

**THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS AND THEMES  
IN CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S "JANE EYRE"**



**A Thesis**

**Presented to The Faculty of Letters Hasanuddin  
University Ujung Pandang in Partial Fulfilment of The  
Requirement To Obtain A Sarjana Degree in English**

**BY**

**ASRIYATI SYAM**

**Keg. No. 90 07 046**

**UJUNG PANDANG**

**1994**

Hasanuddin  
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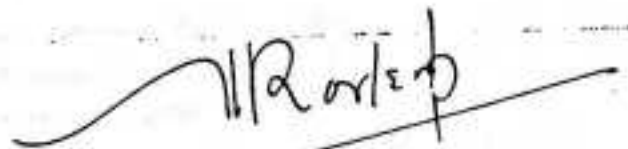
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u.b. Ketua Jurusan Sastra Inggris



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Pada hari ini, Senin tanggal 19 Desember 1994, Panitia Ujian Skripsi menerima dengan baik skripsi ini yang berjudul :

The Principal Characters and Themes in Charlotte Bronte's " Jane Eyre "

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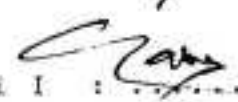


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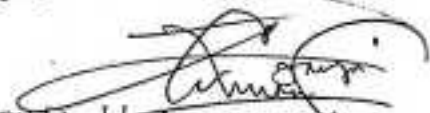
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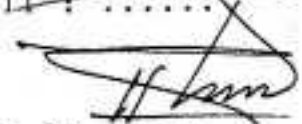
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The writer

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## ABSTRACT

Novel sebagai suatu imajinasi manusia diciptakan untuk dinikmati dan dipahami oleh manusia sebagai anggota masyarakat. Oleh karena materi penulisannya merupakan kenyataan-kenyataan yang ditemukan oleh pengarang itu sendiri dalam masyarakat pada masa tertentu, maka novel mempunyai fungsi sosial. Begitu pula halnya dengan novel *JANE EYRE*, karya Charlotte Bronte, seorang pengarang wanita berkebangsaan Inggris yang hidup pada abad ke-19 (zaman Victoria), dimana pada zaman itu terjadilah perubahan-perubahan sosial di Inggris sebagai akibat dari pengaruh Revolusi Industri.

Untuk dapat lebih mengerti dan merasakan manfaat suatu novel seperti *JANE EYRE* ini, kita harus lebih dahulu mengerti mengenai bahasa yang digunakan di dalamnya, kemudian mengadakan studi lebih lanjut mengenai ide-ide yang ingin disampaikan oleh pengarang kepada kita. Selain itu, novel juga bermanfaat untuk menghibur para pembacanya.

Thesis ini merupakan suatu usaha penulis untuk memahami tokoh-tokoh dan masalah-masalah utama novel *JANE EYRE* yang dituangkan oleh pengarang ke dalamnya. Setelah membaca karya tersebut, penulis menarik suatu kesimpulan sebenarnya apa yang ingin disampaikan oleh Charlotte Bronte kepada pembacanya adalah menyangkut



masalah proses perjuangan hidup seseorang untuk sampai pada suatu yang diharapkannya.

Di dalamnya lebih banyak dipersoalkan bagaimana Jane, seorang anak perempuan yatim piatu dari keluarga miskin hidup dalam kondisi yang tidak menyenangkan baginya. Bagaimana ia menyelesaikan setiap tantangan hidup yang dihadapinya, bagaimana ia membina hubungan sosial yang baik terhadap golongan orang kaya, dan bagaimana sikap orang kaya terhadapnya dalam kehidupan sehari-harinya. Hal-hal itulah yang memegang peranan penting dalam kehidupan Jane sebagai tokoh utama. Dan dengan semangat dan kekuatan yang ada padanya, ia terus berjuang untuk mencapai kebahagiaan hidupnya.

CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION



1.1. Background of Writing

One can say that a poet or a writer is a hero mankind who is aware of his existence. He presents us pictures of truth, positive values, aesthetic values or any kind of ideas through his work such as drama, poetry, short stories or novels. The main thing which always comes to his mind is how to portray them. So that what he wants to say depends on his skill and talent. That is why his work not only be appreciated, but also be understood by his readers.

A reader can extend his world and will become more perceptive human being, by learning the author's experience expressed in his novel. Through novels the reader can enrich his experience with life. By reading novels we can find character and soul experience of someone. A reader can understand the human condition and events that happens at that time.

To be one of literary work, a novel is created from either one's natural experiences or imaginative thoughts. A novel is mostly dealing with human existence, starting from the day of birth through the growth and up to the death, including all the happiness

and sorrow of the ups and downs of life.

Literary works and human life are difficult to separate. Literary work tells about life and the life is an inspiration for an author to produce a literary work. It is created by an author to be enjoyed.

In this thesis the writer will make an analysis of the principal characters and themes in Charlotte Bronte's "JANE EYRE".

Charlotte Bronte is the eminent Victorian novelist. She is a strong narrative of a woman in conflict with her natural desires and social condition.

As a novelist she usually wrote about her experience in her life. Her work "JANE EYRE" is the novel which established Charlotte Bronte's reputation, it is in a large degree the record of her own development. In this character of Jane Eyre, the young authoress first found an outlet for the storm and stress of her own nature (Keller, 1929).

Some novels generally have chief elements which internally build up the story. The elements are those of plot, setting, character, style, theme, and atmosphere. All the elements form a unity, and they are connecting and supporting each other. For that, it is important to know the elements which form it.

## 1.2. Scope of Problem

The elements which are focused in the analysis are the character of the principal characters and themes.

- To analyze the principal characters in order to know their natures, their feelings, and their points of view.
- To find out the theme of this novel so we can understand what messages the author wants to convey to us.

## 1.3. Objective of Study

By learning literature, we learn indirectly about a particular aspect of human life. We can obtain many things through literature. For instance :

- a. It shows the triumph of the woman in solving her internal conflict in her life. For readers, especially women, Jane's conflict can be compared with ours in present.
- b. Charlotte Bronte chooses Jane Eyre as her principal character in her novel, because she wanted to show her readers how to live in severe conditions of life, particularly from women's points of view.
- c. Literature gives a better insight on human life. That means, it will enrich our knowledge

of human nature as it may cover all aspects of life.

- d. Since literature employs language as its medium, studying literature also means enriching our knowledge in language.

#### 1.4. Methodology

In writing this thesis the writer will use a descriptive method. And in making analysis of the novel, intrinsic and extrinsic approach are used.

- Intrinsic Approach

This approach will analyze the novel through the elements which build up the novel itself.

That is, the writer will make an analysis to the principal characters and themes by seeing the novel itself as a whole without relate it to the outside aspects of the novel.

- Extrinsic Approach

- a. Library Research

Some basic theories of novel, character, and theme will be gathered to support the study, as the form of :

- consulting books which have

relate to the aspects which will be analyzed.

- survey on library to find some other articles about the novel.

b. Historical Approach

By understanding the history at the time the novel written, what happened at that time, the writer can understand this novel easily. Because more or less the authors will be influenced by the time they lived.

### 1.5. Sequence of Presentation

Chapter one deals with introduction that consists of background of writing, scope of problem, objective of study, methodology, and the sequence of presentation of the chapters.

Chapter two deals with the literature review, the author, and her works. The literature review consists of theory of novel, character, and theme. In the author, biography, her works, some comments about the author will be shown. Also the synopsis of the novel.

Chapter three deals with the analysis about the principal characters and themes.

Chapter four deals with the conclusion of the analysis.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW, THE AUTHOR, AND HER WORKS

#### 2.1. Literature Review

Fiction (from latin *fictio*, "a shaping, a counterfeiting") is a name for stories not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up, imagined (X.J. Kennedy, 1991:1).

By reading fiction, then we are able to share in the significant human experience of other people. By trying to understand what each author is trying to say, we ourselves are made more real and more perceptive and sympathetic to the people around us. Lord David Cecil in an essay, "The Fine Art of Reading" says :

To train our taste is to increase our capacity for pleasure : for it enables us to enter into such a precious power of literature. In actual life our own experience is inevitably restricted both by the limitation imposed by circumstances and by our own character. No one person can ever know in practise what it is like to be both a man and a woman, a mystic and a materialist, a criminal and a pillar of society, an ancient Roman and a modern Russian. But books can teach us all to be all these things in imagination (Joseph V. Landy, 1972:2).

