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The Theme of Revenge in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*

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DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate our paper to:

Our prophet.

Our parents.

Our friends.

Inst. Anjeel G. Jabbaw
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Abstract

The main purpose of this paper is to deal with the theme of revenge in Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights* and to know how some aspects of her life are reflected in her novel as she created a motherless character because she lost her mother by cancer when she was three years old. Even the setting of her novel is similar to the environment that she grew up in especially Haworth village which is an isolated place surrounded by moors. Many critics considered her novel as the novel of revenge because many things influenced and shaped her life.

The paper comprises three sections. The first of them deals with Emily Bronte's life and a glimpse at her major works. The second section is allotted to afford an introduction to the Victorian age in terms of social ideals and literature with special focus made to the characteristic features of the Victorian novel. Moreover, section three sheds light on the theme of revenge and examples of in Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights*. The paper ends with a conclusion that sums up the findings of the study, followed by a list of references and cited works.

Section One

Emily Bronte: Life and Career

Emily Jane Bronte was born in July, 30, 1818 in village of Thornton near Bradford. She spent most of her life in the Yorkshire moors in England's industrial north. She is the daughter of Reverend Patrick and Maria Bronte. Her father was an Anglican clergyman. Her mother was a gentlewoman from Penzance in Cornwall who married from the curate in 1812, and given birth to six children. Five daughters and only one son. Maria, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Branwell, Emily, Anne. Emily was the fifth child and fourth daughter in her family. In April 1820 after the birth of Anne the family moved to Haworth where the father Mr. Bronte received a position as perpetual curate (Bloom, 2008: 10).

Haworth was small separated town on the Yorkshire moors, Attractive in summer and spring, in winter the weather is cool, dark and damp, rude when sudden storms blew from the west. In the mid nineteenth century the people separated from each other, large towns were few, the moor land set uncovered under the sky as it is from thousands of years (Colse, 1987: 1). In September 1821 Emily's mother died from cancer, and the six children left motherless with ages scoping from eight to one. Then their Aunt Branwell came to look after the children and keep the house. She was a formally known spinster, thrifty, she raised the children up (Bloom, 2008: 10).

Little is known about Emily's sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, because they died young. Charlotte and Emily were literary intellect and geniuses. The youngest, Anne, was also publisher and Patrick Branwell, called simply Branwell, have the tendency both for writing and painting (Coles, 1987: 1). Because of the isolated situation of the Bronte family

they don't like mention or even talking about their covert lives and they don't like the company with others or even to have many friends .Moreover, little information is known about Emily's childhood (Coles,1987:2).

In the date of 1824 Emily attended with her three elder sisters (charlotte, Maria and Elizabeth) Cowan Bridge school. It's a school for teaching the daughters of the local clergy by a rev. This school was as any other Victorian schools, schooling there was strict and condition life was tough for the students. Then the tuberculosis ran the school and Maria and Elizabeth were sickened by it. They returned home to die. Maria died at 1825 May 6, and at June 1 Emily and Charlotte returned home after summer vacation, at June 15 Elizabeth Bronte died (Coles, 1987: 2).

Emily attended this school briefly from 1824 to 1825. Most of the time she was educated at home by her aunt and her father. The books and magazines with which parsonage were well stocked, she and her sisters spent six years of education at home (Bloom,2008:10).At their home the conversation topics are about the poetry, history and politics. Such talk fed the active imagination of the children. One day Branwell the son was presented with a box of wooden soldiers, the children at once adopted soldier's life as their own character. Emily acted a descendent of sir Walter Scott, the Scottish romantic poet and novelist, and one of her notable heroes led by eldest charlotte and Branwell. The children began to write and produced little plays about the soldiers and imaginary worlds in which they lived. These plays became stories ,copied in to tiny booklets, and finally developed into two ongoing sages, one composed largely by Charlotte and the other set on unreal island of Gondal by Emily and Anne .Gondal was populated by characters who seemed to be

rude, brave type. In their own town Emily will still to write about Gondal for the rest of her life (Jobnson,2004: ix).

