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Faculty of Letters and Foreign languages

Department of English and literature

# **Master Dissertation**

# Memory in Virginia Woolf's Mrs.Dalloway

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of art and Foreign Languages as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master Degree in English Language

Option: Literature & Civilization

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# **Dedication**

First and foremost, all praises be to Allah for blessing me with health, patience and strength to finish this dissertation. I would love to express my deepest gratitude to my parents who have been always by my side, raised me with all the love in this world and made me what I am today.

To those who have always tried to keep a smile on my face, my dear brother and sister .

Tomy family and relatives and all the people who planted seeds of joy in my heart once.

To all my lovely friends

# Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank Allah the Almighty for giving me the strength and foresight.

Then, I would like to express my gratitude to the supervisor of this dissertation Dr. El Hamel for his patience and encouragement during all the years of my study and for his contribution to this work. I should thank the members of the jury for proof-reading and examining my dissertation.

**Abstract** 

During the twentieth century, a new era appeared, called Modernism, which witnessed the

emergence of the most important writers who contributed to the development of English

literature, including James Joyce and Virginia Woolf, especially Virginia Woolf, because of her

writing about ideas and feelings. This is what made her works very distinctive and timeless, and

among her most important works that made Virginia one of the most famous books is her novel

Mrs. Dalloway, which was published in 1925 the novel is just about one day, but very

interesting. The characters of the novel struggle between their present and the memories of their

past Wolf tried to delve into the characters through the topic of memory and techniques of

modern literature, where Wolf embodied each character with a special feature. Wolf uses the

theme of memory and modern techniques, which makes the story unique and makes the reader

confused and loves to know the events of the story.

**Key words**: Modernism, Mrs Dalloway, memory, narrative techniques.

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**General Introduction** 

#### **General Introduction**

During the era of nineteenth century witnessed a remarkable development in literature Which led to the emergence of a new era namely called modernism. The early 20 century was the goldenera of modernism during that time several notable and iconic authors and artists appeared such as James Joyce ,Ezra Pound and Virginia Woolf these authors were knowing for their amazing works and their rich narrative style and language .

In the 20<sup>th</sup>century, literature memory functions it plays an vital role as the literature of that period is based on the fairytales stories which represent the past of it and what is the most important, on the memories of the characters the past defines memory. what happens a moment ago became the part of memory, the theme memory is a frequent issue.

Several well-known authors have explored this idea in their works, and the most well known is Virginia Woolf specially her masterpiece novelMrsDalloway published in 14 June, 1925 the novel creates unique tapestry of memories .interlacing past and present memory and dream.the past is the key to the future .

#### **Background of this study**

Virginia Woolf is an English writer and essayist undoubtedly recognized as one ofthe most innovative writers of the 20th century she is a representative figure of themodernist fiction. Among her novels, Mrs. Dalloway is one of the most highly acclaimed and important modernist works and Virginia Woolf's best-known work of all the time it's a fully rich and complex work of art . the theme of memory was portrayed in it.

Since its publication, Woolf's novel Mrs.Dalloway was reviewed and critiqued by manyresearchers. According to J hill miller, he investigates the thought of memory as the revival

of thepast in literature he composes 'storytelling' (Miller). for Woolf the repetition of the past in memory going to show how characters remember their past to themselves whereas the storytellerrecollected them to us through the medium of the story .feelings, mental images speech and everything related to the main characters of the novel the narrator can retrieve from the past to the present and present to the reader. Bernard Blackstone is one of its illustrative critics. In the book entitled Virginia Woolf: a Commentary argues that: "Mrs. Dalloway is an experiment withtime. It is the mingling of present experience and memory. (Bernard). Woolf has established a way that allows the reader to live the role of the characters of the novel and move through time and live with theirpresent and future. on the other handApter, T.E in his critique entitled Virginia Woolf A Studyof Her Novels says that: "The capacity of the present to contain the past naturally makes the past appearas immediate memories become entangled in present thoughts and perceptions. (Apter) particularly says that even if the unpleasant memories are no longer present they merely went missing for a periodand they will return sooner or later. the painful feelings and memories will never fade away instead will remain stuck in the characters mind.

