

On Emily Bronte's Unique Development Concept in *Wuthering Heights*

LIN Xuecai

Shanghai Publishing and Printing College, Shanghai, China

Emily Bronte is one of the most respected novelists in the history of English literature. Her work *Wuthering Heights* is famous for its deep emotional description and unique characterization. In this novel, Emily Bronte deeply reveals the diversity of human nature through complex character relationships and emotional entanglements. Based on the character image analysis, plot design, and theme content presentation, this paper will focus on the unique development concept of Emily Bronte in *Wuthering Heights*, and re-understand Emily Bronte and her work *Wuthering Heights*.

Keywords: Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*, human nature, social relations, development of concept

Introduction

Wuthering Heights is a classic work written by Emily Bronte in the 19th century. As a very challenging work in the history of English literature, its complex structure and profound theme are still important objects of literary criticism. *Wuthering Heights* is not only thought-provoking, but also reflects the author's profound insight into human nature and society. From the characters, plots, and themes created by Emily Bronte, readers can see the development concept contained in *Wuthering Heights* and Emily Bronte's profound thoughts on human nature, society, and life development, and explore the relationship between human growth and social environment. Although the novel focuses more on complex human relationships and intense emotional conflicts, readers can also find the interrelationship between individual, family, and social development from its plot design and characterization.

The Development Concept Embodied by the Characters and Their Interrelations

Emily Bronte sets the story in an environment where the characters are intertwined. Each character has a rich inner world and unique emotional experience, full of affection, love, and hatred, and the whole story shows the diversity and complexity of human nature. These complex relationships not only reflect the author's deep exploration of human nature and the development of life, but also promote the development of the plot.

The characters in *Wuthering Heights* are full and vivid, and each character has unique personality and vitality. The relationships of the characters in the novel are complex, filled with hatred, jealousy, and revenge, and these feelings continue to destroy and destroy the relationship among people throughout the story. The fates of Heathcliff and Catherine are intertwined, which shows the author's thinking about the life path. As an orphan, Heathcliff has experienced all kinds of hardships and tribulations, but he does not bow to fate, but instead, pursues

the meaning of life in his own way. His tenacity and persistence reflect Emily Bronte's emphasis on individual growth and development and self-realization. Catherine, on the other hand, is an inner contradiction and persistent female image, and her growth process is not only the resistance to traditional ideas, but also the pursuit of the real self, which reflects the author's concern for individual development. The formation of a person's character is inseparable from a series of factors, such as personal nature, birth, living environment, and family environment (Chen & Lin, 2020). The author Emily Bronte shows the diversity and change of human nature through the life course of the characters, reflects the diversity and complexity of personal development, and reveals the growth and development of human beings in different life stages.

Emily Bronte shows the multifaceted nature and depth of human nature by creating a variety of complex characters. It holds that human beings are not simply binary opposites of good and evil, but beings full of contradictions and depth. For example, Heathcliff shows the interweaving of brutality and tenderness, Catherine's selfish and ambivalent feelings, and the Morton family's tenacity and kindness. This multidimensional description of human nature shows Emily Bronte's understanding of human nature, believing that human beings are not simply black and white, but full of contradictions and complexities. Through the portrayal of these characters, the novel reflects the complexity of human nature and its development and change in various environments.

The conflict between the protagonists, the entanglement of love and hate, and the madness behaviors are all based on the desire for freedom and the search for self-existence (Zuo, 2023). The characters in *Wuthering Heights* are often caught in the conflict between their own choices and the external fate, which reflects a development law of things. The love-hate relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine, the marriage relationship between Edgar and Catherine, and the friendship between Catherine and Edna, etc., reflect the class difference and the restriction of social norms on the fate of individuals, and the important influence of social relations on the development of human nature. Emily Bronte discusses the shaping effect of social environment on individual growth through the depiction of character relationships, presents a social view of human nature development, and reveals how human beings are affected by internal conflicts and external forces in a complex environment. Through the creation of a series of characters with different shapes, Emily Bronte expresses her own concept of development: People's character and fate are often shaped by environment, encounter, and inner conflict.

The Development Concept Revealed by the Plot Design

Wuthering Heights presents the story in a non-linear way through a dual narrative structure. It unfolds the plot in the form of a dramatic memoir. The whole story takes Heathcliff's love for Catherine and revenge for the moor manor as the main line, interweaves the fate of multiple characters, and shows the complexity and depth of human nature. Through the memories and narration of different characters, it gradually reveals the intricate love and hatred between the heroes Heathcliff and Catherine. Through the alternate timelines, Lockwood, a secondary character in the story, records maid Nellie Dean's recollections of the entire event. This non-linear structure adds complexity and tension to the novel, allowing the reader to understand the story in two layers of narrative, making the narrator's perspective and bias an important factor in the development of the plot. The story spans decades, showing the love and hate between Heathcliff and Catherine, and the entanglements between their descendants. This long time span makes the story more colorful, showing the character changes and growth.