Emily's personality was the most notable and strange one. She was careful, reclusive, calm, quite in company, polite but withdrawn. Her deepest thoughts were always kept hidden from the others, also she was tall, slender, pale, with grey eyes and not very attractive complexion. She dressed oddly, she is pleasant enough to live with understanding the other and very kind, very strong countryside girl. She was attached to nature and, while she was wandering in the moors, she became truly alive. She spent a great deal of time alone in the moors walking, thinking, and maybe forming some of her poetry in the free and open air. Furthermore, she has the talents that make the literary artist great (Ibid.).

Emily's later life relates on her abortive try to make a living on her own. Some jobs presented to the girls in Bronte. In 1835 Emily joined her sister Charlotte at (Miss Woolers school) at Roe head, but because she remained far away from the moors she became home sick. Then she went to law hill in Halifax as a teacher staying there for six months, then she returned to Haworth when her health began to fail again. She stayed at home for five years and at this period she and her two sisters plan to make their own school at parsonage with their aunt lending them money, but the next year their aunt and Mr. William who had been a favorite with girls both died, and the girls returned to their home and their hopes of building the school failed (Coles,1987:3).

Emily was concerned about her optimistic sight of the future in which she supposed that she and her sisters will head a school, and living in busy harmony, but the school will never to open and she left Haworth only briefly. Their adulthood was then devoted to writing rather than teaching

(Bloom,2008:128). Emily became sick and physically ill. In the period between (1838-1842) she wrote many poems and kept them for herself, but in 1845 Charlotte her sister discovered these poems and tried to persuade her sister to publish her work (Jopnson, 2004:x).

In May 1846 the three sisters Emily, charlotte and Anne made up a small volume containing a selection of verse of all the three and published it wishing to stay anonymous because if they knew that they are women their work will not receive serious attention, so they published under the names of (Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell). Names that were bearing the initials letters of their own names (Coles,1987:3). In their first try they published *Dismal Failure* poems but it received no suitable critical attention and only two copies were sold. Nevertheless, they didn't stop their hopes, each of the three girls wrote a novel; charlotte produced *Jane*, Emily produced *Wuthering Heights* and Anne produced *Agnes Grey* publishing them in 1847 (Coles,1987:3).

Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights* was first not well received and it was considered as unreasonable, gloomy and cruel. The result then was that only few copies of the first edition were sold (Bloom,2008:123). Despite the fact that she Wrote only one novel, she continued to carry on uncertain relationship with nineteenth century thoughtful traditions that support humanistic values either by advancing the claims of the individuals or by carrying on those of community (Ibid:89). Emily and her sister Anne wrote many diary papers and journal articles as a description of their lives that prescribe a future date on which they read the account and then write an incidental one (Ibid:128). Moreover, it is worth noting that Emily was born after the apex of the romantic period in the Victorian era, in the midst of the Industrial Revolution. Yet, she had

always a desire to return back to the earlier era and that is notable in her novel *Wuthering Heights*(Jobnson,2004: xi).

In 1848 Emily began to write a second novel, this time her brother Branwell died of tuberculosis. In his funeral Emily caught a cold, which was then developed into serious illness and she ignored herself refusing all medical advises, she was not able to breathe without going to cough. After two months she broke down saying to charlotte that she now wants to see the doctor, but she passed away before help could arrive. She died on December 19, 1848 at the age of thirty, her body was very thin and her coffin was only sixteen inches wide (Johnson, 2004: x). After Emily's death and not earlier than the twentieth century her novel of *Wuthering Heights* started to be regarded as a masterpiece in which gothic romantic units were dealing with huge sources and poetic power (Bloom, 2008:123).

