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Case Study: Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*

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Dedication

I dedicate this work from deep heart

To my dearest parent, who gave me the inspiration to fulfill this dream with their support, patience and encouragement.

To my sisters: Hayat, Salsabil, Marwa and especially to my old sister Hiziya for her help, guidance and encouragement. Also, to my nieces and nephews;

Sondos, Tasnim, Khaled, Moad and saja.

To my brothers: Amin and Brahim.

To my cheerful and dearest friends: Sadika, akila, Farida, Hafsa, Nadia and Nadjet.

To all whom supported and encouraged me especially Bobaker.

To all whom I love and respect.

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine Charlotte Bronte's contribution to the feminist question in her selected novel *Jane Eyre*. The study shows how Bronte's novel examines the suffering of women and how they could overcome difficulties and achieve success. It is clear that Charlotte ideology in her portrayal of her heroine based on her real world, established herself as a distinguished feminist woman writer in her treatment of women's situation. In this regard, the dissertation is divided into four chapters. The first chapter involves an overview about the Victorian literature. Its aim is to show the characteristics of literature in the 19th century. The second chapter studies the historical and social backgrounds and the life and works of the author. The aim of this chapter is to spot the light on circumstances in which the work is produced and affected the writer. The third chapter involves a study of the form and style of the work under study. The aim through it is to analyze the literary techniques used by Charlotte Bronte to explore the concerns of her age through language. Finally, the fourth chapter, centers on the analysis of the novel focusing on the content through a discussion of the status of women in the 19th century England.

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General

Introduction

General Introduction

In the nineteenth century, women lived in an age characterized by gender inequality. They enjoyed a few of legal, social rights and they were expected to remain subservient to their father or husbands. They were still dominated in many ways. For example women were confined to their house and in obedient position in which they are pursuit for freedom and self esteem. Thus Victorian period was a period of progress and reform, industrialization and social upheaval in which England witnessed a sweeping changes across Victorian time. Changes that influenced English society in culture, politics, economy and social norms. Also, the effect of industrial revolution in which England become the first industrial nation. Although it might had been an era of growth, it was also a period of trouble and anxiety.

Thus, the Victorian period was a transitional period and an important one of English literature. It dealt with the contemporary issues and problems of the day including social economic, religious and intellectual subjects, troubles surrounding the industrial revolution, in addition to that, changes in the role of women who were not expected to have interest in literature or any other field, who had limited status in Victorian society. All of these cases informed Victorian literature with its emphasis on a realistic portrayal of social life, touched on education, women's employment as well as poverty as Jane Eyre who strives for economic and personal independence, Bronte touches on the issues of class, economics, and gender roles that affected Victorian England at large.

Furthermore, the nineteenth century novel represents many Victorian conditions in the stories of its characters. It sought to engage with the contemporary circumstances, and debate about social representation of women dealing with controversies about the nature and the role of women. This paper intends to focus on the fictional representations of the conditions of women, which were as inspiration for several Victorian writers as Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy, who

attempted to depict a real picture of their society and focusing on women at that time through many of their works.

Like many female writers, Charlotte Bronte is one of the prominent literary figures of literary world. Her works have been popular and well-admired by many readers. Her representation of women in her novel *Jane Eyre* which mirrored a sample of English society and English literature of that time .It is generally considered to have been written by woman, for woman and about woman .It provides a deep understanding of the role of women in Victorian England during the industrial revolution .Thus, the reader can find pieces of information on women, their lives in the nineteenth century and their attitudes towards the ideologies of their society.

Being a nineteenth century author, Charlotte Bronte conforms to the writing the conventions of the period. Since *Jane Eyre* is one of the greatest heroines of literature, which Charlotte Bronte has created .It is a literary work that reflected Victorian England focusing on feminist view.

In fact, Charlotte Bronte lived in society known by its subjugation of women .The message was supposed to fulfill was her portrayal and depiction of a particular view of reality as seen by her. So, the choice of Charlotte Bronte is mainly based on our interest in her novel which reflected a picture of the women in English society in the early of nineteenth century, when women were suffering and struggling to achieve self fulfillment and happiness. Also, show women the way to obtain meaning in life and realize their identities. Thus, the research aims to answer the feminist question; the suffering of Jane Eyre life, and represent the women standing up for her self.

So, the following problematic addresses: to what extent is Charlotte Bronte's portrayal of women of Jane Eyre representative of the condition of women in the 19th century Victorian England?

To carry out the study, it is supposed that Charlotte Bronte has chosen a woman to be a heroine of her novel. It means that the work describes woman in society seen from a woman point of view in the case in *Jane Eyre novel*, which, reflected the title and supported by the character of the heroine .Also, the way in which they are represented.

So, Charlotte Bronte portrayed the women in Victorian England as a representation of her own life through the content of Jane Eyre. Thus, in our research, we attempt to show the status of woman in English society, seeking to uncover woman's social life; the following questions could be raised:

- What is the position of women in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre?
- How does Jane Eyre represent the women in the nineteenth century?
- What is the reason behind Bronte's writing of Jane Eyre?

To achieve the objectives of the study, Feminist literary theory will be the tool employed to analyze the role of female character in society as portrayed in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre.

In attempt to answer the former questions that constitute our dissertation the framework of this paper is divided into four chapters. The first one entitled on Victorian literature, will deal with the characteristics of literature in the 19th century take the glance at the themes and styles, the novel in the 19th century, English women writers and the themes that treated in their literary works.

The second chapter entitled on backgrounds, will concern on English society in the nineteenth century and to be more explicit we will deal with the social life, economy and the position of women, also, Charlotte Bronte's life and works and discuss the theory to be used for the research study which is Feminism theory.

Third chapter entitled on the study of the form, will focus on the techniques and style used in Bronte's Jane Eyre concerns on diction narrator point of view, mood, sentence structure and the figurative language .Also, focusing on language by analyzing the ways in which meaning is produced.

Finally, the fourth chapter entitled on the study of content, will involve a deep analyses of the novel dealing with the social classes, the conditions of women in the nineteenth century and the status of women dealing with women suffering and success, also, women and sense of responsibility.



Chapter One

Introduction

During the nineteenth century, English literature was at its highest because of the growth of literacy in the Victorian era. The novel genre in particular witnessed rapid development in authorship and readership because of its potential to treat a wide range of issues. So, in this chapter, we will review the major features of the Victorian literature focusing on its themes and styles. We shall also discuss women's writing in the 19th century England.

1. Victorian literature during the nineteenth century

The Victorian era is often regarded as a high point in English literature and it is the literature that coincides in extent with the reign of Queen Victoria, and covers the whole of the nineteenth century. It forms a link and between the writing of the romantic period and the very different modern literature in the 20th century.

It is a literature that speaks of an age which witnessed great change. It reflects the intellectual patterns of the Victorian age, dealing with the status question through on the examinations of society, the law, industrialism and historical ideals. It has one main mission: point the finger at social problems to raise people consciousness (Fletcher.2002)

The dominant genre in Victorian literature was the novel (Cuddon,1998).Significant Victorian novelists and poets include:”” Matthew Arnold, the Bronte sisters, Christina Rossetti, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Joseph Conrad, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, George Meredith, Thomas Hardy, William Thackeray, Benjamin Disraeli, Thomas Carlyle, Oscar Wilde, Lewis Carroll and Elizabeth Gaskell “”.They created legacy works which become ubiquitous with continuing appeal (Carter ,McRae.2001)

1.1. Themes and Styles

Victorian literature has become a very important source for historical facts and the life style of the 19th century England mainly because it relies on a realist mode of representation. Thus, as known of Victorian era that was a time of development of science, Victorians explored issues related to their historical and social context such as industrialization, rural urban life and the condition of children and women. The later are present in many literary work in which their role and position were of interest of both female and male writers.

In this sense, Victorian literature was characterized by a powerful, political stance because it offers a critique of social circumstances related to power, the conflict between classes as well as the women's rights. It tends to be close to the daily life of people by reflecting their inner feelings and external conditions in the most realistic way.

The nineteenth century associates Victorian period with a realist works attempt to represent the world and the mind, it strives to reflect the Victorian world with its social concerns and should aim to express the personal private emotions of the writer and define what would be real in literary fiction (Mulder, 2012).

So, realism is a narrative technique in Victorian literature attempts to describe life without idealization of romantic subjects. Thus, some of the themes that treated in the literary achievement are the industrial revolution and its effect on the Victorian society that was the inspiration of many writers .It marked a turning point in the history and their works were closely bound up with this time. In addition to that, the social changes that resulted from the industrial development are as the essential for the development of literary realism (ibid). For example its effect on children who were forced to work in bad conditions for much lower pay .Also, women who mostly found jobs in domestic service, textile factories, and piece work shops long hours for a low salaries. Also, it affects the setting of many great works and strongly influences the plot Although, the Industrial revolution primarily affected the economy and other areas as class, family life and so on. These reflected in works such as “Hard times” by Charles dickens that depicted life in Iron Mills, concerns the poor people working in mills to produce iron product. It goes into the poverty and bad conditions of the immigrants’ works. He presents the setting of his story as an industrial city. Thus, this example is also corresponds with writers who stepped to express their concerns and ideas about the working class. This intellectual

debate took place in the 19th century novels which addressed the problems and the conditions of the English working class and the poverty. In addition to that, the conditions of women that were one of the major concerns of Charles Dickens .He presents women influenced by the Victorian ideology surrounding the role of women in society. He depicts the fallen women, the women who forced to endure exploitation and oppression and their quest for survival in an industrialized society.

