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## Deep-Rooted Malice: Unpacking the Depth of Hatred in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights

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### ABSTRACT

This research explores the theme of deep-rooted malice in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights by delving into how profound animosity shapes the novel's characters. The novel Wuthering Heights is renowned for its intense passion and vengeance. This study examines how these elements drive characters' motivations and actions. Heathcliff's and Catherine Earnshaw's relationship is the main complexity for much of the novel's conflict. Heathcliff's desire for revenge because of the mistreatment and perceived injustices shapes his destructive behaviors. Multiple generations are affected by him. This research examines Heathcliff's profound malice, which extended beyond personal vendettas. This study examines how Bronte used setting and atmosphere to enhance the themes of hatred. It shows the consequences of deep-rooted hatred for everyone around him. The article will explore the impact of deep-rooted hatred on society and family. The isolating environment of Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange mirrors the volatility of the characters. It suggests that the physical environment is intertwined with the internal emotions of the characters. The paper attempts to explore the other thematic elements, such as identity, social status, and moral ambiguity. By exploring character interactions, the study reveals how Bronte shows the influences of the development of both the plot and characters. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of how this novel portrays the consequences of unchecked malice and the cycle of revenge and suffering. This study examines how childhood trauma can shape a man's life. The paper provides Bronte's commentary on the destructive power of hatred and its impact on human relationships and societal structures.

### INTRODUCTION

Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights is still regarded as a great masterpiece in English literature. It explores an interesting range of human emotions, which are powerful, passionate, and fascinating. Heathcliff is a figure whose hatred absorbs him completely. It gives meaning to his existence. He has an obsessive love for Catherine Earnshaw. Heathcliff displays the devastating character of deep-seated evil by showing his unquenchable thirst for vengeance against those who torture him. By exploring primary connections, such as those between Heathcliff, the Earnshaw, and the Linton families, we will reveal the complex motivations and emotional pain that feed the characters' animosity. This study investigates the various layers of hatred which are shown in the novel. It will examine their origins and causes of hatred. This research will focus on social and psychological factors. It will contribute to its growth. We will explore important relationships, including those between Heathcliff and the Earnshaw and Linton families, and we will reveal the complex motivations and nuanced causes that fuel the characters' adversities. In addition, this study will place Wuthering Height within the larger context of Victorian literature. It will be worth considering how Bronte's portrayal of hatred speaks to social concerns and cultural anxieties. This study intends to shed light on the significant influence of hatred on the characters and the overall narrative of Wuthering Heights through a detailed

analysis of character interaction, thematic elements, and narrative strategies.

### Problem Statement

Mr. Earnshaw found Heathcliff houseless and starving in the streets of Liverpool and took him to his home. He was a gipsy brat to Mrs. Earnshaw. His status as an orphan and his ambiguous racial background positioned him as an outsider. Hindley Earnshaw gets jealous of his father's decision. This leads to jealousy and resentment. Hindley treats Heathcliff as a servant after their father's death. By doing all of these, he expresses his jealousy and bitterness. Heathcliff's obsessive love for Catherine Earnshaw turns to hatred when she chooses to marry Edgar Linton, whom he perceives as a rival. Isabella starts to hate him when she realizes that he marries her to take revenge on Edger. Heathcliff forces young Cathy to marry his son, Linton. This novel draws a dark, intense portrait of human emotions and the destructive power of hatred. This study will unveil the deep-rooted malice of this novel.

### Research Questions

The project aims to address and provide some level of clarification for the following questions:

1. How does Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights delve into the complexities of hatred?
2. How does the ending of the novel reflect the consequences of deep-rooted malice?

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### Research Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

1. To analyze how the novel portrays the multifaceted nature of hatred among its characters and within its narrative.
2. To interpret how the ending of the novel reflects the outcomes of deep-rooted malevolence

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The article titled “Representation of Elemental Passions and Negotiating Violence and Hatred in Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights* by Ahmed emphasizes the impulsive and violent nature of its protagonists, who are Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, whose tempestuous dispositions drive the novel’s plot. Catherine is unable to conform to societal norms and marries Edgar over Heathcliff. This is the main cause of Heathcliff’s profound animosity towards everyone. After getting rejected by Catherine, he becomes passionate about taking revenge. Ahmed in his article says, “The impossibility of being with his beloved Catherine makes Heathcliff destructive and more resolved to seek revenge on those culpable for his misery.” (721). Heathcliff’s transformation into a vengeful figure illustrates their deep-seated anger and desire for revenge. Heathcliff manipulates Edgar’s sister, Isabella, and marries her. Then he tortures his wife and son, Linton. He did this to seek revenge on Edgar. His abusive behavior towards Hindley and his son highlights his quest for power and control, which perpetuates his misery. He gets satisfaction by doing all of these with them. About Heathcliff Ahmed says, “Power and hatred together give him great satisfaction” (Ahmed, 2014). Despite his monstrous actions, Heathcliff’s obsessive love for Catherine remains central, and the novel critiques the destructive effects of hatred and revenge within families. As his love for Catherine is excessive, it changes into profound hatred when he gets betrayed by her. His deep hatred creates violence and it brings misery in everyone’s life. He says, “Love causes hatred. Hatred causes violence. Violence causes misery” (Ahmed, 2014). So, in this paper of Ahmed, he shows how Heathcliff creates violence in everyone’s life of hatred.

