The writings of Charlotte Brontë are informed by the oppression that underpinned her society. Within the hierarchically structured society of Victorian England Brontë occupied a space of ‘otherness’ by virtue of her social position and her gender. Her desire to enter into the arena of creative writing, not usually the precinct of women, resulted in Brontë experiencing further backgrounding through her exclusion to this world. This thesis interrogates Brontë as a victim of oppression through its analysis of her life, particularly the early formative period of childhood and adolescence, and how she translated this oppression in her writings. This thesis confines its textual analysis to Brontë’s most widely known texts, Jane Eyre and Villette. Through the characterisations of not only the heroines and narrators of these novels, Jane Eyre and Lucy Snowe, but also the other characters who inhabit these texts, Brontë consciously and unconsciously explored alienation, disenfranchisement, oppression and control. This thesis examines the way in which Brontë was informed by her world and indoctrinated by the hierarchical structure of her society making her as unaware to the manifestations of oppression in some situations as she was aware to it in others. The theoretical approach in this thesis is informed by sociologists who engaged in studies of oppression - Vilfredo Pareto and Robert Michels. In investigating alienation in both Brontë’s life and her work, this thesis also concerns itself with the research of Harry C. Triandis on collectivism and individualism. Central also to the arguments and analysis presented is the work of activist and writer Audre Lorde and her assertion of the ‘mythical norm’.
Charlotte Bronte has experienced more tragedy in her life than happiness by losing her mother and all five of her siblings. But, in her moments of tragedy, she expressed her feelings through poetry. As a result… in life that is not imaginable and Charlotte Bronte was one person who went through a lot. Charlotte went through many crises. Her mother died when she was young, and she had to care for her younger siblings. Bronte could not go to school as a young child like everyone else; she had responsibilities. A few years later as she got older sisters died of tuberculosis, and she was left alone. Charlotte Bronte work tells the story of love, life, and death. Charlotte was born at Thorntorn, Yorkshire in... Show More.

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