All of these themes presents in a huge number of novels with different styles .Thus, Victorian novels tend to be idealized portraits of different norms such as the novels that shape character in their plot of fiction in which the title reflects the protagonist as *Jane Eyre* which Charlotte Bronte has portrayed as a depiction of a realist figure of Victorian society .reflecting the position of women in society and reflecting the writer's inner self. Also, the novel that shape a setting as the work of Charles Dickens *ATale of two Cities* mirrors and describe the industrial city in which places took huge part in the narrative .

1.2. The novel in the 19th century

In the romantic period, poetry was the most important literary form that had produced .In Victorian period, the novel become the most popular in England and the world (Carter, McRae, 2001). That means, the nineteenth century was the great age of the English novel (Ghazali, 2009), which is described by Henry James as “an intricately in wrought aesthetic and psychological design, and a subtle balancing of formal and moral tensions”(Makati,2008). The term novel arise in the end of the eighteenth century, it was the ideal form to describe contemporary life and the basis for much of earlier Victorian fiction and the form of literature which mostly reflects the individualist with its society. This type of literary work flourished since there was an increase literacy as the increase in the position of the middle class .Industrial Revolution that Britain had seen and its effect mirrored in the novel that become the means of portraying life ,its social and moral values.¹

Thus, the Victorian novel is greatly known for its concern for the problems of the day, and the principal form in Victorian age. (Carter, McRae.2001)

Victorian writers tried to achieve their commitment though expressing the spirit of the age with all resources, imagination, feeling and thought, and spotting the light on the condition of England question (Pollard, 1993). They attempt to show the Victorian reader about the trouble behind the

¹ <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/>.

beautiful scene of their society (Carter, McRae.2001). In addition to that, the nineteenth century regarded as a great age of literature and novel in particular by novelists as Bronte sisters

The Bronte sisters (Charlotte Emily and Anne), who introduce the female character. They depicted a picture about women and their struggles in Victorian England. Charlotte's *Jane Eyre* (1847) that depicts women's position in Victorian England struggling to achieve self fulfillment in a society known by its oppression and imbalance between social classes. Also, Anne wrote *Agnes Grey* (1847) the story of a rector's daughter who takes service as a governess, a position that unmarried women take as a teacher in Victorian society.

Charles Dickens is one of the greatest novelist, and one of the few authors whose works still the most popular and read of the time (Thornley, Robert.1984). .Most of his novels describe the hardships of life, also, his work *Hard Times*(1854) which described as a novel of his time .It shows the worst side of the new industrial society of England .It is clearly reflects how the poor lived. Thus, in *Oliver Twist* (1837) Dickens writes of the social problems of young boys of the poor and working class, also, the problems of children in cities where poor people had no chance to share in the success of the nation. His novels depicting the problems of the Victorian society.

In addition to that, Thomas Hardy who is one of the eyes witnessed in the history of England. He depicts the conflicts between the individuals and society, and concerns about the problems of the Victorians. Also, the representation of women who took a huge part in Victorian works as oppressed member in society. (Carter, McRae.2001).

Elizabeth Gaskell is one of the main literary figures of the nineteenth century, who encouraged by Dickens. Her novels were the mirror image of reality of the time .She wrote *North and South* (1855) which is known by their social concerns.

Jane Austen is one of the literary giant of the history of literature. Most of her writing, shared the same plot .It centers on women at that time. Her novel *pride and prejudice* 1813 illustrated this point this means that the novels are romantic .Her main interest was the moral, social and psychological behavior of her heroines .She wrote mainly about young heroines as they grew up and search for personal happiness.(Carter, McRae.1997)

Like other women novelists, Charlotte Bronte depicts women in Victorian England, also, criticizes the nineteenth century social structure in her finest novel *Jane Eyre*. It made a considerable critical acclaim (Carter, McRae.1997). It had taken the literary world by storm when it published in (1847). Thus, a part of it is autobiography by Currer Bell. It revealed Victorian attitude toward women concentrating mainly on Victorian Britain It traces women's progress in the patriarchal society, also, tracing the historical, social, literary background of Victorian times through exploring Victorian women's status and the Victorian women writers who reflects the ideal Victorian women.

George Henry Lewes claimed that the function of women in literature are to reflect "women's view of life and experience", which was different from that of man .They should fulfill that function to be the ideal of women though their writing especially novels and this seen in Charlotte Bronte's novels especially Jane Eyre.

Thus, the novel in the nineteenth century was a tool which the writers used to deliver social criticism. It was the source that gave the reader a clear picture of what was happening during that period .Moreover, it was a realistic portrait of Britain during the industrialization. It was the new form that was developed from drama (Flecher.2002).In addition to that, Charlotte Bronte's novels which denounced the pitiful conditions by depicting the different issues of society and expresses her own view with regard to women conditions .They enable the reader to know the personalities of the characters in the texts and to understand the symbols in each character that reflect the nineteenth century English society.

1.3. English Women Novelists

The 19th century has known the emergence of many female writing in England. Female writing contributed to the growth of the novel and the promotion of the position of women, as in the case of Charlotte Bronte and her sisters, who did much to change the way in which women were viewed and represented. While some Victorian women writers published their works using their real names as a mark of authorship, other preferred to use male pseudonyms to sign their work because it was very difficult for women from lower and middle class to enter the male dominant literary world (Carter McRae.1997).

1.4. The Themes of Women's Literary Works:

Throughout the history women's literary work, are very popular. They cover the bulk of the social issues and problems of a particular time. Thus, one of the most important subjects treated in women's works from centuries ago were women's situation, which were the first concern of women writers especially from the Victorian period.²

Moreover, it changed through the years and literature, as a look of life, reflects it. (ibid) So, women issues are important for women authors as a reflection of inner self, expressing views and evaluation toward certain objects related to women, as a result of their suffering through years and live incident, in which they have been neglected from social life, as well as, a matter of pride and victory (ibid). One of the best example in Jane Eyre, the protagonist of Charlotte Bronte's novel Jane Eyre, and in Elizabeth Bennet, the protagonist of Jane Austen's pride and prejudice, who is presented as a real characters and ideal qualities (Thornley, Robert.2003). Thus the major themes that treated in women's works are closest to reality of the time related to women as women's oppression, existentialism that means the individual existence in society which is known by the diversity of classes, also, women's hardships such as having a drunk husband and living in bad conditions, as well as, the theme of women's success, freedom in oppressed society and gender identity.

Those images depicted by female writers in their work. Their stories present a narrative that seemed to conform traditional role stereotype in relation to women. They are able to depict the impact of patriarchy on the lives of individual women, also they able to gain prominence in an age known for its patriarchal and dismissive attitude toward the abilities of women. (Muda, 2011), concerning women's quest for recognition, power and authority beyond the confines of their patriarchal society. They struggled for equality and against the patriarchal ideology that women were to be subservient to men.

Conclusion

To sum up, Victorian literature produced in order to comment on the different norms; social, economy, and philosophical ideas of the time. It also criticized the industrial world of England. In addition to that, it produced for entertainment. In this chapter we have pointed out the literature during the Victorian period dealing with its characteristics and style also, the themes that has been

² <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/pride/terms/charanel/1-html>

addressed .Thus ,focusing on a type of literary works which is the novel , English women writers and the themes that treated in their literary works.



Chapter Two

Introduction

Before studying a literary work, it is necessary to make an investigation about the period and society in which the writer lived as well as its people and their way of living, tradition and laws in order to understand the writer's world view and pave the way for a thorough study of his work. Then in this chapter we review the historical, social and biographical backgrounds of the novel under study as to look at the ways in which these might have influenced the content and form of the novel. We shall deal with English society in the 19th century focusing on the social life, economy and the position of women in England, also, we shall review the writer's life and works and discuss the theory to be used for the research study which is Feminism.

1. English society in the 19th century

The Victorian Period is the period that coincides with the reign of Queen Victoria in 1837. It is characterized by many changes that make the reign of Victoria the most progressive in English history (Fletcher, 2002). There were changes in politics, society, and economy and in the character of English nation, all of which affected the standard of life.

Furthermore, it was the period of the industrial revolution that made England known top nation thanks to the development in trade and industry. (Williams, 2004) It created a new world to the Victorians and the texture of their daily life. It marks the most fundamental transformation of human life in the history of England and its people and women in. Victorians appear to be the British people whom tackle several difficulties which are found in British society. In fact, England had witnessed many innovations in different fields such as science, philosophy, and technology. For example railway lines that connected England's major cities as the Liverpool and

Manchester Railway opened the first public railway line in the world. Although it may have been an era of achievement and progress; it also was a period of poverty and anxiety (Pollard, 1993).

