

DEAN'S LOYALTY TO THE EARNSHAW: GREIMAS' STRUCTURALIST READING ON BRONTE'S WUTHERING HEIGHTS

Kinanti Resmi Hayati

ABSTRACT

This article aims to explain three main problems namely Mrs. Dean's loyalty toward the Earnshaws, the relation between Actants and Function Model in constructing the Narrative of Mrs. Dean's loyalty, and the effects of Mrs. Dean's loyalty to Earnshaw Family's life. To achieve the aims, A.J. Greimas' theory as conceptualized in such three binary oppositions as subject >< object, destinataire >< destinataire, and adjuvant >< opposant and the functional model is used to determine the problem formulations, the research aims, and data analysis. Furthermore, close reading method is primarily used to collect the qualitative data closely related to the main problems above. Based on the descriptive-qualitative analysis conducted by using the theory of Actant and Functional Models proposed by A.J. Greimas, a French structuralist, results three main findings respectively that Mrs. Dean in Actants and Functional Model is a loyal maid in Earnshaw family, the relation between Actants and Functional Model in constructing the narrative of Mrs. Dean's loyalty is sufficiently complex, and her loyalty implicates good impacts toward Earnshaw family's members, even toward Edgar Linton family life.

Keywords: Binary opposition; Function; Loyalty; Narration

1. Introduction

Wuthering Heights is written by Emily Bronte in 1847 and got a National Book Award. In 19th century, this novel is very popular among the literary works. This novel gazes of romanticism era. *Wuthering Heights* interestingly tells a dark romance between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw. Bronte wrote *Wuthering Heights* so imaginatively that the readers understand the characters, plots, and settings of the story profoundly. Based on the literary critic for over one hundred and sixty years, Emily Bronte's novel structure has been considered on the basis of an Elizabethan dramatic design. The narrative was being an unusual feature of the book as far as it concerns the mid-nineteenth century said Markhman (1) due to his paper.

More than a hundred years of idolatrous literature have swelled the myth; more than a hundred years of critical interpretation, carried out almost universally in that tone "of personal tenderness, even passionate homage" have deepened the enigma – for Emily Bronte is still several steps ahead of her critics.

Wuthering Heights can be analyzed by using Greimas' theory. Greimas, one of French Narrative structuralist, constructed his theory based on structuralism. As popularly recognized, Structuralism is a conceptual system that has three properties: wholeness, transformation, and self-regulation. The main problems in this article are first the "loyalty" of the main sub-character – Mrs. Nelly Dean – to Earnshaw family in *Wuthering Heights*. The loyalty as faithfulness or a devotion to something or someone is defined in the encyclopedia Britannica in its eleventh edition as allegiance to the sovereign or established government of one's country and also personal devotion and reverence to the sovereign and the royal family. The second is the relationship between the *actants* and the functional model in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* in the perspective of Greimas' structuralism.

The third is the effects of Mrs. Dean's loyalty to Earnshaw family's life. One of the main cases in *Wuthering Heights* tells about her loyalty which becomes the part of the main story in the novel. Bronte narrated Mrs. Dean's loyalty as maid with various problems and hesitates in her life and how Mrs. Nelly Dean behaves in order to be a good and loyal maid for Earnshaw Family as her master. Mrs. Dean's loyalty also has effects to Earnshaw family because Mrs. Dean has become part of Earnshaw family for years.

Greimas' theory as conceptualized in three binary opposition *actants* and functional model is considered appropriate to be used to analyze the problems above because according to A.J Greimas as cited by Lois Tyson (225) in *Critical Theory Today* that the fundamental structure of narrative is the same as the fundamental structure of language: subject-verb-object, this basic narrative grammar generates the

following three patterns of plots by aligning what Greimas sees as the six fundamental *Actant* into three pairs of oppositions. The three problems to be further described in the analysis are then definitely formulated below:

1. How is the loyalty of Mrs. Nelly Dean to Earnshaw's family as narrated in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* in the perspective of Greimas' structuralism?
2. How is the relationship between the *actants* and the functional model in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* in the perspective of Greimas' structuralism?
3. What is the effect of Mrs. Dean's Loyalty toward Earnshaw's family in Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*?

The *Actant* theory in A.J. Greimas as the basic narrative grammar generates the three patterns of plots by aligning what A.J. Greimas considered the six fundamental *actants* into three pairs of oppositions; subject<object, *destinateur*<*destinataire*, *adjuvant*<*opposant*. A.J. Greimas makes meaning by structuring the world in terms of two kinds of opposed pairs; "A is the opposite of B" and "-A (the negation of A) is the opposite of -B (the negation of B)". The term used in this novel is Actant and Function which is proposed by A.J. Greimas as French structuralist in his *Actant theory in Critical Theory Today* (224) by Lois Tyson (2006):

He believes that this fundamental structure of binary oppositions, consisting of four components arranged in two pairs, shapes our language, our experience, and the narratives through which we articulate our experience.

2. Analysis

Based on the main problems formulated above, the analysis focuses on three different perspectives: firstly, Mrs. Dean's loyalty toward the Earnshaws by using theory of *Actants* and Functional Model, secondly the relation between *Actants* and Function Model in constructing the Narrative of Mrs. Dean's loyalty, and thirdly the effect of Mrs. Dean's loyalty to Earnshaw Family's life.

3. Mrs. Dean's Loyalty in Actant and Functional Model Analysis

In the *Actant* perspective, Heathcliff wants to get Catherine Earnshaw to be her lady because he really loves her much. On the other side, Edgar Linton, Catherine's neighbor and friend, also loves and wants to marry her. Heathcliff commands himself to get Catherine Earnshaw, the subject, to be her lady. Heathcliff could not do his passion by himself. He needs help from someone to get the object, Catherine. Mrs. Nelly Dean is the only one who is able to help him. On other hand, Mrs. Nelly Dean disagrees with Heathcliff's idea to get Catherine Earnshaw as her lady. She thinks that Edgar Linton is the right person for Catherine. But she helps Heathcliff in order to solve their misunderstandings about their love affair. Below is the scheme of the *actants* describing Mrs. Dean's loyalty:

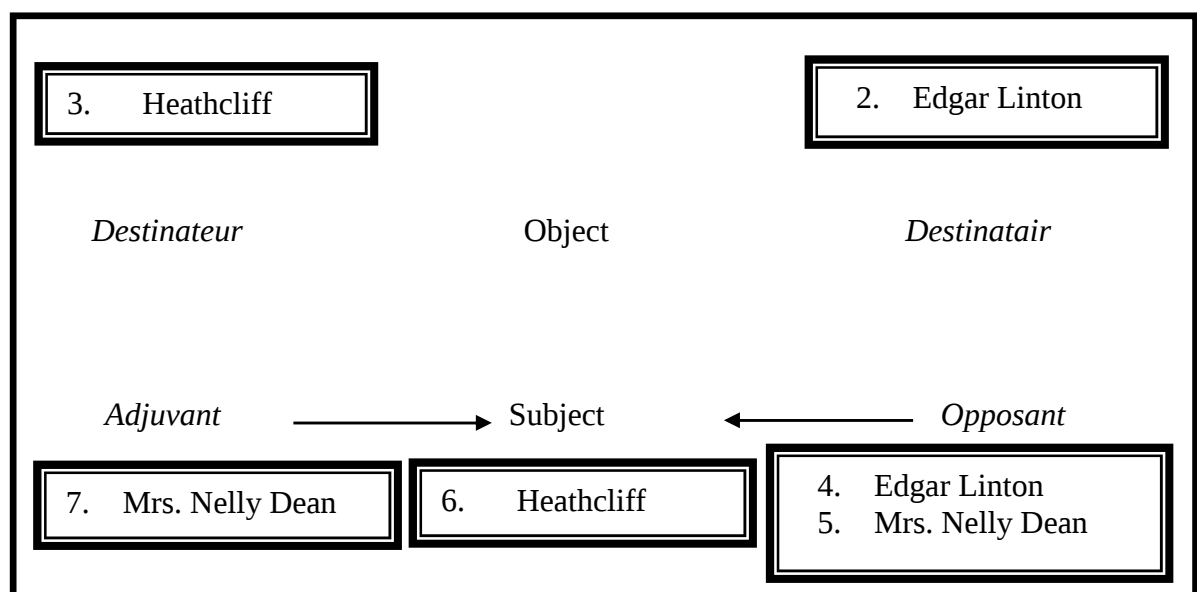


Table 1 Actant Scheme

a. Destinateur or Sender

In this event, Heathcliff, who is the *destinateurs* as the main character who had passion to get the object, Catherine. He asked the subject or himself to get the object. In *Wuthering Heights*, Heathcliff wanted to get Catherine Earnshaw to be her lady because Heathcliff loved Catherine Earnshaw so much. He wanted to be with his true love. He loved Catherine Earnshaw since he was a child. This is one of the reasons why he wanted to get the object “Catherine Earnshaw”. As known that *destinateur* is someone or something which has desirability in getting someone or something.

b. Object

Catherine Earnshaw is one of the main characters in the novel. She was wanted by Heathcliff. Even though they loved each other, but the one who only had passion for being together was Heathcliff. Catherine Earnshaw is the object in this event. So, object is someone or something which *destinateur* wants to get. Heathcliff (199) asked to Mrs. Nelly Dean about Catherine Earnshaw.

‘Are they at home? Where is she? Nelly, you are not glad! You needn’t be so disturbed. Is she here? Speak! I want to have one word with her your mistress. Go, and say some person from Gimmerton desires to see her.’

c. Destinataire or Receiver

Edgar Linton is Catherine Earnshaw’s neighbor and friend. He loved Catherine Earnshaw and he wanted to marry him. Then, he married with Catherine Earnshaw. So, he is the *destinataire* in this *Actant* because he got the object “Catherine Earnshaw”. The one who gets the subject in this novel is Edgar Linton and *destinataire* is someone or something which gets the object.

d. Adjuvant or Helper

Mrs. Nelly Dean is someone who helps the subject “Heathcliff” to get the subject “Catherine Earnshaw”. She helped Heathcliff because she felt pity with him. Mrs. Nelly Dean always remembered her master “Mr. Earnshaw” command that she had to keep Heathcliff well just like she kept Earnshaw family’s member. She did it to show her loyalty to her master. As known that Mrs. Nelly Dean is Earnshaw family’s maid. She always accompanied Catherine Earnshaw because Catherine was the only woman member in Earnshaw family after her mother died. In order to be a loyal maid for her master, she always cared and kept Earnshaw family in every condition. Mrs. Dean knows that Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw were fallen in love each other. But they could not be together because they had different social status. She helped Mr. Heathcliff and her master “Catherine Earnshaw” also. She helped Heathcliff to meet Catherine Earnshaw so that they could talk each other and solve their misunderstandings about their feelings. So, *adjuvant* is someone or something which helps the subject to get the object.

e. Subject

In this *Actant* analysis, Heathcliff becomes the subject and the *destinateur*. He has a desirability to get the object. So, he commanded himself to get the object. As known that Subject is someone or something which gets command from the *destinateur* to get the object. He was one character that had two *Actant* positions. This phenomenon is called by Greimas as syncretism. One character had two sub-actants in one main *Actant* scheme.

f. Opposant

In this novel, there are some characters who becomes the *opposant*. Those are Edgar Linton and Mrs. Nelly Dean. This event needs to be analyzed one by one of each character of *opposant* in *Actant* scheme. Edgar Linton wants to get Catherine Earnshaw or more popularly called Cathy just like Heathcliff. He blocked Heathcliff by giving proposal to Cathy to get marry with him. Mrs. Dean is also an *opposant*. Mrs. Dean (125) said to Catherine that she advised her to consider Edgar Linton the more for his affection.