Based on its form, fiction is divided into novel, novelette, and short story. As Brook says in "Prinsip-prinsip Dasar Sastra" that there are various classification made of fiction according to the form it



may, but the most common are the short story, the novelette, and the novel (Tarigan, 1986:156).

A novel is a world specially made in works by an author. A novel exists in the way it does because an author has chosen to put it together in that particular way. This means that novels are not real life. Novel, however, are fictional, that is to say, they have been made up (Richard Gill, 1985:77).

Novel is built up by some elements such as plot, character, setting, theme, atmosphere, and style, which they are unity and cannot be separated.

In this thesis, the writer will analyze the principal characters and themes.

These are some basic theories of the principal character, character and theme.

The principal characters are the characters that fully "rounded" with all the complexities of living persons (Joseph V. Landy, 1972:89).

The characters are the people in a text; they are part of the ordinary life that you meet as you read (Nicholas Mars, 1987:19).

Characters are fictitious creations and thus the dramatist and the novelist may both be judged with regard to their ability in the art of characterization (C.R. Reaske, 1966:40).

It has the same idea with what Richard Gill says in

his book "Mastering English Literature" as follows :

Whenever you write about characters in novels, you should remember that, because they are in novels, they are not just like real life people. Characters in novels have been specially created by author. When authors create characters, they select some aspects of ordinary people, develop some of those aspects whilst playing down others, and put them together as they please. The result is not an ordinary person but a fictional character who only exists in the words of novel.

To be acquainted with the personality of characters we need to notice the things below :

- a. Their action
- b. Their word
- c. Their thought
- d. Their physical appearance
- e. What other say
- f. Juxtaposition with other characters

A fiction usually describes one main idea and developing the story, the author will create some small things, as the result of various human problems.

Theme in a fiction is implicit in a series of incidents, therefore it needs the perception and interpretation from the readers to catch what the problem is.

In his book "Insight of Short Story", Joseph V. Landy says that :

Without a theme, a story is not literature, but entertainment. There is nothing wrong with

entertainment. A story is supposed to entertain. But it is possible for a story to go further, to entertain and at the same time to feed us ideas. In reading such a story we get away from the tedium of everyday life, but we also get to a vantage point from which we can look back on life and see it more clearly, with greater understanding than when we are immersed in the trivialities of the immediate. Such a story is literature. It gives enjoyment and escape, but it also gives insight. A theme, therefore, can be defined as a generalization about life or human character that a story explicitly or implicitly embodies (Joseph V. Landy, 1972:199).

Sometimes many students face a difficulty to find how a character fits into a text as a whole because each character has a different relationship with other characters and so there is a multiplicity of detailed observations you can make about the text.

As Nicholas Mars says in "How to Begin Studying English Literature" below :

The key to solving this problem is simply to remind yourself the characters are the people who live and experience the themes, and so finding a major theme which is important to your character's life will help you relate the person you are studying to the big issues of the world in which they exist. Of course, you want to know about the character in detail, but to gain that all-important grasp of how they fit into the text as a whole, focus on their involvement with a major theme and this will provide the broad framework you need for developing your ideas (Nicholas Mars, 1987:19-20).

Characters and themes have a close relationship for characters are the tool of the authors in carrying their

idea.

## 2.2. Biography of Charlotte Bronte

Charlotte Bronte was born at Thorton, in the Parish of Bradford, Yorkshire, in the Northern part of England on April 21, 1816. She was the third child of Patrick and Maria Bronte.

Her father was an Anglican clergyman. He had changed his name from the more commonplace Brunty. After serving in several parishes, he moved with his wife, Maria Branwell Bronte and their six small children to Haworth amid the Yorkshire moors in 1820, having been awarded a rectorship there. Soon after Mrs. Bronte and the two eldest children (Maria and Elizabeth) died, leaving the father to care for the remaining three girls- Charlotte, Emily, and Anne- and a boy, Patrick Branwell. Their upbringing was aided by an aunt, Elizabeth Branwell, who left her native Cornwall and took up residence with the family at Haworth.

In 1824, Charlotte and Emily, together with their elder sisters before their deaths, attended Clergy Daughter's School at Cowan Bridge, near Kirkby Lonsdale, Lancashire. The fees were low, the food unattractive, and the discipline harsh. Charlotte condemned the school (perhaps Exaggeratedly) long years afterward in *Jane Eyre*, under the thin disguise of Lowood; and the

principal, the Rev. William Carus Wilson, has been accepted as the counterpart of Naomi Brocklehurst in the novel.

Charlotte and Emily returned home in June 1825, and for more than five years the Bronte children learned and played there, writing and telling romantic tales for one another and inventing imaginative games played out at home or on the desolate moors.

In 1831 Charlotte was sent to Miss Wooler's school at Roe Head, near Huddersfield, where she stayed a year and made some lasting friendships; her correspondence with one of her friends, Ellen Nussey, continued until her death, and has provided much of the current knowledge of her life. In 1832, she came home to teach her sisters but in 1835, returned to Roe Head as a teacher. She wished to improve her family's position, and this was the only outlet that was offered to her unsatisfied energies. Branwell, moreover, was to start on his career as an artist, and it became necessary to supplement the family resources. The work, with its inevitable restrictions, was uncongenial to Charlotte. She fell into ill health and melancholia, and in the summer of 1838 terminated her engagement.

In 1839, Charlotte declined a proposal from the Rev. Henry Nussey, her friend's brother, and some months later one from another young clergyman. At the same

time, Charlotte's ambition to make the practical best of her talents and need to pay Branwell's debts urged her to spend some months as governess with the Whites at Upperwood House, Rawdon. Branwell's talents for writing and painting, his good classical scholarship, and his social charm had engendered high hopes for him: but he was fundamentally unstable, weak willed, and alcohol and opium.

Meanwhile his sister had planned to open a school together, which their aunt had agreed to finance, and in February 1842, Charlotte and Emily went to Brussels as pupil to improve their qualifications in French and acquire some German. The talent displayed by both brought them to the notice of Constantin Heger, a fine teacher and a man of unusual perception. Charlotte was basically happy, though as a staunch Protestant she despised her Catholic surroundings. After a brief trip home upon the death of her aunt, she returned to Brussels as a pupil-teacher. She stayed there during 1834 but, was lonely and depressed. Her friends had left Brussels, and Madam Heger appears to have become jealous of her. The nature of Charlotte's attachment to Heger and the degree to which she understood herself have been much discussed. He was the most interesting mind she had yet met, and he had perceived and evoked her latent talents. His strong and eccentric personality

appealed both to her sense of humour and to her affections. She offered him an innocent but ardent devotion, but he tried to repress her emotion. The letter she wrote to him after her return may well be called love letters. When, however, he suggested that they were open to misapprehension, she stopped writing and applied herself, in silence, to disciplining her feelings. However, they are interpreted, Charlotte's experiences at Brussels were crucial for her development. She received a strict literary training, became aware of the resources of her own nature, and gathered material that served her, in various shapes, for all her novels.

Charlotte, in 1844, attempted to start a school she had long envisaged in the parsonage itself, as her father's failing sight precluded his being left alone. Prospectuses were issued, but no pupils were attracted to distant Haworth.

In the autumn of 1845, Charlotte came across some poems by Emily, and this led to the publication of a joint volume of *Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell* (1846); the pseudonyms were assumed to preserve secrecy and avoid the special treatment they believed reviewers accorded to women. The book was issued at their own expense. It received few and only two copies were sold. Nevertheless, a way had opened to them, and they were

already trying to place the three novels they had written. Charlotte failed to place *The Professor : A Tale* but had, however, nearly finished *Jane Eyre : An Autobiography*, begun in August 1846 in Manchester where she was staying with her father, who had gone there for an eye operation. When Smith, Elder and Company, declining *The Professor*, declared themselves willing to consider a three-volume novel with more action and excitement in it. She completed and submitted it at once. It was accepted, published less than eight weeks later (on Oct. 16, 1847), and had an immediate success, far greater than that of the books her sister published the same year.