Ansari *et al.* (2017) study in the paper titled “The Themes of Evil and Revenge in *Wuthering Heights* a Novel by Emily Brontë” describes many themes of the novel. It examines the social difficulties of the Victorian era. In their article, they talked about the theme of evil and retaliation, which is related to the Victorian period. Racism is a form of violence that is faced by Heathcliff. Catherine’s choices to marry Edgar Linton over her love prove that she does not want to settle for less. She wanted security for her life, which she would not be getting if she married Heathcliff. In this matter, they say, “As it is affixed in the mind of a woman; right from her birth that monetary security is the only criteria for marriage” (Ansari *et al.*, 2017). Heathcliff’s vengeful actions towards Hindley are because of his traumatic experience in their home. He did not spare his son, either. Heathcliff

comes back after becoming wealthy mysteriously. No one can become wealthy in a short time by doing any legal activities. Hindley’s downfall due to addiction and his abusive treatment of Heathcliff as a child underscore the consequences of unchecked power and vice. Alcohol and gambling took everything away from Hindley. Heathcliff took over Hindley’s property. Betrayal and mistrust among characters are also prevalent throughout the novel. For this they say, “Betrayal and lack of trust between the various characters is also gradually induced in the novel as slow venom” (Ansari *et al.* 2017). In their paper, they show the evilness of characters in the novel and how Heathcliff becomes vengeful for taking revenge from them whom he thinks guilty.

According to Jose’s article “Heathcliff: A Hero Fallen by Revenge”, Heathcliff’s life is shown as full of complexity. Heathcliff faces much racial discrimination because of his dark skin color and gypsy origin. He has been degraded socially for his skin color, which made him traumatized in his childhood. He was not accepted in the society for the discrimination of his skin color. This childhood suffering makes him a violent person later. Jose says “Racial discrimination from all the angles, from the author, audience and the characters in the novel pushed Heathcliff to become the character which he did not intend to become” (Jose, 2016). His character is shaped by societal influences and personal experiences. Heathcliff’s portrayal by the narrator, Nelly Dean, contributes to his negative image, though critics question the narrative’s reliability. Despite his cruelty, Heathcliff’s tragic past and mistreatment evoke sympathy for him. It highlights themes of racial discrimination and societal hypocrisy. Hindley Earnshaw is reexamined as the true villain, whose cruelty, exacerbated by societal prejudices, fuels Heathcliff’s ruthlessness. It turns his affection into an obsession. Their intense yet destructive bond leads to mutual unhappiness and death, underscoring the tragic consequences of their love. Jose tries to state in his paper that Heathcliff might be a hero if he did not have to endure all of those sufferings.

Again, in the article “Violence and Hatred in Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*” by Bastug and Kurspahic, Mr. Earnshaw’s introduction of Heathcliff to his family incites jealousy and disdain from Catherine and Hindley. Despite this, Catherine and Heathcliff develop a deep bond.

The paper “The Concept of Revenge in Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*”, by Jassim, focuses on Heathcliff’s relationship with Earnshaw’s and Linton’s. Heathcliff suffers brutal treatment from Hindley. Hindley makes him a servant in their house. His behavior toward Heathcliff worsens as time passes. This treatment fuels Heathcliff’s vengeance towards him.

On the other hand, he thinks that Linton is responsible because they took Catherine away from him. As he said, “The Lintons, Heathcliff feels, usurp his only cause of happiness, Catherine” (Jassim, 2006). Heathcliff’s goal is to take revenge on both families. He wants to seize both houses, which are *Wuthering Heights* and *Thrushcross*

Grange. By exploiting Hindley Earnshaw through gambling, he took Wuthering Heights by his name. Jassim (2006) pointed out that, “Heathcliff has also gambled away Hindley’s estate, and finally holds a mortgage on Wuthering Heights and all the land belonging to it.”

After Hindley’s death, he becomes the owner of the house. He ruins Catherine’s and Edgar’s relationship. Through his marriage to Isabella, he took revenge on Edgar. He tortures Isabella just after marrying her to be the owner of Thrushcross Grange he takes all the property of Isabella. Jassim says in this matter that, “He crushed Isabella and took all her personal property by marrying her” (Jassim, 2006). He also pressured Cathy to marry his sick and weak son, Linton. By doing this, he can achieve Thrushcross Grange which is why he did this. After Linton’s death, Catherine’s property passes to Heathcliff, and he becomes the owner of Thrushcross Grange. Heathcliff’s action ultimately leads to the destruction of both families in Bronte’s Wuthering Heights. Jassim showed the concept of revenge in his article.

The paper “Discursive Representation of Male Dominance in the Character of Heathcliff in Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights”, by Khan *et al.* focused on the brutality and dominance of men in society through their words. Heathcliff’s brutality and cruelty towards other people. It explores the actions he takes to get revenge. Due to his violent behavior and vicious tendencies, he is portrayed as a devil. His wife, Isabella, wants to die due to his violent behavior with her. She wants to die rather than tolerate her husband’s torture. She feels disgusted and desires her death. She is unable to change her husband’s nature, so she feels helpless and cannot do anything. Everyone around him is affected by his vengeful actions. Isabella writes a letter to Nelly in which she questions Heathcliff’s humanity and identity. She confesses her disgusted feelings towards him. She also compares him with an animal and a devil. As they said, “The bolded expression constructs Isabela’s desire of his death which discursively depicts her helplessness, and her powerlessness to prevent her husband from what he treats as well as creating problems” (Khan *et al.*, 548-549). She is uncertain about Heathcliff’s behavior. After marrying him, she realizes his true identity, which is equal to the devil. His dominant behavior toward her breaks her heart. Heathcliff’s abusive behavior ruined her whole life. In this paper, they focused on the male dominance in Wuthering Heights.