Even though she helped Heathcliff to get her desirability, but she also obstructed Heathcliff to get everything he wanted to. Mrs. Dean would never let Heathcliff and Cathy to get together meanwhile she wanted to help both of Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw to solve their misunderstandings about their feelings each other. Mrs. Dean is extremely loyal to her master because she would do anything for her master’s –Earnshaw family– best. Eventhough she should help Heathcliff but she had to obstruct

Heathcliff in getting everything he wanted to because *opposant* is someone or something which blocks the subject to get the object.

The *actant* perspective results three binary oppositions analysis as described below:

1. The axis of desire is the relation between subject >< object. The subject, Heathcliff, wants to get the object, Catherine Earnshaw. In this term, this relation is called as conjoined because Heathcliff wants Catherine Earnshaw to be his lady. It is also junction because among subject or object has a relation, in this case the subject wants the object.
2. The Axis of power, *adjuvant* >< *opposant* can be described as follows. The *adjuvant*, Mrs. Dean, helps the subject to get the object. She assists Heathcliff to meet Cathy in order to solve their love affair. The *opposants* are Edgar Linton and Mrs. Dean, hider Heathcliff to get the object. They will obstruct the subject to get object although Mrs. Dean is not only *adjuvant* but also *opposant*. She will do anything to make her master – Earnshaw family- in good condition in order to show her loyalty to them. She (145) said to Edgar that he should aware with Heathcliff.

'Yes; she's in the kitchen, sir,' I answered. 'She's sadly put out by Mr. Heathcliff's behavior: and, indeed, I do think it's time to arrange his visits on another footing. There's harm in being too soft, and now it's come to this.'

1. The Axis of Transmission or knowledge covers *destinateur* >< *destinataire*. The *destinateur*, Heathcliff, has a passion to have a junction between subject and object. He orders the subject – his own self- to get the object. The *destinataire*, Edgar Linton, gets benefits to get the object from the subject. Meanwhile the *destinataire* is often the *destinateur* or the object but unfortunately in this case the *destinataire* is the *opposant*. Edgar Linton can carry away the object from the subject.

In such events, Mrs. Nelly Dean shows her loyalty to the member of Earnshaw family, Catherine Earnshaw, by keeping her in good condition. She succeeds in keeping and caring Catherine Earnshaw from Heathcliff. However, she has to be *adjuvant* and *opposant* for Heathcliff. In proving her loyalty to Earnshaw family as housemaid, she betrays her new master, Edgar Linton. Her loyalty was examined in this event. She should be *adjuvant* but on the other side she is also an *opposant* for Heathcliff. Mrs. Nelly Dean is the only one who can help Heathcliff to meet Catherine Earnshaw.

She decides to help Heathcliff in order to solve their problems –love affair between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw-. As known at that time, Catherine Earnshaw was Edgar Linton's wife. Mrs. Nelly Dean who is loyal housemaid tried to solve her master extremely dilemmatic problems. She helps Heathcliff to meet Cathy so they can talk and solve about their problems. Her loyalty succeeds in solving their love affair. Cathy prefers Edgar Linton than Heathcliff because she is conceived of Edgar's baby. This event shows that everything what Mrs. Nelly Dean does is only for Earnshaw family's best in order to show her loyalty to them.

However, viewed from the Functional Model analysis, Mrs. Dean's loyalty to Earnshaw family life can be explained as follows. The Functional Model is the way to narrate the story in order to know the narrative of the story depend on the *Actants*. This study will analyze the function Model from the *Actants* bellow. The following is the structure of Function Model to narrate the story's narration.

I	II			III
Exposition	Transformation			Denouement
	Rising stage	Climax stage	Anti-climax stage	

Table 2. Function Model Scheme

a. Exposition

Heathcliff, the *destinateur* had a desirability to get the object, Catherine Earnshaw. He loved Cathy – Catherine Earnshaw – so much, so he wanted to live together with Cathy. He commanded his own self to get the object and finally he decided to do his own command to get the object. Catherine Earnshaw married with Edgar Linton. Heathcliff ran away from *Wuthering Heights* for a while. After he run away from *Wuthering Heights*, he came back with new image. He won his all gambling and to be rich. He also took control of *Wuthering Heights* because He beat Hindley Earnshaw in gambling. After he got the fortune, he would meet Cathy and said to her that he loved her and want to live with her. Catherine (126) told to Mrs. Dean that:

‘I wonder as much as you. He said he called to gather information concerning me from you, supposing you resided there still; and Joseph told Hindley, who came out and fell to questioning him of what he had been doing, and how he had been living; and finally, desired him to walk in. There were some persons sitting at cards; Heathcliff joined them; my brother lost some money to him.

b. Transformation

2. Rising Stage

In this situation, the subject – Heathcliff – started his mission to get the object, Cathy. After he got the wealth, he did anything to meet Cathy but Cathy has been married with Edgar Linton and lived in *Thrushcross Grange*. He would meet Cathy in *Thrushcross Grange*. Mrs. Dean let Mr. Heathcliff to meet Cathy. Unfortunately their meeting did not work well. In other hand, Mrs. Nelly Dean and Edgar Linton did not agree if Cathy and Heathcliff live together. Edgar Linton wanted to live with Cathy just like their families’ will include Mrs. Dean. Mrs. Dean (99) told to Catherine that Edgar was the right man for her.

‘I’m very far from jesting, Miss Catherine,’ I replied. ‘You love Mr. Edgar because he is handsome, and young, and cheerful, and rich, and loves you. The last, however, goes for nothing: you would love him without that, probably; and with it you wouldn’t, unless he possessed the four former attractions.’

They taught that Edgar Linton is the best person for Cathy because Edgar was wealthy man. Edgar was one of men who wanted to get Cathy. He tried to block Mr. Heathcliff to met Catherine Earnshaw. He asked Mrs. Dean did not allow Heathcliff met Cathy. Mrs. Dean agreed and accepted Edgar Linton’s command to her. Heathcliff asked her help to meet Cathy because Heathcliff taught Mrs. Dean was loyal maid so she would do anything for her master. She would keep her master from any interferences and disturbances. Those are Heathcliff’s reason to ask Mrs. Dean’s help to meet Cathy.

3. Climax Stage

Even though she had to betray Edgar Linton’s command, Mrs. Dean accepted Heathcliff’s command to meet Cathy. Because she taught if Heathcliff and Cathy met, it would solve their misunderstanding. She only wanted the best for Cathy so she decided to help Heathcliff to meet Cathy. The letter was accepted by Cathy and they met in Heights. Heathcliff told anything about his feeling to Cathy but unfortunately Cathy could not receive his love. Even though she loved him but she could not receive him because she was conceived.

4. Anticlimax Stage

In this situation, the subject could not get the object. Heathcliff did not get Cathy. Cathy preferred to choose Edgar Linton because she was conceived. Heathcliff could not do anything else except accepted it all. Mrs. Dean was also happy with Cathy’s decision. Mrs. Dean could keep her promises to Mr. Earnshaw to keep Earnshaw family’s member especially Catherine Earnshaw.

c. Denouement

Edgar Linton got Cathy as a wife. Cathy preferred to choose Edgar than Heathcliff. She was conceived Edgar’s baby. Finally everything was back just like the beginning when their parents wanted them to get married and had happy family. Cathy gave birth a baby girl but unfortunately she die when she gave birth. Mrs. Dean took care of the baby. The baby was named Catherine Linton as like her mother’s name. Mrs. Dean kept Cathy junior as her loyalty to Earnshaw family. She would keep Cathy junior as well as she could.

4. Relation Between Actant and Functional Model in Constructing the Narrative of Mrs. Dean’s Loyalty

The analysis of the relations between the *Actants* and the Function Model covers the subject, the *destinateur*, the object, the *destinataire*, the *adjuvant* and the *opposant* as their own acts in function relationship among the characters in the novel. The *destinateur*, Heathcliff asked himself as the subject to get the object, Catherine Earnshaw In this view point, Heathcliff has two *Actants*, both as the *destinateur* and as the subject. Catherine Earnshaw acts as the object that wanted to be got by the *destinateur* and the subject. He asked Mrs. Dean to help him to get the object. Meanwhile the subject could not get the object because Catherine Earnshaw, the object preferred to choose Edgar Linton, the *destinataire*.

