



BOOK REVIEW OF *WUTHERING HEIGHTS*
WRITTEN BY EMILY BRONTË

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

For S-1 Degree in Literature

In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Septian Herawati

13020111120012

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2015

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by me without taking the result from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In Addition, the writer ascertains that I do not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, June 2015

Septian Herawati

APPROVAL

Approved by

Advisor,

Hadiyanto, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197407252008012013

VALIDATION

Approved by

Strata 1 Final Project Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On August 21, 2015

Chair Person

First Member

Drs. Jumino, M.Lib, M.Hum

Dra. Lubna Achmad Sungkar, M.Hum

NIP. 19620703 199001 1 001

NIP. 19521108 198103 2 001

Second Member

Third Member

Eta Farmacelia N., S.S, M. Hum, M.A

Dra. R. Aj Atrinawati, M. Hum

NIP. 19720529200312 2 001

NIP. 19610101 199001 2 001

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new
(Albert Einstein)

Verily, with hardship there is relief
(Al-Sharh 94:5)

This final project is dedicated to the writer's beloved parents, family and friends
for their love, motivation, support, and expectation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Praise be to Allah almighty, who has given the writer strength and spirit to the completion of this final project entitled “Book Review of Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*”. On this occasion, the writer would like to thank all people who have contributed to the completion of this book review.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to Hadiyanto, SS., M. Hum as the writer’s advisor who has given his continuous guidance, helpful correction, moral support, advice and suggestion and without which it is doubtful that this final project comes into completion.

The writer’s deepest thanks also go to the following:

1. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum, as the chairman of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
2. All of the distinguished lecturers in the English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University who have shared their precious knowledge and experiences.
3. The writer’s family especially her parents and sister (Diandra Diva Larasati) for all love, prayers, patience, hope and trust that have been given. Words can not describe how much she loves them.
4. *The Roaring Twenties* friends, Niesrin, Ardis Septi ER, Gloria Firmanti, Margani Rahma, Winda Astuti, Yuyun Tiarawati, Vinta Fatmawati. Thank you for togetherness, laughter, stories, supports and prayers. She hopes tthat he friendship will last forever.

5. The writer's best friend, Riska Ameldha, Octavia Ayu Nur Wisenda, Zea Ridzkika, Nadia Faradilla, Devita Ika Permatasari, who are always there to listen the stories and complaint as well as give to advice, suggestion, encouragement, motivation and prayer.

The writer realizes that the final project is still far from perfectness. The writer, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticisms and recommendations to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn something about explicit and implicit meaning of the novel and this book review.

Semarang, June 2015

Septian Herawati

TABLE OF CONTENT

TITTLE	i
PRONOUNCEMENT	ii
APPROVAL	iii
VALIDATION	iv
MOTTO AND DEDICATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENT	viii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Objectives of the Study.....	2
1.3 Biography of Emily Brontë.....	2
2 SUMMARY OF THE BOOK	4
3 REVIEW OF THE BOOK	6
3.1 The Theme of the Novel	6
3.1.1 Revenge	6
3.1.2 Love.....	7
3.2 The Strengths of the Novel	8
3.2.1 Character and Characterization.....	8
3.2.2 Full of Suspense	11
3.3 The Weaknesses of the Novel.....	12
3.3.1 Identical Names of the Characters	12
3.3.2 Too Detailed Description of Situations and Emotions...	13
3.3.3 Complicated Plot.....	13
4 CONCLUSION.....	14
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	16

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nobody is perfect. Human being is full of characteristics. They have both good and evil characters. In this life, sometimes people meet someone with friendly, humble and good personality. However, there are also people who meet the opposite, such as sadistic, vengeful and cruel personality. These human characteristics can easily be found not only in real life, but also in literary works as reflected in novel *Wuthering Heights*. Wellek and Warren stated that “literature represents life and life is, in large measure, a social reality even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation (1973:94).” This statement means that literary works are imitation of the real life since they include and reflect human life. There is a close relationship between the world where an author lives and the literary works which they produce. The authors will show their opinion toward reality, phenomenon and situation around them in literary works, so this is why literary works portray the life of society and the authors. The portrait may be formed in character, plot, setting, and etc.