The months that followed were tragic ones. Branwell died in September 1848, Emily in December, and Anne in May 1849. Charlotte completed *Shirley : A Tale* in the empty personage, and it appeared in October. In the following years Charlotte went three times to London as the guest of her publisher, George Smith, and his mother. She met Thackeray and other literary men and women, and sat for her portrait by George Richmond. She went twice to the Lake District, where she stayed in 1851 with Harriet Martineau, the writer, went to Scotland, and visited Mrs. Gaskell in Manchester and entertained her at Haworth. *Villette* came out in January 1853. Meanwhile, in 1851, she had declined a third offer



of marriage, this time from James Taylor, a member of Smith, Elder and Company. Her father's curate, Arthur Bell Nicholls (1817-1906), an Irishman, was her fourth suitor. It took some months to win her father's consent, but they were married on June, 29, 1854, in Haworth church. They spent their honeymoon in Ireland and then returned to Haworth, where her husband pledged himself to continue as curate to her father. He did not share his wife's intellectual life, but she was happy to be loved for herself and to take up her duties as his wife. She began another book, *Emma*, of which some pages remain. Her pregnancy, however, was accompanied by exhausting sickness, and died in 1855. Nicholls stayed in Haworth until Patrick Bronte's death in 1861, when he went back to Ireland.

### 2.3. Charlotte Bronte's Work

Charlotte's first novel is *The Professor* (published posthumously, 1857), shows her sober reaction from the indulgences of her girlhood. Told in the first person by an English tutor in Brussels, it is based on Charlotte's experiences there, with a reversal of sexes and roles.

Her second novel is *Jane Eyre*. The necessity of her genius, reinforced by reading her sister's *Wuthering Heights*, modified this restrictive self-discipline; and, thought there is plenty of satire and dry, direct

phrasing in *Jane Eyre*, its success was the fiery conviction. There are melodramatic naivetes in the story of love of a governess for her Byronic employer, and Charlotte's elevated rhetorical passages do not much appeal to modern taste, but she maintain her hold on the reader. The novel is subtitled *An Autobiography* and is written in the first person of Lowood, but, except in Jane's impressions of Lowood, the autobiography is not Charlotte's. Personal experience is fused with suggestions from widely different sources, and the Cinderella theme may well come from Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*. The action is carefully motivated and apparently episodic sections, like the full expression of Jane's character.

Charlotte's third work is *Shirley* to be "real, cool and solid", avoided melodrama and coincidence, and widened her scope. Setting aside Maria Edgeworth and Scott as national novelists, *Shirley* is the first regional novel in English, full of shrewdly depicted local material - Yorkshire characters, church and chapel, the cloth workers and machine breakers of her father's early manhood, and a sturdy but rather embittered feminism.

*Villette* is her fourth. In *Villette* she recurred to the Brussels setting and the first-person narrative, disused in *Shirley*, the characters and incidents are

largely variants of the people and life at the Pension Heger. Against this background she set the ardent heart, deprived of its object, contrasted with the woman happily fulfilled in love.

#### 2.4. Synopsis of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre" /

Jane Eyre was an orphan. Both her father and mother had died when Jane was a baby, and the little girl passed into the care of Mrs. Reed of Gateshead Hall. Mrs. Reed's husband, now dead, had been the brother of Jane's mother, and on his deathbed he had directed Mrs. Reed to look after the orphan as her own three children. At gateshead Jane knew ten years of neglect and abuse. One day a cousin knocked her to the floor. When she fought back Mrs. Reed punished her by sending her to the gloomy room where Mr. Reed had died. There Jane lost her consciousness. Furthermore, the experience caused a dangerous illness from which she was nursed slowly back to health by sympathetic Bessie Leaven, the Gateshead Hall nurse.

Feeling that she could no longer keep her unwanted charge in the house, Mrs. Reed made arrangement for Jane's admission to Lowood School. Early in the morning, without farewells, Jane left Gateshead and rode fifty miles by stage to Lowood, her humble possession in a trunk beside her.

At Lowood, Jane was a diligent student, well-liked by her superiors, especially by Miss Temple, the mistress, who refused to accept without proof Mrs. Reed's low estimate of Jane's character. During the period of Jane's schooldays at Lowood, an epidemic of fever caused many deaths among the girls, included her best friend, Helen Burns. It resulted, too, in an investigation which caused improvements at the institution. At the end of her studies, Jane was retained as a teacher. When Jane grew weary of her life at Lowood, she was advertised for a position as governess. She was engaged by Mrs. Fairfax, house keeper at Thornfield, near Milcote.

There Jane had only one pupil, Adele Varens, a ward of Mr. Rochester, Jane's employer. From Mrs. Fairfax, Jane learned that Mr. Rochester travelled much and seldom came to Thornfield. Jane was pleased with the quiet country life, with the beautiful old house and gardens, the book-filled library, and her own comfortable room.

Jane met Mr. Rochester for the first time while she was out walking, going to his aid after his horse had thrown him. She found her employer a somber, moody and, quick to change in his manner toward her, brusque in his speech. He commended her work with Adele, however, and confided that the girl was daughter of a French dancer

who had deceived him and deserted her daughter. Jane felt that this experience alone could not account for Mr. Rochester's moody nature.

Mysterious happenings occurred at Thornfield. One night, Jane alarmed by a strange noise, found Mr. Rochester's door open and his bed on fire. When she attempted to arouse the household, he commanded her to keep quiet about the whole affair. She also learned that Thornfield had a strange tenant, a woman who laughed like a maniac and who stayed in rooms on the third floor of the house. Jane believed that this woman was Grace Poole, a seamstress employed by Mr. Rochester.

Mr. Rochester attended numerous parties at which he was obviously paying court to Blanche Ingram. One day the inhabitants of Thornfield were informed that Mr. Rochester was bringing a party of house guests home with him. In the party was the fashionable Miss Ingram. During the house party Mr. Rochester called Jane to the drawing-room, where the guests treated her with the disdain which they thought her humble position deserved. To herself Jane had already confessed her interest in her employer, but it seemed to her that she was interested only in Blanche Ingram. One evening while Mr. Rochester was away from home the guests played charades. At the conclusion of the game a gipsy fortune-teller appeared to read the palms of the lady guests. Jane, during her

interview with the gipsy, discovered that the so-called fortune-teller was Mr. Rochester in disguise.<sup>-tell</sup>

While the guests were still at Thornfield, a stranger named Mason arrived to see Mr. Rochester on business. That night Mason was mysteriously wounded by the strange inhabitant of the third floor. The injured man was taken away secretly before daylight.

One day Bessie Leaven's husband came from Gateshead to tell Jane that Mrs. Reed, now on her deathbed, had asked to see her former ward. Jane returned to her aunt's home. The dying woman gave Jane a letter dated three years before, from John Eyre in Madeira, who asked that his niece be sent to him for adoption. Mrs. Reed confessed that she had left him believe that Jane had died in epidemic at Lowood. The sin of keeping from Jane news which would have meant relatives. Adoption, and an inheritance had become a heavy burden on the conscience of the dying woman.

Jane went back to Thornfield, which she now looked upon as her home. One night in the garden Mr. Rochester embraced her and proposed marriage. Jane accepted and made plans for a quiet ceremony in the village church. She wrote also to her uncle in Madeira, explaining Mrs. Reed's deception and telling she was to marry Mr. Rochester.

Shortly before the date set for the wedding, Jane

had a harrowing experience. She awakened to find a strange, repulsive-looking woman in her room. The intruder tried on Jane's wedding veil and then ripped it to shreds. Mr. Rochester tried to persuade Jane that the whole incident was only her imagination, but in the morning she found the torn veil in her room. At the church, as the vows were being said, a stranger spoke up declaring the existence of an impediment to the marriage. He presented an affirmation, signed by Mr. Mason who had been wounded during his visit to Thornfield. The document stated that Edward Fairfax Rochester had married Bertha Mason, Mr. Mason's sister, in Spanish, Jamaica, fifteen years before. Mr. Rochester admitted this fact; then he conducted the party to the third-story chamber at Thornfield. There they found the attendant Grace Poole and her charge, Bertha Mason, a raving in her room.