Section Two

The Victorian Novel: Introductory Remarks

Novel it is the greatest trait of the Victorian age. It becomes the most popular form in Victorian literature. Many authors use it as a tool to depict their society. Many novels deal with real problems and also many issue just like romance, teaching moral lesson, educate inquisitive reader about the great development in the society or it might be written to give readers the theme of realism which became the dominant theme in the nineteenth century. Thus it becomes nowadays the source of many famous Hollywood movies in the 1930 – 1940 and through BBC serialization (David, 2001: 1-6).

People at the Victorian age used to read novels. They were attracted to this form more than poetry, music or other literature types because novel gives them information about different places, things and people. It gives them knowledge about the unknown such as great exhibition which gives us an ocular and textual knowledge about the world. Novels that deal with social problems gives readers knowledge about industrialization as in Trollope's *Palliser* which affords knowledge about parliamentary politics. Victorian novel includes historical novel, silver fork novel, detective novel, the industrial novel and science fiction novel (Ibid:3).

Each novelist in the Victorian period had his own way in writing but there are similarities between their novels in certain aspects like the life of characters in the family, engagement and marriage as related to social, political, historical and spiritual themes. Due to the huge development in the Victorian period and what resulted from it, the Victorian life became

a great symbol in many Victorian novels like Dickens's *Florence*, *Dombey* and *David Copperfield*, Thackeray's *Henry Esmond*, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and Emily Bronte's *Heathcliff*. All of them are notable children, four of them are fatherless while Florence has lost her mother. Their nostalgia for spiritual and emotional achievement in an aggressive world effect on their behavior and their life when they are adult (Bloom, 2004: 55).

The Victorian novel appeared in collection form of the expensive three-decker. This prorate system lead to three limitations on the novel: of price, form and content. Novels that were written in one volume were read by people in spite of it is first edition. They borrowed a volume at a time. Short novels which were less than three volume costed lower price from publisher. If to look at the history of publishing a novel in the nineteenth century one can know that the majority of novels were not published in three-decker form. Charles Dickens was the first author who tried to invent a new form of presenting novel. His novels were presented weekly and monthly. This idea came from middle class readers. By the end of the nineteenth month, readers will complete reading one novel and still one shilling is the price. *Oliver Twist* was published in monthly parts; Dickens was the sole successful author in making monthly issue parts. Many authors tried to make cultural and economic successes but they failed. Novels that were presented in weekly or monthly forms have good advantage for both reader and author because authors will have good relation with the audience or readers and this will enable him/her to know their interest and also the price will not be too expensive for them (David, 2001: 45).

Victorian novelists did not depend only on the production of monthly and weekly forms of novels because this form is not well-known globally.

They used another way which is sequencing not in discrete booklet but parts of magazine or newspaper. There is benefit from this form which is the announcement earnings. Some novels were published in this form. Another advantage is that if a novel is written and did not become popular people will buy the remaining from the content by buying the periodical. Some novels become famous not because of their form. They might appear in any form as part work or serialized in periodical or the three-decker form when the requisition of the novel is meant to find a new way to attract readers which is printing novel in single volume and the price will be very cheap to enable middle class readers to buy it. When some novels appeared in book forms, they attracted most of readers because publishers covered the book with bright paper and printed pictures on it. These books were small to be carried in handbags, jackets or coats and were not too expensive (Bloom, 2004: 54).

Novels in the eighteenth century dealt with independent persons and bequeaths fortunes. These things were the reasons behind sympathy and morality for thus he or she will be different from others. Moreover, novels in the nineteenth century dealt with the individual who needed containment, circumstances and normalize him in way to be supported and modernized him to new social classification systems. Novels joined the fate of the emergent middle class and added criteria, value, habit and concept nationality with nation. Victorian novels changed the idea of bourgeois love which is based on empathy and class attraction. The Bronte's, Charles Dickens, William Thackeray and other Victorian novelists pretended on the individual's ability to follow female desire to test the morality whether one's lover, wife, daughter or oneself depended on domestic life (David, 2001: 97).