In this novel, the writer will review the characters of the novel. The central character, Heathcliff, has a cruel figure. Heathcliff is very sadistic taking vengeance toward people who have hurted him. Revenge has made his heart blind. Anger and hatred have deeply rooted in Heathcliff's heart and changed him into a cruel figure. These human characteristics make this novel interesting to read.

Wuthering Heights is a classical novel that really has something to attract the reader to read. This review explores the strengths and the weaknesses of novel *Wuthering Heights* written by Emily Brontë.

1.2 Objective of the Study

- 1.2.1 To describe themes of *Wuthering Heights*
- 1.2.2 To describe the strengths of *Wuthering Heights*
- 1.2.3 To describe the weaknesses of *Wuthering Heights*

1.3 Biography of Emily Brontë

Emily Jane Brontë was an English Novelist, poet and considered a classic English Literature. She was born on 30 July 1818 in Thornton, Yorkshire, England. She was the fifth child of Patrick Brontë and Maria Branwell Brontë. In 1820, shortly after the birth of Emily's younger sister, [Anne](#), the family moved to Haworth. In Haworth, Patrick was employed as perpetual curate, here the children developed their literary talents.

At the age of six, Emily joined her sisters Elizabeth, Maria and Charlotte at Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge. Unfortunately, Elizabeth and Maria became seriously ill of tuberculosis and returned home. In 1825, Elizabeth and Maria died of that disease and as the death of their siblings Brontë's father removed both Emily and Charlotte from the school as well. The remain Brontë

children; Charlotte, Emily and Anne are educated at home in Haworth. The children began to write stories and fiction at home

In 1835, at the age of seventeen, Emily left home for school and attended Roe Head Girls' School where Charlotte worked as a teacher. However, they didn't stay long and came back to Haworth. Coming from a poor family, Brontë tried to find work. She became a teacher at the Law Hill School in September 1837, but she left her position the following March. Brontë and his sister Charlotte went to study in Brussels in 1842, but the death of their aunt Elizabeth forced them to return home.

In 1844, Emily recollected all the poems she had written into two notebooks. One was labelled *Gondal Poems*, the other was unlabelled. Charlotte discovered the notebooks and insisted Emily to publish the poems. At first, Emily rejected but she changed her mind when her sister, Anna brought her own manuscript and revealed that she had written poems in secret. The poems were published in one volume as *Poem by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell*. The book only sold a few copies. After Published *Ellis Bell*, Emily Brontë published her work *Wuthering Heights*.

She died of tuberculosis on December 19, 1848, nearly two months after her brother, Branwell, succumbed to the same disease. Her sister Anne also fell ill and died of tuberculosis the following May. Emily Brontë never knew her achievement with her only novel because she died a year after the publication. *Wuthering Heights* is now considered as classic novel of English Literature. It withstands time and survives until now. The story still can be read today since it has been translated into many languages and adopted many times in film.

2. SUMMARY

The story began with a man named Lockwood who visited the home of his landlord, Heathcliff, to rent the house called Thrushcross Grange. Heathcliff lived in a house called Wuthering Heights, about four miles away from Thrushcross Grange. Wuthering Heights and everything inside of it brought a big curiosity for Lockwood so he asked Nelly Dean, a servant in Thrushcross Grange who used to be servant in Wuthering Heights, to tell the story.

Nelly told the story and jumped into the past. Nelly started to work as a servant in Mr. Earnshaw (the owner of the *Wuthering Heights*) as a young girl. One day, Mr. Earnshaw had a trip to Liverpool and brought home an orphan named Heathcliff. Mr. Earnshaw took care of Heathcliff and raised him with his own children, Hindley and Catherine. Catherine loved him, but Hindley did not like him because of his jealousy toward Heathcliff for what his father had done to him. After Mrs. Earnshaw died, Mr. Earnshaw sent Hindley away to college in order to make Heathcliff safe from Hindley. He kept Heathcliff nearby and became his favourite son. A few moments later, Mr. Earnshaw died and Hindley returned back to Wuthering Heights with his wife, Frances. Having a long time for college did not change Hindley's cruelty toward Heathcliff. Hindley decided to make Heathcliff's life miserable and treated him as a servant. On the other side, Catherine and Heathcliff became closer.