- Jane felt that she must leave Thornfield at once. She notified Mr. Rochester and left quietly early the next morning, using all her small store of money for the coach fare. Two days later she was set down on the moors of a north midland shire. Starving, she actually begged for food. Finally she was befriended by the Reverend St. John Rivers and his sisters, Mary and Diana, who took Jane in and Jane divulged anything of her story except her connection with the Lowood institution. Reverend

Rivers eventually found a place for her as a mistress in a girl's school.

Shortly afterward, St. John River received a letter from his family solicitor word that John Eyre had died in Medeira, leaving Jane a fortune twenty thousand pounds. Because Jane had disappeared under mysterious circumstances, the lawyer was trying to locate her through the next of kin, St. John. Jane's identity was now revealed through her connection with Lowood School and she learned to her surprise, that St. John and his sisters were really her own cousins. She then insisted on sharing her inheritance with them.

When St. John decided to go to India as a missionary, he asked Jane to go with him as his wife - not because he loved her, but only for accompanied. But she hesitated to accept his proposal.

One night, while St. John was awaiting her decision, she dreamed that Mr. Rochester was calling her name three times. The next day she returned to Thornfield by coach. Arriving there, she found the mansion gutted- a burned and blackened ruin. Neighbour told her that the fire had broken out one stormy night, set by the madwoman, who died while Mr. Rochester was trying to rescue her from the roof of the blazing house.

Mr. Rochester, blinded during the fire, was living at Ferndean, a lonely farm some miles away. Jane went to



him at once, and there they married. For both, their story had an event happier ending. After two years, Mr. Rochester regained the sight of one eye, so he was able to see his first child when it put in his arms.

CHAPTER III  
ANALYSIS

One of the most extraordinary features of Charlotte's novel is the romantic of love between Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester.

In this point, the writer will try to analyze the principal characters and the theme of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre".

### 3.1. The Principal Characters

#### a. Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre is the character from whom the story takes its title. She is the central character in the story and all events and episodes revolve around her and their unity has some connection with her.

On the first page of the novel we met Jane as a small girl at the hands of Reeds. Her parents died of typhoid in turn within a month, one year after this marriage when she was a small baby. Her mother had been cut off from her family as she had married a poor clergyman and her grandfather had left her penniless.

She was an unhappy orphan because Mrs. Reed did not give her a good treatment. Also because her cousin, John, always abused and struck her. And in that house no one wanted to take side with her against him. She always

felt oppressed. Let us see her narrative below :

He bullied and punished me; not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in a day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him, and every morsel of flesh on my bones shrank when he came near. There were moments when I was bewildered by the terror he inspired, because I had no appeal whatever against his menaces or his inflictions; the servants did not like to offend their young master by taking my part against him, and Mrs. Reed was blind and deaf on the subject : she never saw him strike or heard him abuse me, though he did both now and then in her very presence; more frequently, however, behind her back (Bronte : 42).

In her young age, ten years of age, she had shown her intelligence and her courage to expound her mind. We can see it in the scene when one day Mrs. Reed called and introduced her to Mr. Brocklehurst, the parson of Lowood School. Mrs. Reed disclosed all Jane's behaviour. After the departure of Mr. Brocklehurst, she was very angry with Mrs. Reed for telling lies about her behaviour. We can see her strong character from what she said to her aunt:

I am not deceitful: if I were, I should say I loved you; but 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.

.....

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 anyone 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 : 68).

She was never afraid to tell the truth. Although after she did it, she felt sorry because she thought that a child should not quarrel with her elders as she had done. And since Jane was very angry, Mrs. Reed was full of regret but Jane made no move to forgive her.

Then when she could go out from Gateshead and be a pupil at Lowood School, it was true to say that the background of her earlier life could build her character in the future. Based on her experiences in all situation, Jane's mind was full of understanding for what was right. This was proved when she watched the unfair treatment which Helen Burns - her best friend at Lowood - received from the teacher. Jane informed Helen that she should not adopt a humble attitude if she was treated unjustly :

A great deal : you are good to choose who are good to you. It is all I ever desire to me. If people were always kind and obedient to those who are cruel and unjust, the wicked people would have it all their own way; they would never feel afraid, and so ..... When we are struck at without a reason, we should strike back again very hard; I am sure we should ..... (Bronte : 89-90).

.....  
..  
But I feel this Helen, ..... it is natural as that I love those who show me affection, or submit to punishment when I feel it deserved (Bronte : 90).

Jane realised that crime had always to be punished and virtue had always to be rewarded. Hence, the value of friendship was important for her. This was proved

when Helen was sick. Eventhough she had other friends, her mind suddenly turned to think of Helen, and she then realised that she was too egoistic. Here in the following paragraph Jane reflects :

And where, meantime, was Helen Burns? Why did not I spend this sweet days of liberty with her? Had I forgotten her? .... She was qualified to give those who enjoyed the privilege of her converse, a taste of far higher things .... I never tired of Helen Burns, nor ever ceased to cherish for her sentiment of attachment, as strong, tender, and respectful as any that ever animated my heart. How could it be otherwise, when Helen, at all times and under all circumstances, evinced for me a quiet and faithful friendship (Bronte : 109-110).

Unfortunately, Lowood changed with the seasons. As the springs quickened with life and growth, so did the typhoid germs spread with strength through the crowded schoolroom and dormitory, until Lowood became more like a hospital than a school. Last at night Jane tried to meet Helen. Then they spoke and kissed each other, and at last, both fell asleep together and Helen passed away beside Jane.

After living at Lowood School for eight years, six years as a pupil and two years as a teacher. She availed herself of the advantage that had brought forth a good education. For now she knew French, and she could paint and play, too. But at the end of this period, Miss Temple got married and left the school. Miss Temple had been a mother, a teacher, and a companion to Jane for so

long. Accordingly, Miss Temple's departure had made Jane lonely and restless. At last her feelings for Lowood changed. Furthermore, she felt that she desired liberty and needed change and stimulus.

Then she remembered that her world for many years had been bounded by Lowood School: her whole life was limited by its rules and systems. She reflects as follows :

My vacation had been all spent at school. Mrs. Reed never sent for me to Gateshead; neither she nor any of her family had ever been to visit me. I had had no communication by letter, or message with the outer world. School rules, school duties, school habits and notions .... I tired of the routine of eight years in one afternoon - I desired liberty; .... for change stimulus (Bronte : 117).

We can know that Jane was in despair and frustrated. She had been confronted with difficulties of her life. But now she realised that the world was wide, and she could find another circumstances out there, she could find her happiness there. Because Jane desired liberty in order to have a new atmosphere in her life. Then without telling anybody she tried to make up her mind.

Finally, after thinking and rethinking, she came to a decision that she had to try to find a post as a governess, and for it she had to advertise in a newspaper. And after waiting for weeks, she received a reply from Mrs. Fairfax at Thornfield, near Milcote, who

had desired a governess for a little girl, named Adele Varens. She was under ten years. Mrs. Fairfax would give a salary of thirty pounds per year. Jane was too much excited, a chapter of her life was closing and a new one opening soon.

When she arrived at Thornfield, she was greeted by Mrs. Fairfax, the house keeper. The kind and friendly welcome she got was very pleasant for Jane, who was not used to being paid attention to. Here, Mrs. Fairfax estimated her as a good teacher for Adele and a good companion as well.

Furthermore, in another scenes, we can see how helpful and loving she was. When Mr. Rochester, her employer, and his horse slipped on the ice, Jane offered her help to him though she had not known the man. These are some lines quoted from the dialogue, reflecting Jane's helpfulness :

Are you injured, sir ?

.....

If you are hurt, and want help, sir, I can fetch some one either from Thornfield Hall or from Hay.

.....

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 : 144-145).

In one scene, we see how Jane helped her master in saving his life when his bed curtains were on fire. Actually, it pleased Mr. Rochester to owe her such a

debt, but she refused and said that there was no debt or obligation between them. Let us read their conversation:

You have saved my life: I have a pleasure in owing you so immense a debt. I cannot say more. Nothing else that has been would have been tolerable to me in the character of creditor for such an obligation: but you: it is different - I feel no benefit no burden Jane.

Good-night again, sir. There is no debt, benefit, burden, obligation, in the case (Bronte : 182).

We can also see her helpfulness when Mr. Mason was mysteriously wounded by a strange inhabitant of the third floor, - who at last known as Mr. Rochester's madwife, and Mr. Mason's own sister, during his visit at Thornfield.

Gradually, Jane as a plain governess fell in love with Mr. Rochester. But she had to restrain from it because Mr. Rochester was her employer. So, Jane's desire to love Mr. Rochester and to be loved by him made her restless. Then she talked to herself :

You, I said, a favourite with Mr. Rochester ? You gifted with the power of pleasing him ? You of importance to him in any way ? Go! your folly sickens me. And you have derived pleasure from occasional tokens shown by a gentleman of family and a man of the world to a dependant and a novice. How dared you? Poor stupid dupe! - cover your face and be ashamed! .... It does good to woman to be flattered by her superior, who cannot possibly intend to marry her; and it is madness in all woman to let a secret love kindle within them, .... (Bronte : 190).



Jane Eyre was not a jealous woman. Though she heard from Mrs. Fairfax that Blanche Ingram would get married with Mr. Rochester and that Mr. Rochester seemed to find her very attractive, Jane could not stop loving him. It was true that she sometimes compared herself with Miss Ingram, who had a higher social status, who herself just a plain governess, yet she was not jealous as Miss Ingram was not really her rival. As Jane describes below :

There was nothing to cool or banish love in these circumstances, though much to create despair. Much too, you will think, reader, to engender jealousy : if a woman in my position could presume to be jealous of a woman in Miss Ingram's. But I was not jealous, or very rarely; .... She advocated a high tone of sentiment, but she did not know the sensations of sympathy and pity; tenderness and truth were not in her (Bronte : 214-215).

Mr. Rochester describes Jane as :

'You- you strange, you almost unearthly thing! - you poor and obscure, and a small and plain as you are - I entreat you .... (Bronte : 283).

Jane's affection to Mr. Rochester was a true-love. Though she had been disappointed by him, her love never changed. At times she wanted to leave Thornfield, she quietly passed his room and she talked to herself :

'Mr. Rochester, I will love you and live with you through life till death', a fount of rapture would spring to my lips. I thought of this (Bronte: 347).

She also rejected a proposal of marriage from St.

John Rivers. Although she was far from Mr. Rochester, her love was only for him. All at once, she showed her principle that she did not want to marry anyone if she did not love him. Here is Jane's thought after St. John proposed to her :

Perhaps you think I had forgotten Mr. Rochester, reader, amidst these changes of place and fortune. Not for a moment. His idea was still with me, because it was not a vapour sunshine could disperse, nor a sand-traced effigly storms could wash away; it was a name graven on a tablet to last as long as the marble it inscribed (Bronte : 424).

Jane's true-love to Mr. Rochester was also proved at the end of the novel. There was a surprise and happy meeting between Jane and Mr. Rochester. At that time, Mr. Rochester had become older, uglier, and had lost sight and one of his hand, but it did not a matter for Jane. She still loved him even more than before. And then she decided to marry him.

Jane as a young woman had an ability to solve her problems without anybody's help. She prayed to God for His guidance only. Firstly, when she felt weary of the routine of her eight years in Lowood. She felt bored there and she realised that her whole life and experiences had been limited by its rules and systems. Therefore, she needed changing. She solved her problem by advertising to be a governess. And it worked. Secondly, her problem with Mr. Rochester. Though Jane

and Mr. Rochester were in love they could not get married, because he had a wife. The failure in getting married with him made her hopeless and restless. If in earlier days when they were flattering in love Jane was a happy girl, now she became a cold and a solitary girl again. She felt that her life pale. At this time she experienced a very hard internal conflict in her heart :

.... The whole consciousness of my life lorn, my love lost, my hope quenched, my faith death-struck, swayed full and mighty above me in one sullen mass. That bitter hour cannot be described : in truth; the waters came into my soul; I sank in deep mine : I felt no standing; I came into deep waters; the floods overflowed me (Bronte : 324).

But Jane was able to think and find the way out. Eventhough she loved Mr. Rochester, she decided to leave him because she realised that it was impossible for her to become his wife. She refused to be his wife. And she refused to be his mistress because she thought that it was sophistical and false. Here is Jane's conversation with Mr. Rochester :

'Mr. Rochester, I must leave you.

.....  
I must leave Adele and Thornfield. I must part with you for my whole life : I must begin a new existance among strange faces and strange scenes !'  
.....

Sir, your wife is living : that is a fact acknowledged this morning by yourself. If I lived with you as you desire - I should then be your mistress : to say otherwise is sophistical- is false (Bronte : 331).

Jane's ability to solve her problems can be seen

also when she could overcome her problem with St. John. She decided to refuse St. John's proposal of marriage to accompany him to go to India. Actually, she wanted to go with him as his cousin, not as his wife because she didn't love him. But St. John did not want it. So, she decided to go to seek for Mr. Rochester. In these cases, Jane also showed her moral conviction and her mental power in facing her problems.

Furthermore, we find that Jane Eyre was a girl who was full of forgiveness. She was very forgiving. During all her life, she was always ready to forgive because she thought that man was still a human and they are fallible. When she was ten years old, Jane tried to forgive Mrs. Reed, the woman who had never shown any affection to her. When Mrs. Reed locked her in the red-room, she just thought that the accidents happened because Mrs. Reed wished to change her bad behaviour. Then she thought that:

No severe or prolonged bodily illness followed this incidents of the re-room : it only gave my nerves a shock, of which I feel the reveberation to this day. Yes, Mrs. Reed, to you I owe some fearful pangs of mental suffering. But I ought to forgive you, for you knew not what you did : while rending my heart-strings, you thought you were only uprooting my bad propensities (Bronte : 52).

And ten years later, Jane went to Gateshead for she was asked to visit Mrs. Reed who was seriously ill. In fact Jane came and gave her forgiveness shortly before

she died, though she once said that she would never call her her aunt anymore and she would never come to Gateshead when she was grown up. This is Jane's thought when she arrived at Gateshead :

I had left this woman in bitterness and hate, and I came back to her with no other emotion than a short of ruth for her great sufferings, and a strong yearning to forget and forgive all injuries- to be reconciled and clasp hands in amity (Bronte : 259).

But until Mrs. Reed died, Jane realised that she still hated her and never accepted her apology, Jane was very sorry that Mrs. Reed did not change her mind although she knew she was in the wrong way.

Moreover, she forgave Hannah, The nurse of her three cousins, for she had refused to give her shelter and regarded her as an impostor when she left Thornfield.

We can also see Jane's forgiveness when her marriage with Mr. Rochester failed. In that time, Jane was in despair, frustrated, and dissappointed and ashamed of her abortive marriage. She regretted that Mr. Rochester never told her that he was married, and that he had had a wife who was still alive and mad. But under the circumstances, inside her heart, she still forgave all Mr. Rochester's faults. Here below is her narrative:

Reader, I forgave him at the moment and on the spot. There was such deep remorse in his eye, such

true pity in his tone, such manly energy in his manner : and besides, there was such unchanged love in his whole look and mien - I forgave him all : yet not in words, not outwardly; only at my heart's core (Bronte : 326).

For us, it is difficult to imagine how Jane could forgive a man who had deceived her for so long. She was the very forgiving woman. She was always ready to forgive people who admitted their fault honestly. She believed that only by forgiving other's fault a long lasting relationship could be built up.

Besides, we can see that Jane had a moral superiority in justice and loyalty. When she lived with St. John Rivers' family and found that those who had saved her life were her own cousins. Jane became very excited. For Jane, it seemed that had found a brother, one she could be proud of and love, and two sisters were her near kinswomen.

She was so glad because it all happened and she could not all imagine that craving she had for fraternal and sisterly love. She never had a home, a brother or a sister before, now she had and would have them. Here is how Jane describes her feeling to St. John :

'What can you mean ? It may be of no moment to you; you have sisters and don't care for a cousin : but I had nobody; and now three relations - or two, if you don't choose to be counted - are born into my world full - grown. I say again, I am glad ! (Bronte : 411).

And at the moment she informed by St. John that she would inherit of twenty thousand pounds from her uncle who had died. She decided to share the inheritance equally between her cousins and herself. Let's see what she thought below :

Were we not four? Twenty thousand pounds shared equally, would be five thousands each-enough and to spare : justice would be done-mutual happiness secured (Bronte : 411).

