

**The Effects of Circumstances on Human Choices in the Monster
of *Frankenstein* and Heathcliff of *Wuthering Heights***

تأثير الظروف المحيطة على اختيارات الإنسان من خلال الوحش في رواية

"فرانكنشتاين" و هيث كليف من رواية "مرتفعات وثيرنج"

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Authorization

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to everyone who walked this journey with me and helped in each step. To my previous supervisor dr. Nadia Hamendi, thank you for giving me this chance by making my vision come true, your guidance and support shall always be in my heart. To my beautiful siblings Nada and Mohammad, thank you for being my solid rock. To my shining armour, thank you for lighting my path.

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**The Effects of Circumstances on Human Choices in the Monster of
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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine the impact of the surrounding circumstances on the choices made by the monster from Marry Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) who took revenge as an expression of his concealed pain, agony and Heathcliff from Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* (1847). It focuses on comparing how painful and tragic circumstances can force different individuals to pursue different choices, suffer further pain, rejection or glory and solace in life. In this regard, this study examines how circumstances forces people to make choices in their life, how it affects the choices made by the two characters in the selected novels, compares how the choices made by the characters shapes their entire lives and the lives of people associated with them. For this purpose, this research undertakes a close and critical reading of the primary texts in light of the theories of Psychoanalysis, Existentialism and Naturalism. From the findings of the research, it has been proved that in the case of both characters, Heathcliff and the Monster, the absence of love and care in their childhood formed the primary circumstances that compelled them to choose revenge. Even when they attempted to give love, all what they received in return was abandonment and deprivation which eventually filled them with bitterness and anger towards the society. Therefore, it can be concluded from the overall research findings that circumstances can play a highly significant role in one's, life and the outcomes of the choices made due to such circumstances can be highly severe and grave.

Keywords: Effects, circumstances, choices, *Frankenstein*, *Wuthering Heights*.

تأثير الظروف المحيطة على اختيارات الإنسان من خلال الوحش في رواية فرانكنشتاين و هيث

كليف من رواية مرتفعات ويثرنج

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الملخص

تهدف الرسالة الي تحليل شخصيتين: الوحش من رواية "فرانكنشتاين" لميري شيللي و شخصية هيث كليف في رواية " مرتفعات ويثرنج" لايمللي برونتي.

تم تحليل الشخصيتين بناء على قراراتهم التي تم اتخاذها على حسب تأثيرات الظروف المحيطة وتم مقارنة الشخصيتين لاستنتاج تأثير الظروف المؤلمة والمأساوية عليهما وعلى حياة الشخصيات المحيطة بهما.

ولهذا , يتم تحليل بعض النصوص من الروائيتين باستخدام القراءة النقدية ونظريات علم النفس التحليلي والفلسفة الوجودية والمذهب الطبيعي. أما عن نتائج البحث, تم استنتاج غياب عنصر العاطفة والرعاية في طفولة الشخصيتين : الوحش وهيث كليف ومما كان ايضا سبب رئيسي في مشاكلهم النفسية ومما حفزهم على اختيار الانتقام.

تم ايضا الاستنتاج بأن الظروف المحيطة تلعب دورا مهما في حياة المرء وأن نتأج الخيارات التي يتم اتخاذها بسبب هذه الظروف. وحتى عندما حاولت الشخصيتين بتقديم الحب فما وجدو بالمقابل الا الهجر والحرمان ومما ادى الى الرغبة في الانتقام والمرارة والغضب اتجاه المجتمع.

الكلمات الرئيسية: تأثير , الظروف , الاختيارات, فرانكنشتاين , مرتفعات ويثرنج

Chapter One

1.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces the background of the study. It is followed by generalized information about choices and circumstances, as well as how circumstances can effect once choices. This chapter also introduces both protagonist, the Monster in *Frankenstein* and Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights*. Then, the chapter describes the statement of the problem, objectives, questions of the study, its significance, its limitations, limit and the definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

“Every choice carries a consequence. For better or worse, each choice is the unavoidable consequence of its predecessor. There are no exceptions. If you can accept that a bad choice carries the seed of its punishment, why not accept the fact that a good choice yields desirable fruit?” (Blair, 2009, p. 115). While some people claim that one must simply ‘play the hand that life deals,’ that hand is built by the individual himself out of the choices one makes. Every moment in life involves a serious issue of making choices, and this power can be exercised to give a fruitful direction to life or let life turn astray. Even a choice that might seem trivial at the time it is made, may lead to unfathomable consequences at some other point in life when life reaches the point of no return (Blair, 2009). Each individual goes through critical moments in life where one encounters moral dilemmas and emotional breakdowns. It is choices made in these critical moments that tend to shape, influence our entire life and the people associated with it. Each choice made by us leads to a consequence that cannot be altered. When one end of a stick is picked up

(choice), the other end is also raised simultaneously (outcomes of the choice). Nevertheless, it is not only the individual factors such as the psyche of our mental and physical abilities alone that shape our choices. Making choices can be identified as a serious interplay between external circumstances and individual psyche and abilities (Thompson, 2010).

External circumstances such as abuse, upbringing, family conditions, and social pressures such as class division, patriarchy, and political factors shape the thoughts and psyche of an individual it compels him/her to make such choices as might elevate his suffering or pacify them (Thompson, 2010).

This study attempts to prove how surrounding circumstances force people to make choices regarding their life. In this regard, this study seeks to examine this context in the case of Monster in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* whose challenging childhood full of abandonment, alienation and sufferings from society compels him to take revenge from his creator, Victor Frankenstein. However, on the contrary, in the case of Heathcliff, the protagonist of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, the differences in class and society were ingrained into him by his closest childhood friend and the love of his life, Catherine, and his foster brother. The despair thus suffered, eventually makes him so bitter that he is compelled to take revenge on his beloved Catherine and becomes the cause of her death.

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus (2013) is a famous Gothic novel by Mary Shelley (1797-1851). The novel is a complicated work that defies classification and involves a successful blending of elements of Gothicism, Romanticism and Realism. The novel involves multiple narrators (Walton, Victor and the Creature), indicating an absence of a single consistent perspective and allowing the text to be subjected to multiple interpretations (Shelley, 2013; Nichols, 1996). The character chosen from this novel is that

of the monster. The novel focuses on the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist, highly ambitious of gaining glory and reputation through his experiment of creating life. However, the experiment turns out to be awfully wrong, and he happens to create a hideous monster that becomes a life-threatening concern for Victor. The monster is a hybrid and hence, is endowed with human emotions and monstrous physical appearance. Consequently, as a result of being left alone since birth, he suffers from loneliness and distress, which makes it apparent that he was not innately evil. However, despite being an innocent victim, the rejection and malignity from society because of having been created with such hideous looks, fills him with anger, and the monster is compelled to take revenge on his creator, Victor Frankenstein (Forward, n.d.).

The second character for this study is taken from Emily Brontë's (1818-1848) only novel *Wuthering Heights* (1847). On the surface, *Wuthering Heights* is a passionate and deep love story. However, at a deeper level, it explores the elements of class division and mobility that play a key role in shaping the lives of the key characters of the novel. In this regard, the protagonist in the novel, Heathcliff is selected as the character for this study. Heathcliff is portrayed as a mysterious gipsy-person, who was adopted at the age of seven. Although being adopted by the Earnshaws and raises him, the treatment given to Heathcliff is that of a servant. His only and closest friend from the family since childhood is Catherine (Brontë, 1858). They both loved each other. However, Catherine realises the differences of class between them, despite emotions for him, she marries another man, Edgar, from a higher-class community. Broken by this choice of Catherine, ill-suffered childhood and abuse because of class, Heathcliff chooses to take revenge on the two families. In his revenge, he does not only lose the innocence of his character and the love of his life

forever, but also becomes an abuser himself, just like the one in whose hands he had suffered all his childhood, thereby causing distress and suffering for so many innocent lives associated with him (Brontë, 1858).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

While circumstances force an individual to take decisions and make choices, it might not always be necessary that the outcomes of the choices thus made are favourable for the individual making a choice and the people associated with him. Additionally, society, social hierarchy and political institutions are the ones that create such compelling circumstances for an individual to make challenging and critical choices, however, when the outcomes of those choices made by an individual occur, society and these institutions make a positive or negative judgement about the individual. In extreme circumstances, these institutions tend to develop a strong hatred for the outcomes and the associated individuals, overlooking the fact that they had shaped the individual and persuaded him/her to make such critical choices in the first place.