One night, Catherine and Heathcliff played and wandered to Thrushcross Grange. There lived Linton family. Suddenly, Catherine was bitten by a dog and she was forced to stay in Thrushcross Grange by Mrs. Linton. Stayed in Thrushcross

Grange for five weeks, Catherine became closer with Edgar and her relationship with Heathcliff became more complicated.

Frances died when she was born a baby boy named Hareton. Hindley became alcoholic because his wife was dead and became more abusive toward Heathcliff. Heathcliff became more miserable when his only love, Catherine engaged to Edgar Linton because of social class. Heathcliff decided to stay away from Wuthering Heights, he went away for three years, and then came back with much money. He found out that Catherine have married with Edgar Linton. His return was to take revenge toward Hindley. Heathcliff lent money to Hindley because he knew that Hindley could not pay the debts therefore when Hindley died, he could acquire Wuthering Heights. Relationship was more complicated when Heathcliff married Isabella Linton. Heathcliff did not really love her, he just wanted to acquire Thruscross Grange and Edgar's wealth.

Catherine was ill and soon died after giving birth to baby girl who was also named Catherine. Unable to resist Heathcliff's cruelty any longer, Isabella runaway to London and was born a babyboy named Linton Heathcliff. One day little Catherine wandered through the moors and discovered Wuthering Heights. In Wuthering Heights she met Hareton and became friend with him. Hareton became grunting and uneducated man because of Heathcliff's revenge toward Hindley.

After that, Isabella Linton died and Linton Heathcliff came back to Wuthering Heights and lived with Heathcliff. One day, little Catherine visited Wuthering Heights and met Linton. She began to start a secret romance with him.

One day little Catherine went to Wuthering Heights because Linton asked her to visit and nursed him. Later, it was revealed that Linton asked little Catherine to nurse him because he was forced by Heathcliff. Sick Linton would be used by Heathcliff as a reason for revenge because if Linton married little Catherine, his claim upon Thrusscross Grange would be legal and his revenge upon Edgar Linton would be complete.

One day, Heathcliff arranged meeting between Linton and little Catherine, when they met Heathcliff imprisoned little Catherine and forced her to marry Linton. Soon after, Edgar died and sick Linton also died. After that, Heathcliff controlled both Wuthering Heights and Thrusscross Grange. Little Catherine lived in Wuthering Heights as a common servant and Thrusscross Grange was rented to Mr. Lockwood.

Nelly's story was finished. Lockwood would end his tenancy toward Wuthering Heights. Six months later, he came back to visit Nelly and found out that Heathcliff died. Hareton and little Catherine inherited both Wuthering Height and Thrusscross Grange. They planned to marry in New Year's Day. After hearing the story, Lockwood went to visit Heathcliff and Catherine's grave.

3. REVIEW OF *WUTHERING HEIGHTS*

3.1 The Themes of the Novel

3.1.1 Revenge

The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story (Perrine,

1959:117). This means that theme is a main or central idea of literary works that may be stated directly or indirectly.

Wuthering Heights involves many aspects in life, such as family, desire, religions, freedom, social class, friendship, hatred, death and etc. Nevertheless, revenge becomes the most prominent idea in the story. The story shows how Heathcliff takes revenge on people who have wronged him.

Heathcliff enters Earnshaw's family as an orphan, he soon becomes favourite of Mr. Earnshaw. This makes Hindley so jealous since his father has favoured an orphan than his own biological son. Hindley's jealousy makes him abuse and humiliate Heathcliff all the time. Even though Heathcliff is abused and humiliated by Hindley, he is able to endure it because there is Catherine who always consoles and accompanies him. However, when he finds out that Catherine is engaged to Edgar Linton due to social status he has devastated, he promises to take revenge both on Earnshaw and Linton.