It was a wide ranging and fundamental, the scientific and technical innovations of industrial revolution, also, far-reaching new. Thus, it was a period of reform that improves the position of certain classes as the middle class for example become more powerful and the working class more imposing. At the same time, it was a period of unemployment, poverty and the working conditions for women and children were terrible. For example: boys who were employed under machinery to retrieve cotton which is dangerous work, also children were employed to work in coal mines, crawling through tunnels which is a hard work for children in their age.

England developed thanks to free trade and the industries that become more competitive in exports in virtue of the growth of the materials; coal mining, iron and cotton industry. Also the methods of road building that facilitated transforming the commodities, minimized the distance between cities and increased the movement of population from country side into the town. Moreover, England is a great power and the world predominant economy that emerged from the War with France (1793-1815).³

That means in the 19th century England was the most powerful and self confident after the industrial revolution, also thanks to its empire in which England enjoyed a strong place after the defeat of Napoleon (McDowell, 1989).

The status as the first urban and industrialized society in the world resulted in many ramifications. The prominent social change in English society was the immigration of large masses of the population from the countryside to towns. Farmer then became industrial employers. For example: the working class, a large numbers of people had left their villages to become factory workers.

Also, changes in women's social role occurred as an important members, they had opened up for professions which were not accessible before. They assumed skilled jobs in society as writers, journalists, nurses and teachers. In addition to that, in industrial areas, they began to achieve their independence as workers in factories. Thus, the act of 1882 and 1892 which gave women their rights to retrieve their own property and allowed women from 30 and above to vote. (ibid). Women relocate their place in society in the political, economic and social aspects that regimented life.

³ <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian>

1.1. Social life

English Society in the 19th century consisted of hierarchical structure containing the upper class, the middle class and the working class. This difference in social classes could be distinguished by inequalities in wealth, education, working and living conditions (Michell, 2009). Thus, The basic quality of daily life for people in Victorian England rested on an underlying structure determined by social class and shaped by traditional ways of life in country, town, and city. In addition to that, the classes lived in separate areas, Victorians believed that each class has its own standards and people were expected to conform to the roles of their class. Moreover, the Industrial revolution marks fundamental transition of human life depicted in papers. It had a great effect and impact on society including: emergence of working class, in which a mass of workers migrated from agricultural regions to industrial towns, where they lived in new urban slums (ibid).

Also, Population figures increased rapidly in Great Britain from 15.74 million in 1801 to 27.39 million in 1851.⁴ Creating a demand for factory jobs for women and children, who were employed to scramble under machinery, retrieve cotton bobbins, to work in mines and other manufacturing plants.

Working class is the lower rank of social classes, the largest number were agricultural labors, domestic servants and factory hands. They were found in unskilled and skilled jobs; mining, fishing, transportation, industry and other manual trade. In addition to that, their interest was just earning to stay alive and struggling the poverty and illness. Thus, skilled workers who made up 15 percent of working class were worked as printers, bookbinders and shoemakers (Mitchell, 2009).

During that time, many children never attend the school and half of them grew up unable to read and write, and ended up in a workhouse, which housed and fed people who had no power to support themselves, otherwise they were put to work. Boys and girls had to start work very young and they often helped in the work done by older member of the family (ibid).

As towns grew rapidly, living conditions become bad. The new industrial towns were populated, dirty and unhealthy and housing conditions for working class were terrible.⁵

⁴ [Http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre](http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre)

⁵ [Http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre](http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre)

Furthermore, the conditions of women's work that were created by the industrial revolution, were hard. They were to work in farms, in digging, in picking cotton and with the industrial revolution, the need for labour increased thus, they moved to work in mines, In addition to that, the fortunate women become a maids for upper class families. If married could be a servant and if unmarried a teacher or a governess (Mitchells, 2009).

Moreover, growing of middle class, it was the new emerging class, which consisted of bankers, large shopkeepers, businessmen, doctors, lawyers and the clergy, which was separated from the working class. Thus with the change of commercial and industrial society, the middle class grew larger with the rise of Industrialists and factory owners. It becomes more important politically following the Reform Bill 1832 that extended the right to vote to all males owning property (Mitchells, 2009). They became central to the Bourgeois identity of the nineteenth century (Williams, 2004), absorbed by government policy-makers and social commentators that means The middle classes had become more important politically after 1832. Their political representation and the limitation of aristocratic power. They depended very heavily on family property to secure not only their own material comfort but also their social standing.⁶

In addition to that, Middle-class women who might act as housekeepers or general servants in the households of their kin. It was a strategy for middle-class families to maintain adult women outside commercial or professional activities (Williams, 2004).

Thus, the upper class, which was wealthy and dominant, the aristocracy and the gentry were affected by all of these changes; they hold the most of the political power. And with the rise of industrialization, the British aristocracy became strongly involved in the development of mining, canals and railways. As a landowners, who controlled most of the country's agriculture.⁷ Moreover, their lives were comfortable; country house with a lot of servants and whose income derived from landed estate. The eldest son inherited the estate and he expected to do something useful as taking part in parliament, local affairs. (Ibid).

Also, it is known by the fact that the upper class women did not work (Mitchell, 2009). A person said that "Victorian women led idle and luxurious lives" (ibid.P. 45). In which they took drives in the afternoon made calls with their friends and shopped, also, they traveled and returned to their estate in

⁶ [Http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre](http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre)

⁷ [Http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre](http://www.grin.com/en/e-book/28753/gender-roles-in-charlotte-bronte-s-jane-eyre).

autumn and winter. They stood at home and dictate the servants. In addition to that, they pretend .Sometimes they visit the poor and provide them with necessities.

1.2. Economy

The nineteenth century was an era marked by a period of economic expansion, rapid change in industrial technique and production and new technologies (Carter, McRae, 1997); a period of significant prosperity for the British economy, because the country was the instigator of the industrial revolution and consequently become the workshop of the world. For example: extracting raw materials and transformed them to commodities then sold it back to the other European nations (Mc Dowell, 1989).In fact, industry was replacing agriculture as the basis of the British economy, also, new inventions and machines were partly replacing manual work. In virtue of Industrial Revolution and its great empire in which Britain had become a leading world power (Mitchell, 2009).

Industrial Revolution was at its height, a period of economic and technological change (website Victorian period) by the use of iron and steel, new energy source and the factories system that emerged machines and increased production. Also, communication field (railway lines, telegraph), and the train which supported the growth of the commerce (Mitchell, 2009), and minimized the distance between cities. Thus for Britain, it was the most beneficial event that the country dreamt about, it changed England from a traditional society to an industrial one, so, it was the wealth's gate; England rose to a position of global influence and power as a great empire .It was the workshop of the world by its massive exporter and importer, by its imperialist and for that reason its economic power.

1-3 The position of women

The status of women in the 19th century is often seen as a discrepancy between England's national power and wealth; consider its appalling social conditions. Women faced many difficulties, because of

the vision of the ideal women shared by society.⁸. During the era that symbolized by the reign of Victoria , women did not have rights , abused and oppressed as a result of policy in which discriminatory laws were existed.

Women could not vote, could not become property owners and they could not hold professional jobs apart from teachers or a domestic servant, factory workers or agricultural labors (Mitchell, 2009).

Society did not consider that women needed formal education and consequently it was generally reserved only for men. As a result, it was rare to find women in skilled jobs that required higher or intermediate education. Women then were generally expected to be housekeepers or housewives .The role of women did not generally go beyond that of a wife or mother who took care of her children and maintained her house of her husband in proper order.

Furthermore, the status of women their rights and duties can not be generalized since they varied according to the social class a woman came from. That means social class determines the traditional of women's life in which they live and work depending on. They have distinct position related to the class that women come from.

2. Charlotte Bronte's life and works

Charlotte Bronte was born on 1816 at Thorton, in Yorkshire, England, the third daughter of Patrick Bronte a clergyman of Irish descent and Maria Branwell .In 1820 they moved to Haworth where Patrick was appointed perpetual curate .After the death of Charlotte's mother in 1821, her mother's sister, Elizabeth, come to take care of the five daughters and one son who were left with a solitary father.

In 1824, Charlotte and her sisters (Emily, Maria, and Elizabeth) were sent to Clergy Daughter's School at Cowan Bridge (Bronte, 1994), which Charlotte recreated as Lowood in *Jane Eyre*. The time , she spent at the school was very difficult .Its poor conditions affected health and the death ,and hastened the death of her two elder sisters, Maria and Elizabeth who died in 1825 soon after they were removed from the school (ibid)

She spent as a pupil at the two other schools , her education was conducted for the most part at home .She later as a young woman served as a teacher at a girls school ,and as a governess for various

⁸ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/women in Victorian era

families in Yorkshire , a career she pursued until 1841. She failed to open her own school for girls at Haworth.⁹

To acquire further qualifications, the two sisters traveled to Brussels to enroll in a Pansionnat governed by Constantin Heger and his wife (Bront, 1994). Looking for tuition, Charlotte taught English and Emily taught music. Their time at the Pansionnat was cut when their aunt, who joined the family after the death of their mother, died in October 1842. In January 1843, Charlotte returned to Brussels to take a teaching post at the Pansionnat .She was not happy, lonely, and homesick, then after a year, she returned to Haworth (Gaskell, 2005).

In 1846, the sisters, Charlotte Emily and Anne dedicated themselves to writing and published a volume of poetry under the pseudonyms, Cureer, Ellis and Acton Bell. They decided to continue writing for publication and work on their first novels. Charlotte continued to write under the name Acton Bell. (Ibid)

After Charlotte's siblings had died (Brawell, September 1848, Emily, December 1848 and Anne May 1849), she and her father were left alone .In view of the success of Jane Eyre, Charlotte was persuaded by her publisher to visit London, where she revealed her original name and the true identity, becoming friend with *Elizabeth Gaskell*, *William Makepeace* and she continued writing and never left Haworth (Ibid).

In 1854, Charlotte married the curate of Haworth, Arthur Nicholls, but their marriage lasted for nine months later. After a few weeks of her pregnancy, she became ill with pneumonia. She died about weeks later in March 31, 1855.¹⁰

Charlotte Bronte's works

Charlotte Bronte is regarded as one of the most outstanding English novelists, whose creative power made her prominent and popular author of Victorian age .She derived materials from her own life to write famous novels in the history of literature.

Jane Eyre (1847) is novel based on Bronte autobiography .It examines many sides of the circumstances of women show a new move towards freedom ad equality.

⁹ [www.biography.com/people/Charlotte bronte-11919959](http://www.biography.com/people/Charlotte-bronte-11919959).

¹⁰ [www.biography.com/people/Charlotte bronte-11919959](http://www.biography.com/people/Charlotte-bronte-11919959) .

Shirley (1849) is the least successful her novels. It depicts the struggle between master and workers in the Yorkshire wearing industry .It deals with a woman, who was shaken off all jealously .Also, it concerned with the wool industry with riots, and with the Napoleonic Wars.

Villette (1853) depicts a woman's longing for her love to be fulfilled

And The Professor, written before Jane Eyre and rejected by many publishing houses, was published in (1857) (Gaskell, 2005)

3- The Development of Feminism in the 19th century

Feminist criticism is a critical theory and a movement in the evaluation of literature .It has its origins in the struggle of women's rights which emerged in the late of 18th century (Cuddon, 1998). Throughout its long history, feminism has looked for disturb the certainties of such a patriarchal culture, to affirm a belief in the gender equality. It developed as an important force to shape and determine women's rights with the emphasis on social, political and economic reform. It found its approach to literature in the 1960s, when were clear signs of new approaches in relation to women writers and literature .This was clear in many feminists working and writing of women as Virginia Wolf who feminist critics have analyzed her novels from different perspective. Thus, like other feminist, she concerned with women's economic and cultural disadvantages compared to men. (Seldon, 2005).

So, it aims at championing the identity of women and promote women's writing as a representation of women's experience (Culler.1997) as depicted in various types of literature especially the novel .Feminism undertakes to release women from male patriarchy that means , it examines the ways in which literature reinforces the economic, political, social and psychological oppression of women and the patriarchal ideology that women were to be subservient to men .It attacks male notions of interpretations in literature, also, it challenges traditional male ideas about the nature of women and how they feel, act think and write (Cuddon, 1998).

It concerned with the thematic studies of writing by and about women that means women authors and representation of their experience. It concerned also with the theory of the role of women in writing and her language focusing on language, analyzing the way in which meaning is produced (ibid).Thus, It attempts to understand representation from a woman's point of view and analyze

women's writing strategies in the context of their social conditions. It pursue the existence of women in literary texts as a women authors, and features and makes women characters and ideas dominant in their work (Balogun.2001).

Conclusion

To sum up, this chapter has been concerned with the characteristics of Victorian period in different phases as well as the general conditions of life .It has examined the economy and the position of women in society. last, it has provided a short overview of Bronte's life and works. I found out that Charlotte Bronte as a novelist was influenced by her incidents, ideas and society of her age that were as aspiration to achieve her literary work.



Chapter Three

Introduction

In any literary work form and content are inseparable and depend on each other to formulate the whole text. Thus, Style is the way in which language is used in a given context; how a particular writer says things. The analysis of style involves the examination of a writer's choice of words, the use of figures of speech, devices and the shape of his work. (Cuddon, 1998) Also, it examines the language of a literary text in order to understand and appreciate the writer's artistic achievement. Style and technique are tools which applied to study literature in an explicit way in which, the text is considered as the whole work, is the specific use of language, also the starting place for the study of style (Leech, Short.1981). In the novel Jane Eyre, Bronte uses various techniques to create her assorted form. Thus, she incorporates these techniques to make certain ideas stand out to make passages become more expressive as diction, pathetic fallacy, imagery and symbolism.

1. Style

Through language the writer can make a sense of the world. Language is the only way of expression in the literary work in which language form determines content. Form is the way the content is presented focusing on style and techniques. Thus, a text's genre is indicated by its structural form which allows the interpreters to gain insights into a text based on what they can know about its formal characteristics. It shows the writer's method as a male or female writer, for example in the case of Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre that we are going to study who is a female writer has her own perspective about women.

Moreover, being a female writing, it gives a new manner of writing different from man because it had seen from women point of view. Women try to present their reality as it really is not as it has been presented by male writers because they have different life experiences, so, their writing will differ as well. (Nodeh, Pourgin.2012)

1-1 Diction

Charlotte Bronte presents with her own words her image as a female ,devoting her feminist perspective using formal, abstract, expressive and descriptive words that used to depict women also using more adjectives in order to deliver her message in a fascinated way, focuses a lot on places, and reading into people's faces and thoughts.

She says:

“Reader, do you know, as I do, what terror those cold people can put into the ice of their questions? How much of the fall of the avalanche is in their anger? of the breaking up of the frozen sea in their displeasure” (Bronte,2003.p459)

This lines means that, Jane speaks directly to the audience as she informs them about the people she lives with.

Also, “READER, I MARRIED HIM. A quiet wedding we had: he and I, the parson and clerk, were alone present (ibid. 455).

Thus Bronte depicted a woman who was abused physically, emotionally and mentally in her circumstances in life and how she treated. So, the words she chose are identical with pain. For example:

“I cry because I am miserable.”(Bronte, 2003.p21) .Also, “I am unhappy, very unhappy, for other things “(Ibid, p22) “If I had anywhere else to go, I should be glad to leave it; but I can never get away from Gateshead till I am a woman” (Ibid, 23).

In addition to that, Bronte’s representation of women and her choosing of words to express how women feel and think to deal with her situation and describe her condition, her thought, and mirror her estate by using a lot of words like: poor, plain , questioning , curious , nonconformist , confident and independent.

She also states:

“I stepped across the rug; he placed me square and straight before him. What a face he had, now that it was almost on a level with mine! what a great nose! and what a mouth! And what large prominent teeth” (Bronte, 2003.p.31)

Also, “robust frame, square-shouldered and strong-limbed” (Bronte 2003.p.35), and *you* are deceitful!”(Ibid.36). these quotations are simply express the description of Jane to her cruel aunt, using the adjectives to add to the overall dark and foreboding mood of the novel. This masterful use of diction enriches the experience of the reader in the novel progresses.

Furthermore, Bronte's expressive use of diction transforms reality into a fantastic rather than absurd world. For example When Jane first meets Mr. Rochester, he is described using words such as "dark," "stern," "ireful," and "thwarted." These words fit with the ominous nature of the scene and also characterize Mr. Rochester. The use of the word "thwarted" is especially interesting in its indication that Mr. Rochester has been somehow broken or disappointed. Bronte's diction makes Jane Eyre more meaningful and enjoyable.

<http://www.amazon.com/review/R1MHZG1PWWY>

1-2 Narrator point of view

Point of view refers to the perspective from which the story is told. Jane Eyre is written from the first point of view, that means the story teller and the protagonist is the same person, which instantly attracts the reader's attention .For example:

“I am not deceitful: if I were, I should say I loved you; but I declare I do not love you: I dislike you the worst of anybody in the world except John Reed; and this book about the liar you may give to your girl, Georgiana, for it is she who tells lies, and not I”.(Bronte,2003.p.35)

Also, using the first person allows the writer to express the heroine's inner self or experience. She speaks directly to the reader telling her own story and expresses her contemplation, her felling as a oppressed woman .For example:

“Gentle reader, may you never feel what I then felt! May your eyes never shed such stormy, scalding, heart-wrung tears as poured from mine. (Ibid.p.325)

In addition to that, she expresses her feeling towards Adele and Mrs. Fairfax evaluating her as a good woman thankful for her kindness .She says:

“I am merely telling the truth. I felt a conscientious solicitude for Adele’s welfare and progress, and a quiet liking for her little self: just as I cherished towards Mrs. Fairfax thankfulness for her kindness, and a pleasure in her society proportionate to the tranquil regard she had for me, and the moderation of her mind and character” (Bronte 2003.p.110)

The first person approach helps of getting the reader to live with the protagonist who tells his story in a narrative form. Thus, she pays a lot of attention to give us accurate details about her life; she explains how she makes decisions and sometimes explains how she feels. For example:

“.... Helen regarded me, probably with surprise: I could not now abate my agitation, though I tried hard; I continued to weep aloud. She sat down on the ground near me, embraced her knees with her arms, and rested her head upon them; in that attitude she remained silent as an Indian. I was the first who spoke”(ibid.p69)

Also, “I cannot think of leaving you, sir, at so late an hour, in this solitary lane, till I see you are fit to mount your horse “(Bronte, 2003.p.116)

And,” I allowed Adele to put away books and work, and to run downstairs; for, from the comparative silence below, and from the cessation of appeals to the door-bell, I conjectured that Mr. Rochester was now at liberty. Left alone, I walked to the window; but nothing was to be seen thence: twilight and snowflakes together thickened the air, and hid the very shrubs on the lawn. I let down the curtain and went back to the fireside” (Bronte, 2003.p.121)

Furthermore, Bronte takes the opportunity to address her readers personally, a techniques that add impact to certain portion of the novel. It is written from a women’s point of view telling about women as she tell her own story using the first person “I”, which is more scientifically used by female, also, use more pronouns that encode the relationship between the writer and the reader especially first person that mostly used by women who is always subjective.

She said:

“I don’t like cavilers or questioners” (Bronte, 2003.p06)

“I sat cross legged like a Turk, and having drawn the red moreen curtain nearly close, I was shrined in double retirement” (Ibid)

“I returned the window and fetched it thence”.p09

And “I am glad I happened to be awake,” I said: and then I was going” (ibid.153)

1-3 Sentence structure

In text we can find many details, with more systematic attention to the words and structures are chosen. (Leech, Michael.1981) At the sentence structure level, in Jane Eyre, Bronte uses types of sentences which are refined; we can tell that she’s educated, and never simplifies her ideas. <http://www.shmoop.com/jane-eyre/writing-style.html>

She preferred complex sentences in order to present us with a complex structure of ideas because the complex form gives more information and make the sentence more powerful to the reader. In addition to that, sentence structure is long because women use more details in their narrative. (Leech, Michael.1981) .She uses long sentences instead of a group of short statement in which there are more colons, semi-colons, and comers used were we might use full stops .For example:

“To women who please me only by their faces, I am the very devil when I find out they have neither souls nor hearts— when they open to me a perspective of flatness, triviality, and perhaps imbecility, coarseness, and ill-temper: but to the clear eye and eloquent tongue, to the soul made of fire, and the character that bends but does not break—at once supple and stable, tractable and consistent—I am ever tender and true” (ibid.p263).

This is one of the long statements Bronte uses to make the reader in continuous with narration. It is one of the Rochester’s lines to Jane that means Rochester wants her to be honest with him.

Thus, “I was glad of it: I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons: dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness of my physical inferiority to Eliza, John, and Georgiana Reed”(Bronte,2003.p.06).

These lines took place at the beginning of the novel in Jane’s narration. It is a long sentence shows Jane’s description of her estate with the Reed family. Her loneliness has reflected on her psychological estate that makes her think about the future.

1-4 Tone

Jane Eyre's tone reflects the atmosphere of the novel and the author's attitude. Thus, the heroine and the writer shared common values in the novel in which it revealed about her attitude. Hence the tone is imaginary and knowledgeable because of Brontë's use of imagination in her writing. She uses figurative language that is imaginative and creative. In addition to that, she writes as if talking about an experience she lived and knows what she is talking about. <http://.shmoop.com/jane-eyre/tone.html>.

Thus, the tone of the novel was sympathetic to Jane, who is an intelligent and kind person, also, has many problems in her life. This makes the reader feel as if Jane feels connected with her. Furthermore, this technique and the common line between the heroine and the audience makes Brontë explain better the internal struggle of Jane Eyre as a strong woman and her way of thinking. For example:

“I can live alone, if self-respect and circumstances require me so to do. I need not sell my soul to buy bliss. I have an inward treasure born with me, which can keep me alive if all extraneous delights should be withheld, or offered only at a price I cannot afford to give. (Brontë, 2003, p. 203)

This quotation shows Jane's strong personality and her will to achieve her self-respect. Also, her optimistic view of life and her ability to face difficulties and achieve self-fulfillment.

In addition to that, Brontë provides the details about the weather in the opening chapter of the novel and how it does create the mood of the story when it begins. How is the weather? This is one of the techniques used in a literary work to establish the tone of the text and the status of the character; it reflects her attitude and the nature of the novel. Also, it expresses the author's personality towards Jane Eyre, the protagonist of the story, because a part of the novel is an autobiography, so it is difficult to separate Brontë's tone and the narrative style of her protagonist. So, Jane Eyre deals with women seen from a woman's viewpoint; the mood is the tool that expresses both the author's personality and the status of the heroine Jane Eyre, who depicted a woman in certain stages of life and her attitude towards the circumstances she faced.

Because the novel is gothic with supernatural elements. These elements are introduced at the beginning of Jane Eyre and established the novel's mood with the depiction of Jane in the haunted red

room and the description of the weather that creates sad mood. Also, the miserable life that Jane had lived at Lawood School wasn't good with bad treatment and sad events happened with Jane as the death of her friend Helen Burns reflect the mood of the novel. This inclusion of terrible calm in the catalogue of horrors to which the heroine may fall prey as honor equal to those of isolation, haunting, pursuit, imprisonment, condemnation, death represents the insight central to Bronte's portrayal of the Gothic that is peril of a woman's life. For example:

"The cold and ghastly moon glancing through bars of cloud at a wreck just sinking." (Ibid.07)

Also, Jane's relationship with Rochester reflects a type of mood which is romantic in which Jane Eyre, the tried and tested Jane along with the renewed Rochester find true happiness. She becomes the perfect wife and mother, and, Rochester the perfect loving husband. For example:

"The ease of his manner freed me from painful restraint: the friendly frankness, as correct as cordial, with which he treated me, drew me to him" (Bronte, 2003.p.148)

Jane says this after Rochester has become friendlier with her after he has told her the story of Adele's mother. She is soon in love with him and goes on to say,

"And was Mr. Rochester now ugly in my eyes? No, reader: gratitude and many associates, all pleasurable and genial, made his face the object I best liked to see; his presence in a room was more cheering than the brightest fire" (ibid).

2-1 Pathetic Fallacy

The novel opens with a modest statement about the weather

"There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre, and a rain so penetrating, that further out-door exercise was now out of the question." (From Jane Eyre 06)

It is winter, the weather is cold dark and rainy. In this description of the setting Bronte reflects Jane's state of mind. The weather indicates Jane's thought and feeling; she is alone without warm family. Thus, Bronte uses the weather to express Jane's inner self. It reflects how women feel as a character, expresses her loneliness, her state, and reflects women style in depiction of her heroine as a writer by referring to the nature, when Jane says: "Nature must

be glad some when I was so happy” and I thought it was something to do with the weather and how she feels but I have been told that it's wrong”(Bronte,2003.p.260).

Also, she describes the clouds as sombre which is human emotions. Thus , women feel, act, think, and write .They have a special way of expressing themselves and put their test in life by referring to the nature that give aesthetic language and beauty to the text. Furthermore, this is clear in female writing .They maintain their feminist aspects in their works with a special and optimistic view.

2-2 Imagery

The author uses imagery in the text to make the scene in one’s mind, as a result, the texts is full with descriptions creating picture in the reader’s mind as they read. Thus, Bronte captures the reader’s attention .Also; the imagery used to help in describing the beautiful scene of nature and provides understanding of the Jane estate as a woman oppressed by society, thus, is gives aesthetic touch to the text.

For example: the description of character as John Rivers who was introduced”tall, slender; his face riveted the eye; it was like a Greek face, very pure in outline: quite a straight, classic nose; quite an Athenian mouth and chin “(Bronte,2003.p.349). Jane was admired of his physical appearance, how he looks with a great deal of detail. This imagery personifies that he had great deal of interest in Jane Eyre. Also, when Jane once said “all reposing in the autumn day’s sun; the horizon bounded by a propitious sky, azure, marbled with pearly white” (ibid .p.108). She described the good looking scenes of nature.

Thus, Bronte used another type of imagery through the use of birds that links man to the common forms of nature .She said; “I could not eat the tart; and the plumage of the bird, the tints of the flowers, seemed strangely faded: I put both plate and tart away “(Bronte, 2003.P.19)

In addition to that, “there were many children there besides me and a pond with beautiful birds in it which I fed with crumbs” (ibid.p.103). It allows the reader to see the loneliness that Jane is experiencing by showing the relationship between her and birds. Moreover, the image of the window seat .For Jane, the window seat is a form of calm, imagination, loneliness and thinking of the idea of flying above the toils of everyday life appeals to her .Through the window seat, we are able to see the loneliness that encompasses Jane while at Gateshead, and her longing to be separated from the Reeds? As a woman

suffered from oppression looking for freedom, self respect and identity. Bronte uses birds imagery that is a symbol of freedom . She says:

‘She is in the window-seat, to be sure, Jack.’P011

“I mounted into the window-seat: gathering up my feet, I sat cross-legged, like a Turk; and, having drawn the red moreen curtain nearly close, I was shrined in double retirement. “(ibid.P08)

“I retired to a window-seat, and taking a book from a table near, endeavored to read. Adele brought her stool to my feet; ere long she touched my knee”. (ibid.P172)

By referring to the nature Bronte uses imagery in a creative way in order to helps the reader understand the image in his head, to depict and imagine the picture in his mind and make the passage more expressive. Furthermore, Women are imaginative more than a men. They return to the images and metaphors of piecing as a tool of the female tradition operating as a "creative manipulation of convention". (Noheh, 2012)

2-2-1 symbolism

In Charlotte Bronte’s Jane Eyre , symbolism often brings more depth in the story .It is a technique used to hint to something later .Symbolism has an important role in Bronte’s novel in which the reader can get the idea more explicitly.