These reviews examine previous research on Wuthering Heights in relation to the theme of hatred. Those existing works of literature lack a study on the deep-rooted malice and the depth of hatred. However, this study will explore the depth of hatred in Bronte’s Wuthering Heights. There are many critics who have researched Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights. The scholars have given importance to the concepts of revenge, outsiders, paradoxical love, etc. To sum up, Ahmed shows the causes of hatred and violence in his paper. Other researchers, Ansari, Panhwar, Saud, and Ghaffar, focused on the themes of evilness and

revenge in the character. Shakury has described the love and violence in his research, which is similar to Ahmed. Their discussion represents the concept of hatred in the novel. In Jose’s article, he tried to establish Heathcliff as a fallen hero because of his traumatic childhood experiences. Bastug focused on the theme of violence and hatred like Ahmed did. Another scholar, Koegler, described the negative feelings towards Heathcliff and his complex character. Levin shows the paradoxical love between Heathcliff and Catherine. Hussein and Azmi explore the character Heathcliff as an outsider. On the other hand, Brkic focused on proving this novel as a revenge play like Ansari, Panhwar, Saud, and Ghaffar. Jassim did the same and shows shows the concept of revenge in his research paper.

Like those other scholars, Hameed writes on the themes of love and revenge, as it is a desire-driven emotion to him. Fabre tries to establish Heathcliff as a figure of villain for his vengeful actions towards others. Khan, Khan, and Samad researched something different from others as they tried to explore the fact of male dominance in their paper. Another scholar, Majid, explored that Heathcliff’s way of getting justification is wrong because everyone suffers around him so it is unjustified. Ri tried to show the causes of Heathcliff’s desire for revenge. However, no other articles have primarily focused on the deep-rooted malice of Heathcliff in Bronte’s Wuthering Heights which is our research gap. This study attempts to find out the depth of hatred in Heathcliff in Wuthering Height.

### Theoretical Framework

Psyche means the wholeness of the human mind, including the conscious and unconscious levels of the mind. Sigmund Freud’s psychological theory explores the unconscious mind and its influence on behavior. Freud proposed that unconscious desires and conflicts, often stemming from early childhood experiences, shape personality development and can manifest in mental disorders. Id, ego, and superego are the key concepts of his theory, as well as defense mechanisms such as repression and projection. Freud’s work greatly influenced psychology and psychiatry. Freud’s “psychoanalytic theory” is also known as “personality theory” because it provides a framework for understanding personality development.

Freud described personality theory as being divided into three classes:

It is the part of the mind that has primitive and instinctual characteristics. It is a quick pleasure, and it thinks and acts as if it does not care what the outcomes will be. Operating on the reality principle, the ego finds ways to satisfy the id’s desires in a socially acceptable manner. The ego is the part of the mind that works on the reality principle. It tries to balance the id and superego according to some demands of the body. It reasons out decisions. It makes decisions based on reason and logic. The superego functions both consciously and unconsciously. It is the

culture we are living in, or this also refers to the moral values of a society and parents' and social expectations. It strives for perfection.

In Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, Heathcliff's character can be analyzed through a Freudian lens because of his complexity of behavior. Heathcliff's actions reflect his primal desires. There is not much concern for societal norms or consequences. Heathcliff's character is driven predominantly by his id, which is the unconscious part of instinctual drives and desires. His intense passion for Catherine, his relentless pursuit of revenge against Hindley and Edgar, and his vengeful behavior towards others can be seen as revelations of his id. Heathcliff's ego is extremely underdeveloped. It lies somewhere between the id and the superego. Because of his terrible upbringing and societal rejection, he demonstrates signs of a damaged ego and superego. His upbringing as an orphan and Hindley's maltreatment impair his ego's ability to restrain his desires in ways that are socially unacceptable. Heathcliff's early childhood was full of immeasurable pain caused by society and mistreatment by Hindley, which had an impact on his relationships and actions. His obsession with Catherine was unbelievable. Frequently, Heathcliff behaves in a way that is against morality and social norms. He represses those of his emotions for a long time. He channels his grief and vulnerability into destructive actions and a desire for revenge against those who have wronged him. Freudian psychoanalysis emphasizes the unconscious mind's repression of painful memories and impulses. His vicious deeds serve as a shield to keep him from facing his inner suffering. Freud's phases of psychosexual development state that an adult's personality is shaped by experiences from their youth. In conclusion, Heathcliff's personality serves as a case study for Freudian psychology. It illustrates the ways in which traumatic events, unconscious urges, and unresolved conflicts can shape a person's behavior and personality. The study will address the deep-rooted malice in *Wuthering Heights* from the lens of Freud's psychological theory.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Content analysis is a research tool that helps to investigate the contents such as books, articles, speeches, interviews, etc. It helps to categorize the textual visual or audio data to understand the pattern themes and meanings ingrained into the material. Content analysis allows us to systematically examine the texts. This is important in literature because writers include deeper meaning and subtext in their writings. This method enriches our understanding of literary works. This is why we used this method in research. There are some important lines, passages, and chapters from the text that directly address our title. For this study, we have chosen different contents from the text *Wuthering Heights* that will be analyzed in the discussion chapter. After analyzing those, we will be able to show the deep-rooted malice of Heathcliff's hatred. The contents of this study are on different

themes and related texts, ideas conversations in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. Those contents will be analyzed using the content analysis method.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Heathcliff also shows cruelty towards Hareton Earnshaw to take revenge on Hindley. He made Hareton a servant in their house. He mentally prepares himself to not forgive them and isolates himself emotionally. Catherine's death was a betrayal to him. So, his anger perpetuates into the next generation. He tortures young Catherine Linton, which reflects the emotional abuse he endured from Hindley. He pressured Cathy to exchange love with his son, Linton. He thought taking revenge was justified as a response to his suffering. He controls everything around him by creating chaos and conflict. He couldn't let go of his past, so he couldn't find peace or redemption. He sacrifices his own happiness because his only goal is to take revenge. He blames others for his own choices and actions. Heathcliff's behavior with Cathy Linton mirrors his possessive nature towards her mother, Catherine. He is unable to forgive Edgar and Isabella because of their role in Catherine's life. This leads him to be more vengeful towards them. He cannot move on because he cannot accept Catherine's death.