Heathcliff's revenge is shown as follows, "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!" (*Wuthering Heights*, 1996: 44)

3.1.2 Love

In *Wuthering Heights*, several kinds of love stories can be found, such as between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, Catherine Earnshaw and Edgar Linton, and little Catherine and Hareton Earnshaw. Nevertheless, love story between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw seems to be the centre of *Wuthering Heights*.

Catherine and Heathcliff's passion for one another is very strong. They have love power beyond ordinary people. Catherine, even though she has married Edgar Linton, still loves Heathcliff so much. Catherine thinks that marriage cannot separate them because they are a soul mate and cannot possibly live apart. As Catherine said "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" (Brontë, 1847: 59).

Even at the end of Catherine's life, at the time of her illness she only remembers Heathcliff. When she is dying, people she wants to meet is still Heathcliff, not Edgar her husband.

"You must not go!" she answered, holding him as firmly as her strength allowed.
 "You *shall* not, I tell you."
 "For one hour," he pleaded earnestly.
 "Not for one minute," she replied.
 "I *must*—Linton will be up immediately," persisted the alarmed intruder.
 He would have risen, and unfixed her fingers by the act—she clung fast, gasping: there was mad resolution in her face.
 "No!" she shrieked. "Oh, don't, don't go. It is the last time! Edgar will not hurt us. Heathcliff, I shall die! I shall die!" (Brontë, 1847: 120).

3.2 The Strengths of the Novel

3.2.1 Character and Characterization

A. Cruel Man, Heathcliff

Heathcliff becomes one of the strengths of the novel *Wuthering Heights*. This is because Heathcliff is interesting character. Heathcliff is dynamic character which his physical appearance and characteristics develop from the beginning into the end of the novel. Heathcliff is a little orphan that is found in the Liverpool Street by Mr. Earnshaw. He is tall, dark and athletic. He also has a black hair and thick

brow. When he first enters Wuthering Heights, Nelly Dean describes him as a dirty and ragged child with a black hair, “I had a peep at a dirty, ragged, black-haired child; big enough both to walk and talk” (Brontë, 1847: 26).

However, after three years of his absence since he has left Wuthering Height, he has transformed. He is no longer a dirty kid, he becomes a handsome, tall, athletic and intelligent man. Nelly describes Heathcliff as follows:

“He had grown a tall, athletic, well-formed man; beside whom [Edgar] seemed quite slender and youth-like. His upright carriage suggested the idea of his having been in the army. His countenance was much older in expression and decision of feature than Mr. Linton's; it looked intelligent, and retained no marks of former degradation. A half-civilised ferocity lurked yet in the depressed brows and eyes full of black fire, but it was subdued; and his manner was even dignified: quite divested of roughness, though stern for grace” (Brontë, 1847: 70).

Based on the quotation above, not only in physical appearance, Heathcliff's character also develops. This is what makes Heathcliff character interesting. At first, Heathcliff is a patient and tough child. Even though his jealous stepbrother always mistreats and bullies him throughout his childhood, Heathcliff accepts it because Catherine is always there for him. That makes the misery more bearable for Heathcliff. When Hindley becomes master of Wuthering Height after the death of Mr. Earnshaw, he becomes more abusive toward Heathcliff. Hindley degrades Heathcliff into a common servant and stops his education. Being mistreated by Hindley, he wants to seek revenge toward Hindley. The revenge culminates when he overhears the conversation between Catherine and Nelly that Catherine will marry Edgar Linton due to social status. He runs away, filled with hatred for all who have hurt him. When he comes back to

Wuthering Heights, he is totally different. He is no longer a poor child, he changes into a cruel and abusive person. Heathcliff's revenge is getting brutal, even to the Hindley and Edgar's younger generation. His revenge story dominates the story and appears throughout the novel.

B. A Naive Girl, Catherine Earnshaw

Catherine is a Heathcliff's stepsister and Heathcliff's beloved. Catherine is very pretty, as Nelly describes in the book with the bonniest eye, the sweetest smile and she also has long brown hair (Brontë, 1847: 30). Catherine becomes one of the strengths of the novel because she has a very complex character. She betrays herself and, in the end, it destroys herself. Catherine loves Heathcliff so much, she said that Heathcliff is her soul and their love is so strong even death can separate them. She also admits that her love for Linton will change over time, but her love for Heathcliff will remain the same. She chooses to marry Edgar Linton because Heathcliff is below her social status and getting married with Heathcliff is just degrading her status. She marries a man based on social class, and not love. It infuriates Heathcliff so much. Her wrong choice to marry Edgar Linton and betraying her own feeling ultimately destroys her, and she dies at an early age after giving birth to a daughter.

3.2.2 Full of Suspense

Suspense is the pleasurable anxiety we feel that heightens our attention to the story (Kennedy, 1991: 7). *Wuthering Heights*' Emily Brontë is full of suspense that makes the reader wants to keep reading. The first suspense comes when Lockwood dreams about Catherine's ghost appearance through the window. Brontë describes how Lockwood scared of Catherine's ghost. This adds to the mystery and makes readers wants to find out what Lockwood could be afraid of. The supernatural elements in Lockwood's dream makes *Wuthering Heights* is surrounded with mystery and gothic situation. Brontë also increases the tension in the novel which is initially start with Lockwood's arrival and his strange treatment by Heathcliff. All of those occurrences lead Lockwood to try to solve these mysteries by asking Nelly Dean about Heathcliff.

The story then is seen through Nelly Dean's eyes. She narrates rest of the story, telling Lockwood all about *Wuthering Heights* and the circumstances. The suspense that Heathcliff creates within characters, the environment, and the novel plot, becomes a crucial role in the narrative of *Wuthering Heights*. It is narrated that Heathcliff and Catherine love each other, but she changes during her recovery stay at the Grange. She starts to like a boy named Edgar Linton. These occurrences make the reader wants to know what will happen with their love relationship.

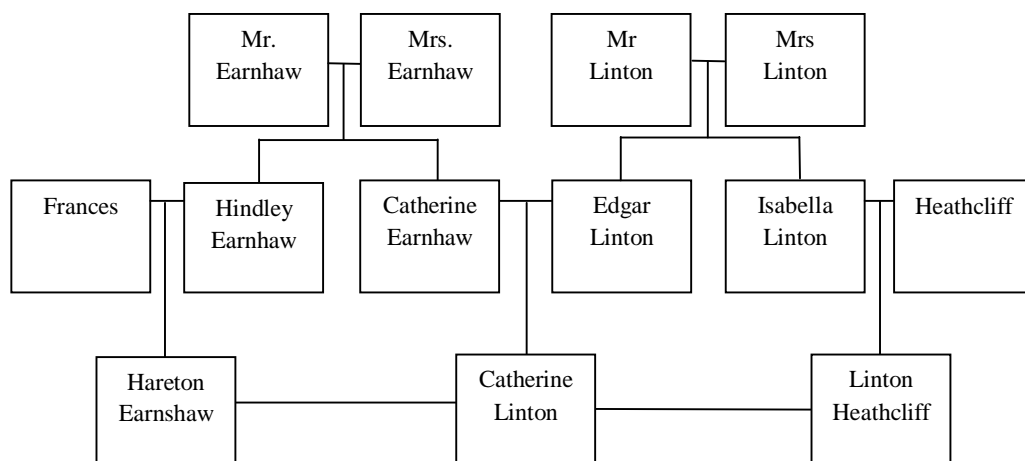
The next suspense comes from Heathcliff's compassion for Hareton, Hindley Earnshaw's son. Hindley treats him badly since the first time he came to *Wuthering Heights*. Heathcliff wants to take revenge, but when baby Hareton is

dropped by his father off the staircase deliberately and Heathcliff arrives just in time to catch him. The suspense is developed in this part because the rescue is unexpected. Then, Heathcliff takes responsibility for Hareton and keeps the boy away from Hindley. He ends up raising him, although not with an education, but he keeps him healthy and strong.

