

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

An imaginative expression of human ideas by interpreting life experience in writing form is called literature. It is also a creative activity, a work of art (Wellek and Warren 3). As Taylor said that literature like other arts, which is essentially an imaginative act that is an act of writer's imagination is selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experience (1). Besides, according to Gillespie (1) literature as works of writing that has lasted over the years because they deal with ideas of timeless and universal interest with exceptional artistry and power. Therefore, literature can be used to express and represents real life of someone's feeling, thought, and experience in life.

There are many kinds of literature such as novel, poetry, drama, and so on. According to Edgar and Henry literature classified into four categories: prose fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction prose. Usually the first three are classified as imaginative literature: myths, parables, romance, novel, and short story (2-3). As one of fiction in prose, novel is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length (Eagleton 1). It is a fictional prose narrative and having plot that is extended by the characters, speech, and action (Andriani 2). Meanwhile, according to Taylor novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human

experience or conduct (46). Shortly, novel is a literary works which explore and describes the representative life of human experience in a plot. It can be based on the society around the author in different place and different time. So, by reading literary works especially a novel the reader will be influenced by the writer's expression. As Robert Di Yanni states that through reading a wide variety of stories reader can enter many different imaginative worlds in the process enlarging and deepening reader's perception of the world (3-4).

This study is interested in Emily Bronte's novel. Emily Bronte is one of the famous English novelist and poet in Victorian era. She was born on July 30th, 1818 in Thornton, Yorkshire, England. Emily also perhaps the greatest of three Bronte sisters: Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, and Anne Bronte. Her siblings wrote many poetry and books. Charlotte Bronte writes among others the famous *Jane Eyre*. Anne Bronte writes *Agnes Grey*, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, and *The Gondal Chronicle*. Meanwhile, Emily Bronte only writes one novel entitled *Wuthering Heights*, published on 1847 under pseudonym Ellis Bell. It is a highly imaginative novel of passion and hate set on the Yorkshire moors. The novel met harsh reaction from the readers and critics who saw it as depressing and morose, and even immoral (Encyclopedia Britannica).

The novel tells about a man name Heathcliff who was brought to the *Wuthering Heights* by Mr. Earnshaw after his visit to Liverpool. At that time he was about 7 years old. Heathcliff and Catherine (Mr. Earnshaw's daughter) become close friends. In the other hand Hindley, Catherine's younger brother

was jealous of his father's love for Heathcliff. Heathcliff's life in his childhood is miserable. It begins by the death of Mr. Earnshaw. Hindley becomes the master of Wuthering Heights. He degraded Heathcliff into becoming a servant.

Heathcliff was badly threatened by Hindley. He accepts the reality that he was pressed by Hindley. The only thing that makes him survive was his love to Catherine. On the other side, Hindley encouraged the relationship of Catherine and Edgar Linton, the young man who lives at the Thrushcross Grange.

One time, Catherine seeking advice to Nelly (the housekeeper) that Edgar Linton asked her to marry him. Catherine accepts Edgar's proposal even though she really loves Heathcliff. However, Catherine cannot marry Heathcliff. It is because Heathcliff's social status and she thinks marriage to Edgar Linton will secure Heathcliff's future. Heathcliff heard the conversation, then go away and disappeared.

A few years later, Heathcliff return to Thrushcross Grange. His returning as wealthy and educated man makes many people becomes shocks. Finally, he becomes the master of Wuthering Heights replacing the position of Hindley who has been broke and lost the Heights. The moment when Hindley pressed either Heathcliff's childhood or part of adulthood, and also the feelings of being betrayed by Catherine, makes Heathcliff has psychological problems. Then, there are changes in Heathcliff's personality and attitudes as his way in defending his suffers that makes him anxiety.

As human being we often confront with the problem in our life. Each individual has different problem with the others. It is because there is the difference culture and society (Tasmuji 99). Regarding to the problem there are many ways to solve the problem. Sometimes we do not realize it whether it is good or bad. It shows that we have made someone feels suffer when we bring the negative effect for them. Egoism is a teleological theory of ethics that sets as its goal the benefit, pleasure, or greatest good of the oneself alone (Wofford.edu). Mostly, someone who wants to get “favors” but at the same time cannot see why anyone would bother them is asking for something return. Means that someone who is egoist with someone else will do anything they want to reach their goal without thinking whether it brings the benefit or not to another. Egoism is like motivation in defense and advance the judgment that makes someone becomes auspicious.

Egoism is one of the themes in the novel. Heathcliff is the main character that probably the most egoist person in all *Wuthering Heights*. He ruins Catherine's life when he disappears for three years. He also ruins Isabella's life by marrying her only for take revenge. Meanwhile, Heathcliff forces young Cathy to marry Linton Heathcliff to get Linton's family wealth. These are the major actions that show Heathcliff's egoism in the novel.

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problems are formulated as follows:

