

Narrative Technique in Emily Bronte's Novel, *Wuthering Heights*

Introduction:

Emily Jane Bronte (30 July 1818 – 19 December 1848) is an English novelist and a poet. Her *Wuthering Heights* is one of the most popular novels of the 19th century. She depicts honest and accurate portrayal of life during an early era in her best-known novel. The most fascinating aspect of this great work is its unique, multi-layered narrative structure, which makes it a classic of English literature.

Narrative Technique:

A narrative technique is a way in which a story is unfolded. It provides deeper meaning for the reader and helps the reader to use imagination to visualize the situation. Different writers use different narrative techniques to convey what they want. Narrative technique involves setting, plot structure, narrative perspective, themes, characters and use of symbols. As far as **Emily Jane Bronte** is concerned, she uses intricate narrative technique to weave a multi-generational story of love, revenge, and the supernatural.

1. Setting:

Choosing a setting is a significant narrative technique, which is popular in Gothic Fiction. All the action of *Wuthering Heights* takes place in and around two neighboring houses on the Yorkshire moors — Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. The setting is gloomy because it is dominated by stormy, unpleasant weather.

2. Plot Structure:

A plot, an important narrative technique, is the sequence of interconnected events within the story of a novel. **Bronte** does not use typical plot structure. She does not follow chronological order like **Dickens** who follows this straightforward technique in *David Copperfield*. For instance, she opens the novel with Mr. Lockwood, a “new tenant” of Mr. Heathcliff, who is writing his diary about his visit to his property owner: “1801-I have just returned from a visit to my landlord...” She tells the tale of her novel as flashback out of chronological order. *Wuthering Heights* is largely made up of a giant **flashback**, from the point of view of the narrators Lockwood and Ellen “Nelly” Dean. This flashback tells the tale between Heathcliff and Catherine.

3. Narrative Perspectives:

It refers to a set of features determining the way a story is told and what is told. It includes the narrator, as well as the character from whose point of view the story is told. **Bronte** employs the literary technique of a dual narrative to directly engage her readers by creating distance and objectivity.

• **Dual Narrators:**

It is a form of narrative that incorporates two different perspectives from two different individuals at varying points in time:

Lockwood: The first narrator is Lockwood, who offers a first-person narration. Readers are given Lockwood's perspective on people, places, and events and are limited to learning information along with him. His narration provides an external frame narrative for the story, which creates some distance from the events. Lockwood learns the back-story of Heathcliff,