Section Three

The Theme of Revenge in *Wuthering Heights*

Wuthering Heights is the only novel written by Emily Bronte. She didn't complete her education but this didn't effect on the structure, theme and style of her novel. Her novel is considered unique because it is a mixture of different emotions; love, hatred, jealousy and revenge. Even the way in which it presented or written differs as it written in the form of diaries. There are two narrators in the course of the novel; Mr. Lockwood who gave the introduction and epilogue of some sections in the form of diary "1801, I have just returned from a visit to my landlord the solitary neighbor that I shall be troubled with ... "(*Wuthering Heights*, ch1, p.1). the second narrator is Nelly Dean who afforded readers with the full detail because she is the main servant at the Earnshaw family. This novel talks about different themes but the most obvious one is revenge. Many critics dealt with this novel and found out that revenge is the most important one. Walter Allen says that *Wuthering Heights* is a "novel of revenge with Heathcliff the revenger" (196). Melvin Watson says in his article "the novel is the study of the development and issue of evil, of anti-social passion of hate and malice working freely based and un folded by exceptional strength and ability " (254).

The major revenge is taken by Heathcliff from the Linton and Earnshaw family for thus the focus will be on Heathcliff's relation with those two families. In his study of *Thirty Great Novels* Ismail Salami says that "Heathcliff's revenge against those who wronged him taint all relationship at *Wuthering Heights* and *Thrush Cross Grange* (527).Moreover, the minor revenge is taken by Hindley from Heathcliff. Austen O'Malley says "revenge is like biting a dog that bit you" (1).

There are some injuries that go so deep and never improve. Such damage can glint one of the greatest human motivation, that is, revenge, which, if saved unchecked it will develop inside us until it destroys all our dreams and ruins our lives. Emily Bronte illustrated this by the characters of Heathcliff and Hindley who are stimulated by the thirst for revenge that lead to their damage. So *Wuthering Heights* is, as Walter Allen states "*Wuthering Heights* is a novel of revenge, with Heathcliff the revenger"(Allen,1961:196).

Wuthering Heights is a mental study of a fundamental man whose soul is rend between love and hate. He is a man about whose past nothing is known. Dark, unclean mendicant who was found in Liverpool streets by Mr. Earnshaw who brought him to wuthering heights and then turned to be choleric by the rough treatment of Hindley (Bloom,2008:34).Ismail salami in his study of thirty great novels states that "Heathcliff revenges against those who have wronged him, taints all relationships at wuthering heights and thrush cross grange"(Ismail,1999:527). So the theme of revenge is centered around Heathcliff's relation with Earnshaws and Lintons.

Heathcliff was the hero of the novel from the first time he was brought to wuthering heights until the maid Nelly found him dead at the end of the novel.His revenge is centered around Hindley because of his ill treatment and Edgar Linton because he took Catherine Earnshaw his beloved far away from him which is the main reason that sparkled his cruelty and need of revenging from all of them and even Hindley because he also rejected his love to his sister Catherine. So at the end he made a plan to revenge from all who made his life miserable. The plot of the novel comprises a number of complex relationships. The events of the novel talk about an orphan and gypsy boy who effected on the Earnshaws and

Lintons families at YorkShire. From the first beginning Heathcliff was brought to wuthering heights by Mr. Earnshaw, he was unkindly received by the family especially Hindley the son because he hated him (Jobnson,2004:59).

The boy was then called Heathclif by the Earnshaws according to their dead son who died at the childhood(Coles,1987:24). "He seemed a sullen, patient child; hardened, perhaps, to ill- treatment: he would stand Hindley's blows without winking or shedding a tear, and my pinches moved him only to draw in a breath and open his eyes, as if he had hurt himself by accident, and nobody was to blame" (Ch.4:54). The young master Hindley, and because of his jealous from Heathcliff started to consider his father "an oppressor rather than a friend,and Heathcliff as a usurper of his parents' affections"(Jobenson,2004:60).