Thus, a female text has its own symbols by creating images and using aesthetic language that brings into the passage a symbolic weight of female consciousness to build a picture of her own in literature. (Noheh, 2012).

For example:

Fire: is one of the symbols that charlotte Bronte used to Symbolizing passion, anger and spirit of Jane in her awful childhood. In Chapter 4, she likens her mind to” a ridge of lighted heath, alive, glancing, lighted heath, alive, glancing, and devouring.” (Bronte, 2003.p37). For example when Bronte stated: “This room was chill, because it seldom had a fire; it was silent, because

remote from the nursery and kitchen; solemn, because it was known to be so seldom entered” (Ibid .P.20). This means the response of Mrs. Reed as would be the response of society to Jane, is to lock out that warm passion, leaving a cold chill, or a being in keeping with strict social tenets instead. By putting Jane in the red-room without a fire, Mrs. Reed has effectively shown the social limitations which weigh heavily against Jane in her search for expression of that passion and self. Then, “. . .at last both slept: the fire and the candle went out. For me, the watches of that long night passed in ghastly wakefulness; strained by dread: such dread as children only can feel”(Ibid. p32) .Next, I sat with my doll on my knee till the fire got low p48 .And “We went up a broad pebbly path, splashing wet, and were admitted at a door; then the servant led me through a passage into a room with a fire, where she left me alone” (Ibid.P.75) It represents and the heat emotion and feeling .It is used by Bronte to develop Jane’s character through the novel as it can provide warmth and comfort.

As well as, Ice and cold: Barren and cold landscapes symbolize emotional isolation, loneliness and even death. The arctic imagery parallels Jane’s isolation at Gaateshead .For example: . . .the bleak shores of Lapland, Iceland with the vast sweep of the Artic Zone, that reservoir of frost and snow, where firm fields of ice(Bronte,2003.p.7)

In addition to that, the red room which is a symbol of exile and imprisonment not just physical, but imprisonment psychological/emotional as well . She recalls this memory when she is punished at Lowood remembering how is treated, the intense emotions such as fear, anger and suffering that she experiences in her early life, as well as passion. For example: “Take her away to the red-room, and lock her in there.’ Four hands were immediately laid upon me, and I was borne upstairs”.p15. Also, “The red-room was a square chamber, very seldom slept in” (Ibid.p19). Thus. “I shall remember how you thrust me back—roughly and violently thrust me back—into the red-room, and locked me up there, to my dying day; though I was in agony”. (Ibid, p63) It represents the futility of Jane’s passion and punishment .It a symbol of Jane to overcome her struggle to find freedom, happiness and identity.

Conclusion

Throughout this chapter, we have attempted to explore the form that Charlotte Bronte makes in forming her literary masterpiece spotting light on the style and techniques that she used.

Charlotte's writing style is generally educated, complex, and filled with emotion. Her unique style may be overwhelming for some readers. It's powerful and strong. The reader is able to identify with Jane Eyre as a character through the complex sentence structure that is filled with emotion and imagery. Thus, the well known Victorian critic of literature George Henry Lews said in the west minister review that Jane Eyre was "the best novel of the season with the originality and freshness of style"(Barker.2002).



Chapter Four

Introduction

In Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë mainly seeks to debunk the social conditions in which women like herself were living. In fact, as we have seen in the second chapter, she drew materials for the novel from her own personal life. So this final chapter involves a deep discussion on the status of woman dealing with social classes, taking a glance at upper class woman, middle class woman and the barriers of social class, moving to the conditions of woman in the 19th century. Also, woman suffering and success as well as women and sense of responsibility, focusing on the main areas of study the content which are the plot and the characters.

1- Social Classes

The division between the middle and upper class was prominent in England social life during the Victorian era. Thus, the daily life of people in Victorian England was determined by the social class and formed by the traditional ways of life in which people especially women lived and worked depending on their tradition and social roles under man's patriarchy that effected on the people and the way they lived. They have a distinct position related to the class that women come from (Mitchell, 2009).

Jane Eyre bears a critique Victorian England social hierarchy and treated the imbalance between the social classes. Thus, at the beginning of the novel, Brontë explored the status of the upper class represented in the characters of Jane's cousins John Reed and his sisters Eliza and Georgiana and how they behave with Jane abusing and belittling her because she belongs to a lower class. She states that:"

mama says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not to live here with gentlemen's children like us" (Bronte, 2003.P09).Also, "tell mama she is run out into the rain—bad animal!" (Ibid .P.08).

This shows the way in which Jane is treated with cruelty by the wealthy Reeds, because she is an orphan, poor and she doesn't hold the same social standing they hold. They treat her more like a servant than a family member. She also states:

"I am glad you are no relation of mine: I will never call you aunt again as long as I live. I will never come to see you when I am grown up; and if any one asks me how I liked you, and how you treated me, I will say the very thought of you makes me sick, and that you treated me with miserable cruelty" (Bronte, 2003.p36).

This quotation indicates Jane's burst to her aunt in her leaving to Gateshead to Lowood School. She resisted in her orphan hood, severing to the little resemblance of the family that she lived with but the only one that remained to her.

Furthermore, the complicated position of an educated governess manner, hired to teach children at Thornfield situates her in a strange borderland between the upper class and the servant class. In fact, she feels part of neither group, thus, Jane is a figure of vague class standing: She interacts with people of every level, from different social backgrounds. As a governess, she is expected to be respectable and to possess the "culture" of the aristocracy. She is more treated as servant, thus, Jane remains penniless and powerless while at Thornfield. Jane's understanding of the double level when she becomes aware of her feelings for Rochester; she is his intellectual but not his social, equal. She hesitated to marry Rochester because she senses that she would feel indebted to him for "condescending" to marry her. Jane's distress, Jane tries to ignore her feelings towards Rochester and convince herself that her relationship with him is a clear cut master. This examines the consequences of class boundaries that causes many problems in love between Jane and Rochester; thus, a relationship between a simply governess and a wealthy gentleman would be forbidden by proper society known by class prejudice which appears most strongly in Chapter 17 where Jane, says:

"....I had any cause to take a vital interest. Not that I humbled myself by a slavish notion of inferiority: on the contrary, I just said "You have nothing to do with the master of Thornfield, further than to receive the salary he gives you for teaching his protegee, and to be grateful for such respectful and kind treatment as, if you do your duty, you have a right to expect at his hands. Be sure that is the only tie he seriously acknowledges between you and him; so

don't make him the object of your fine feelings, your raptures, agonies, and so forth. He is not of your order: keep to your caste, and be too self-respecting to lavish the love of the whole heart, soul, and strength, where such a gift is not wanted and would be despised (Bronte, 2003.P 164)

It seems clear that Jane is torn between her love and feelings and the need imposed by society to conform to social ranks and belonging. Also, it is clear to be Bronte's critique of Victorian class attitude and the difficulties that individuals face in personal relationships .Later in the novel Jane speaks out against class prejudice in Chapter 22 she faces Rochester thus:

Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong!—I have as much soul as you,—and full as much heart! And if God had gifted me with some beauty and much wealth, I should have made it as hard for you to leave me, as it is now for me to leave you”(Bronte,,2003.p256)

1-1 Upper Class Women

As we have mentioned before that the nineteenth century life of Victorian England is known by the fact that the upper class women did not work and stay at home as respectable members in society .They have a special way of living, dictate the servants, make parties and traveled. (Mitchell, 2009) Through Jane Eyre, this image reflected in the character of Mrs. Sara Reed who is cruel aunt, she sent Jane to Lawood School and she was the cause behind the problems that Jane had faced. She was described as a woman with “robust frame, square-shouldered and strong-limbed”.(Bronte 1994). In addition to that Jane warns her; People think you a good woman, but you are bad, hard-hearted. *You* are deceitful! (Bronte, 2003.P.36) Also, Blanche Ingram who was a beautiful and rich woman from a high social class, hoped to marry Rochester to secure her position .She was beautiful and wealthy but not bed personality.

Jane says: ...”and Miss Ingram was considered the belle of the evening.”(Ibid.p.160)

That means Blanche Ingram was a beautiful women represented high social class with elegance and she was the attractive women. She used to show how Jane act and think as she does towards Mr. Rochester .Also show the difference between her and Jane as members of different social position. Blanche looks as beautiful as Jane imagined. She is very close to Rochester and her way of behaving

to foil Jane by discussing loudly all the dreadful governesses she had in order to show the difference between them. She was a competitor to Rochester and she makes him sign a duet with her.