The study seeks to compare the monster from Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*, his choices and outcomes with that of the famous protagonist, Heathcliff from Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. The study also seeks to compare how painful and tragic circumstances can force different individuals to make different choices and likewise suffer further pain and rejection or solace and glory.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To prove the ways in which surrounding circumstances force people to make choices regarding their life.
2. To study the impact of surrounding circumstances on the choices made by the monster in Shelly's *Frankenstein*.
3. To study the impact of surrounding circumstances on the choices made Heathcliff, the protagonist of Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*.
4. To compare the ways in which the choices made by the two characters shape their entire lives and influence the lives of people associated with them.

1.4 Questions of the Study

The questions for the study are:

1. How do the surrounding circumstances force people to make choices regarding their life?
2. What is the impact of the surrounding circumstances on the choices made by the monster in Shelly's *Frankenstein*?
3. What is the impact of the surrounding circumstances on the choices made Heathcliff, the protagonist of Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*?
4. In what ways do the choices made by the two characters shape their entire lives and influence the lives of people associated with them?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study aims to examine how surrounding circumstances persuade people to make choices regarding their life. Such choices might lead to positive outcomes or negative ones. For this purpose, this study seeks to prove the impact of the surrounding

circumstances on the choices made by the monster in Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* and Heathcliff in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*.

1.6 Definition of the Terms

Circumstances: circumstances can be defined as a condition or situation associated with an event or action. For this study, circumstances refer to conditions or circumstances relating to childhood, living conditions and society. In this regard, childhood circumstances would include family structure, adversities, such as loss of parent/parents, step-parents, discrimination, mental or physical abuse. Circumstances of living conditions and society would refer to social class division, employment status, class mobility, marriage, family, relationships and social status (Kestila *et al.*, 2009).

Choices: Choice can be defined as the ability of an individual to make a decision when given two or more alternatives. As per the Choice Theory, all choices aim at the meeting and addressing of five fundamental needs: love and belonging, survival, power, freedom and fun (Glasser, 2010).

Kaufman (2006) explains that everyone makes choices, and not making a choice is also a choice. An individual can be a pioneer of change or a victim, depending on the choice made.

Consequences of Choices: when an individual makes a mental choice, such a choice will always have a bearing upon the life of that individual. Choices, when acted upon, will always come with consequences. Moreover, the consequences of choices might not take place immediately or be explicitly seen. It is difficult to chart the timeline of the effects that

are the result of choice where those positive choices create positive consequences, while negative ones create negative consequences (Steele, 2006).

Chapter Two

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the literature review which is divided into two sections. The first section presents a discussion of the theories associated with the proposed study. The second section offers a review of the literature on the research subject.

2.1 Review of Theoretical Literature

According to Freud (2015-2016) the drive for self-preservation is included in the primary drives. This drive also forms a part of the Eros that is hosted by the ego and is the rational, conscious and calculating component of the psyche that deals with the reality. The destructive energy, also termed as the death-drive is primarily responsible for the aggressive behaviour of an individual that triggers self-destruction. The origin of the death-drive can be found in the id where passions, irrationality and emotion reside. The third component of the personality is the super-ego, which serves as a censor or conscience. When the repressed unconscious is powerful, it overwhelms the conscious and aggravates psychosis. This condition of psychosis can also be an outcome of the reality whose pain has been so unbearable that it threatened the ego and the individual is compelled to be overtaken by the strong impulses of the unconscious. The adult personality is the outcome of a combination of early childhood experiences based on how these experiences were unconsciously and consciously shaped within the stages of human development, and eventually shape the personality of an individual. Freud emphasised that the most part of human personality is determined during early childhood development. Based on this

premise, Freud identifies five stages of psychosexual development. As a child crosses these stages, he / she might have to encounter unresolved conflicts between social expectations and physical drives. The experiences of a child are filtered through three levels of the human mind, namely, id, ego and super-ego. It is in these three levels, that inherent conflicts arise in the human mind, and the overall personality development takes place. The ability of an individual to pacify internal conflicts at distinct stages of their development determines their ability to cope with their future challenges and circumstances and function as a fully-matured adult.

Sartre (1992) states that there is harmony between the feelings of freedom and anxiety. For Sartre, existence manifests itself in the choice of actions that an individual makes within the freedom and anxiety of will-power. He does not accept any form of determination and asserts that the past does not determine the individual's build of the present and future. Human existence is free, and human life evolves in full freedom. Existence implies to separate the persona from the world. One has to realise that he / she are not identical to the objects of the world, and it is one's freedom that determines the future. This thought procedure and psychological tendency motivate an individual to assume responsibility for one's future. However, simultaneously, Sartre also emphasises that the future is uncertain and unpredictable. Hence, no individual can escape from despair and anxiety. He asserts that an individual has numerous alternative paths lying before him and has to choose from them, and the higher the responsibility held by the man, the higher will be the anxiety, as this phenomenon shapes the entire human existence.

Another theory that emerges from the examination of the situation and circumstances experienced by the characters of Heathcliff and the monster in the selected

novels is Naturalism (Newlin, 2011). This theory, which emerged out of an attempt to portray the realistic situations with an indifferent tone, believes that anything that happens can be examined in the light of genetic or environmental factors. It emphasises that the characters' act in a scientific manner based on these principles. The theory emphasises that the hereditary and social environment of an individual plays a highly significant role in the development of his or her character. It focuses on sordid subject matter and attempts to expose the dark harshness of life such as racism, poverty, disease, filth and disease, together shapes human character and actions (Newlin, 2011).

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

In the perspective of Kimmerly-Smith (2014) Victor Frankenstein is well educated, cultured, well mannered, and very quick at learning and has good intentions. However, his creation of the monster was not accepted in this society. Everywhere the monster goes, he suffers rejection and negative reactions from the people because of his hideous countenance. The consistently negative reactions from the society because of his positive attitude and behaviours towards all, eventually drives him to turn against the society until he is transformed into a monster and perpetrates the cruel murder of his creator's best friend Henry Clerval and his bride Elizabeth Lavenza. The novel further highlights the monster narrating various incidents in the novel that whenever he encountered any civilisation, he only experiences people turning against him at the very first sight however polite and well-mannered he shows himself to be (Kimmerly-Smith, 2014). For instance, when he reaches a village hungry, curious and enters a house in search for food, there were children who began shrieking on looking at him while a woman faints. In a very short

while, the entire village panics with some people running away and some others attacking him. This incident from his early life made a very strong impact of his future growth and development. These experiences fill him with intense physical pain and, also traumatic emotional experience. When he later takes refuge in a hotel and encounters another family in a nearby cottage. His trauma only comes down crashing bringing more despair and disgust towards the society and his creator (Kimmerly-Smith, 2014).