Heathcliff understood quite well how to make use of Mr. Earnshaw's concern with him at the cost of Hindley. This is shown when Mr. Earnshaw gave Hindely and Heathcliff horses, Heathcliff's horse became disabled and when he discovered this he told Hindley saying "You must exchange horses with me: I don't like mine; and if you won't I shall tell your father of the three thrashings you've given me this week, and show him my arm, which is black to the shoulder" (ch.4:47). Hindley put out his tongue, and cuffed him over the ears "You'd better do it at once," he persisted, escaping to the porch (they were in the stable): "you will have to: and if I speak of these blows, you'll get them again with interest.' 'Off, dog!' cried Hindley, threatening him with an iron weight used for weighing potatoes and hay" "'Take my colt, Gipsy, then!' said young Earnshaw. 'And I pray that he may break your neck: take him, and he damned, you beggarly interloper! and wheedle my father out of all he

has: only afterwards show him what you are, imp of Satan. - And take that, I hope he'll kick out your brains"(ch4:47).

When Hindley finished his speech he run away as fast as he could. from that we know that Heathcliff's existence in the Earnshaw family house was from the very beginning a sick one "he bred bad feeling in the house" (Jobenson,2004:59). Hindley now by the age of college and Mr.Earnshaw that his father decided by the advice of Lintons to send him to study: 'Hindley was nought, and would never thrive as where he wandered" (Ch.5:50). Through this period of hindleys absence, Heathcliff lived with peace and no one punished him or ill-treatedhim. Two years later Mr.Earnshaw became very weak and died silently in his chair on one October evening, settled by the fire side "I shall bid father good-night first," said Catherine, putting her arms round his neck, before we could hinder her. The poor thing discovered her loss directly - she screamed out- 'Oh, he's dead, Heathcliff! he's dead!' And they both set up a heart-breaking cry (ch.5:53).Therefore, the two children lost their father (Coles,1987:25).

After this period the young master Hindley returned for his father's funeral and knew that he got married and he brought his loved wife Frances with him, so Hindley now became the master of Wuthering Heights after his father's death and now he is ready to pay Heathcliff back what he thought his usurping of his father's affection and revenge from him (Ibid). His sister Catherin Earnshaw believes that "I wish my father were back again. Hindley is a detestable substitute - his conduct to Heathcliff is atrocious" (Ch.3:24).Hindley treats Heathcliff as a servant and he thrust him from their company, forbade him from the orders of curate asserting that he should work in the farm all of the day. He also forbade him from education but Catherin Hindley's sister who was very

close to him helped him and taught him in contrast to her brother(Ibid:26). Due to this Heathcliff bore his degradation pretty well at first, because Cathy taught him what she learnt, and worked or played with him in the fields. They both promised fair to grow up as rude as savages"(Jobenson,2004:71). The bad treatment of Hindley to both Catherine and Heathcliff made them very close to each other, so when Hindley punished them they used to sit down and make plans to revenge from him. The two grow more and more careless and run away into the moors all the day to escape from Hindley's harmful treatment and "they had contrived some naughty plan of revenge" (Ch.6:56).

One day they steal up to the thrush crossing the grange at the night and watched what the Lintons were doing but suddenly they burst with laughter and alarmed the family, they released their watch dog and the dog jumped on Cathy and chew her in her ankle. Then the lintons recognized Catherin and take her inside to treat her while Heathcliff went away but he came again in order to see if Catherine is well-treated or not(Coles,1987:26). Catherine stayed at Wuthering Heights for five weeks. They treated her nicely and combined to civilize her. When she returned to Wuthering she returned as a young lady much improved in her general manner while Henley ordered Heathcliff to come and welcom Miss Catherine as the other servants (Ibid)"Heathcliff, you may come forward, you may come and wish Miss Catherine welcome, like the other servants" (Ch.7:64),