1-2 Middle Class Women

Middle class women lived ordinary lives. If married they worked as servants, if unmarried, they had two choices: writing as Charlotte Bronte and her sisters who dictated themselves to writing, or being a governess, gives lessons to children in their home where she also lived (Mitchell, 2009). This is reflected in many nineteenth century novels in which their heroines are governesses. Before becoming a governess, Jane lived in poverty and had faced many social difficulties related to the working class. She struggled in all of her life until she serves as a governess and that is only when she is able to maintain a honest living with this job. Her life as a governess remained the position that the single woman like Jane Eyre strive for. It signifies an important development increasing their economic and social hardships and expecting to be well bred, well educated and perfect gentle women contradictory to a ignorant and vulgar woman of the working class. Governess is a middle class figure who was more reliable in a period when she was criticized in social stability (Poovey.1997). Thus; she realizes a type of freedom, a respectable social position and economic stability.

She says:” I’m the governess” (Bronte, 2003.P116).

That means she introduced herself as the governess. The position she held as the teacher.

1-3 Social Class Barriers

Jane Eyre critiques Victorian class differences. Thus, Jane is an orphan individual lived lonely unwanted within wealthy environment particularly with the Reed family who were the cause behind her estate in her early age; by sending her to a charity school where she struggled and abide bed treatment and hard conditions of the school and the cruelty of Mr. Brocklehurst, the head of Lawood, as a result of her standing as an orphan girl from the lower class. Also, her position of being a governess rising from poverty to becoming a better and respectable person. She is the main competitor of Rochester who is a wealthy man. Jane rejects him feeling that their marriage not based on equal social standing. Jane fends off marriage proposals that would squash her identity, and strives for equality in her relationships. When she inherited the fortune of her uncle and divided it with her

cousins .She proved that she is independent financially and not reliant on Rochester for his wealth .She accepted Rochester's offer. She says: "Gratitude!" he ejaculated; and added wildly—"Jane accepts me quickly. Say, Edward—give me my name-Edward—I will marry you" (Ibid.p.258)

This quotation indicates Jane's emotion comes from her belief that her social position will make it impossible for Rochester to love her. Rochester almost reveals his own feelings for Jane. Yet, by commanding her to attend the parties, he still doesn't treat her as an equal .She continues to believe that Rochester will place a higher priority on class constraints than on his emotions.

2- The Condition of Women in the 19th Victorian England

As we have seen in the second chapter, the industrial revolution had had social consequences in England at the beginning of the 19th century .It affected peoples way of life and thinking. It changed the attitudes toward women's place in the social set (Mitchell, 2009).Women were subjects of a patriarchal system (Gaskell, 2005). Bronte was aware of the nature of women's oppression and economic dependence.

Through Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte represents a figure of the Victorian time and spots light on the lives of women .Women were living in misogynist world and under male dominance. (Muda, 2011) In fact, women were deprived of many rights granted to men and had consequently a very low status in society. Jane takes a very few apportunities.The only profession opened to her was a governess, a position that raised her from her low standing .In fact, this is the role that the society creates to middle class women of being a governess as we have said, schoolteacher like Miss Temple in Lawood school companion to a wealthy lady as a servant like Bessie Lee, the servant of Mrs. Reed. Also, other women tried to write to live against the social hardship, as Charlotte Bronte, but literature is not enough to be the business of a women's life, very few could succeed as Bronte did. Furthermore ,as we mentioned before teaching is the only respectable profession opened to the women of Bronte's society and teaching salary is not sufficient to encase women's needs and independency .As Bronte dealt generally with Jane, she names economic dependency as their "great curse" Gaskell,2005). Jane did not expect a good marriage which provides her complete security .In the other side, married women like Bertha Mason, Rochester's wife, she had no legal rights and no economic independence .she lived under man's patriarchy and had no financial independence because their property transformed to her husbands after marriage. This is likely a miserable status of Victorian married .It

reflected that Victorian women never divorce their husbands, they depend on their husbands and could not own property as we have said in the backgrounds chapter.

With the capitalist industrial growth, Victorian society witnessed profound changes in the role of women who brought out of home, entering man's sphere. Also, the traditional ideas about women had changed in which women become "a perfect lady and Angel in the house" strong in her inner purity personality. They strove to be equal to men and their needs being the same as Charlotte Bronte said talking about the character Jane Eyre. Jane cannot escape from her position, but she can express feeling, her sadness and disappointment for her position as a governess living lonely in isolation with only the company of a child and a housekeeper. Having little access to people, she tells how she longs for more things to do. Thus, with feminist campaigns to improve both employment opportunities for women and women's education reveals the critical role in the representation of the governess played in reproducing the domestic ideal. As teachers, they argued that the governess charged with domestic virtues. (Poovey, 1997). Jane says:

"It is in vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquility: they must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it. Millions are condemned to a stiller doom than mine, and millions are in silent revolt against their lot. Nobody knows how many rebellions besides political rebellions ferment in the masses of life which people earth. Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts, as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags. It is thoughtless to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn more than custom has pronounced necessary for their sex"(Bronte, 2003.P111)

This extract occurs after Jane's arrival at Thornfield .Although Jane has achieved her wish of leaving Lowood in hopes to find a new life, she still finds herself restless and stands on the Thornfield's family .Thinking about what the world may hold. She states that women have to be independent and equal to men. As well as, Jane moves from place to place hoping to find freedom in a oppressed society to achieve self –esteem, independence and realize identity.

3- The relationship between man and women

In Victorian England gender roles affected people's behavior and identities Thus, Jane has faced a strong battle to become independent, achieve self fulfillment and overcome oppression. In her life, she

stopped at many stations and faced many men who don't respect women as their equal and don't acknowledge her rights. Generally, men like MrBrocklehurst, Rochester and John Rivers believe that women have to be inferior to men. Each one tries to put Jane in an obedient woman position where she doesn't have the right to express her own thoughts and feelings.

Most male characters in the novel try to patronize Jane and to dominate her .Jane must run away from MrBrocklehurst in Lowood School, rejects her cousin John and accepts to marry Rochester only after becoming independent financially .In fact, once socially equal with Rochester, she is able to prove that she did not marry him for his fortune and ascertain her personality as a self fulfilled person. Thus, in chapter 12 Jane articulates her feminist philosophy:

“Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts, as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags. It is thoughtless to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn more than custom has pronounced necessary for their sex” (Bronte, 2003.P110).

With a reference to the feminist theory in the relationship between gender and the patriarchal oppression of women and the way in which they viewed in terms of gender and they do not possess equal rights to men, feminist concept indicates that women should be equal to men and should advocate equal rights and interests.

It shows as that Jane expresses and reflects her view in life after her arrival at Thornfield where she becomes a woman standing for self ,wishing she could see and interact with more of the world .It means that there is no difference between man and women , they plays role of forming their individual identity. They should take their opportunities as men do women have the right to achieve happiness and fulfilled her vision of the future. Jane is a very strong woman and despite of her troubles, she struggles a lit in life and is a very independent.

4. Women suffering and success

Jane Eyre is an example of how women can move from a life of poverty and oppression to independence and success. Bronte herself suffered a lot in her life before becoming an accomplished writer, She lived in the same environment under the same conditions as Jane do, that means, Bronte reflects a part of her life, inner self, also, the society in which she lived in the work of Jane Eyre which mirrored the writer's life that was as inspiration in achieving the novel.

Jane led a life of sufferance for different reasons as a women .She suffered in all her life stages from her childhood through adolescence to maturity: her childhood in Gateshead, her education in Lowood School and her time as a governess of Adele at Thonfield. Jane spent unhappy childhood under the care of her aunt Mrs. Reed where she was treated harshly .She was abused physically and mentally; doing very hard work out of her ability and excluding her in the red room which is cold and quiet, where her uncle died. She suffered with her aunt family and especially with her cousin John who bullied her, Jane states about this: "...Then Mrs. Reed subjoined—"Take her away to the red-room, and lock her in there. Four hands were immediately laid upon me, and I was borne upstairs" (Bronte, 2003.p10).

Then, her suffering at Lowood School. Thus, Elaine Showalter said

‘The Lowood School where Jane is sent by her aunt is the penitentiary for which the red room was the tribunal. Lowood represents sexual diminishment and sensual discipline thee the girls are systematically starved and deprived of all sensory gratification in 1824 both Charlotte & Emily attended the clergy daughter's school at Cowan Bridge for 10 months. The recollection of childhood at this school forms the model of lowood institution which Jane attended for eight years in the novel Jane Eyre’

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Lowood School in which Jane had attended for eight years, it was like a prison for her, where she suffered and treated with cruelty by Mr. Brocklehurst and Miss Scatcherd.Jane saw what happened with her friend Helen Barns when Miss Scatcherd punished her .Jane was particularly chocked to see Miss Scatcherd's harshness. But she suffered from Mr. Brocklehurst who punished her more than ones and cut her hair Bronte (Barker, 2002) .She says:

¹¹ <http://www.studymode.com/essays/Lowood-In-Jane-Eyre-454096.html>

“I saw myself transformed under Mr. Brocklehurst’s eye into an artful, noxious child, and what could I do to remedy the injury?” (Bronte, 2003p.33)

“I disliked Mr. Brocklehurst; and I was not alone in the feeling. He is a harsh man; at once pompous and meddling he cut off our hair; and for economy’s sake bought us bad needles and thread, with which we could hardly sew.” (Ibid.p125)

Mr. Brocklehurst, who “buys all our food and clothes” (Bronte, 2003.p50), is domineering and attempts to make the girls at the Lowood school “humble” through the means of food deprivation, cutting off their hair, and allowing them no luxuries or comforts. He makes assumptions that females are inclined to luxury and indulgence, and that they need to be “tamed”, thinking that it is his religious duty to deny the girls of food and freedom, treating them like animals.