The past characterizes memory no matter what , memory is a part of our consciousness that accounts for our existence.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

In the novel of Mrs Dalloway, Virginia Woolf tackled many themes and one the main one is the theme of memory in this disertation will discuss how Virginia uses the theme of Memory in the novel.

# **Research Questions**

- 1-Why did Woolf focused more about memory in her novel Mrs Dalloway?
- 2-Did Woolf succefuly used the theme of Memory?

## **Research Hypothesis**

In order to answer the questions raised above, the researcher would formulate the following hypotheses:

1-to take the reader back in time to the past days of the characters in order to make suspense and the reader curious about each character.

2- The theme of memory is used by Woolf to convey the characters' inner thoughts and feelings.

# **Objective of this research**

The aim of this study is to show how Virginia Woolf uses the theme memory on the novel Mrs Dalloway also this research attempts to figure out how the narrative techniques are presented on the novel .in addition explores the relationship between the narrative techniques and memory.

## **Research Methodology**

This research is a descriptive-analytical study and acritical interpretation of Woolf'swork within the frame work of psycho analysis critical theory. It is based on collecting texts amples that symbolize the theme of memory. This study will be based on the views of some critics and Freud's interpretation concerning the psychological side.

In addition, this research will contain readings concerning the novel Mrs Dalloway as well as the biography of the author Virginia Woolf in order to understand the situation and what happened

during that era. Farther this research will be supported by a credible books essays videos and websites all these would help to come up with useful and important informations.

The reason that motivated us to conduct this study is first of all because its coming from our own interest as well as the writer who wrote the masterpiece Mrs Dalloway and the theme memory is so interesting, as well as the novel and its techniques.

#### **Structure of this research**

Mrs. Dalloway is one of the most remarkable works that portrays the characters of modernism; the present research consists of three chapters that are the first chapter will contains about the meaning of Modernism era and modernism as a literary movement as well as its concept, the psychological novel. furthermore chapter one will also talk about Virginia woolf as a Feminist writer and the psycho analysis of the feminist perspective, and the second chapter reviews how Virginia portrayed the characters of Mrs. Dalloway and the theme of memory, chapter three will focus about the narrative techniques and how Woolf used them in order to develop the theme of Memory.

# **Chapter One:**

theoretical frame work

# Introduction

# Modernism

- a- Modernism as a literary movement
  - b- The concept of modernism
    - c- The psychological Novel

Virginia Woolf as a Feminist Writer

Psycho analysis of the feminist perspective

**Chapter One: theoretical frame work** 

introduction

The first chapter will be about Modernism which contains Modernism as a literary Movement,

The concept of modernism and the psychological novel . after that this chapter will deal about

Virginia Woolf in general and her as a feminist writer, in the end we will focus on the psycho

analysis of the feminist perspective.

Modernism

Modern means a break with the past and a constant search for new means of expression. From the

late 19th century to the mid-20th century, Modernism encouraged artistic in novation, especially

in the years following World War I.Modernists felt the growing alienation from Victorian

morality, optimism, and convention in an age marked by industrialization, the practically global

adoption of capitalism, rapid social change, and discoveries in science and the social sciences

such as Freud's theory. New concepts in political theory, philosophy, and psychology have led to

a search for new ways of self-expression.. ('Modernism | Definition').

Modernism as a literary movement

The emergence of literary modernism began at the end of the eighteenth century, when

intellectual writers began to think about the necessity of removing preconceived criteria and

devising a new way of looking at the reality of women. Thinkers such as Sigmund Freud and

Ernest Mach were highly influenced by the modernism movement, both seeing that a person's

subjective experience of the world and their desires influence the way one sees the outside

world.(Baldwin)

# The concept of Modernism

According to Astradur Eysteinsson he asserts that the concept of modernism is not directly derived from the literature it includes, but is in fact the product of critical practices in relation to non traditional literature. By interfering with these practices, and relating them to modernist works and modern literary theory, Estensen undertakes a comprehensive re-examination of the idea of modernity. (Eysteinsson).