Therefore, the results of the study go in the following points:

- Heathcliff's cruelty raised from the motif of revenge to Hindley
- He had torturous behavior to Cathy because she is the reason of the death of Catherine.
- His anger and abusive sexual relationship to Isabella was the outcome of his animalistic and unresolved id which was never satisfied.
- He used to have abusive manner to the children because he learned that aristocratic people behave to the lowers in such an abusive way. So, to show himself in the position of two estates, he behaves like his childhood Hindley.

### Discussion

The character "Heathcliff" is shaped by childhood trauma and betrayal by his love. Heathcliff transforms the abuse he endures into a quest for power when he returns to *Wuthering Heights* as a wealthy person. He slowly started to take revenge on all of them because of his traumatic experiences in childhood, which were given by them. His unquenchable thirst for revenge reveals how much extreme level of hatred he keeps in him for them. He wants to satisfy himself by taking revenge on them. Heathcliff's origin as a gypsy and those injustices with him shape his character throughout the novel. His experiences illustrate identity crises and the long-lasting effects of childhood trauma. For his extreme hatred, Heathcliff plans to take revenge from them gradually. He suffers because of the Earnshaw family in his childhood, so for this, all of them get affected by his vindictiveness. The Linton family

also connected here because of Catherine, his only love. For taking Catherine away, he did not spare any of the members of that family. Through these discussions, we have tried to show the reasons for Heathcliff's profound hatred, the root causes of hatred, and the consequences of deep-rooted malice in *Wuthering Heights*.

Regarding Heathcliff's way of showing anger, Bronte put that,

"Do you hear? And if you flatter yourself that I don't perceive it, you are a fool; and if you think I can be consoled by sweet words you are an idiot; and if you fancy, I'll suffer unrevenged, I'll convince you of the contrary, in a very little while! Meantime, thank you for telling me your sister-in-law's secret. I swear I'll make the most of it. And stand you aside!"

This conversation takes place between Heathcliff and Catherine. It reveals the complexities of relationships. This dialogue is provided by Heathcliff. The dialogue reflects his powerful emotions. After seeing Heathcliff and Isabella kissing in the garden, Catherine confronts him. She asks Heathcliff if he really loves her or not. She added that if he loves her, then they should get married, and if he is serious about this matter, she would talk with Edgar about their relationship. She says to him that she will get Edgar's approval. This statement by Catherine about Mr. Linton triggers Heathcliff. Heathcliff says that he certainly doesn't want to be in danger by disapproving of this. He added that he doesn't care about his approval and he can do it without it. Heathcliff accuses Catherine for breaking his heart. By repeating the word "infernally" he emphasizes it. He assures her that he is aware of how she mistreated him. He warns her that he is aware of her actions. He accuses her of treating him terribly. Heathcliff ensures her that she cannot distract him with her sweet words. So that she shouldn't waste her time doing that. He denies his suffering like this without taking revenge. Heathcliff warns Catherine that he will retaliate against her actions. He acknowledges Catherine for the revelation about his sister-in-law. He swears to exploit this secret to his advantage. This dialogue of Heathcliff reflects his intensity of emotion. The repetition of phrases reveals how he got deeply hurt by Catherine. It expresses his desire for retribution. His disdain is reflected in his words. Considering Heathcliff's way of talking with Catherine for showing anger towards Edgar, Bronte mentioned that, Heathcliff's burning desire for revenge against Hindley came out through his words when he shared his thoughts with Nelly. This is a conversation with Nelly where she came to give food

to Heathcliff. Heathcliff's rage against Hindley is expressed by his words. His words are the reflection of his deep-seated resentment, which comes from Hindley's mistreatment and abuse towards him. His obsessive nature is a pivotal aspect of his character. His determination to take revenge is reflected in his statement, in which he says, "I'm trying to settle how I shall pay Hindley back." He is waiting to pay Hindley back. He will wait no matter what until his soul gets satisfied by getting revenge on

him. This profound desire of Heathcliff underscores his vengeful nature. He will exact his revenge no matter how long it takes. Heathcliff wishes that Hindley should not die until he gives him suffering. This statement shows Heathcliff's vengeful nature. Nelly advised him that it was only God who could punish the wicked people. She added that people should learn to forgive. She suggests he leave it to God because only God has the right to give him justice. Nelly tells him that forgiveness is more virtuous than taking revenge. By rejecting her, he responds that he will not get satisfaction if he doesn't punish Hindley on his own. He denies divine justice. He will get justice on his own. He knows the best way to exact revenge. This reveals his disdain for moral values and beliefs. He wants to solve his matter on his own. He says he is planning to do this, and he doesn't feel any pain thinking of doing that. It reflects his psychological state of mind. This thought of taking revenge shields him from the pain that he has endured throughout his life.

Heathcliff openly expressed his hatred for Edgar to Nelly. Regarding this Bronte states, "Had he been in my place, and I in his, though I hated him with a hatred that turned my life to gall, I never would have raised a hand against him. You may look incredulous, if you please! I never would have banished him from her society, as long as she desired his. The moment her regard ceased, I would have torn his heart out, and drank his blood! But, till then- if you don't believe me, you don't know me- till then, I would have died by inches before I touched a single hair of his head!"