In this case, Edgar Linton is not only as the *destinataire* but also as the *opposant*. From the *actant* below, the *opposants* are Edgar Linton and Mrs. Dean. They rejected the subject’s desirability to get the

object. In this study, Mrs. Dean had two *actants* which are the *adjuvant* and the *opposant*. She became the *opposant* in order to be loyal maid for Earnshaw family. She agreed that Catherine Earnshaw should get married with Edgar Linton because he had good future for Catherine. But on other hand, Mrs. Dean was also the *adjuvant* because she wanted to help Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw solve their misunderstanding. In this study, she didn't only help Heathcliff but also Catherine Earnshaw. Even though she helped Heathcliff but her goal is keeping Earnshaw family include solving the problem of Earnshaw family's member. In this study, the *actant* of *opposant* has more than one character. It has five characters in one *actant*. It will be discussed as syncretism as presented in the following tables.

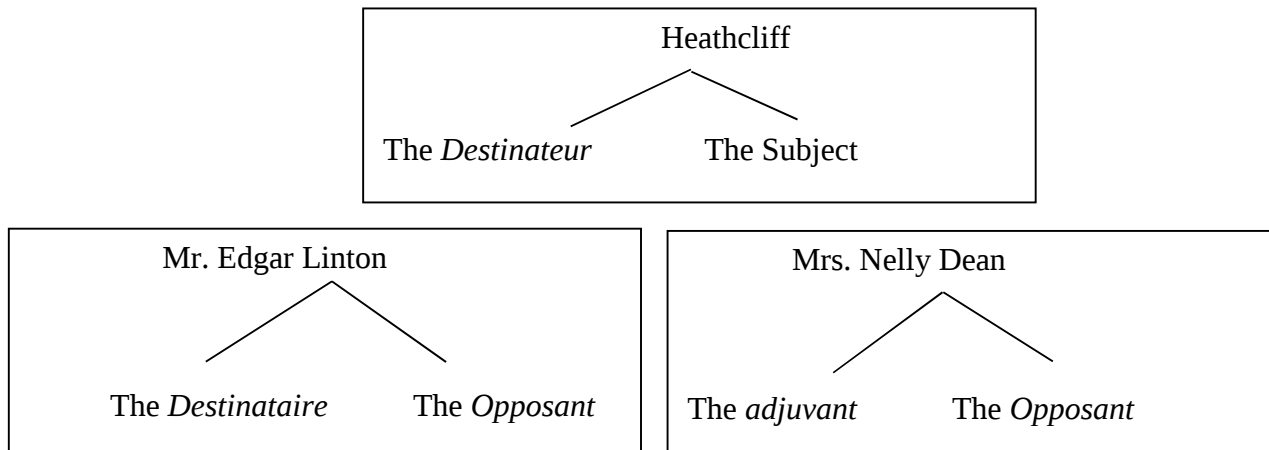


Table 3. Syncretism of Actant and Functional Model

Those two diagram shows that one character can be two actant in one model. Those are Heathcliff is the *destinateur* and the subject, Edgar Linton is the *destinataire* and the *Opposant*, and Mrs. Dean is the *adjuvant* and the *opposant*. The next diagram shows that one *actant* consists of some characters. This diagram shows the *opposant* consist of Edgar Linton and Mrs. Dean.

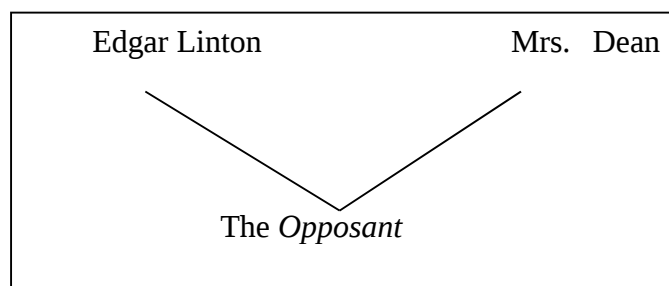


Table 4. Syncretism of Actant and Functional Model

In order to construct the relation between actant and Function, it will be described by this diagram. Each *actant* has relation to the function. The *actant* does its own act in every step of the functional models. In this study, *actant* and function model's relation in order to narrate the narration of the story to find Mrs. Dean's loyalty and its effects to Earnshaw family's life.