Eysteinsson critically examines the numerous manifestations of modernity in a rich body of American, British, and European literature, criticism, and theory. He first explored several models of modernism, discovering in them a conflict between modernity's culturally disruptive potential and its relatively conservative status as a formal project. He then regards these models as interpretations - and fabrications - of literary history. In this light, modernism refers to a historical change in the literary landscape and implies the context of that change. Loaded with traces of tradition and modernity, Modernism performs its main function: highlighting and defining the complex relationships between history and post-realist literature. (Eysteinsson).

Eysteinsson focuses on the ways in which the concept of modernity informs our understanding of literature and literary history and influences our judgment of experimental and post-realist works in literature and art. It discusses in detail the relationship of modernity to the basic concepts of postmodernism, avant-garde, and realism. Because of the crisis of subjectivity and reference, modernity is not a form of discourse, he asserts, as is its discontinuity—a possible "other" modernity that reveals crucial aspects of our social and linguistic experience in Western culture.(Eysteinsson).

# The psychological novel

In the psychological novel, the emotional reactions and internal states of the characters are influenced and in turn lead to external events in purposeful coexistence. This focus on the inner lives of the characters is a staple of a wide range of fiction. Insightful insight into the psychological complexities and unconscious drives characteristic of the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy, The detailed recording of the applicability of external events to individual consciousness as practiced by Henry James, Associative Memories of Marcel Proust, Stream of Consciousness styled by James Joyce and William Faulkner, and the continuous flow of Virginia Woolf's experience independently . ('Psychological Novel | Literature')

In the psychological novel, the plot is subordinate and dependent on investigation to determine the character. The events may not be presented in chronological order but instead occur in associations of thought, memories, fantasies, reverence, meditations, and dreams. ('Psychological Novel | Literature').

## Virginia Woolf as a Feminist writer

For ages, women have been suffering from oppression and inferiority in their lives. This deficulties prevented them from calling for their rights. Therefore, feminism came against patriarchal values and influenced various sides such as culture, art, and literature. Their inferiority of women in society was evolving from the beginning of the last century, many literary workstackled such issues through their plots, morals, and characters. Literature is the most useful toolthat gave a voice to women to express themselves and defend their rights by including the feminist views as a corner stone.

During the late19th century and the early 20<sup>th</sup>century, many writers tackled issue related to feminism and patriarchal traits, one of them beingVirginia Woolf, she is best known for her novels, especially *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925) and *To the Lighthouse* (1927), Woolf also wrote pioneering essays on artistic theory, literary history, women's writing, and the politics of power. A fine stylist, she experimented with several forms of biographical writing, composed painterly short fictions, and sent to her friends and family a lifetime of brilliant letters.( Reid).

Virginia Woolf did not like literature at that time because the language at that time wasmainly focusing on describing the form of external forms only. Woolf has always been looking for a way to use language to describe the inner thoughts and feelings of the characters for the effects by the surrounding environment, especially during the period of the twentieth century. She was always trying to explain in her writings about suffering feelings, fears and thoughts and all the needs associated with the modern era .Virginia Woolf's style was characterized by interesting techniques especially stream of consciousness and flashback and she was the main figure who led these techniques .we cannot deny that Woolf's ideas was weird, unique, new and controversial . She paved the way for many novelists to use the modernist techniques. (Bookshelf, 2:18-3:45) . In her works, she dealt with various problems that are related to woman's life, rights, and