3.3 The Weaknesses of the Novel

3.3.1 Identical names of the characters

One of the weaknesses of *Wuthering Heights* is identical names of the character. It is easy to get confused when reading this novel because the author makes similar names for each character, for instance, there are Hareton Earnshaw, Catherine Earnshaw, Catherine Linton, Edgar Linton, Linton Heathcliff, and others. By using the similar names, Brontë wants to show us that the characters are related in one way or another because this novel tells us about two families, the Earnshaws and Lintons. The readers should focus on reading this novel or they will get confused on remembering the names. To make the reader easier to differ the characters names, the list of family trees described below:



3.3.2 Too Detailed Description of Situations and Emotions

The detailed description of situations and emotions in the story becomes one of the weaknesses of the novel because it distracts the readers to follow the ongoing story. This novel is told with complete details. The details of the situation and emotion are so thoroughly and can be found everywhere, so the reader will be dragged into the story. However, since the details are everywhere, the reader will be bored just to read all tiny details.

The well described emotion and situation makes the novel stretched into 247 pages. Besides the details in the novel are so many, the conversations are also too long. This long conversation is not followed by the clear details of who the speaker is, so the reader will be confused to understand the story. If the readers have no focus and concentration, they will be hard to understand what is going on in the conversations. It forces the readers to read it twice or more.

3.3.3 Complicated Plot

Plot is the author's arrangement of incident in the story. In this novel, Brontë uses two plots, forward and backward. The two plots will confuse and distract the reader to follow the story because the story jumps back and forth in time. In the opening of few chapters, the timeline is in the present in the year 1801 and then it flashback and jumps back to around 1771 when Mr. Earnshaw brought back the little orphan Heathcliff to the home. That makes the reader a bit hard to follow the story in the beginning/opening because the timeline of the first few chapters actually takes place at the end of timeline. Therefore, the story begins with Mr.

Lockwood's visit to Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights*, *Wuthering Heights* brings the big curiosity for Mr. Lockwood so he asks Nelly Dean to tell the story and Nelly jumps into flashback. After the main story is told in flashback, the timeline goes back to the present again.

4. CONCLUSION

Wuthering Heights is a great novel written by Emily Bronte. The novel tells the readers about Heathcliff's revenge toward people who have wronged him. Heathcliff takes revenge on the Earnshaws and Lintons family. His revenge on Earnshaw is due to Hindley's action toward him throughout his childhood who always abuses him, while his revenge on Linton is due to Edgar Linton steal Cathrine from him.

The novel has some strength that makes it as a good reading. The strengths inside the novel are theme and characters. The various themes inside the story, such as revenge and love bring the readers to experience many situation and emotions. The theme of revenge gives perception to the readers about replying the same thing to others. The theme of love makes the readers feel the romantic side and the power of love. Meanwhile the interesting characters inside the novel such as a cruel Heathcliff and naive Catherine build up a good story.

This novel also has some weaknesses that disturb the reader when following the story, such as complicated plot, using the identical names of the character and too detailed descriptions of situation and emotion that can make the

readers lose the focus in following the story. Even it has some weaknesses, this novel is recommended to be a good reading.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brontë, Emily. (1847). *Wuthering Heights*. New York: Penguin Books.
- _____. (2015). *Wikipedia website*. Retrieved 01:00, March 1, 2015, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Bront%C3%AB
- Kennedy, X.J. (1991). *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. New York: HarperCollins Publisher Inc.
- Perrine, Laurence. (1969). *An Introduction to Poetry Sound and Sense*. USA: Harcout Breace & world
- Tan, Marianne. (2012). *Wuthering Heights Timeline*. Retrieved 09.00, April 18, 2015, <https://prezi.com/j-lgkhh6nyj9/wuthering-heights-timeline/>
- Wellek, Rene and Austin Waren. (1973). *Theory of Literature*. Middlesex: Penguin Books Ltd.