She didn't want to take all the money herself. She was not brutal, selfish, blind, and unjust or ungrateful. She had resolved she would have a home and connexion. She liked Moor House and she would live at that house. She thought it would torment and oppress her to have twenty thousand pounds, which could never be hers justifiably, though it might be lawful. So, she decided to share that money with her cousins, who had saved her life and to whom she loved barenly. And besides, she could also free them from the yoke and reunite them for they were scattered.

Another important point of Jane's character is that Jane was a religious woman. Her experiences for eight years at Lowood School had made her consciousness of God. There the pupils learnt Scripture and they were also taught to pray before doing their activities. Even Mr. Rochester admitted it :

'You have lived the life of a nun: no doubt

you are well drilled in religious forms; Brocklehurst, who I understand directs Lowood is a parson, is he not ?' (Bronte : 155)

Let us notice the lines which reflect her religious feeling when she was left alone at Thornfield :

We know that God is everywhere; but certainly we feel His presence most when His works are on the grandest scale spread before us; and it is in the unclouded night-sky, where His worlds wheel their silent course, that we read clearest His infinitude, His omnipotence, His omnipresence (Bronte : 350-351).

She was never tired of thanking God and believed that God, the source of life was also the Saviour of Spirits. And eventhough she was far from Mr. Rochester, she never forgot to pray for him.

Likewise when Jane was in doubt about what decision she had to make for one problem, she always prayed to God for guidance. It is quite clear that Jane always relied on God in every instant of her life, especially when she had to solve complicated problems.

From the description above, we may conclude that Jane always stood firm in facing her hard life in order to gain happiness; that Jane Eyre was a type of woman who had courage, friendliness, helpfulness, understanding, impartiality and loyalty.

#### b. Mrs. Reed

Mrs. Reed was Jane's aunt. She had three children, namely, Eliza Reed, John and Georgiana Reed. They all



lived at Gateshead Hall where Jane lived with them and received a harsh treatment.

She was rather a stout woman. She had cold composed gray eyes. Jane described her as :

.... She was a woman of robust frame, square-shouldered and strong limbed, not tall, and though stout, not obese; she had a somewhat large face, the under-jaw being much developed and very solid; her brow was low, her chin large and prominent, mouth and nose sufficiently regular; under her light eyebrows, glimmered an eye devoid of ruth; her skin was dark and opaque, her hair nearly flaxen; her constitution was sound as a bell--illness never came near her; she was an exact, clever manager, her household and tenantry were thoroughly under her control; her children only, at times, defied her authority and laughed it to scorn; she dressed well, and had a presence and part calculated to set off handsome attire (Bronte : 67).

Further, we find that Mrs. Reed was an unfair woman. She had promised her husband before he died, that she would rear and take care of Jane as one of her own children, but in fact, she always gave Jane a harsh attitude. Mrs. Reed never shown any affection to Jane. She treated Jane with miserable cruelty, she always punished her.

All Mrs. Reed's attitudes made Jane think that perhaps Mrs. Reed had been most irksome to find herself bound by a hard-wrung pledge to stand as a parent to a child she could not love.

Then after ten years she just wanted to admit her reason for treating Jane badly. She said that she had

always disliked Jane's mother. And she hated Jane, too, even at the first time she saw her. She also admitted that she had hidden Jane's letter from her uncle and told him via a letter that Jane had died of typhus fever at Lowood. She admitted and regreted all her faults to Jane.'

'Well, I have twice done you a wrong which I regret now. One was in breaking the promise which I gave my husband to bring you up as my own child, the other .... (Bronte : 266)

.....  
.... I wrote to him : I said I was sorry for his disappointment, but Jane Eyre was death : she had died of typhus fever at Lowood .... (Bronte : 267).

At this time, Mrs. Reed was very bad-sick. It was because of her son's, John, conducts. He ruined his health and his estate with the worst men and women. He got into debts and the jail.. Mrs. Reed helped him out twice, but as soon as he was free, he returned to his bad companions and habits. He ever came down to Gateshead and he only wanted Mrs. Reed to give everything to him. John gambled deathfully and always lost. Two-third of her income went to pay for the interest of mortgages. The loss of money and the fear of poverty were quite breaking her down. Then the information about John's suicide and the manner came too suddenly and brought her a stroke. Then at last, she died with Jane beside her.

c. Bessie Leaven

Bessie was a nurse of Gateshead Hall. She had a very good-looking face. Jane described her as follows :

Bessie Lee must, I think, have been a girl of good natural capacity, for she was smart in all she did, and had a remarkable knack of narrative; so, at least, I judged from the impression made on me by her nursery tales. She was pretty, too, if my recollection of her face and person are correct. I remember her as a slim young woman, with black hair, dark eyes, very nice features and good, clear complexion; but she had a capricious and hasty temper, and indifferant ideas of principle or justice; still, such as she was, I preferred her to any one else at Gateshead Hall (Bronte : 61).

Jane preferred Bessie to any one else at Gateshead because when all the people at Gateshead gave Jane bad treatment, Bessie still loved and took good care of her. Bessie was the only one who nursed her when she fell sick and was locked in the red-room. Sometimes she came and brought Jane something for supper, then she would tuck her clothes, and she even kissed Jane twice. Or sometimes with her sweet voice, she sang a song for Jane. She was kind-hearted.

Bessie also gave her attention to Jane by visiting at Lowood after eight years of separation.

In another scenes, we also find that Bessie was married to Robert Leaven, the coachman, and had three children. They lived at the lodge.

## 6. Mr. Edward Rochester

Mr. Rochester was the owner of Thornfield Hall. He was a very rich man, because almost all the land in Thornfield neighbourhood, as far as one could see, belonged to the Rochesters. Mr. Rochester visited Thornfield rarely. Though he had never lived for long among his tenants, he was considered as a just and liberal landlord. They also considered him as a very good master.

As a man, Mr. Rochester had a gentleman's taste and habit and he always expected to have things managed in conformity with his taste. So, Mrs. Fairfax, the house keeper, had to observe that everything in Thornfield Hall was in its proper place and that his arrival was welcome properly, because Mr. Rochester's visit was always sudden and unexpected.

Mr. Rochester's character was unimpeachable but rather peculiar. He was clever and fond of travelling. He had travelled a great deal in the world. And when one spoke to him he could be always sure whether he was in jest or earnest. Let's read what Mrs. Fairfax said to Jane below :

'Oh ! his character is unimpeachable, I suppose. He is rather peculiar, perhaps : he has travelled a great deal, and seen a great deal of the world, I should think. I dare to say he is clever : but I never had much conversation with him.'

.....  
'I don't know - it is not easy to describe - nothing striking, but you feel it when he speaks to you : you cannot be always sure whether he is jest or earnest, whether he is pleased or the contrary : you don't thoroughly understand him, in short - at least, I don't : but that is of no sequence, he is a very good master.' (Bronte : 136)

His strange nature was faced by Jane when she helped him at the night when he and his horse slipped on the ice which glazed the courseway. At that time he didn't introduce himself to Jane that he was the owner of Thornfield though Jane had introduced herself as the governess at that house.

Jane describes the features of her master, Mr. Rochester as :

He had a dark face, with stern feature and a heavy brow; his eyes and gathered eyebrows looked ireful and thwarted just now; he was past youth, but had not reached middle age; perhaps he might be thirty-five (Bronte : 145).

I knew my traveller, with his broad and jetty eyebrows, his square forehead, made squarer by the horizontal sweep of his black hair. I recognized his decisive nose, more remarkable for character than beauty; his full nostrils, denoting, I thought, cholera; his grim mouth, chin and jaw-yes, all three were very grim, and no mistake. His shape, now divested of cloak, I perceived harmonized in squareness with his physiognomy. I suppose it was a good figure in the athletic sense of term - broadchested and thinflanked, though neither tall nor graceful (Bronte : 151-152).