Emily constructs a complex and rich literary space by means of nested narrative and temporal and spatial inversion technique, which promotes the narrative process and enriches the novel structure (Zheng, 2020). The novel is full of dramatic plot twists and accidents, such as Heathcliff's revenge on Catherine and the love and hate between Catherine and Heathcliff. These plot twists make the story full of tension and suspense, and grab the reader's attention.

The story spans several decades, beginning with Heathcliff and Catherine's childhood and continuing through their complex relationship and family strife as adults. This way of telling across time allows the reader to understand the changes and evolution that occur in the story.

The plot design of the novel is compact and exciting, and each plot pushes the story forward while deeply reflecting the author's thinking on human nature and society. Through Nelly's observation and narration of women's life experiences and difficulties, the author allows readers to gain a group understanding of women living in that era, society, and family environment, and see their weakness and tenacity (Tian, 2023). This narrative technique not only increases the suspense and interest of the novel, but also enables readers to have a deep understanding of the inner world and growth process of each character. Emily Bronte presents the dark side of human nature and explores themes of love, hate, revenge, and redemption through a carefully woven plot. This exploration of human nature reflects the author's deep thinking about the inner motivation and behavior of human beings, and also raises questions about the development and perfection of human nature.

The Development Concept Presented by the Theme Content

With the development of the plot, the novel shows the change and development of human nature under different circumstances. It shows the complex emotions and desires deep in the human heart and reveals the conflict between good and evil in human nature. As for the theme content of *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte's exploration of human nature, society, and life runs through the novel. The novel is full of love, hatred, honor, and loss, showing the complexity and contradiction of human heart, and showing the complex relationship between family and society, especially the relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine's family, which clearly and directly reveals the influence of social status, wealth, and family tradition on people's fate. Through the arrangement of the protagonist's fate and the interaction between family and society, Emily Bronte explores the relationship between individuals and society, self and others, reflecting the author's deep thinking and concern for human development, and presenting Emily Bronte's unique development concept. In the desperate and passionate love story, readers can see from the author's sensitive and lonely heart the infinite sorrow for freedom and the deep remembrance of the suffering national history (Wu, 2020).

The novel shows that the magnificent scenery of nature is closely connected with human life, and the character image and story plot are placed under the background of nature, which reflects a kind of development concept of harmonious development between man and nature. Natural landscapes such as *Wuthering Heights* and moors are not only the background of the story, but also the psychological and emotional projection of the characters. Emily Bronte's unique depiction of nature shows the impact of natural forces on human life. The forces and laws of nature interact with human desires and emotions, reflecting the symbiotic relationship between man and nature. This view of nature and development reflects a human cognition of the law of natural development, emphasizing that human beings need to live in harmony with nature, rather than trying to conquer or destroy it. The relationship between the natural landscape and human emotions reflects an uncontrollable development law, suggesting that human desires and emotions are limited and constrained by nature.

Wuthering Heights depicts the various classes and relationships of rural society in northern England in the 19th century. The love-hate entanglements between Heathcliff and Catherine, as well as their interactions with other characters, show the inequality of class, wealth, and power in society. Heathcliff, as a person from the bottom, suffers all kinds of discrimination and oppression in the society, while Catherine represents the upper class's sense of superiority and the pursuit of power. Through the depiction of these social relations, Emily Bronte presents the conflicts and changes in the development of society.

Conclusion

Wuthering Heights is a novel full of complex human nature and emotional conflicts. Charlotte Bronte shows her views on human nature and social development through the characters and plots in the story. It depicts the complex relationships between families, the love-hate relationship, and the conflict of social classes. Through the analysis of the characters, plot, and theme content of *Wuthering Heights*, it can be seen that Emily Bronte embodies her own unique development concept in her works. Through the shaping of characters and the arrangement of plots, she discusses the relationship between human growth and social environment, and shows the profound reflection on individual development and the meaning of life. *Wuthering Heights* is not only an emotional romance novel, but also a literary masterpiece full of wisdom and insight, which has a profound influence on the literature of later generations.

References

- Chen, J. Y., & Lin, X. T. (2020). The influence of deformed social environment on character shaping in *Wuthering heights*. *Literature Education (Part II)*, 16(7), 110-111.
- Tian, J. (2023). The veiled female confessions: On the unreliable narration of nelly ding in *Wuthering heights*. *Journal of Hebei Open University*, 28(2), 55-59.
- Wu, R. (2020). The call of humanity in the wilderness—On the narrative art of *Wuthering heights*. *Journal of Social Science of Jiamusi University*, 40(4), 123-125.
- Zheng, D. (2020). On the theme of space narrative and resistance in *Wuthering heights*. *Masterpieces Review*, 41(8), 161-164+176.
- Zuo, L. (2023). An Analysis of the tragic aesthetic image in *Wuthering heights*. *Appreciation of Yangtze River Novels*, 15(30), 52-55.