Oyarzun (2016) further elaborates that the beauty and gentle manners of the cottagers are highly appreciated by the monster and while he observes them all day and night, he develops a strong empathy for the family and starts to feel depression and joy as the family experiences. The monster is highly moved by these emotions and desires intensely to meet and become a part of that family by filling the vacant space left because of the rejection of his creator, Victor Frankenstein. The observation of the family also enables him to learn language, spoken, written word and read books. All this while, he continues to believe himself to be a truly wretched individual. However, once he discovers his past and his creation, he is filled with rage, disgust for his creator and curses him. This event further fills him with anger to destroy all peace and happiness from the life of his creator, thereby turning him into a complete monster (Oyarzun, 2016). The novel also states that the creature could not survive the world of man where he is always rejected and is feared of. All he received from this world is anger and hatred, which keeps pushing him into abandonment and alienation. He was created as an innocent life, however, the rejection and abandonment from his creator, people of the society, people who he empathised truly, family whom he tried to befriend, breaks him down, fills him with rage and disgust gradually robbing him of all of his hope (Oyarzun, 2016).

Brannstrom (2006) further explains that the absence of maternal figure for the monster has strong psychological consequences, which can be identified as the manifestation of the unconscious reaction to his abandonment. Under this psychological tendency, a child desires dependence on the mother as an external object, who also serves as a defence mechanism in the state of helplessness and offers protection in every circumstance. The complete absence of such protection and defence mechanism for the monster heightens his pain and hampers his psychological growth because of which the monstrous intent overtakes his goodness and positivity for mankind.

Ansari *et al.* (2017) say's that Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, while portraying the childhood of Heathcliff, shows how he is constructed in a racial discourse as a person with fiend-like eyes, who eyed every one like devil's spies and was supposed to transform his nature from being so fiendish to angelic, from being a vicious dog subjects to humiliation and suppression from others to a civilised man. This further highlights how the status of Heathcliff is reduced to a homeless, placeless, faceless, stateless existence and is always deprived of his rights of equality. This racial embarrassment and hostility suffered by Heathcliff all his early life can be identified as strong forces that fill him with anger and a strong desire to seek revenge.

Bolana and Ibrahim (2017) asserts that it is these bourgeoisie values in the society that motivates Catherine to choose the learned, genteel Edgar from the upper class over Heathcliff, who was a classless orphan, despite having emotions and passions for him. These circumstances can identify to motivate Heathcliff to choose to depart, leaving Catherine to marry. When he returns, though he has become a learned and educated man, he responds in a highly bitter manner aspiring to take revenge on everyone who made his

life miserable. This article further studies the intense companionship shared by Heathcliff and Catherine lies in their common fate, which is the lack of the mother figure. The betrayal of Catherine for Heathcliff can also be viewed with respect to her self-preservation drive that was hosted by the dominance of ego in her. She chooses sophistication and adherence to the class norms and suppresses her love. The same can be examined in Heathcliff who, after having been transformed into a capitalist, betrays his core values of simplicity and masks cruelty to avenge the Earnshaws and Lintons for having butchered his childhood and emotions.

In this context, Karjohn (2012) argues that Heathcliff's childhood experiences can be identified to have caused an abandonment neurosis in him that later manifests itself in the form of negative aggression. In terms of psychoanalysis, it could be the tendency that makes him seek a substitute intimacy and passion that he gains through violence. His other psychotic symptoms can also be identified in the visions of Catherine that he saw and the intense desire to unite with her in her grave.

Chapter Three

3.0 Introduction

This chapter covers three sections: methodology, samples and procedures which are adopted to conduct the study. Moreover, this chapter provides a brief description of the methodology utilized in the study. It discusses the sample of the study relies on assessing the two selected novels. The chapter ends with an illustration of the procedures followed to achieve the aims of this study.

3.1 Methodology of the Study

This study adopts a close and critical reading of the primary texts, based on which the circumstances, choices and outcomes for the two selected characters will be studied, compared and critically analysed in the light of the theories of Psychoanalysis, Existentialism and Naturalism. The analysis focuses on the character study background setting that shapes the two characters also, an in-depth comparison between the two characters.

The study examines the impact of the surrounding circumstances on the choices made by the monster in Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and Heathcliff from Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, to compare how the outcomes of such choices influence their personal lives and people associated with them.

3.2 Sample of the Study

The samples of the study are the novels; *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.

3.3 Procedures of the Study

To address the research objectives, specific procedures will be followed to conduct the proposed research such as the credibility of the study how it is maintained and the validity of results is achieved. These procedures will be:

1. Reading the biographies of Mary Shelley and Emily Bronte.
2. A complete, thorough and close reading of the two primary texts, *Frankenstein* and *Wuthering Heights* with a specific focus on the context of the story in the former and the development of both characters Heathcliff and the monster in the latter.
3. Gathering relevant and authentic sources of literature on the topic of research.
4. Studying and examining the core themes of this study in light of the theories of psychoanalysis, naturalism, existentialism.
5. Presenting the analysis and exploration of the selected novels.
6. Presenting the conclusions and recommendations of for future studies.
7. Proofreading and documenting the references as per APA style of references.

Chapter Four

4.0 Introduction

The chapter aims at examining and evaluating in detail the gathered set of sources to derive pertinent information from them with focus on addressing the research questions and objectives. In this chapter, an in-depth review of the two selected novels, that are Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* has been made with the central emphasises on their key characters and the influences of surrounding environment on making choices. In order to examine the novels and chosen research context, the current chapter presents a detailed literary analysis of a closely study of the texts, plots, interpret its meanings and explores the reasons for the choices made by the characters. This helped in examining in detail all the key components of the novels to obtain pivotal insight into the research questions revolving around the surrounding environment and choices. In order to analyse the selected novels in the research, this chapter is structured in a systematic manner, wherein, analysis of a novel is executed, followed by another and then to a detailed comparison of both the novels. In the novels, a detailed analysis of circumstances or surroundings and choices made by the characters, that are the monster and Heathcliff in *Frankenstein* and Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* respectively are made in the chapter.

The primary objective of the research focusses on the way in which surrounding circumstances forces people to make choices regarding their life, several psychologists has documented the situations and propounded various theories to depict the influence of external forces on beliefs, behaviour and attitudes. It is a profound concept of social psychology, which is rapidly growing and thus, producing a significant influence on human

behaviour regarding the way they think and acts. Stangor, Tarry & Jhangiani (2014) claims social psychologists hold the views that human behaviour is determined by diverse characteristics and social situations, and in it, the social situation is claimed of producing a significant influence on the behaviour of a person's characteristics. In this regard, Mahmoud (2018) has presented a comprehensive study on environmental psychology, which is linked to the study of the relationship prevails in between a person's experiences and, the behaviour of an individual in the environment. He claimed that is a reciprocal relationship between the individual and the surrounding environment, which demonstrates the study of the transaction between individuals and physical settings.

Turner and Crisp (2020) further asserts that social psychologists have emphasised on cognitive dissonance, persuasion, external and internal factor. The attitudes and beliefs of an individual are claimed to be influenced by a wide range of external forces and internal influences. Herein, cognitive dissonance is built of an internal form that is shaped by feelings, thoughts and behaviour that lies in conflict to each other, whereas, external forces are shaped by the external factors encompassing the surroundings and circumstances (Turner & Crisp, 2020). Surrounding on the diverse views of the authors made on the influence of surrounding circumstances on the individuals' choices, this chapter aims at analysing the characters and the influences of the surrounding environment in their lives, their choices in light of various theories and models. In order to study and analyse the chosen research context, a range of theories including psychoanalysis theory, existentialism, and naturalism theory have been used in the research to study the characters, surrounding environment, settings, and plot that influenced their choices in this chapter.