On the other hand, we can see the kindness of Mr. Rochester when he decided to take care of Adele on his ward. He carried her to Thornfield and then employed a

governess for her education. Though he took Adele as his ward, actually he was not fond of children. He reflected it as follows :

'I am not fond of the prattle of children, he continued; for old bachelor as I am, I have no pleasant associations connected with their lisp.'  
(Bronte : 161)

Mr. Rochester's awkward character was shown the evening he received Jane in the drawing-room. Mr. Rochester must have been aware of Jane and Mrs. Fairfax's entrance but he acted just as if he was not in the mood to notice them. For he did not lift his head as they appeared. And when Mrs. Fairfax introduced Jane to him, he replied as if he had never met her before. He even said that he didn't care whether Jane be there or not, and at that moment he was not disposed to accost her. Therefore Jane thought that he was very changeable and rude.

Mr. Rochester, who had travelled a lot to forget his bitterness and pain, wanted to find a shelter. He talked about that to Jane one evening. Jane listened to that talks, but the more she listened, the more she didn't understand what the conversation was about. Jane felt that he had something to hide, Mr. Rochester seemed to have something to regret in his past. He felt sorry for he was not perfect. And yet, he was. As we know he had a wife, a madwife, whom he locked on the third floor

at Thornfield.

As a bachelor, Mr. Rochester had some affair with prostitutes in Europe. One of them was Adele's mother, Celine Varens, a French opera dancer. Mr. Rochester told Jane about his affair with her when they were walking around in the garden. And it made Mrs. Fairfax estimation about Mr. Rochester's unimpeachable character faded.

We can also find that he was not very forgiving. As Mrs. Fairfax narrated to Jane that the old Mr. Rochester and Mr. Rowland had conspired to bring the sake of making his fortune; what the precise nature of that position was she never knew clearly. But his spirit could not break what he had to suffer in it. He broke with his family, and now for many years he had led an unsettled kind of life.

We can also see his unforgivingness from his fighting with Celine's friend. In his jealousy he gave her an ultimatum, to liberate her from his protection and offered her a pursue for immediate exigencies. But six months before they separated, Celine had given her daughter to him and informed him that the child was his own daughter. But he didn't admit the daughter fully. Let us see his narrative to Jane :

'When I saw my charmer thus came in accompanied by a cavalier, I seemed to hear a hiss, and the green snake of jealousy; rising on

undulating coils from the moonlit balcony, ....  
(Bronte : 174).

'But unluckily the Varens, six months before, had given me this fillette Adele, who, she affirmed, was my daughter; and perhaps she may be, though I see no proofs of such grim paternity written in her countenance.' (Bronte : 176)

At the same time he also showed that he was a jealous man. His jealousy was also seen at the end of the story when Jane told him about St. John's proposal to her. Mr. Rochester felt jealous and ordered Jane to accept his proposal. But Jane could assure him that she loved him and her love had never changed.

Actually, Mr. Rochester who was well known as a very good master to his tenants had a secret which would make him lost his self-esteem if it was known by people. He was locking up a woman on the third floor and the woman was taken care of by Grace Poole. Finally the woman was recognized as Mrs. Rochester. They could not live together because she was mad. That was the mystery at Thornfield and it resulted in Mr. Rochester's changeable and abrupt characters. Nevertheless, he was so talented and lively in his society.

The deceit practiced on him by his mad wife's family and also by the dancer has made him suspicious to everybody, including to Jane's sincerity and trustworthiness. Then he disguised himself as a gipsy fortune teller to examine her.



Later when his affection to her began to grow, Jane found that :

He was proud, sardonic, harsh to inferiority of every description: in my secret soul I knew his great kindness to me was a balanced by unjust severity to many others. He was moody, too, unaccountable so .... (Bronte : 178).

But as Jane believed, actually Mr. Rochester's moodiness, his harshness, and his former faults of morality had their source in some cruel cross of fate.

He was so in love with Jane. He loved her as he loved himself. They even planned to marry soon. But at the time they would marry, when the vows of marriage would be said some one exclaimed that the marriage could not be continued for the existence of impediment. This was the time when Mr. Rochester experienced his culminating-point of his inner conflict. Firstly, his marriage with his beloved failed. Secondly, he had to break open his secret that he had had a wife who was mad, still alive and locked up at Thornfield.

Because of his love, Jane's leaving made him hopeless. He never left his house anymore. He didn't want to travel anymore. He just locked himself at Thornfield like a hermit. He went out only in the evening, walking around his garden.

In another scene, we find that Mr. Rochester was a responsible man. This was proved when Thornfield was

burnt down just before the harvest-time. He went up to the attics when all was burning above and below, and got the servants out of the beds and helped them down. Then he went back to save his mad wife out of her cell. However, he found her standing on the roof, weaving her arms and shouting as loud as she could. People saw him climbed the skylight to save her, but when he approach her, she yelled and gave a spring and the next minute she laid dead smashed on the pavement.

Mr. Rochester with his braveness and goodness didn't want to leave the burning house until everybody was out. But when he was going out from the house, something fell and stuck him. Mr. Rochester was still alive but he lost sight and one hand.

Here is his late's narration to Jane :

'It was all his own courage, and a body maysay, his kindness, in away ma'am : he wouldn't leave the house till every one else was out before him. As he came down the great staircase at last, after Mrs. Rochester had flung herself from the battlements, there was a great crashing - all felt. He was taken out from under the ruins, and alive, but sadly hurt : a beam had fallen in such a way as to protect him partly; but one eye was knocked out, and one hand so crushed that Mr. Carter, the surgeon, had to amputate it directly, the other eye inflamed : he lost the sight of that also. He is now helpless, indeed - blind, and cripple.'

(Bronte:454)

#### e. St. John Rivers

St. John was Jane's cousin. He was Diana and Mary's brother. They had lost their parents.

He didn't live at Moor House and he was a clergyman. He was only staying a while and when he was at home, he was in his parish at Morton. He spent most of his time to visit the sick and poor among the scattered population of his parish.

Jane described him as a handsome man :

... He was young- perhaps from twenty-eight to thirty- 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. It is seldom, indeed, an English face comes so near the antique models as did he. He might well be a little shocked at the irregularity of my lineaments, his own being so harmonious. His eyes were large and blue, with brown lashes; his high forehead, unclouded as ivory, was partially streaked over by careless of fair hair. (Bronte : 371).

As a clergyman, he always prepared himself to help his fellow-man. This is proven when he and his two sisters rescued Jane's life from death when Jane was in a very bad condition after leaving Thornfield. Although at that time they were also in the yoke.

He was a good man, he was untiringly active. Great and exalted deeds were what he lived to perform. He talked little and what he said was always to the point. His brain was the first-rate. He was an accomplished and profound scholar.

In Moor House, he aided Jane to be a schoolmistress of Morton after her wealth was restored. He also gave Jane a little cottage near the school.

At the time St. John taught Jane Hindustan. She found that he was very patient, very forbearing, and yet exacting. But the humanities and amenities of life had no attraction for him. He lived only to aspire, to keep steadily in view his first-aim - to do all things for the glory of God. *Ja,*

Furthermore, we find him rather selfish. We can see it when he proposed to marry Jane and to accompany him to go to India. Actually, he wanted to marry Jane only because he thought that she could become a suitable missionary's wife. He was a good and a great man, but sometimes he forgot, pitilessly, the feelings and claims of little people in order to pursue his own views.

At the end of the novel, Jane narrated that St. John Rivers left England and went to India. He entered the path he had marked for himself. He was unmarried and would never marry.

#### f. Diana Rivers

Diana was also Jane's cousin. She was a hospitable girl, she clung to the purple moors behind and around their dwelling. She was an orphan, too.

Jane described her that she had a long curly hair. Her face showed a pity; she had a remarkable countenance, and instinct both with power and goodness. Her goodness can be seen when she, her sister and her

brother, helped Jane by giving her a shelter and took care of her until she recovered.

Diana was a governess, too. She had a far different scene, as a governess by enlarge, fashionable - south-of-England city, where she is a situation in a family, by whose wealthy and houghty members she was regarded only as a humble dependant. She has to seek place as a governess, because their father some years ago lost a great deal of his money to a man he had trusted.

Then after Jane inherited twenty thousand pounds and shared five thousand pounds with them, she and her sister, Mary, came back and lived again in Moor House.

At the end of the story we find that Diana had been married to Captain Fitzjames. Her husband is a captain in the navy, a gallant officer and also a good man.