character, these themes appearthroughout her fictional and non-fictional writings. Virginia Woolf tackles many themes related to feminism, financial independence, oppression of women in their relationship with men, andalso, freedom of speech. Especially in her masterpiece "A Room of One's Own" One of the most important sentences that Virginia said is that a woman must have money and a room of her own .if she is to write fiction. (Woolf)...And she gave an example in A second concern is revealed in Woolf's subsequent discussion of Judith Shakespeare. This is an imagined account of the life of a conjectured equally brilliant sister to the playwright and follows

on from Woolf's observation that for social and economic reasons 'it would have been impossible, completely and entirely, for any woman to have written the plays of Shakespeare in the age of Shakespeare' (Woolf). because all woman do is housework, taking careof her husband and children, and other responsibilities that hinder her from writing, unlike Shakespeare. Who is like everyman, has all the time and money to achieve whatever he wants.

The goal of feminism is not to destroy men, but rather to remence deeply rooted patriarchal ideas in society, Feminism aims to improve the statue of women and make them equal to the statue of men, not to underestimate them. the goal of feminism is to try to end the oppression of women, not reverse the oppression of men. Feminism is not motive to treat men as rubbish, but it does mean that some of the things that men do that worsen the condition of women. (Müller)

# Psycho analysis of the feminist perspective

Psychoanalytic feminism is an oppression theory that claims men have an innate psychological drive to oppress women. Men's urge to dominate women and women's little resistance to servitude have their origins in the human mind. In order to better comprehend and change women's oppression, this branch of feminism tries to gain understanding into how ourpsychic lives grow. The oppressive pattern is also embedded in society, resulting in patriarchy's creation and maintenance. (Wolff)

According to psychoanalytic feminists, women's oppression is a result of relationship dynamics that were established during infancy and childhood and are perpetuated by their recurrence or reiteration inside psychic structures. Psychoanalytic feminists sought to change language patterns, early childhood experiences, and family relationships that develop and maintain gender roles because of these deeply ingrained patterns. Psychoanalytic feminists discussed the political

and social forces influencing the development of male and female subjects in their critique of Freudian and neo-Freudian ideas of women as being morally, psychically, and biologically inferior to men. Similar to radical feminists, they considered sexual difference and women's otherness in relation to males as major issues. (Graff).

Early feminist appropriations of Freud by Alfred Adler, Karen Horney, and Clara Thompson emphasized the individuality of every person over rigidly gendered developmental paths and explained women's psychic pathologies as being caused and sustained by their inferior social status within patriarchy rather than by biological deficiency. Some women's neuroses were viewed by these thinkers as original responses to their continued social subjugation. (Graff.)

Later feminist uses of Freud criticize the traditional family structure, in which women are typically the primary breadwinners and caregivers. For instance, Nancy Chodorow argued in The Reproduction of Mothering that different early experiences lead boys and girls down distinct developmental paths, with boys inevitably separating from their mothers to identify with the social power of the father and girls developing a more symbiotic/continuous sense of self in relation to the mother. Men are emotionally stunted and less capable of meaningful personal connections as a result of these social dynamics that emphasize autonomy and isolation for boys, but they are more prepared for public life and the workplace. Girls, on the other hand, who grow up as subjects who are more closely related to their mothers, have more fluid psychic borders that allow for greater emotional openness. (Graff).

#### **Conlution:**

At the end weobserved about Virginia 's Woolf life and her important major works as well as her as a feministrebal .aotherthingthat have been focused about is the psycho analysis of the femistpersepective .

**Chapter two:** 

Mrs.Dalloway and Memory

# Introduction

Memory and its types

**Sensory Memory** 

**Short term Memory** 

**Long term Memory** 

Clarissa and her memory about peter

Clarissa and her memory about Sally

**Septimus traumatic memory** 

Septimus as the double of Clarissa

Conclusion

**Chapter two: Mrs Dalloway and memory** 

Introduction

In chapter two I will give an overview of the meaning of memory and its type in general as well as going to discuss the characters of the novel Mrs Dalloway, which was written by the one and only Virginia Woolf, and how she employes the theme of memory in all of these characters and how memory effected each one of them in a different way each character was a victim of the past, including painful and happy memories .they all oscillate between past and present memories of Clarissa about her lover peter and her best friend sally as well as how she sacrificed. Her happiness and the love of her life just in order to live the life she wanted .there is also Septimus and his painful memories that kept haunting him everywhere, and the last one is the common relationship between Clarissa and Septimus.