4.1 *Wuthering Heights*

4.1.1 Biography of Emily Bronte

Wuthering Heights is written by Emily Bronte, who was born at Thornton in July 1818 and was the fifth child of Maria and Patrick Bronte. The family moved to Haworth, Yorkshire in 1820 and eighteen months later, Mrs Bronte passed away. After her death, Mr Bronte turned towards a maiden aunt, Miss Elizabeth Branwell, from Plymouth and raised his children strictly. Except for Charlotte, the Bronte's children suffered from consumption or tuberculosis. The eldest sister, Maria, who also served as the little mother to her young siblings, passed away very early in 1825. The boy Branwell would narrate of having heard her crying outside the windows at night (Usein, 2016). This incident can be identified to have inspired Emily Bronte to write the frightening sequence in *Wuthering Heights*, where Lockwood is continuously disturbed by the ghost of Catherine Earnshaw. In the same year, Emily witnesses the demise of another sister Elizabeth. In 1831, Charlotte was sent to school and had left behind an unfinished Island story, which was taken over by Emily and Anne, who decided to make their Island chronicles in the setting of a place called Gondal (Holland, 2018). Emily attended school at Cowan Bridge. However, it made her homesick and was an awful experience and hence, she left for home after three months. She became a governess in Halifax. However, she also planned to establish a school at Haworth with Charlotte and together they left for the Pensionnat Heger in Brussels to enhance their qualifications (Holland, 2018).

In 1842, Emily returned home on the death of her aunt and stayed there for the rest of her life. She lived a life of passion in a world of imagination while staying firm with

reality. She had a profound understanding of emotions; however, as an artist, she was never overwhelmed because of it. In 1848, she passed away from tuberculosis (Holland, 2018). The novel, *Wuthering Heights* was published in 1847 under the pen name, Ellis Bell. This was the only novel, which is a powerful tale of hate, love, death and sorrow situated on the windswept moors of Haworth and later became a classic of English Literature. Over the years, the innovative structure and complexity led to mixed reviews. In 1850, the book was republished by her sister, Charlotte, under her sister's real name, Emily (Usein, 2016).

Emily Bronte left scant writings regarding her life and works, and most of her works have been scrutinised for autobiographical elements. Her works have been an important part of the Romantic age. They serve as glaring reminders of the harshness of life regarding the power of love, potential beauty and mystical power of nature (Usein, 2016).

4.1.2 Analysing the Impact of Surrounding Circumstances on the Choices Made by Heathcliff, the Protagonist of Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*

Critics such as Charlotte Bronte consider Heathcliff as a Ghoul, devil and Afreet, which means a demon in Arabic language. Other critics like (Hayley R. Mitchel) identifies him as a complex and the central issue that is associated with *Wuthering Heights*, claiming that the analysis of the character Heathcliff, determines the central focus of the novel. Nevertheless, whether Heathcliff is pictured as a devil or as a human being, the interpretation of his character in respect to the defence mechanisms can be useful in clarifying the underlying causes for his actions and choices (Rinna, 2018). His suffering throughout the novel suggests a conflict between his conscious and unconscious mind, which compels him to adopt a defence mechanism such as repression, sublimation, denial and projection as he said: "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!" Chapter 7, pg. 54

Heathcliff was influenced by these four defence mechanisms that made him act and behave in a specific manner and even influences other characters such as Linton, Heathcliff's son (Bronte, 1858).

As per Freud, the psyche is composed of the id, ego, superego and the defence mechanism is activated when one wants to defend his/her superego from the unconscious mind and the ego activates specific processes in the conscious mind that are termed as defence mechanisms. The defence mechanisms explained by Freud include concepts such as denial, repression, projection and sublimation, each of which can be used to examine the circumstances and choices of Heathcliff. In this context, the experiences of childhood affect the unconscious mind of Heathcliff to a significant extent (Karanezi, 2019). In the beginning of the novel, Heathcliff is an outsider when he is introduced to the Earnshaw family and is looked down upon as an object and not as a human being. He is usually referred to in the novel as 'it' and 'gypsy'. His outsider position is because of his lowly status as an orphan whose obscure identity further makes his position complex, ambiguous character pushes him to struggle to establish a relationship with the family and secure a respectful position. Heathcliff's being an orphan without any attachments, the lack of personal fulfilment, no satisfaction with love, belongingness frustrates him and motivates him to create some form of defence mechanism. This defence mechanism, for Heathcliff, was not only to secure himself from being attacked but also counteracted every time he was attacked (Karanezi, 2019).

Rinna (2018) explains that Heathcliff's character can be examined as the recurrent pattern of abandonment and the eventual destructive behaviour because of his character as an individual who feared abandonment and betrayal. His hatred for emotional attachments can be studied to be a reaction to constant annoyance and traumas endured by him. Heathcliff, as a seven-year-old boy is without a family and his entrance in the Earnshaw family encounters a serious reaction from the family to push him out of the family. This pushes Heathcliff into a fierce struggle for survival against the misanthropic people who are against his presence at home. Heathcliff's misanthropic tendencies originate from his personal experiences of pain, loss and the hostile treatment from the other members of the family. After losing his guardian and benefactor, Mr Earnshaw, he was scared and lonely, and the thought of having been abandoned by his only friend, Catherine, breaks him down completely and pushes him into utter pessimism and fills him with a desire for revenge (Bronte, 1858).

This aspect of his personality and behaviour can be discussed in light of psychoanalysis, wherein in *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900), Freud identified six common issues namely, fear of intimacy, fear of betrayal, fear of abandonment, low self-esteem, Oedipus complex or fixation and insecure sense of self. The fear of abandonment can be seen throughout running across Heathcliff's life, highlighting the underlying grief and distress of being deserted emotionally or physically by the people are cared for. Similarly, Freud asserts that the fear of betrayal gives the distressing feeling that we cannot trust our loved and this fear constantly threatens one's life. Being a marginal member of the Earnshaw family, he is worried about his existence and identity in the family and society. He believes himself to be unworthy than others that makes him to desires to punish them

(Bronte, 1858). The progression of Catherine in the Thruscross Grange and her becoming negligent towards Heathcliff makes him feel lonely and identifies the situation as an infernal betrayal that strengthens his anguish regarding the irreparable loss of Catherine. This loss makes him feel insecure and develop a loss of identity. As per Freud, suffering from low self-esteem makes an individual feel to be unworthy in comparison of others and that he is not worthy of attention or appreciation, but to be punished with pain and suffering. A consistent feeling of this kind makes individual feel insecurity regarding one's ability to maintain a personal identity (Asl, 2014).

The recurrent pattern of hysteria and abandonment strikes Heathcliff again and again. Catherine's death pushes him into further abandonment, trauma and he 'dashed his head against the knotted trunk; and, lifting his eyes, howled, not like a man, but like a savage beast getting goaded to death with knives and spears' (Bronte, 1858, p. 130). The circumstances once again put Heathcliff into a state of sorrow, loss, he becomes an outcast from the society and the world as he says:

“I have a single wish, and my whole being and faculties are yearning to attain it. They have yearned towards it so long, and so unwaveringly, that I'm convinced it will be reached—and soon—because it has devoured my existence. I am swallowed in the anticipation of its fulfilment” (Bronte, 1858, p. 248).