In addition to that, the important phase of Jane suffering was at Thornfield where she served as governess to educate Adele. This is not an easy job for women to leave in a new family and new house, but it was the first time that she enjoys a sense of independence

She was a girl in eighteen, she was attracted to her master and falls in love with him who is almost twice her age. She is a plain girl didn’t enjoy her social position.

Also, she faces a competitor for Rochester from his guest Blanche Ingram, a beautiful and rich woman from a high social class, hopes to marry Rochester to secure her position in society. Who makes Jane think, depict expectations and jealous. But Jane considers herself to have emerged victorious over Blanche and contemplates marrying Rochester, who is dishonest man. Bronte stated: “I was about again to revert to the probability of a union between Mr. Rochester and the beautiful Blanche (Bronte, 2003.p161)

A real barrier to Jane’s love explored that her companion is already married and can not married legally, this truth came to the light in their wedding in which Jane is heartbroken. She felt that she is betrayed. Thus, the next morning, she makes her decision and abandons she leaves Mr. Edward Rochester without as much as a word or a letter. She had left without any arrangement and money traveled for a long distance. She slept outside in the wood and lived dark nights until she found a refuge with a family who is her cousins (the Rivers). Furthermore, she inherited a fortune from her uncle and she divided it with the river’s sibling’s John and his sister. As he was planning to a religious

mission to India, he offers her to marry and accompany him as his wife, a marriage without love but she rejected him because she loves Rochester.

All her suffering does not lead her to give up, it was a motivation to success and achieves independence and her authority over her own experience .She attains a lot of in her life. She was very independent, in this she is an original feminist figure whose flexible class status allows her to evaluate other characters on their actions and personalities rather than on their economic status and physical appearance.

She defies many social conventions especially those affecting women. She is courageous, educated aware and know to temper her emotions with self control .She controlled her feeling with judgment based on her dignity and had a strong personality. Although all the conditions she faced, she succeeded to overcome her difficulties and achieve happiness by making a family with the wealthy man who she loves and any girl dreams about and she became independent financially. Jane says:

“Reader, I married him” (Bronte, 2003.p.445) In this quotation ,Jane informs the reader that she got married her master Me Rochester .Thus , it dictates that Jane finally achieved her fulfillment and found happiness that she is strived for .Also, She finds , love ,independence and creates her own family.

5. Women and sense of responsibility

Through Jane Eyre, Bronte portrayed a strong, free and independent woman .She struggled alone in a world fraught with problems and known by social inequality from place to place searching for freedom and independence .She took decision and was able to define herself as well as to equip herself with enough wisdom and confidence to face life. Thus, her class status allows her to illustrate how personal virtues are better indicator of character then class.. Furthermore, Bronte gave her character her own qualities of intelligence, a clear conception of moral responsibility and above all, great courage and determination. Jane stands up to Mrs. Reed as a child, and she is Mr Rochester’s equal in conversation and struggled to retain self-respect as a teacher and governess .Jane says:

“I can live alone, if self-respect and circumstances require me so to do. I need not sell my soul to buy bliss. I have an inward treasure born with me, which can keep me alive

if all extraneous delights should be withheld, or offered only at a price I cannot afford to give”(Bronte,2003.p.203).

According to feminist theory , women should be independent , strong without the society and men ‘s bounds.

Conclusion

To conclude, in this chapter we have tried to show Bronte’s portrayal of women in 19th century Victorian England through Jane Eyre which is one of the most successful novels of its era and it is a worthy addition to English literature in Lew’s opinion. Also, Jane Eyre character that is one of the greatest female characters in the history of English literature used to critique the Victorian issues of class, economics, and gender roles.



General

Conclusion

General Conclusion

The aim of this dissertation is to shed the light on the status of women in the 19th century Victorian England in Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, also, the reason behind the novel writing and Bronte's choice of heroine though being well admired novelist and one of the famous literary giants. It meant how she treated women question and representing a figure of Victorian time.

Also, it has tackled to study and to evaluate women and the position they held and their conditions in *Jane Eyre* work written from feminist perspective relied on feminist ideas about women conditions. Thus, from our analysis, we have discovered the common point between Charlotte Bronte and Jane .The work include many events from the author's life that means the novel and the heroine reflects Bronte's life.

As we have also seen, Bronte has tried to depict in a world in which she lived, strong women obliged to get freedom. Also, her technique of linking between her thought and narration in other words between mind and language in the message she has wanted to convey and effect on her readers. It has expressed Bronte's social conscience as well as her interest in the imaginative experience of the individual.

We have concerned in the first chapter on Victorian literature that reflected the historical, social norms of Victorian England shedding the light on a type of literary works which is the novel, also, English women writers and the major themes that women concerned about.

Then, we have dealt in the second chapter with general backgrounds of Victorian period historical, social and biographical that influenced the Bronte to achieve her work.

We have shown in the third chapter the style and techniques that Bronte used in writing this work through diction, point of view, mode and imagery that forms the text, show the aspects of women writing and how these techniques help in Bronte's portrayal of women.

We have explained in the fourth chapter the presentation of women; her position and condition in Victorian England in the eyes of women lived in the same condition and the same environment in the character of her heroine *Jane Eyre*. Her condition didn't deter her to look for freedom and independence. It was as a motivation to success and realize her identity in a world known by its inequality among the social classes and oppression of women.

At last, we can say that Charlotte Bronte was a literary giant and one of the prominent novelists of the history of English literature. Also, *Jane Eyre* is one of the greatest heroines that astonished the literary world and reflected the atmosphere of the Victorian time, the novel is history portrayed in paper written by a female gold pen which still read and admired by readers till now.

Bronte told her sisters that they were wrong even morally wrong – in making their heroines beautiful as a matter of course. They replied that it was impossible to make a heroine interesting on any other terms. Her answer was:

“I will prove to you that you are wrong; I will show you a heroine as plain and as small as myself, who shall be as interesting as any of yours” (Gaskell, 1997, p.235).

This is one of Charlotte Bronte's anecdotes about the creation of *Jane Eyre*, her most famous heroine. Challenging the conventional definition about beauty, she proved to her sisters the success of her heroine. This plain, obscure and little heroine *Jane Eyre*, with her extraordinary life progress, caused a sensation in contemporary English literary society. (Ibid)



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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine Charlotte Bronte's contribution to the feminist question in her selected novel *Jane Eyre*. The study shows how Bronte's novel examines the suffering of women and how they could overcome difficulties and achieve success. It is clear that Charlotte ideology in her portrayal of her heroine based on her real world, established herself as a distinguished feminist woman writer in her treatment of women's situation. In this regard, the dissertation is divided into four chapters. The first chapter involves an overview about the Victorian literature. Its aim is to show the characteristics of literature in the 19th century. The second chapter studies the historical and social backgrounds and the life and works of the author. The aim of this chapter is to spot the light on circumstances in which the work is produced and affected the writer. The third chapter involves a study of the form and style of the work under study. The aim through it is to analyze the literary techniques used by Charlotte Bronte to explore the concerns of her age through language. Finally, the fourth chapter, centers on the analysis of the novel focusing on the content through a discussion of the status of women in the 19th century England.

Key words: woman, feminist question, Victorian literature

ملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى فحص مساهمة الكاتبة شارلوت برونتي في القضية النسوية في روايتها المختارة جاين اير, حيث تبين الدراسة كيف وظفت برونتي روايتها لتبين للمرأة أن المعاناة ليست سببا للاستسلام وإنما سببا للنجاح والاستمرار. وواضح أن شارلوت برونتي جسدت شخصية البطلة على أساس الواقع كما سعت بشكل جاد لتكون كاتبة نسائية متميزة في معالجة وضع المرأة.

في هذا الصدد, ينقسم هذا البحث إلى ثلاثة فصول. الفصل الأول يتضمن لمحة عن الأدب الفيكتوري و يهدف إلى تبين خصائص الأدب في القرن التاسع عشر. الفصل الثاني يدرس الخلفية التاريخي ة الاجتماعية كما ينطوي على حياة الكاتبة و أعمالها و الهدف من هذا الفصل هو تسليط الضوء على الظروف التي أنتج فيها العمل والتي أثرت في الكاتبة. الفصل الثالث يتضمن دراسة لبنية و أسلوب العمل المدروس و يهدف إلى تحليل التقنيات الأدبية التي استعملتها برونتي لبناء و إضفاء لمسة جمالية للنص. الفصل الرابع يتمركز على تحليل مضمون الرواية معتمدة على مكانة المرأة خلال القرن التاسع عشر حيث نجيب على الأسئلة المطروحة سابقا.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المرأة, القضية النسوية, الأدب الفيكتوري