Because of the kindness of the Lintons with Catherine,Hindlely invited them to spend a morning in Wuthering Heights. They accepted this invitation and in the next Christmas Edgar and his sister Isabell awere at Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff cleaned himself up in order to join them for the dinner but accidently Hindly met him at the kitchen preventing

him from joining them and ordering the servant Joseph to keep him out of the room until they complete their dinner (Ibid:27) stating "keep the fellow out of the room - send him into the garret till dinner is over. He'll be cramming his fingers in the tarts and stealing the fruit, if left alone with them a minute" (ch.7:70). Heathcliff became furious when Edger made a remark on his hair and said that it is too long "they are long enough already,' observed Master Linton, peeping from the doorway; 'I wonder they don't make his head ache. It's like a colt's mane over his eyes!'" (Jobenson,2004:91).

This speech made him angry and he threw a basin of hot apple-sauce at Edgar's face and made him weep. For this Hindley punished him and his hatred to Edgar Linton increased pushing him to decide to revenge from them when he found the chance to do it he said to the maid Nelly: "I'm trying to settle how I shall pay Hindley back. I don't care how long I wait if I can only do it at last. I hope he will not die before I do it' For shame, Heathcliff!' said I. 'It is for God to punish wicked people; we should learn to forgive' 'No, God won't have the satisfaction that I shall,' he returned. 'I only wish I knew the best way! Let me alone, and I'll plan it out: while I'm thinking of that I don't feel pain" (ch.7:74).

The desire for revenge increased and Heathcliff kept waiting the chance to revenge from Hindley and Edgar. After a period of time Hindley's wife Frances bears him a son they named him Hareton. After a while she died and Hindley became violent and mad he became a drinker in order to forget the death of his lovely wife but he treated Heathcliff worse than before but Heathcliff has the satisfaction for seeing his enemy destroyed and he found the chance that he was waiting to revenge from him(Coles,2004:27). Nelly Dean said "the master's bad ways and bad companions formed a pretty example for Catherine and Heathcliff. His

treatment of the latter was enough to make a fiend of a saint." (Jobenson, 1987:102). Edgar Linton became the frequent visitor to Wuthering Heights and the relationship between him and Cathy disturbed Heathcliff's natural love to Cathy. For that there was a growing rivalry between Heathcliff and Edgar. One day Catherine told Nelly that she is engaged to Edgar and she wanted her opinion "To-day, Edgar Linton has asked me to marry him, and I've given him an answer. Now, before I tell you whether it was a consent or denial, you tell me which it ought to have been". Really, Miss Catherine, how can I know?" (Ch.9:94). She told Nelly that she is going to marry him because he is rich and she will be the greatest woman in the country side if she marry him " 'And he will be rich, and I shall like to be the greatest woman of the neighborhood, and I shall be proud of having such a husband.' (Ch.9:95) On the other hand, she loved Heathcliff deeply and she cannot leave him, she wanted to marry Edgar only for the social advantage, "Nelly, I AM Heathcliff! He's always, always in my mind: not as a pleasure, any more than I am always a pleasure to myself," (Jobenson, 2004:153).

At that time Heathcliff was in the kitchen and he heard all their conversation. He understood that Cathy is no more in love with him and he left wuthering heights as fast as he could and run away without a return for three years. After that he returned to wuthering heights much improved in his shape and also very rich and handsome master. The first thing he did is to visit thrush cross grange. Cathy now is married to Edgar and when Heathcliff came and saw her he stated the reason behind his visit, he said that he wanted to see her face (Coles, 1987:29). He clearly stated that he "heard of your marriage, Cathy, not long since; and, while waiting in the yard below, I meditated this plan - just to have one glimpse

of your face, a stare of surprise, perhaps, and pretended pleasure;" (ch10:118).

Heathcliff stayed at Thrushcross Grange for only one hour and then he states that Mr. Hindley invited him to stay at Wuthering Heights. The reason behind Hindley's invitation is that now Hindley is turning into drinking and gambling and he found that Heathcliff will support him with money because Heathcliff is now rich and thus Hindley wanted to take his money (Ibid:34): "Mr. Earnshaw invited me, when I called this morning."