"I have no pity! I have no pity! The more the worms writhe, the more I yearn to crush out their entrails! It is a moral teething, and I grind with greater energy, in proportion to the increase of pain."

This dialogue is spoken by Heathcliff. It reflects his vengeful nature. This quote reveals his profound vindictive nature. Here, he expresses his lack of empathy by saying "no pity" twice. He declared that he had no pity for anyone who did the wrong to him. His ruthless desire towards them reveals itself through his words. The phrase "crushing worms" represents his sadistic pleasure. He gets it by causing pain to others. He gets satisfied by getting revenge on them. It portrays his desire to crush their entrails. Heathcliff sees his actions as a justified response to the pain he has endured in the past. His deep-seated bitterness shows how he gets satisfied by seeing the sufferings of his rivals. His desire for revenge grows when he sees their suffering, which is given by him to them. He used the phrase "moral teething" which suggests the views of Heathcliff's desire for revenge as a necessary development stage of his moral growth. This statement of his reveals his complex character in the novel. It is driven by the deep-seated need for ruthless determination to achieve dominance over those who wronged him.

Heathcliff accused Catherine of his cursed life. To express it Bronte put that. Heathcliff expresses his anguish towards Catherine. He accuses Catherine of being cruel and false to him. By questioning for betrayal,

he expresses his pain towards her. In this speech, he conveyed his emotions. Despite their passionate love for each other, Catherine married another man. The reason for his vengeful nature towards everyone is Catherine's decision to marry Edgar over him. He believes that Catherine's own choices have led to her destruction, which is the cause of her death. He says that by marrying Edgar, she betrayed her own heart too. By choosing this path, she led her life to misery and death. Ultimately, she betrays her true feelings by marrying Edgar. He has no words to comfort her because he thinks that she deserves this. Heathcliff's intense emotions of love and anger towards Catherine are seen in this speech given by him. He believes that she loved him but still cheated on him. He blames her for breaking not only his heart but also her own heart. He questions her about how she can leave him and who gives her the right to do this with him. He shares the pain of being abandoned by the person he loves the most in his entire life. He believes that no one could have parted them away. Even God or Satan cannot do this. But this only happened because of her wish.

Heathcliff says to Catherine that life is not worth living without her. Overall, this dialogue by Heathcliff captures his destructive love for Catherine and his betrayal of her. It shows the consequences of her choices, which she made in the name of social expectations.

Heathcliff also tortured his own son because of Earnshaw's descent. For this Bronte mentioned that, "I'll be very kind to him, you needn't fear!" he said, laughing. "Only nobody else must be kind to him- I'm jealous of monopolizing his affection. And, to begin my kindness, Joseph! Bring the lad some breakfast. Hareton, you infernal calf, begone to your work. Yes, Nell," he added when they departed, "my son is the 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 descendent fairly lord of their estates; my child hiring their children to till their fathers' lands for wages. That is the sole consideration which can make me endure the whelp- I despise him for himself, and hate him for the memories he revives! But that consideration is sufficient; he's as safe with me and shall be tended as carefully as your master tends his own". This above dialogue is given by Heathcliff to Nelly, assuring that he will be kind to Linton. He added that she should not fear about this fact. He asserts his authority over Linton, saying that nobody else will be kind to him. Only he has the right to do this. Possessiveness and jealousy are layered in his attitude toward Linton. As Linton is his son, he has full control over his future. Besides, his rudeness to Hareton continues because he is taking revenge by making him a servant in their house. Because his father, Hindley, did the same with him. Now he is doing this with him because of his vengeful nature. Heathcliff added that his son is the prospective owner of Thrushcross Grange, which he wants to achieve through him. So, he doesn't want him to die before gaining ownership of the house. He wants to ensure his ownership of Grange

before Linton's death. He further added that his desire was to see his own descendants inherit the Earnshaw estates. He wants his son will rule over the Earnshaw house. By telling "my child hiring their children to till their fathers' lands for wages" he emphasizes that he wants to reverse their roles and social standings. This statement reflects his determination to achieve power and control over everything around him. Heathcliff admits that he hates his son because of his resemblance to the Linton family, whom he hates. But he will tolerate him anyhow now to achieve his goal. He promises to care for Linton despite his complex emotions towards him. His vengeful nature is driven by the mistreatment that he endured in the past. This dialogue highlights his complex character, which is filled with possessiveness and ambition. These are driven by his desire for revenge for the people who have been him.

In Nelly's words, to highlight Heathcliff's brutality Bronte put that,

"The guest was now the master of Wuthering Heights: he held firm possession, and proved to the attorney, who, in his turn, proved it to Mr. Linton, the Earnshaw had mortgaged every yard of land he owned for cash to supply his mania for gaming; and he, Heathcliff, was mortgaged. In that manner, Hareton, who should now be the first gentleman in the neighborhood, was reduced to a state of complete dependence on his father's inveterate enemy; and lives in his house as a servant deprived of the advantage of wages, and quite unable to right himself, because of his friendlessness, and his ignorance that he has been wronged."