As per Freud, the loss in life triggers an intense psychological pain in an individual and this pain transforms into depression or melancholia which is usually manifested in the form of intense and painful dejection, loss of the capacity to nurture and love, cessation of interest in the external world and society which together with the lower feeling of self-

regard and self-respect in an individual (Asl, 2014). This tendency can be examined in Heathcliff and his abandonment from the society, family and his desire to punish himself by keeping himself deprived of all happiness and peace; rather torture himself by tutoring, abusing his wife, Hindley's son and the young Catherine. He suffered from a loss of identity and self-respect (Asl, 2014)

Another important aspect that influences the choices and behavioural tendencies of Heathcliff is the sense of otherness. Identity and otherness can be understood in the light of various dimensions such as social status, religion, race, language and appearance. An individual who can fit within the environment or society is believed to be identical and is accepted in the community while the one who does not, is treated and considered as 'other'. Heathcliff lacked an identity and was a mere gipsy foundling discovered at the streets of Liverpool from where he was brought to the Earnshaw family. He was an absolute outsider with the gipsy demeanour and anonymous background whose past and early childhood are not described in detail by Bronte (Piero, 2002). He was further placed in isolation in the family who regarded him as a dirty, ragged child who is also described as a 'monster, ghost and vampire' by the main narrator Nelly Dean in the novel. These circumstances can be examined to have generated a feeling of otherness in him that formed the foundation of his frustration, anger and his hatred for the people of high class. His race and lack of social class formed the essential criteria for Catherine and Hindley to make the choices of their behaviour towards him, wherein Hindley chooses to mistreat Heathcliff.

Similarly, Catherine decided to marry Edgar and not Heathcliff because of the high social status of Edgar that was lacked by Heathcliff, even all the love Catherine had for Heathcliff as she said while speaking to Nelly in the novel:

“It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him: and that, not because he's handsome, Nelly, but because he's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same; and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire.” (Bronte, 1858, 9, pg. 73)

The previous quotation shows that Catherine still chooses status over Heathcliff.

Hindley regards Heathcliff as an intruder in the family and believes he must be treated with contempt. He abused Heathcliff verbally, tortured him physically and mentally. He also treated him like a servant, made all efforts to deprive him of education and burden him with physical labour (Piero, 2002). Later, Catherine, the only best friend and love of his life also judged him in terms of his class, race and chose Edgar for her life despite being aware of her passion and love for Heathcliff, which is believed to be a betrayal by Catherine. These circumstances can be identified as the underlying cause that persuaded Heathcliff to transform from a victim into an oppressor and seek revenge against everyone who judged his emotions and truthfulness from the lenses of class, race and society (Asl, 2014). This can also be identified as the key reason for his escape from the moors and acquiring a mysterious fortune. His childhood and teenage experiences with the Earnshaw family and the perceptions of the society regarding class and race can be claimed to be critical causes that shaped his action of seeking revenge from the entire Earnshaw family and the people associated with Catherine, including Hindley, Hareton, Edgar, Isabella, Linton and the

young Catherine and treated them with physical, verbal abuse and contempt (Asl, 2014). Heathcliff released his hatred for Hindley in his son, Hareton by abusing him mentally and physically and restricting his education and life with dignity. Consequently, Hareton developed into a barbarian with rude and ill-mannered behaviour. Hareton's childhood was a reflection of his own childhood and served as the most appropriate means to avenge him (Alhaj, 2015).

His revenge was not only restricted to Hareton but also extended to Edgar and Catherine, by marrying Isabella Edgar's sister. His choice of marrying Isabella was also compelled by the thought of revenge. His plan to get Linton and Catherine married was aimed at getting access to Thrushcross Grange and help him gain access to a higher social hierarchy. He believed that getting access to social order will enable him to reach the level of the Lintons and be able to take revenge. Hence, each of his actions and choices can be examined to be shaped by his past experiences (Alhaj, 2015). He reflects the working class, the betrayal because of his low class and anonymous identity. His powerlessness in the society, family and the tyranny of Hindley Earnshaw made him realise that the cause of his misery and betrayal of Catherine was due to his low class and wretched status in the society. Consequently, the only appropriate way for him to acquire a respectable identity was by acquiring power and returning to *Wuthering Heights* with money. His revenge was aimed at seeking such power, prosperity and equivalence to the Lintons by marrying Edgar's sister so that he could escape his miserable circumstances, acquiring social and economic power to dominate Hindley and his son to gain Catherine's attention. These aspects further suggest the strong role played by the circumstances in shaping the choices of an individual.

4.2 *Frankenstein*

4.2.1 Biography of Mary Shelly

Mary Shelley is a popular English writer best known for her novel “*Modern Prometheus or Frankenstein*” and married to a renowned poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley. Mary Shelley, published *Frankenstein*, her most famous novel in 1818. She also wrote different books: *The Last Man* (1826), *Valperga* (1823) and the *posthumously* published *Mathilde*. Shelley was born on August 30, 1797, in London, England. Mary Shelley was the daughter of political writer and philosopher, William Godwin and famed feminist, Mary Wollstonecraft; the author of *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). Her life changed when her mother Wollstonecraft died soon after her birth, and the family dynamics eventually changed when Godwin married Mary Jane Clairmont in 1801. Shelley gradually got inclined towards reading, and she also liked daydreaming, for escaping self from challenging home life through imagination power (AE Television Networks, 2020). In 1814 she came into a relationship with Percy Bysshe Shelley, and they moved to Europe whereby they experienced financial ups and downs, and 1815 turned out to be a terrible year for Shelleys as they lost their first child in this very year. The Shelley’s were in Switzerland with Lord Byron, John Polidori and Jane Clairmont and as a group; they entertained themselves by reading a couple of ghost stories. During this time Lord Byron gave a piece of advice to Shelleys that they should try writing a horror story and Mary Shelley started working on this idea and wrote *Frankenstein*, her most admired novel (AE Television Networks, 2020).

Mary Shelley lost her husband at the age of 24 and strived hard for supporting herself and her child, and she published more novels including the science fiction tale, *The Last Man* (1826) and *Valperga*. She committed herself to promote Percy Bysshe's poetry with the motto of preserving her husband's position in the literature world. Mary died on February 1, 1851, due to brain cancer in London; and after a century Mathilde, one of her novels was released. However; the engaging tale of *Frankenstein* continues as her lasting legacy portraying the struggle between a monster and its creator. Mary Shelley's work also inspired a certain comedy like *The Young Frankenstein* (Hall, 2018).

4.2.2 Analysing the Impact of Surrounding Circumstances on the Choices Made by the Monster in Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*

Frankenstein is one of the significant exceptional achievements in the literature domain, and it is not written flawlessly, and the composition at certain points is a bit awkward, and yet it is an unsettling and extreme vision, adequately informed about philosophy and science. It is all about the creation of a monster by a man (Victor), the monster runs amok and finally takes revenge from his creator. Victor Frankenstein, for the sake of accomplishing his vision of scientifically creating life; developed a monster without bothering about the potential repercussions of such work. With an attempt to create an artificial person, by making use of scavenged body parts and this project with time turned into a doomed crazy ideology, and thus the novel adequately illuminates the penalties of infringing nature (Ball, 2017).

The monster in Victor's creation was assembled from distinctive chemicals and old body parts, animated with the application of a mysterious spark. The monster enters life with a tall and massively strong body but with the mind of a newborn baby who was

abandoned by his creator. The monster made repetitive attempts to associate and align with the society for seeking an identity but soon realised that his physical grotesqueness is an attribute of personality that does not permit the society to look into his gentle, generous and kind nature. The harsh behaviours, aggression and non-acceptance that the monster witnessed from the society encouraged him to develop aggression towards his creator, who soon after his creation abandoned him without bothering about his survival in the unknown world with the mindset of a newly born (Ball, 2017). The monster killed Victor's younger brother to take revenge from the creator and later the monster also murdered Victor's best friend and, in the end, took the life of his new bride. The story tells that Victor experiences unmitigated hatred for the monster's creation; the monster feels that he is not an evil being. The persuasive narration of the incidents faced by the monster as demonstrated by Victor reflects his astonishing sensitivity and benevolence. The Monster assists a number of needy peasants and safeguards a girl from drowning, but because of his external appearance, he was beaten up, rewarded with disgust, shred between compassion and vengefulness, the monster ends up in isolation and afflicted by remorse. The monster feels that Victor turned from him to destroy him, to give him much pain, sadness and suffering. The development of deep hatred and aggression feelings by the monster was largely an outcome of critical circumstances he witnessed in society due to the irresponsible behaviour of his creator. The negative choices the monster made was mainly because of the anger and abomination he witnessed in the surrounding environment (Putri, 2015).