**Memory and its types** 

Memory is a storage of information, moments and experience that happened in the past, and the ability to retrieve it when needed, retrieving and remembering people, places or things events the subconscious and brain goes back to remember the passion of the past, some of them smile and some cry . every moment that passes becames a piece of memory , memories are something above the will, above the heart and feelings that is they unforgettable and remains like a scar. Memory is our past present and our future. You need to have some notion of who you have been in order to know who you are as a person. For good or worse, happy or painful your remembered life story serves as a decent road map for your future actions.. "Our memory is our coherence," If you lose your memory, you also lose a main part of who you trully are.

(Fernyhough)

Says Freud and Breur:

Memories are curious things. Sometimes they masquerade as thoughts, feelings, or images, without revealing themselves as memories. Sometimes they come to mind and seem relatively meaningless, other times they overwhelm consciousness and cast us back into a vividly remembered past. They emerge into consciousness from somewhere else and give us pause for thought. Why? When a hysterical patient finally connects their intrusively persistent awareness of a disturbing smell to a memory of the smell of a particular person's cigar (Breuer Freud).

"why is it significant? It is significant because memories are an intrinsic part of us – they are the database or the content of the self. They ground it in a remembered reality that constrains what the self can be now and in the future, and what it could possibly have been in the past. Because of this, memories are not some sort of mental wallpaper that merely provide a backdrop for the self. They are alive, free, sometimes alien, occasionally dangerous mental representations, that can overwhelm as easily as they fulfill" (Wunderlish)

According to new research Cognitive psychologist Margaret W. Matlin has described memory as the "process of retaining information over time." Others have defined it as the ability to use our past experiences to determine our future path .(Zimmermann).

There is a beautiful and happy memory and there is painful, tragic and terrifying one that they will never forget .every person cheriches every single memory, especially the memory of the

youthful days, youth period is characterized by its misery rebellion and playful days all these memories time cannot erase it and remain stuck in the mind and heart, there are memories with family and others with their beloved ones that fate has parted them away, when we pass a side of a road or anything else, we remember those moments that we have experienced in that place.

memories became like a nightmare when it comes to painful memories the people who experienced terrifying moments and these memories remain chasing them like a ghost and they refuse to live in their present time . remembering the past is painfully beautiful , beautiful because those memories that we have them are so vivid real and colorful that we rejoice in replaying them in our mind but its truly painful because you cannot go back to the past and hug your beloved one.

# **Types of memory**

#### **Sensory Memory:**

permits you to recall sensory information after the stimulation has stopped. All othermemories, according to researchers who describe memory as phases rather than kinds, begin with the establishment of sensory memories. Normally, your sensory memory only retains information for a short time. Sensory memory is the ability to recall the sensation of someone's touch or a sound you heard in passing. There are three types of sensory memory: iconic, which is based on sight, echoic, which is based on hearing, and haptic, which is based on touch. (Ohwovoriole).

#### **Short-term Memory**

Short-term memory, as the name implies, helps you to recall particular information about anything for a short amount of time. Short-term memory isn't as ephemeral as sensory memory, but it's also not as long-lasting as long-term memory. Primary or active memory is another name for short-term memory. By rehearsing material, you can keep it in your short-term memory. If you need to recall a series of numbers, for example, you may keep repeating them to yourself until you can type them. However, if you were asked to recollect those numbers 10 minutes after entering them, you would almost certainly be unable to do so. (Ohwovoriole).

#### long term memory

storing of knowledge over a lengthy period of time is referred to as long-term memory.

