's real name did not appear until 1850, when it was printed on the title page of an edited commercial edition (Mezo, 2002). It is a creative interpretation that fits the subject matter she decided to deal with. Her book was well-organized such that Thrushcross Grange and *Wuthering Heights* are the only two locations where any of the action happens. "*Wuthering Heights*" is a classic novel written by Emily Brontë, published

in 1847. The novel takes place on the moors of Yorkshire and centers on the characters' deep affections and complicated relationships.

The way Emily Bronte introduces or creates the violence of human emotions shows her talent in character description. Her ability to give Heathcliff credibility in this novel is among her most amazing feats. She accomplishes this by putting him in a situation where others dislike and despise him. The three main characters are Edgar Linton, a kind and gentle man; lively and passionate woman Catherine Earnshaw; and mysterious and gloomy orphan Heathcliff. A rough childhood relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine develops into a deep and destructive love. However, societal expectations and class differences causes Catherine to marry Edgar, leading to a tragic series of events. Heathcliff, consumed by revenge and heartbreak, seeks to torment those who wronged him. The novel explores the issues of social class, love, revenge, and the damaging impact of uncontrollable emotion.

Emily Bronte reveals her characters through a unique way. As a way to represent the people who live there, she connects the locations of the two houses—Thrushcross Grange in the valley and Wuthering Heights on the hill. Living in Wuthering Heights, a storm-tossed neighborhood, Heathcliff is a bad person. The Lintons, who live in the protected valley, on the opposite hand, have gentle attitudes. In reality, there is no relationship between the attitudes of those who live in the valley and the hill. However, these environments appear to reflect their attitudes.

The main topic of Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights" is social conflict, which highlights the social classes during that time. Class division appears as a powerful and constant feature in Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights," influencing the lives of the characters and driving the main conflicts of the story. Brontë explores the complexity of Victorian society, providing deep insights on the influence of class on social structures, interpersonal relationships, and individual identities through complex character dynamics and realistic depictions of social hierarchies. A striking contrast in social classes can be seen at the center of "Wuthering Heights" between the wealthy Linton family, who reflect privilege and fortune, and the deprived Earnshaw household, who are highlighted by their lack of social status. As individuals deal the complexity of their social positions and the demands placed upon them by society, this class division sets the setting for conflict.

This research views Heathcliff as a key figure in exploring the rejection he receives from the Earnshaw family in the forms of hostility and the physical violence he endure from Hindley Earnshaw. And also the case of class division or the treatment Heathcliff receives because of his lower class, and then Heathcliff's plan to revenge the mistreatment that he receives during his time with the Earnshaw family.

Mr. Earnshaw initially welcomes Heathcliff, but Hindley quickly becomes hostile, disliking the attention and affection Heathcliff receive. This family hatred grows following Mr. Earnshaw's death, when Hindley,

the new head of the household, demotes Heathcliff to the role of a servant. Hindley uses physical violence to communicate his anger. Heathcliff is subjected to violent abuse and forced work, which lowers his position and worsens his sense of isolation. This approach not only highlights the hatred among the family, but it also leads to Heathcliff's developing anger and desire for revenge. Class division has a big impact on Heathcliff's rejection. Heathcliff, who was previously an outsider with unknown status, is degraded into a servant by Hindley's ruthless control. This class relegation becomes a barrier between him and Catherine, the woman he loves. Catherine's decision to marry Edgar Linton, a man of greater social status, highlights the impassable social boundaries and increases Heathcliff's sense of betrayal. Heathcliff's response to rejection is to seek revenge. After leaving Wuthering Heights and becoming wealthy, he relentlessly eliminates those who have mistreated him.

With a sociological analysis, the novel reveals the complicated relationships between themes such as conflict, love, and revenge, as well as how they fit into the bigger picture of social structures. The story focuses on the impact of social conflicts and provides insights into how these conflicts have a significant impact on the lives of the characters. The researcher decide that sociological approach is appropriate to analyze the social conflict in Emily Bronte"s Wuthering Heights.

## **1.2. Statements of Problems**

1. How does social conflict develop in the novel Wuthering Height by Emily Bronte?
2. What factors contribute to the social conflict ?

## **1.3. Scope of Research**

On this research, the researcher only focus on what are factors that contribute to social conflict and how does social conflict develops in the novel “Wuthering Heights” by Emily Bronte.

## **1.4. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the statement of problems above, the objectives of this research are :

1. To find how did social conflict develops in the novel “Wuthering Heights” by Emily Bronte.
2. To find the factors that contributed to the social conflict in the novel.

## **1.5. Significances of the Research**

There are two each significances of this research that the researcher hopes to be useful whether in theoretical or practical significance.

### **1.5.1. Theoretical Significance**

1. The researcher hope that this research can assist in any learning activities about literature, spesifically about social conflict in the novel "Wuthering Heights".
2. So that the researcher collect information about social conflict and its types in the novel.

### **1.5.2. Practical Significance**

1. So that the reader of this research are driven to analyze more about the novel "Wuthering Heights".
2. To become a reference for college student to learn more about literature.