The psychoanalysis theory proposed by Sigmund Freud is widely recognised for understanding the personality development and personality of a person. The theory believes that human behaviour is largely shaped by the interactions among three constituting

elements of the mind; the identity, ego and superego. The theory entitles significant emphasis on the relevance of unconscious psychological conflicts in shaping personality, behaviour and outlines that dynamic interaction among these crucial components of the mind; are assumed to develop via five psychosexual development phases (Sibi, 2020). The conflicts between ego, superego and id and the individual efforts for finding a balance what every part desire determine how a being behaves and approaches the world. The theory asserts that id, ego and superego continually oppose each other, and the behaviour and adult personality are foundational in the outcomes of such internal struggles throughout childhood. Freud perceived that an individual having considerable ego has a healthy personality and the imbalances in such system can pave the way towards neurosis and unhealthy behaviours. The conflict basically progresses across a series of five main stages; each one having a unique focus; anal, oral, phallic, genital and latency. Across these five phases, a child encounters with numerous conflicts between their biological needs (id) and their moral and social conscience (superego) due to biological pressure creating urges stress on different parts of the body (Newlin, 2011).

A child's potential to address such internal conflicts decides their future potential to function and handle situations as an adult. Failure to handle any stage can promote one to become fixated in that phase driving unhealthy personality traits, whereas successful resolution promotes healthy adult. In *Frankenstein*, the reflection of this theory is evident in the character development of the monster who's; being sensitive and intelligent made rigorous attempts with the human social patterns, but being hideously ugly whoever sees him shuns him. This abandonment feeling started driving unhealthy personality attributes mainly because of the urge to seek revenge against the creator. It has been assessed that the

monster portrays the conscience generated by Victor and his ego; the psyche which feels the external world via the senses which shape the thought processes logically and regulates action. It mediates between the id related impulses, the environmental demands and the standards concerning the superego (Putri, 2015).

Naturalism is also a vital theory given by Emile Zola, a French novelist who explains naturalism as a moral or religious or philosophical thought glorifying nature and emphasises the impact of heredity and environment on human action and nature. Naturalism is objective in nature and featured by determinism, pessimistic view and ordinary events. Naturalism theory emerged as a product of efforts to reflect the realistic situations with a distinctive tone upholding the fact that anything which happens can be assessed in a rational way through evaluation of environmental and genetic factors. The theory proposes that the social aspects and the hereditary factors of human being; plays a huge role in his / her character-building (Zhang, 2010). The theory explains that nature is the key and the only fundamental source of everything that exists, and thus every event finds an appropriate explanation within nature. The theory also recognises that deities, ghosts and spirits are not real, and no purpose exists in their concerns with nature (Boothby, 2014).

The valuable propositions held by this theory can be seen in the character development of the monster as the circumstances he encountered while trying to develop identity after being left alone by his creator; gradually started determining what feelings he should develop for seeking justice or taking revenge. The Monster from the very day he was created was not cruel and aggressive, but whenever he tried hard with utmost kindness to get a place in the society, he was not accepted by people around. The novel narrates that

the monster assists some poor peasants and saves a girl from drowning, but because of his ugly appearance, he only receives beatings and detestation, leaving him lonely. Constant negative behaviours by the people around and abandonment by Victor pushed him towards harsh behaviour ending up with the murder of Victor's new wife and best friend. The monster is not evil since the beginning as his sensitivity is evident in numerous incidents outlined in the story. However, due to adversities and disgust, he gained in return for his genuine acts, compelled him to indulge in criminal acts to seek revenge proving the theory that environment and social dimensions play a crucial part in every existence (Denson, 2014).

Further, the Naturalism theory has further propounded supportive views on the influence of natural events as the key cause of change. In this context, Roeckelein (2006) has propounded that Naturalistic theory stressed out on the role of the social, intellectual and cultural climate in which an investigator lives and operates. The forces generated by all individuals plays a vital role in causing societal change. In a philosophical sense, Naturalism holds the idea that only laws and forces are operating in the universe, and thus, governing the behaviour and structure of the natural universe (Roeckelein, 2006; Slife & Richardson, 2014). In the tale, social individuals such as the intellectual and cultural climate have played a vital role in fostering the monster to make the choice of taking revenge and become the real monster. The incidents in this regard includes the use of intellectual ability by Victor Frankenstein to experiment the reanimation of the dead tissue due to the death of his mother, violent upheaval in the society, the problem of prejudice and presumptive reactions are examined to play a vital role. Along with this, a clear depiction of the visual basis referring that people tend to socialise with the people who look similar

further examined to play a vital role in the non-acceptance of the monster in the society and adopting revenge attitude as a choice.

The novel of Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* is often referred and mobilised as a prominent and powerful representation of concerns on the dangers and risks of progressive modernity, science and ensuing technological creations by presenting a comprehensive debate over dangers of messing with nature or acting like God. The dystopic tale presented by the author through demonising the technology in terms of *Frankenstein's* monster has provided wider interpretations and mobilisations of aligning the neo-romantic, nostalgic and counter-modern elements with the *Frankenstein's* monster myths. In this way, the novel is characterised with a sophisticated and subtle appreciation of the role of the social relations in determining the products, nature, direction, science and technology consequences (Hammond, 2004). On analysing the characters and the plot in the novel, it is inspected that the readers are exposed to various atrocities committed by the monster of Victor Frankenstein's. Actually, all the murders claimed in the novel can be made responsible to two factors, including the monster's nature and the manner society reacted to the existence of the monster. Hence, in this way, the tale presented a challenge to the usual anti-science, pro-nature alignments and anti-modernist aspects.

On analysing the characteristics of the monster demonstrated in the novel, it is viewed that despite kindness, intellect and gentle aspects of the persona of the physical grotesqueness monster, the society and the environment led him to commit distinct heinous acts. The desirable qualities of the monster are examined to fade pushed the monster first by Victor and then to the people he encountered. This establishes a link between the notions of nature, as the horrid appearance has extensively influenced the way the society

behaved, as well as Victor, how they treated the creature (Liou, 2018). This can be profoundly noticed in chapter five wherein, Victor runs into the monster on fleeing from the house and in the fifteenth chapter, wherein, the monster got driven far by Felix. Similarly, the sixteenth chapter when the monster shot a man who believes him an accomplice while he was saving a drowning girl. These are the three prominent instances faced by the monster in the society and fuels him with hatred for mankind and eventually led him to kill the first victim that was the brother of Victor (Prinsloo, 2017; Liou, 2018). In this manner, it is analysed that mistreatment and isolation experienced by the monster in the society and surrounding environment drive him to kill people and his monstrous acts.

In order to gauge in-depth understanding by analysing the texts, living circumstances and societal issues faced by the monster and their impact on the choices; the discipline of cognitive science has gained enormous relevance. Bering (2002) has claimed that cognitive science has provided an in-depth understanding of the way the human brain translates the observable actions into some of the critical unobservable intentions. In this regard, the Existentialism theory has emphasised on the individual personal existence as the responsible and free agent determining the individual's development. Existentialism regards the individual's existential struggles and the anxiety and alienation associated with it as the inevitable consequence of the human condition and not acknowledged as dysfunctional (Bering, 2002; Yalom, 2020).