Actually Heathcliff found it a good chance to revenge from his enemy and to destroy him. Heathcliff included Hareton and made him part in the plan of revenge. He wanted to make him ignorant because he hated him as his father hated Heathcliff. He forbade him from education and taught him to do and say bad things such as insulting his father Hindley, so his plan was not limited to Hindley but also his son. Heathcliff succeeded in making Hareton as brute as he was made by his father Hindley. Hindley never avoided himself from gambling with Heathcliff because he wanted to bring his losses back, but Heathcliff made him bankrupt and pushed him to lose all his money, resulting then in his death. Hindley tried to kill Heathcliff many times and attacked him more than one time, yet at the end he died after a bloody quarrel with Heathcliff "the ruffian kicked and trampled on him, and dashed his head repeatedly against the flags (Jobenson,2004:254). Heathcliff became the real owner of the possessions of the Earnshaws and he fulfilled his desire of revenge from Hindley.

Upon his return to the Lintons Heathcliff included Edgar in the plan of revenge who had got married to his beloved Catherine Earnshaw.

He hated him because he took her and made her far away from him. When he returned to Wuthering Heights after his absence, he became the frequent visitor to Thrushcross Grange and his meeting with Catherine made Edgar vicious. He physically attacked Heathcliff, but Heathcliff was stronger than Edgar, a fact that made his wife Catherine criticize her husband's weakness and respect Heathcliff (Coles, 1987:35) "Cathy, this lamb of yours threatens like a bull!" he said. 'It is in danger of splitting its skull against my knuckles. By God! Mr. Linton, I'm mortally sorry that you are not worth knocking down!'"(Ch.11:140).

Moreover, Heathcliff included Isabella in the plan of revenge to give Edgar considerable pain, unlikely, Isabella in spite of her sister's in-law advice and also Nelly's advice to take care from Heathcliff, she believed him (Jobenson, 2004:182); "Nelly, help me to convince her of her madness. Tell her what Heathcliff is: an unreclaimed creature, without refinement, without cultivation;"(Ch.10:125). Catherine told Heathcliff about Isabella's feelings towards him. He took the subject truly and managed to use Isabella's feelings to revenge from her brother. After a short time, Heathcliff and Isabella got married and she fell in Heathcliff's snare actually Heathcliff's marriage to Isabella complicates the plot and carries on most vividly the theme of hate or revenge in the novel.

Thus Heathcliff thought that the Earnshaws and Lintons made his life miserable by usurping his beloved Catherine far away from him so he hated them. He hated Isabella because she is one of the Lintons, he married her in order to get mastery of the Lintons' possessions, but Edgar cut his sister out of the will. Isabella's thoughts of Heathcliff as a hero did not last forever as she found that Heathcliff abused her. She sent a letter to Nelly after her coming to Wuthering Heights, she talked in this letter her misery life with Heathcliff (Coles, 1987:39) "is Mr. Heathcliff a man? If

so, is he mad? And if not, is he a devil, she informed Nelly that he is a beast. 'He's a lying fiend! a monster, and not a human being!' (Ch.13:167)

At this time Catherine became very sick and Heathcliff ordered Nelly to make an arranged meeting between them, he wanted to see her and he came to Thrushcross Grange and saw the doors open. He entered the house searching for Cathy's room, he found out finally through their conversation that they expressed their guiltiness

Catherine's marriage to Edgar was a horrible error, one which destroyed any chance of happiness for either of the lover, now Catherine is dying and Heathcliff will live out his days with a grief he can never forget (ch.10:43).