#### g. Mary Rivers

The same as St. John and Diana, Mary was also Jane's cousin. Jane described her that her contenance was equally intelligent - her look was equally pretty, but her expression was more reserved and her manners though gentle, was more distant.

Mary, as her sister and cousin, was a governess, too. Mary was also hospitable to the other. She also clung to the people around her. She loved her house, and when she got five thousand pounds from Jane, she came

back to live at Moor House again.

At last, she was married to Mr. Wharton, who was a clergyman, a college friend of her brother, St. John.

### 3.2. Themes ✓

The next aspect to be analyzed in this chapter is the theme. As an aspect of literary work, the theme is always the main aspect because all the author's ideas are determined by it. When a reader wants to know what the author's main idea is in her work, she or he has to identify its theme before analysing the other aspects.

After reading Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, the writer concludes that the main idea or the main theme of the novel is about the life struggle of a young-woman who lives in misery to gain happiness. ✕

Charlotte wanted to emphasize how people overcome their problems in their life, such as when they were facing a difficult situation, when their interest came into a conflict with other's interest, when their life was threatened, when they found it difficult to adjust themselves with their family and other members of society where they lived.

In the novel, Charlotte with her central character, Jane Eyre, wanted to present the life process of Jane, starting from her childhood up to adulthood. There Jane experienced her life in some different places and it has

some characteristics. Firstly, Jane Eyre as an orphan born from a poor family. She lived at Gateshead Hall with Mrs. Reed, her aunt, who had a harsh attitudes toward her and so did her cousin. Secondly, in Lowood School where she faced a worse condition because the discipline was very strict, and the building itself was cold and damp, and there so many students have to stay in one bare room. Thirdly, Jane as governess. She lived at Thornfield where she and Mr. Rochester fell in love each other and faced a suffering from their failure to marry. Thornfield itself was full of mysterious noise. Fourthly, in Moor House where Jane lived when she left Thornfield and found that the three people who had saved her life were her own cousins. And there also she refused St. John proposal to marry him. Fifthly, Jane at ferndeen where she met Mr. Rochester again and decided to marry him.

Jane's life was very unhappy since she was a child up to teenager, but when she was at the age of more than twenty, a new situation of her life began to appear. At Lowood, she felt unhappy, too, because of bad natural environment and the harsh treatment of Mr. Brocklehurst, the parson. But, however, she is successful in her education and could become a teacher.

Charlotte wanted to explain how education plays a role in the history of human life. We see almost in each

episode she presented education Jane as a pupil and a teacher at Lowood, as a private governess at Thornfield and as a mistress school at Morton. This novel gives us an impression that educational theme reflects the situation of England in the Victorian Age, at the time this novel written. As we know that during the period, education was to be developed because it has a great usefulness to form a better life. The development of education is the positive effect of what it is called Industrial Revolution.

The revolution itself had positive and negative effects to the society but at the very beginning it seems the negative was felt more. One of the serious problem was the gap between the rich and the poor, between the employers and the labours (Samekto, 1976:60).

It said in the story that Jane found it very difficult to be happy, because she was hated by Mrs. Reed. She was then chased out from the house for she was too poor to stay with the rich persons.

Jane could overcome each of her own problems only because of her experiences and previous education. This all show us that Charlotte Bronte through her novel wanted to explain the advantage of education for human life and that is why she elaborately described Jane's educational activities especially when she was in Lowood



and Thornfield.

Charlotte also showed a moral theme of love as one of the sub theme. It is showed by Jane's decision to left Thornfield after her marriage with Mr. Rochester failed and she knew that he had had a wife who was still living. She didn't want to continue their affair though he asked her. She loved him very much but she realised that it was impossible for her to become his wife because he still had a wife. She didn't want to be his mistress for she thought that it was sophisticated, it was false.

Here Jane presented a thinking, feeling woman, crying for love but capable of reouncing it at the call of her impassioned self-respect and moral conviction.

Furthermore, Charlotte wanted to convey to us that people couldn't face a monotone life without feeling bore to it. That we need an independence, a stimulus in their life. We need independence to do what we want to without any discipline tied us down in all our life.

It is showed by Charlotte with Jane weariness of Lowood. After eight years, she then realised that she desired liberty and stimulus after lived in the routine of Lowood.

Another sub theme that the writer can catch is forgiveness. From the episodes Charlotte Bronte wanted to convey to us that we are as a man is still human and

falliable. That as a human being we still have love and sorry to forgive the others. We can see, Jane in her childhood, as she was ten years, have always tried to forgive Mrs. Reed who had gave her harsh attitudes and never shown affection to her.

Even after ten years, Jane still visited her at Gateshead since she was asked to visit her aunt who was dying on bad, although Mrs. Reed still hated her and never took her forgiveness. Jane had ever felt very angry to her and said that she didn't want to call her aunt again as long as she lives and she disliked her the worst of any body in the world, but then she came back to her with no other emotion than a sort of truth for her great sufferings, and a strong yearning to forget and forgive all injuries.

Jane also could forgive Mr. Rochester, the man who had deceived her for a long time and made her suffered with the abortive marriage. She did not hate him but still loving to him. Which in the same time Jane reflected her true love to Mr. Rochester.

Furthermore, Charlotte presented religious problem. She presented Jane as a woman who never forgot to pray in everything she did. And Jane prayed not only for a happy life, but sometimes also for doing what was right. She always tried to come near God.

In order to overcome each problem and to be

successful, Jane always prayed in deciding one way out, especially when she was in a serious problem which she could overcome easily. It was presented in the story when St. John asked Jane to go to India on the promotion of missionary and he also wanted her to be his wife. When she heard St. John's plan, Jane felt as if she had a serious problem and she felt that it was quite difficult to make a decision. She could not decide whether to go to India or to go to look for Mr. Rochester.

Then after praying, she thought she heard Mr. Rochester's voice, calling her name three times. Then she made the decision that she has to seek and meet Mr. Rochester. It means she had found the way out of her problem.

Likewise Mr. Rochester, he just could realise that there is God in this world when he got suffer. Mr. Rochester reflected her feeling of religious :

'Jane ! You think me, I dare say, an irreligious dog: but my heart swells with gratitude to the beneficent God of this earth just now. He sees not as a man sees, but far clearer: judges not as man judges, but far more wisely. I did wrong : I would have sullied my innocent flower - breathed guilt on its purity : the omnipotent snatched it from me. I, in my stiff - necked rebellion, almost cused the dispensation: instead of bending to hte decree, I defied it. Divine justice pursued its course; disasters came think on me: I was forse to pass through the valley of the shadow of death. His chastisements are mighty; and done smote me which has humbled me for ever. You know I was proud of my strength: but what it is now, when I must give it

over to foreign guidance, as a child does its weakness? Oh late, late - only - only of late - I began to see and acknowledge the hand of God in my room. I began to experience remorse, repentance, the wish for reconciliation to my Maker. I began sometimes to pray: very brief prayers they were, but very sincere.' (Bronte : 471)

It shows to us that there are people in this world very proud of themselves so they did not care about their God anymore. But they would just believe this existence whenever they had faced a nuisance.

Based on the above illustration, we can say that Charlotte Bronte wanted to convey to her readers that people in this world do not only need meal and clothes and some other physical satisfaction. They also need and depend on their religion. They have to live according to their religion and have to spend some of their life to thank God for their existence in this world.

## CHAPTER IV

### C O N C L U S I O N

Because a literary work like novel is always influenced by its author's experiences, so *Jane Eyre* cannot be separated with Charlotte Bronte's own life experiences.

In *Jane Eyre*, the main thing which Charlotte Bronte wanted to describe is about the life struggle of an orphan girl to gain happiness with all problems around her. For us it is worth knowing, because the events may also happen in our circumstances. How Jane Eyre as the central character of the story has overcome each of her own problem much illustrated in it. Besides, through the weave of the story, there are still five things which the author presents in the novel. They are education, moral theme of love, independence, forgiveness and religion.

By reading this novel, we can see that the character of Jane Eyre is like every human in real life; she is compounded of contradiction - a human being with virtues and faults, one who has failure and success in her life.

For technique of telling a story, Charlotte Bronte did it by using a first-person narration. Here, the

character telling the story- the narrator- is not the novelist but a person whom the author has created to tell the story from his or her points of view. That is why the word 'I' is found on almost every page of the novel.



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