This type of memory is usually consistent and lasts a long time, frequently years. There are two types of long-term memory explicit (conscious) memory and implicit (unconscious) mIf you can recall something that happened more than a few moments ago, whether it was hours ago or decades ago, you have a long-term memory.emory. (Ohwovoriole).

The theme memory has been used by most of the well known writers, we can't talk about this interesting theme without mentioning the creative Virginia Woolf, she is the best novelist to represent this theme, she used it in most of her novels including to the light house and Mrs Dalloway it makes the reader live between the past and present with the characters of the novel it Is like the reader is there with them sharing with them their memories, feelings and thoughts. Mrs Dalloway is a novel centered on characters living in present but their souls are stuck in the past, grappling between sad and happy memories and moments of their past days.

was full of events and suspense.

## Clarissa and her memory about peter

Among the characters that represents the theme of memory is Clarissa, that elegant lady who likes to host parties who looks happy from the outside and everyone wishes to live like her and have her elite vibes, but all she feels is lonely and sadness. Clarissa's present is not as beautiful as her past and her youthful days with its misery and happiness, the present she lives in is just a box of beautiful memories of her past with her old town and memories of her ex lover and her best friend. all these memories drag her from the present to the past out her mind and body, separate her to the point of delusion, making her absent minded all the time. Clarissa and Peter were in love however their relationship did not end up well, when she thinks of him, she remembers her early twenties and her special youth in her old town of Burton, which she used to live in when she was single. Clarissa travels with her memories with peter and remembers how much she loved him, Clarissa cannot accept the fact that she is living in the present time.

Clarissa and peter would be the best couple but peter and his love for possession made Clarissa

Scared and hesitated to share her thought or feelings with him Peter always scolded her and called her the Perfect Host.

How he scolded her! How they argued! She would marry a Prime Minister and stand at the top of a staircase; the perfect hostess he called her (she cried over it in her bedroom), she had the makings of the perfect hostess, he said. (Woolf 6).

His provocative criticism hurt Clarissa's feelings unlike Clarissa, Perter was tough rude, he didn't appreciate her feeling and value, all what Clarissa wanted was privacy and

freedom and care but she knew that peter doesn't provide her that and he would lock her ,so she sacriefied her happiness with peter for the sake of her freedom . Peter begged Clarissa to give him reasons why she rejected him and Clarissa told him to just move on .

For in marriage a little license,
a little independence there must
be between people living
together day in day out in the
same house; which Richard
gave her, and she him (where
was he this morning, for
I nstance? Some committee, she
never asked what.) But with
Peter everything had to be
shared, everything gone into.

(Woolf 10).

her marriage to Richard did not end up that good either, "The time comes when it can't be said; one's too shy to say it, he thought...setting off with his great bunch held against his body to Westminster to say straight out in so many words (whatever she might think of him), holding out

his flowers, 'I love you.' Why not" (Woolf 83). "He was holding out flowers... (But he could not bring himself to say he loved her; not in so many words.) But how lovely, she said, taking his flowers. She understood; she understood without his speaking," (Woolf, 87).

he couldn't not even say the word I love you and just shower her with flowers instead of tenderness . although Clarissa owns such a beautiful daughter and nice husband but their relashion ship was cold and formal .yet respectful and understandable .

Clarissa's memories are never dead. Every time she sees Richard, peter's picture appears infront of her eyes. Peter's memories Engraved in her heart even thought she tried to deny that and pretend that she chose the best for herself its only makes her pitiful. for Clarissa Her memories with Peter and her past in Burton are more important than her present.

Clarissa does not feel like herself or her indentity, she has become known as Dalloway, not Clarissa, and Clarissa's name has disappeared and is no longer on the people's tongue. she says " Mrs.Dalloway, Mrs. Dalloway not even Clarissa anymore, no more marrying no more childeren, just Mrs Dalloway who's to give a party". (Mrs Dalloway 9:37- 9:49).