In this regard, Jones-Smith (2019) highlighted that Existentialism psychotherapists had recognised four main existential givens, which are freedom, linked responsibility, isolation, death and meaninglessness. Any confrontation with the mentioned givens fills an individual with the existential anxiety, which reduces an individual psychological, social,

physical and spiritual awareness (Jones-Smith, 2019). A profound application of the theoretical underpinnings and givens provided by existentialism theory are evident on the transitions and acts of the monster, as the circumstances of isolation and lack of freedom and linked responsibilities faced by monster have led to make him a real monster. The feeling of isolation is depicted via the constant abandonment by the societal members that filled him with hatred and revenge on his creator, which depicts that the individual's existential struggles, the anxiety and alienation associated to it led to producing inevitable consequences on the monster. This led them to take revenge against his creator, which changed his mental impressions, attitude, and thus, killed the younger brother of Victor. Along with this, after Victor destroyed the female monster work to ease out the solitude of the monster, the monster killed Victor's best friend and his new wife to make him realise the feeling of isolation.

4.3 Comparison of the Choices made by the Two Characters Shape Their Entire Lives and Influence the lives of People Associated with them.

In the case of Heathcliff and as well as the Monster, a lack of adequate support and care during the childhood can be examined and can be identified as an important cause that created a lack of love in their lives, which filled them with anger and contempt towards the society. In the case of Heathcliff, it can be viewed that he was an orphan who was brought by Mr Earnshaw in the family; however, he was treated with severe disgrace, mental and physical abuse from Hindley, who always attempted to downcast and insult him. His only friend was Catherine, whom he also loved so dearly. During his childhood, while playing with Catherine, when they happened to enter Linton's family, only Catherine was entertained and welcomed at home while Heathcliff was not even allowed to enter inside.

This discriminatory treatment experienced by him in his early childhood can be attributed to his low race and lack of identity. Further, Catherine's choice of marrying Edgar despite loving Heathcliff was also motivated by her belief in high class and race, which was lacked by Heathcliff (Piero, 2002). Hence, the experiences of such discrimination because of his class and ethnicity generated not only a feeling of self-contempt in him but also a sense of anger and disgust towards the entire society and humanity.

Similarly, in the case of the Monster, all his childhood, he experienced deprivation of love and attention and despite his empathy with the society, he only received rejection, abuse and discrimination only because of his hideous appearance as the monster expressed: "When I looked around I saw and heard of none like me. Was I, the, a monster, a blot upon the earth from which all men fled and whom all men disowned?" (Shelley 2013, p. 105).

All of his experiences with the villagers and the DeLacey family brought only humiliation for him and made him declare, 'should I feel kindness towards my enemies? No; from the moment I declared everlasting war against the species, and more than all, against him who had formed me and sent me forth to this insupportable misery' (Shelley, 2013, p. 131). These events motivated him to realise that it cannot be accepted or supported by humanity and he decided to retaliate with violence. He believes he is shunned and hated by society and humanity. It was the society and humanity that forced him to turn into a savage creature and takes revenge from innocent people. This choice of the Monster regarding his reaction towards society was a reaction to his experiences. Further, the characters can be examined to desire love, affection and nurturing; however, both the characters lacked them throughout their life, particularly from the people they expected it the most. For instance, in

the case of Heathcliff, he loved Catherine, but she abandoned him, which pushed him into severe loss of identity and self-respect (Sutherland, 2017).

These circumstances and reactions of the society filled him with anger and disgust towards the society and he took the path of revenge. Similarly, the Monster was also abandoned by his creator and all his life desired for love, empathy and affection and was compelled to live a life of alienation. The circumstances experienced by him filled him with pain and contempt towards the society and the only way was to express his anger was through revenge (Shelley, 2013). This suggests that the circumstances play a highly significant in compelling an individual to choose his actions. While in the case of Heathcliff, he lived a life of alienation and isolation after the death of Catherine he was in denial and kept seeing her ghost thinking it came to take revenge as he said:

“And I pray one prayer I repeat it till my tongue stiffens Catherine Earnshaw, may you not rest as long as I am living!

You said I killed you haunt me, then!

Be with me always take any form drive me mad! Only do not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot find you!”

(Bronte, 1847, Chapter 16, pg. 153)

As for the monster in *Frankenstein* was deprived of love and affection due to his actions of revenge from his creator; the Monster suffered from intense guilt and pain on taking the lives of innocent persons and killing them. Their sufferings were caused because of their actions which what shaped them in their childhood circumstances and the reactions of the society towards them.

Another important comparison that can be made between the circumstances and choices made by the two characters was that both Heathcliff, as well as the monster, desired

and attempted to give love. However, both of them received only betrayal and abandonment in return of their honest emotions. These feelings of deprivation and abandonment further pushed them into bitterness towards the society and the only means they had to manifest their disgust was through revenge. Hence, they both chose to take revenge because their circumstances had filled their lives with bitterness and hatred when they both desired love and care.

Chapter Five

5.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the results of the study alongside the light of previously conducted studies and reviewed literature. This chapter finalizes with a conclusion, recommendations, and suggestions for future studies. First, the researcher will provide the results of the four questions altogether because the results are interrelated. Then, she will add her viewpoint and comprehension of each investigation and analysis.

5.1 Conclusion

This study aims to investigate how surrounding circumstances forces people to make choices regarding their life and whether such choices lead to positive or negative outcomes. In this context, the two characters chosen for this study are the monster in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Heathcliff in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. The findings regarding how the surrounding circumstances forces people to make choices in their life, this research reveal that circumstances can play a highly significant role in one's life and the outcomes of the choices made to overcome such circumstances might have serious implications.

In the case of Heathcliff, the sufferings experienced by him during his childhood suggests a conflict between his conscious and unconscious mind that forced him to incorporate defence mechanisms like sublimation, denial, repression and projection. The force of these mechanisms made him to behave in a particular manner and create a strong influence on the other characters, particularly, Linton, his son. These defence mechanisms,

as per Freud, are activated by an individual to defend one's superego from the unconscious mind and can also be examined in the case of Heathcliff to understand his circumstances and choices. Delving into his childhood, when he was introduced to the Earnshaw family, the titles, 'It' or 'Gipsy' created a profound impact on his mind and thoughts. He was believed to be of a lowly status with an obscure identity and these events begin pushing him in the struggle to establish a long term relationship with the family and secure a respectful position.

Moreover, such behaviour from the Earnshaws after the death of his foster father makes him feel the lack of personal fulfilment, satisfaction, love and belongingness and pushes him further to create a defence mechanism to secure his emotions from being hurt. Such circumstances laid the first and firm foundation of the fear of abandonment and betrayal by him. His only best friend and love during his childhood was Catherine however, when she also chooses to develop a friendship with Edgar and then later marry him, Heathcliff's fear of abandonment and betrayal became even firm and robust. His childhood was a constant interplay of abandonment and traumas. These personal experiences of personal loss, pain and cruel treatment from the Earnshaw family after the death of Mr Earnshaw and later Catherine's choice of marrying Edgar, not only break him down entirely but also pushes him into utter pessimism, which eventually becomes the most critical breeding grounds for his choice of seeking revenge against the Earnshaws. The findings highlight that the fear of abandonment can be proved to be running throughout his life, highlighting the intense level of grief and pain of being deserted physically and emotionally by the people he loved. He begins to believe himself unworthy and feels anxious about his identity and existence in the family.