Catherine died after giving birth to a daughter whose name is also Catherine. Nelly told Heathcliff about Catherine's death and he stated that he cannot live without his beloved "Oh, God! it is unutterable! I CANNOT live without my life! I CANNOT live without my soul!" (Jobson,2004:268). After Catherine's death Heathcliff treated Isabella worse than before, and, after he returned from Catherine's funeral he quarreled with Hindley and he accused her that she managed with Hindley against him. She tried to offend herself but she cannot as he ordered her to get far away from him or he will kill her. He threw a knife from the table and made a cut beneath her ear and made her bleed: "Get up, and be gone out of my sight, Get up, wretched idiot, before I stamp you to death!" he cried, making a movement that caused me to make one also." (ch.17:22) Isabella managed to run away from him and live in southern London. Few months after her escape she gave birth to a son named him Linton (Coles,1987:45).

Thirteen years later Isabella died and Heathcliff took Linton to live with him because he is his father but he is very weak, Heathcliff used his son also to revenge from Edgar and gain the Linton's possessions "the prospective owner of the place"(Jobenson,2004:334). Therefore, Heathcliff tried to knit a love relation between his son Linton and Catherine Edgar who became frequent visitor to the wuthering heights and he made his son sent letters for her. Linton asked his uncle Edgar to see Catherine in the moors, he accepted but with Nelly's attention. Heathcliff was afraid that his son might die before his marriage from Catherine so one day Linton seemed to be pail and weak more than before he fell down and his father ordered him to get on his feet. By the help of Catherine, he stood up and then Heathcliff asked Catherine to go with him to the wuthering heights, she refused at first and then she agreed to accompany him. When she entered the house Heathcliff locked the door behind her so she was kidnapped by him(Coles,1987:55).

Edgar became very sick; Heathcliff forbade Catherine from seeing her father. Before she got married to Linton, she and Nelly tried to escape but they could not. So she was forced to marry Linton and after a day of her marriage her father died. So according to Edgar the thrush cross grange will belong to Isabella's son not for his daughter and after period his son Linton died and all Linton's possession went to Heathcliff according to his son's will (Mehdy,2006:14). Finally, Heathcliff's desire for revenge is completed and he became the owner of the wuthering heights and thrush cross grange. Heathcliff did not stop in this point he continued to Hareton and Catherine Linton, he treated them as servants and made them suffer but Catherine Linton believed that his harsh treatment came from his woeful life(Ibid:15):

Mr. Heathcliff YOU have NOBODY to love you; and, however miserable you make us, we shall still have the revenge of thinking that your cruelty arises from your greater misery. You ARE miserable, are you not? Lonely, like the devil, and envious like him? NOBODY loves you - NOBODY will cry for you when you die! I wouldn't be you! (ch).

At the end Heathcliff succeeded to perform his plan of revenge and fulfilled his desire by crushing his enemies, seizing their properties and having their off spring totally by his power (Ibid:17).

Conclusion

Wuthering Heights is the novel that is written by Emily Bronte. Many people considered it a love story but in fact the theme of revenge is the dominating one. Heathcliff is the arch-villain of *Wuthering Heights*. Because of his presence the idea of revenge is created. In this novel one can find that people who are motivated to seek power, authority or status are more vengeful. This is clearer in the character of Hindley. Other kinds of people who wanted to seek revenge are those who believe that they lack certain specific things in their lives. This made them feel helpless, and, that is why they respond aggressively to those who made them feel helpless. This notion is clear in the character of Heathcliff. Jealousy and envy are the two sides of the same coin that caused revenge accompanied by the fear of losing what one owns and the pain of not having what others have; all these reasons were behind the revenge in this novel.

The idea of revenge comes from one or another desire of revenge and the result is a cycle of revenge that seems endlessly repeated. In this novel there are two revengers but only one of them was able to accomplish his revenge who is Heathcliff who revenged upon every one that wronged him. The theme of revenge focuses on Heathcliff's character and his bad nature by referring to his relation with the two families the Earnshaws and the Lintons. Heathcliff was able to accomplish his revenge and become the owner of Wuthering heights, Thrushcross Grange and the last heir of the two families in his power.

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