This statement is given by Nelly. In this dialogue of hers, she refers to Heathcliff. After Hindley's death, he gained control over Wuthering Heights. Linton learns that his father borrowed money from Heathcliff to get drunk. He mortgaged their house to him for gambling. But he could not pay back the money to Heathcliff. Heathcliff was once a guest in the house. After Hindley's death, he proved that he had mortgaged his property for cash to supply mania for gaming. So as Heathcliff was the mortgagee once, he is the owner of Wuthering Heights now. For this, Hareton, who is Hindley's son, should be the first gentleman in the Wuthering Heights, but he is now treated as a servant in his own house. He lives on his father's inveterate enemy. Heathcliff is not just his father's enemy but also whom he controls his house. He is deprived of all the facilities of the house. Heathcliff controls everything around him with his manipulation and tactics. This statement of Nelly illustrates his power, control, and injustice towards the people who have wronged him. His revenge is not fulfilled by the first generation. It goes beyond the next generation. His vengeful actions are faced by everyone who is related to and responsible for his past trauma. Heathcliff's life is consumed by extreme hatred. Regarding this Bronte put, "Do you suppose I'm going with that blow burning in my gullet?" he thundered. "By hell, no! I'll crush his ribs in like a rotten hazel-nut before I cross the threshold! If I

don't floor him now, I shall murder him sometime, so, as you value his existence, let me get at him!"

This statement of Heathcliff is filled with extremely powerful, violent intentions of his. It reflects his intense animosity towards Edgar. He is expressing his rage towards him in front of Catherine Earnshaw. His heart is burning with the fire. His language is filled with extreme anger and possessiveness. He expresses his desire to harm Edgar physically if he cannot control his anger. After losing his love, he becomes extremely revengeful towards Edgar. His extensive aggression can be seen in his vivid use of language. This hatred towards Edgar comes from deep-rooted malice. He believes that he has parted ways from his love for him. He sees Edgar as an obstacle in his path. He threatens to murder him sometime. Heathcliff's urgency to confront Edgar is visible. As Catherine values Edgar's existence, that's why he is not doing anything to him. He implores Catherine to let him confront Edgar, as he cannot wait any more. He suppresses his anger for many years inside him. Now he is waiting for the right time. Once it is over from Catherine, he will fulfill his urge by taking revenge on him. This statement by Heathcliff captures his vengeful nature. It exemplifies his obsessive personality and nature. It highlights his intense emotions and passion, which stem from his past trauma.

Heathcliff mocks Catherine's choice of Edgar. Regarding this Bronte mentioned that, Heathcliff's resentment towards Edgar is visible in this quote said by him. His mocking tone towards him reflects his bitterness towards him. He speaks with Catherine about her husband. Heathcliff is referring to Edgar Linton by using the phrase "Milk-blooded". It means a lack of vitality and passion. Comparing himself, he sees Edgar as a coward because he lacks courage and strength. Heathcliff sarcastically mocked Catherine for choosing Edgar over him. He told her that her choice was very poor. He mocks her judgment for choosing someone like Edgar. His words are the reflection of his disdain for Edgar. He uses the word "Slavering" which means showing excessive eagerness. It is often used in a derogatory manner. Edgar's weakness is reinforced by the word "shivering". He disrespects him by saying he would kick him. Heathcliff doesn't consider Edgar a worthy person to fight with. But he thinks he deserves contemptuous treatment. Heathcliff mocks his state by stating that Edgar might be weak and fearful. He might cry or faint anytime in response to confront the conflict. This quote illustrates Heathcliff's complexities with Edgar, whom he sees as a coward. He also finds him undeserving of Catherine. He does not deserve Catherine's affection, according to him. His mocking tone proves his resentment towards Edgar.

Heathcliff insulted Isabella in front of their son, Linton for showing his hatred for her. Considering this fact Bronte mentioned that, Heathcliff observes Linton, and he becomes satisfied by the fact that his limbs are frail and feeble. That means he is physically ill, and Heathcliff finds peace about the fact because of his hatred towards his mother. This satisfaction of seeing his own son like

this reflects his inner anguish towards the Linton family. He questions him about whether he knows him or not. Linton was fearful, and he was also confused. He denies that he does not know him. Heathcliff further asks him whether he at about him. But again, he denies it, saying he never heard his name before. This denial of him causes profound anger to Heathcliff. He expresses his anguish towards Linton's mother, Isabella. He becomes least ever heard quite shocked about this matter. Heathcliff accuses Isabella of not giving him any knowledge about his father. He also uses slang to express his anger towards his mother. He says she kept him far away from him and never let him know about his father. Despite Linton's unawareness about Heathcliff's identity, he reveals their blood relationship. This is a complex passage that highlights a mixture of disappointment and bitterness. Heathcliff not only wanted revenge but also wanted to destroy Edgar. About this Bronte put

"I seek no revenge on you," replied Heathcliff less vehemently. "That's not the plan. The tyrant grinds down his slaves and they don't turn against him; they crush those beneath them. You are welcome to torture me to death for your amusement, only allow me to amuse myself a little in the same style, and refrain from insult, as much as you are able. Having leveled my place, don't erect a hovel and complacently admire your own charity in giving me that for a home. If I imagined you really wished me to marry Isabella, I'd cut my throat!"

Heathcliff expresses his feelings towards Edgar Linton, whom he hates the most. But here he impassively replies to him. He denies any idea of taking revenge on him. He reveals that taking revenge is not his plan. He does not seek to inflict harm out of his anger. Heathcliff rather describes a more destructive and manipulative way of destroying him. Heathcliff shares a manipulative approach, akin to a tyrant who subdues his subjects. He says that Edgar might find pleasure in tormenting him. He also says Edgar is allowed to torture him to death for his own amusement. Then he suggests that he should also allow Heathcliff some form of revenge or satisfaction in a similar manner. Heathcliff insists that Edgar should not be self-congratulatory. He added that his actions are patronizing and insufficient. The idea of cutting his throat reflects Edgar wanting him to marry Isabella, reflecting his disdain for the idea and his emotional turmoil about this situation. This dialogue of Heathcliff expresses his anguish towards Edgar like he will not just be happy with taking revenge. He will destroy him anyhow.