<i>Destinateur</i> (Heathcliff)			<i>Destinataire</i> (Edgar Linton)
	Subject (Heathcliff)	Object (Catherine Earnshaw)	

<i>Adjuvant</i> (Mrs. Dean)		<i>Opposant</i> (Edgar Linton and Mrs. Dean)
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Table 5. Actant and Functional Model Diagram

5. The Effects of Mrs. Dean's Loyalty to Earnshaw Family's life

The previous analysis shows that Mrs. Dean's loyalty toward the Earnshaws by using theory of *Actants* and Functional Model as well as the relation between *Actants* and Function Model in constructing the Narrative of Mrs. Dean's loyalty. The last part of the analysis discusses the effects of Mrs. Dean's loyalty to Earnshaw family's life because Mrs. Dean who was narrated as a loyal maid for Earnshaw family strongly proved to do anything to keep Earnshaw family's member from any disturbance.

In this perspective, Mrs. Dean showed her loyalty to keep Catherine Earnshaw as one of Earnshaw family's members. Mr. Earnshaw – Cathy's father – gave command to Mrs. Dean to keep Cathy and accompany her wherever she goes. Eventhough she had to move in Thrushcross Grange and left *Wuthering Heights*, her master's house. She was the *adjuvant* and the *opposant* of Heathcliff. He disagreed if Heathcliff and Cathy would live together. But in other hand, she was the *adjuvant* of Heathcliff. She helped Heathcliff to meet Cathy even though she had to betray Edgar's command. while she helped Heathcliff, she also helped Cathy. Because she knew that Heathcliff and Cathy loved each other. She wanted to help to solve their misunderstanding. Everything is done by her only for the best for Earnshaw family's member. Finally, Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw could solve their misunderstanding about their love affair. They could not be together because Cathy was married with Edgar Linton and she was also conceived. Mrs. Dean (173) expressed it in her heart.

She was soon strong enough to move from one to the other, leaning on Edgar's arm. Ah, I thought myself; she might recover, so waited on as she was. And there was double cause to desire it, for on her existence depended that of another: we cherished the hope that in a little while Mr. Linton's heart would be gladdened, and his lands secured from a stranger's gripe, by the birth of an heir.

This analysis proves that the effects of Mrs. Dean's loyalty for Earnshaw family's life are good for Earnshaw Family because she succeeds in solving Catherine and Heathcliff's misunderstandings about their love affairs, keeping Catherine from Heathcliff's desire, and helping Edgar Linton to keep her marriage with Catherine. She promised to her Master -Mr.Earnshaw- to keep Earnshaw family in every condition and situation. She was trusted by her master. She would do anything to keep, care, and help Catherine Earnshaw in every situation because Cathy is part of Earnshaw Family.

6. Conclusion

From the analysis above, it comes to a conclusion that *Actant* and Functional Models narrate Mrs. Dean's character as a loyal maid for Earnshaw family. She was the *adjuvant* and the *opposant* in six fundamental *Actant*. She became *adjuvant* and *opposant* in order to keep Earnshaw family from any disturbances to show her loyalty to Earnshaw family. Her loyalty's effects to Earnshaw family are very good for Earnshaw family's life. She solved Cathy's misunderstandings with Heathcliff, kept Cathy from Heathcliff's desire, and helped Edgar to keep her marriage with Cathy, as known, Cathy is the beloved member of Earnshaw family.

This study also suggests that the house master as the master give trust and credibility to his maid like Mrs. Dean who is completely loyal. Mr. Earnshaw gave trust absolutely to Mrs. Dean after his wife die. He believed Mrs. Dean could keep her family well. Mrs. Dean appreciated her master's trust. She tried to do as well as she can to keep her master's family and being a loyal maid for them.

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