The past and memories that characterize Clarissa and Peter Walsh are similar. Through their shared memories, Virginia Woolf develops their characters, and she even faked their very identities. Mrs. Dalloway weaves together the past, present, memory, and dream to create a singular tapestry of time and memory. The past holds the key to the future, and for these two, the past actually shapes the present by influencing who they are today. (Woolf)

Clarissa's character brokes the traditional structures of masculine time and linear narrative through remembrance. She embodies the performance of everything, mother, daughter, sister,

wife and hostess. However, her multiplicity of performances does not reinforce the "fixed" identity, but rather her inability, or refusal, to fully occupy any single role expected of her. Clarissa's female body and her memories blur the concept of female identity. Thus Wolfe presents a character who performs a number of identities in turbulent times and places. (Danbee).

#### Clarissa and her memory about sally:

Clarissa's memories were not only centered about peter, but also part of her memories were with her old best friend sally. Clarissa goes back thirty years ago during her youthful days to remember her special and unique past and moments with sally and how they shared the best and sweetest moments together that she will never forget for the last of her life. Clarissa felt safe, protected and free with sally that she had never felt it with peter or any other man. she says "purity, theintergrity, of her feeling for sally it was not like one's feeling for a man... it had a quality which could only exist between women". (Woolf 40). Clarissa reflects on a point in her life when she and sally were so close friends and she mulls over her feelings for her friend. because they were both women, they shared something significant she was able to let go and have fun with sally, taking risks and acting silly without worrying about anything, she misses the feelings of freedom and excitement she used to have. They used to stay up until dawn, talkingabout everything in life and sharing their thoughts secrets and feelings, Clarissa was open with Sally, unlike what she used to feel around peter, being afraid and hesitated.

Its obvious that Clarissa and Sally's relation ship was not just a friendship, it was more and Deeper than that, they had a feeling that they liked each other at some point. especially from Clarissa's side, she was always looking at sally and admiring her gorgeous beauty. Sally Seton, in Clarissa's memory, was a wild, cigarette smoking, dark—haired rebel.

"but this question of love (she thought putting her quote away), this falling in love with woman, take Sally Setonherrelashion ship in the old days with Sally seton. Had not that, after all been lobe!! (Woolf 40).

Clarissa's mind shift from Richard and her own attic bed to recollections of sally seton, the one she experienced the best days of her life .she had never experienced such passion with her.

Clarissa's mind travels far away and plunges into the world of thoughts and memory thinking

And remembering about her days with sally. and one of the most treasure memory about that was the moment that she kissed her on her lips and gave her a flower in the garden .('Mrs. Dalloway: Sally Seton Quotes').

"Then came the most exquisite moment of her whole life passing a stone urn with flowers in it. Sally stopped; picked a flower; kissed her on the lips. The whole world might have turned upside down! The others disappeared; there she was alone with Sally. And she felt that she had been given a present, wrapped up, and told just to keep it, not to look at it — a diamond, something infinitely precious, wrapped up, which, as they walked (up and down, up and down), she uncovered, or the radiance burnt through, the revelation, the religious feeling!"(Woolf 41).

That moment was so special and Clarissa cherishes it so much .When the novel was first released, homosexuality was an unheard-of idea. Virginia Woolf, on the other hand, subtly depicts their relationship, which is helps the spectator identify to them better. Woolf is able to create Clarissa's most important relationship in a way that seems both natural and desirable by avoiding particular designations. Clarissa and sally's love story cantflourishbecause to two of them are forced to marry only men. ('Sally Seton Character Analysis in Mrs. Dalloway').

At the end Clarissa married Richard and Sally Seton ended up marrying a rich wealthy man and owning five children and this was never expected from her.

Although Clarissa and Sally have growing up and there is no longer any attraction towards each other and they are no longer close to each other as before, but Clarissa cherishes those memories very much and will never bury them, but will live in her heart and memory for the rest of her life.

# septimus as traumatic memory:

In this part, we will talk about a character who played such a major role in the novel Mrs Dalloway and it was the most interesting role and one of the best character that Virginia ever portrayed.