Being trapped by Heathcliff Isabella married him. Then he started to show his true nature. Regarding this fact Bronte mentioned that,

Heathcliff talks about Isabella, who is his wife. As he marries her by trapping her and falling in love with him, he shows his true nature just after marrying her. He observes that she looks worse after her marriage with him. Addressing her as a young lady, he tells her that someone's affection for her might be lacking. He makes fun of her by saying her love for him will come to an end so soon.

He also says that the love was one-sided, as he never loved her. It was from Isabella's side, as she started to believe him that he loved her. He responds by attributing her decline to her own feelings. Heathcliff calls her "slut" because she was trying to please him out of love. He harshly criticizes her for losing interest quickly in trying to please him. She wants to return home the day after her wedding because she is upset as Heathcliff shows his true identity after marrying her. Heathcliff's behavior reveals his contempt for Isabella and his intent to control her. He ensures that she remains subdued and restrained in their home. He forces her to stay at his home so that he can torture her and fulfill his urge to take revenge on the Linton family. These dialogues of his reveal his profound vindictive nature and his rage towards the Edgar family. Heathcliff talked about how he trapped Isabella to get revenge. So regarding this Bronte portrayed that, "She abandoned them under a delusion," he answered, "picturing in me a hero of romance and expecting unlimited indulgence from my chivalrous devotion. I can hardly regard her in the light of a rational creature, so obstinately has she persisted in forming a fabulous notion of my character, and acting on the false impressions she cherished. But, at last, I think she begins to know me. I don't perceive the silly smiles and grimaces that provoked me at first; and the senseless incapability of discerning that I was in earnest when I gave her my opinion of her infatuation, and herself. It was a marvelous effort of perspicacity to discover that I did not love her. I believed, at one time, no lessons could teach her that! And yet it is poorly learned; for this morning she announced, as a piece of appalling intelligence, that I had actually succeeded in making her hate me!"

In this passage from *Wuthering Heights*, the speaker is Heathcliff. Here he talks about his misguided beliefs and expectations of Isabella, who had romanticized him. Isabella elopes with Heathcliff as she loves him. But Heathcliff calls it a delusion, as he traps her by making her fall in love with him. He says she made him her hero of romance and expects unlimited indulgence from his chivalrous devotion. Rather than understanding his true nature, she clung to this unrealistic view of him and acted based on her misconceptions. But as Heathcliff shows his true nature just after marrying her, she begins to know him. He acknowledges that she is starting to see him more clearly because she is no longer showing her foolish signs of affection towards him as she did before. He added that it was a marvelous effort of perspicacity to discover that he did not love her. For him, it is the best lesson for her to teach. He is still troubled by her recent reaction, where she claims that his behavior had made her hate him. As he tortures her, she starts to hate him. By this, Heathcliff feels successful in making her hate him. He suggests that her understanding of him is still flawed. This behavior of Heathcliff towards his wife shows his vengeance towards Edgar's family.

#### **Extreme Hatred in Heathcliff**

Heathcliff consumes the abuse he suffers and later

channels it into a desire for power and control. Heathcliff disappears for three years and returns to *Wuthering Heights* as an educated and wealthy person.

"A ray fell on his features; the cheeks were sallow, and half covered with black whiskers; the brows lowering, the eyes deep-set and singular. I remembered the eyes."

He plots to achieve both *Wuthering Heights* and *Thrushcross Grange*. He takes pleasure in causing pain to those who have wronged him. After losing his wife, Hindley becomes addicted. This weakness of his is captured by Heathcliff. Heathcliff took over his property and became the owner of *Wuthering Heights*. To punish Edgar Linton for marrying Catherine Earnshaw, he marries Isabella Linton and tortures her.

"The second question, I have great interest in; it is this- Is Mr. Heathcliff a man? If so, is he mad? And if not, is he a devil?"

"Be with me always- take any form- drive me mad! Only do not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot find you! Oh God! It is unutterable! I cannot live without my life! I cannot live without soul!" (Bronte 129). He expresses his desire to be buried next to Catherine because of his excessive love for her. Heathcliff's actions come from a broader sense of betrayal and abandonment. Heathcliff's malice illustrates the destructive power of his anger and possession.

#### **Source of Heathcliff's Hatred**

Heathcliff's character is often disturbing because of his revengeful actions throughout the novel. But his life was full of hardship. He was found as a homeless orphan in Liverpool. Mr. Earnshaw brings him to *Wuthering Heights* and makes him stay with his own children. "Not a soul knew to whom it belonged, he said, and his money and time being both limited, he thought it better to take it home with him at once, than run into vain expenses there; because he was determined he would not leave it as he found it."

To Mrs. Earnshaw, he was a gypsy brat. Heathcliff endured maltreatment from Hindley Earnshaw because he was a favorite of Mr. Earnshaw. Heathcliff's vengeance towards Hindley is because of his traumatic childhood, which was mainly caused by him. He can be an orphan, but he doesn't deserve that servant's life in Earnshaw's house. The treatment he receives is an injustice to him compared to the Earnshaw siblings. He faces so much cruelty because of Hindley's jealousy. After Mr. Earnshaw's death, he made Heathcliff a servant.

"He drove him from their company to the servants, deprived him of the instructions of the curate, and insisted that he should labor out of doors instead, compelling him to do so, as hard as any other lad on the farm."

Despite being unwelcome by Hindley, Heathcliff, and Catherine fall in love with each other. Because of Heathcliff's status as an orphan, their relationship falls prey to societal barriers and challenges. Catherine chooses Edgar over Heathcliff.