Moreover, the progression of Catherine to Edgar's family and becoming negligent towards Heathcliff further increased his loneliness and anguish because of the irreparable loss of Catherine. The loss of Catherine's love and attention increased his insecurity and the fear of losing his identity and makes him feel like a victim of hysteria and abandonment. Psychologically, such a tendency is claimed to be triggered due to an intense psychological pain that transforms into depression and is expressed in the form of intense dejection, loss of the desire, the ability to love, nurture and to feel interested in the external world. This psychological state of Heathcliff's surroundings can be viewed to have played an essential role in making him choose a life of deprivation from peace and happiness. His only means of expressing his frustration was by torturing himself, his wife and son and even the young Catherine.

In addition to that, Heathcliff also suffered from a sense of otherness, which also played an important role in influencing his choices and behavioural tendencies. This was because he was made to believe by the Earnshaws that his social status, race, religion, appearance and language did not meet the standards of the high-class society and hence, was not acceptable and was treated as 'other'. Being a gipsy orphan from the streets of Liverpool, he was an absolute outsider due to his anonymous background and identified as a dirty and ragged child. Such experiences during the childhood early years further aggravated his anger, frustration and disgust against the persons from high-class society. He believed, it was due to his lack of social class made Hindley mistreat him and betrayed by Catherine and this forms the strong basis of his surroundings that played the most important role in the choices made by him in future. All his childhood, Heathcliff was verbally abused by Hindley who believed him to be an intruder in the family and subjected

him to contempt and deprived him of education. Later, his only friend and love, Catherine also used the parameters of class and race and married Edgar despite being aware of her passion and love for Heathcliff. These surroundings associated with Heathcliff's life were the primary cause for him to choose to seek revenge against the Earnshaws and bully and torture their family members with his abuse and violence. They forced him to transform himself from a victim to an oppressor and seek revenge from everyone who judged his truthfulness and emotions from the lenses of race, class and society. His purpose in life was his revenge that aimed at securing power and prosperity equivalent to Lintons by marrying Edgar's sister so that he could acquire social and economic position and be able to dominate Hareton and his son.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the bully and torture from Hindley, abandonment and betrayal from his best friend, Catherine, because of his lack of dignified race, class and background formed the key circumstances that compelled him to seek revenge from Hindley's and Catherine's children as he treated them with the same bully and violence with which he used to be treated.

On the other hand, in Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the monster was the outcome of Victor's desire and ambition of creating human life without bothering about the consequences of interfering with God's process of creating human life. However, as soon as he realised the horror of what he had created and attempted to escape without being further bothered about his responsibility towards his creation, which was just like a newborn baby, though with the massively developed body but a fragile mind eager for love and nurturing. The monster continues to look for support and search for care and love. Still, each of his attempts to secure live and care from the society was reacted with severe contempt and

disgust from the society because of his hideous demeanour beyond which no one he met from the society could see his kind and generous behaviour. Despite his generosity and kindness towards others, he always received the same treatment of contempt and hatred. He has supported several peasants in need and secured the life of a girl from drowning. However, every time he attempted to help people with kindness, he was always rewarded with beatings and disgust and would end up with even more pain, suffering and sadness. The development of deep hatred and aggression in the monster was the outcome of the critical events and circumstances that are surrounding him.

The continuously adverse reactions and harsh behaviour from the society and the absence of his creator, Victor, forced him to use his strength and force to fight against them and secure his identity and position in the society. Simultaneously, his experiences filled him with anger against his creator for having abandoned him in the world alone after his creation. All these experiences together compel him to take revenge against each of these persons who disgraced him and made him feel so miserable. Hence, he kills Victor's younger brother, his best friend and even his new bride just so that he could make Victor realise the pain of desiring love and care. The findings of the research also use the theory of psychoanalysis to understand how internal conflicts experienced by a child can play a crucial role in his future potential to handle situations and function as an adult in future. Despite being a sensitive, intelligence and kind personality, the disgust and contempt from the society every time and from every person he attempted to help push him into the feelings of anger and discontent towards the society and is persuaded to fulfil his superego. The findings of this research also used Naturalism to understand the social hereditary factors that plays an essential role in shaping the character and ability to decide as an

individual. In this context, it has been proved that the monster was not cruel and aggressive since his creation. Still, it was the feeling of not being accepted by the society, loved and cared by his creator and positively responded to by the persons he wanted to develop a friendship with, filled him with negativity and harshness towards humanity and life. The disgust, adversities and hatred received in return of the simple acts finally hardened him towards humanity and forced him to use his strength and power to gain a position in the society. Hence, his circumstances can be identified as the root cause of his choice of seeking revenge and to hurt people, including his creator.

The feelings of isolation and deprivation are continuously experienced by the monster because of the constant abandonment from the members of the society who did not accept him. These experiences make him struggle for an identity and a secured existence in society. However, his failure in attaining can be examined to have further frustrated him and he chooses his creator and all the people close to his creator to vent his frustration and disgust against the society's non-acceptance of him. He started to believe Victor to be the cause of all of his miseries and sorrows and his struggles for securing his identity and existence in society. These feelings and beliefs filled him with the impulse to take revenge from his creator. Hence, it can be concluded that the experiences of the monster while dealing with the society, the harsh, hateful reactions from them and the consequential life of abandonment deprived of love and created a highly negative feeling of revenge in the monster and he killed Victor's friend, his brother and his future wife.

In respect of the comparison between the two protagonists it can hence, be concluded that it was the lack of love, care and support in their childhood years that created a lack of feelings in their lives. All their lives, Heathcliff, as well as the monster, desired to

fulfil this lack, but all they received in return was abandonment, betrayal and hatred, which eventually fills this lack with a feeling of anger and contempt rather than love. While Heathcliff was brought as an orphan and lacked the love of parents, the monster was made as an orphan because of being abandoned by his creator Victor and hence, lacked the love and nurturing of parents. Hence, in the case of both the characters, absence of a childhood filled with love and care, was the primary circumstance that made them so hard in their later lives that they revenge. Therefore, it can be concluded from the overall research findings that circumstances can play a highly significant role in one's life and the outcomes of the choices made due to such circumstances can be highly severe and grave.

5.2 Recommendations

While the limited scope and resources available for the current study, only three theories of Psychoanalysis, Naturalism and Existentialism Could in this respect, Moosavinia, Niazi & Ghaforian (2011) explains that Orientalism is a critical theory in this respect that is associated with the concept of self and the other or the orient. Orientalism is the western conception as per which East is identified as the other or the uncivilized and uncultured that needs to be tamed. There is a binary opposition between the occident and the other or the orient; wherein the latter is the alien, exotic, unreliable and dangerous, it is identified as a threat to the West. The process of the other, motivates the colonizers to treat the colonized as under-developed humans and tend to dehumanize natives, who are looked upon as evil, inferior or primitive (Moosavinia, Niazi & Ghaforian, 2011). The binary opposition between the occident and the other can be equated to the Earnshaws, Hindley,

Catherine and Heathcliff and be a useful parameter to examine the role of circumstances in shaping the choices made an individual in life.

Another recommendation could be to explore the topic of this research from the lenses of revenge and theories and perspectives on revenge. This is because, in both of the novels, the choices made by the protagonists to overcome their sufferings, losses and pain was revenge. Moreover, this revenge was targeted towards the persons who were not directly responsible for the miserable surroundings of the protagonist. For instance, in *Frankenstein*, the monster kills Victor's brother, his friend and his new bride, both of whom were innocent, but have to bear to burn off the monster's revenge. Similarly, in *Wuthering Heights*, Heathcliff bullies and tortures, Hareton and young Catherine even deprived Hareton of education and treated him like a servant. Both children were innocent and nowhere responsible for Heathcliff's surroundings and miseries but experienced revenge. Hence, the future study can focus on this aspect also and help fill the gap in this study.

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