"He had listened till he heard Catherine say it would

degrade her to marry him, and then he stayed to hear no farther.” (Bronte 63) Heathcliff views Edgar Linton as his rival because of his intense love for Catherine Earnshaw. He was passionately in love with Catherine that’s why he blames Edgar for taking her away from him. His passionate love for Catherine Earnshaw turns into an obsession. That’s why he plots to take revenge on those who have wronged him throughout his life. He also faces racism because of his gypsy origins. Heathcliff becomes isolated because of his traumatic childhood. His experience throughout the novel, highlights themes of class consciousness, identity crises, and obsessive behavior toward everyone. Heathcliff’s childhood consequences are the basis of his vindictive behavior in adulthood. The action he takes in the entire novel is influenced by his relationship with Catherine and his childhood trauma.

### **Deep-Rooted Hatred Caused Complete Destruction to the Earnshaw Family**

Heathcliff’s hatred causes destruction in every aspect of Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights*. The destruction begins from the moment he enters the house with Mr. Earnshaw. He was not fond of anyone but Mr. Earnshaw. Gradually he becomes more favorite. Heathcliff’s arrival breaks the order of *Wuthering Heights*. By his arrival, Hindley Earnshaw feels displaced by his father. He could not bear the fact that his father prioritized Heathcliff over him. This feeling of his develops into more bitterness over the years. Hindley’s mistreatment is fueled by these actions. His father sent him away from home because of his jealousy toward Heathcliff.

“Hindley was naught, and would never thrive as where he wandered.”

After his father’s demise, Hindley came back to the house with his wife, Frances. Then he expresses all of his rage to Heathcliff by making him a servant to the house. In the middle of this, Catherine and Heathcliff share love with each other. But when Catherine met Edgar Linton, she started to like him because he was more polished than Heathcliff. His status was high. So, she chooses to marry Edgar. For this, Heathcliff is broken and disappears. After 3 years, he comes back to the house and finds Hindley an alcoholic and gambler. This is because his wife died after giving birth to their son. For this reason, Hindley becomes frustrated. Seeing Hindley’s condition, Heathcliff manipulates him, and later he takes all his property. “The guest was now the master of *Wuthering Heights* : he held firm possession, and proved to the attorney, who, in his turn, proved it to Mr. Linton, that Earnshaw had mortgaged every yard of land he owned for cash to supply his mania for gaming; and he, Heathcliff, was the mortgagee.” Heathcliff did not stop by doing this. His actions reached out to the next generation. To exact revenge on Hindley, he made his son, Hareton, a servant at their house. “In that manner, Hareton, who should now be the first gentleman in the neighborhood, was reduced to a state of complete dependence on his father’s inveterate enemy; and lives in his own house as

a servant deprived of the advantage of wages; and quite unable to right himself, because of his friendlessness, and his ignorance that he has been wronged.” (Bronte 145). He remembers being a servant in *Wuthering Heights*, by Hindley. So, from entering *Wuthering Heights* to the end of his life, Heathcliff does all the vicious deeds he can. His hatred destroyed the Earnshaw family, the inhabitants of *Wuthering Heights*.

### **Deep-Rooted Hatred Caused Destruction to the Linton Family**

Heathcliff’s thirst for revenge was not fulfilled by destroying the Earnshaw family. His hatred causes profound destruction for the Linton family. Heathcliff creates havoc on the Linton family through his manipulation and revenge. After coming back from nowhere, Heathcliff goes to meet with Catherine in the *Thrushcross Grange*.

“I 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; afterward settle my score with Hindley; and then prevent the law by doing execution on myself.” This creates a problem in Edgar and Catherine’s relationship. Edgar doesn’t like Heathcliff’s coming to their home. “Will you give up Heathcliff hereafter, or will you give up me? You can’t be my friend and his at the same time, and I require to know which you choose.”

There, he meets Isabella and tries to convince them that he loves her. Despite her brother’s objection to this matter, Isabella falls prey to Heathcliff’s words. She eloped with him. Heathcliff married Isabella to take revenge on Edgar. Just after marrying her, he begins to show his true face. He shows no affection for her rather, he tortures her. Isabella escapes from him. Later, Isabella gave birth to a child named Linton. After Isabella’s death, Linton came to meet with his father. Heathcliff did not spare his son either. He tortures him mentally. As Linton is sick and weak, he forces him to make love with young Cathy, who is Catherine’s daughter. To gain the power of *Thrushcross Grange*, he forces them to marry each other. Edgar gave his property to Cathy before his death. By giving them marriage, Heathcliff gains power over *Thrushcross Grange*. Slowly, he destroys this family’s happiness and breaks them apart.

### **CONCLUSION**

Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights* represents the destructive exploration of hatred and the power of deeply rooted malice. It has been shown through its complex characters and how this hatred can shape everyone’s life. This novel explores how personal grievance can turn into a cycle of revenge. Around two generations suffer because of Heathcliff’s vengeance. He did not stop until he was satisfied. His childhood sufferings make him a revengeful man. Brontë’s portrayal of Heathcliff’s character underscores how profound animosity can

destroy human connections and the moral values of a person. Heathcliff's bitterness and its impact on everyone around him show the destructive power of his hatred. Heathcliff's struggle for identity and Catherine's rejection are the root causes of his hatred. He becomes destructive by the nature of his traumatic experiences. By being consumed by grief and anger, he becomes desperate to seek revenge. As per his madness, he destroys the lives of those around him as a way to cope with his own loss. This novel's exploration of hatred reveals how deeply ingrained grievance and personal vendettas can perpetuate cycles of revenge. Emily Bronte not only crafts a compelling narrative but also offers a timeless commentary on the effects of enduring hatred.

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