#### septimus traumatic memory:

This chapter deals with a character who played such a major role in the novel Mrs Dalloway and it was the most interesting role and one of the best character that Virginia ever portrayed . Septimus is a veteran world war soldier suffering from shell shock and lost in his own thoughts, he feels guilty , despite himself for being rendered numb by the war . the war is a terrifying and brutal thing ,its only takes the good one ,and this war took over and crushed Septimus . Septimus was an academic , healthy and hard working man , who never hesitated to die for his Beloved country and to be the first to join the army in war , but everything turned upside down The day he witnessed his friend Evan dying infront of his eyes in the war , the day he witnessed That horrific scene , he has never feel the peace .

Woolf representations of the past, in the form of memories, both shape moments in the present and also seem to be used to present counter positions to societally approved ways of acting in her time. Additionally Virginia Woolf's approaches to memory are often seen to relate to themes of alienation and loss. A number of examples of these themes can be seen in Woolf's novel Mrs Dalloway(Gammie 1). and in particular in relation to the character Septimus Smith:

- Mei-Yu Tsai sees Woolf having the death of Septimus directly influenced by his memories of his experiences as a solider in the First World War as illustrative of how Woolf sees memory as a mechanism through which traumas are relived, and in this particular case with tragic consequences. (Gammie 1).
- Jessica Patrucco (4) sees Woolf as showing that Septimus's reaction to continually reliving his war experiences is regarded as 'dangerous', when contrasted with what were considered at the time as acceptable public norms and behaviours in such circumstances. Patrucco believes that Woolf is proposing that the private grief that memories of his experiences provokes in Septimus is more reflective of the reality of post war life for those, like him, who had experienced the horrors of the First World War, than the behaviours that were regarded as acceptable in the society of the time. (Gammie 1).

his friend's body started following him. Septimus and Evan were never separated from each other during the war, they were having funand fighting for the sake of their beloved country .septimus believes that he does not deserve tolive, and must die he was always repeating a sentence saying: "The whole world is glamouring" kill yourself, kill yourself for god sake" (Mrs.Dalloway 12:12-12:16).

Septimus story In analyzing Mrs. Dalloway from a Freudian angle, Septimus Warren Smith provides the most obvious meat. He is a character suffering from shell shock, the very disease (or

psychological disorder) that refutes the prevailing belief that hysteria is a women's disease. Shell shock—now known as PTSD—gave more influence to Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, and his other theories on the mechanisms of repression and conversion that occur unconsciously within the mind. (Amitch93).

Septimus cannot forget what he witnessed and cant escape from the reality of the past and his traumatic memory. Evan's ghost kept ,following him everywhere like his shadow. (For God's sake don't come! Septimus hurt out. For he could not look upon the dead. But the branches parted. A man in gray was walking towards them. It was Evans! But no mud was on him; no wounds; he was not changed. I must tell the whole world, Septimus cry" (Woolf 105).

Fraud claims that traumatic events are not accessible to the memory instead of remembering the Trauma, the patients compulsively repeat them, repletion compulsion implies that patients donot encounter the traumatic event as past but as present. (Ven der Kol). As we see it in Septimus, he sees Evan's body infront of his eyes, even though he lives in the present even though evan no longer exists.

Only his wife, Lucrezia, understand Septimius' feelings, despite her suffering with him, Lucrezia never left Septimus's side and was the only one who tried to heal his wounds and his suffering, And she was looking for any way to make those painful events go.unfortunately, that was not helpful. Septimus traumatic memories was stronger than him, and his subconscious was driving him crazy, and all he wanted was to end his miserable life. the horrible memories returns against their will. This is what happened to Septimus. He thought that if he tried to live his life like any other human being, he would feel guilty and that he might disappoint his friend who died in the war. How can he live a quiet life when his friend is dead! Septimus couldn't do anything, the

tragic past drive him to madness. All he wanted was to relieve that burden .In the end, Septimus could not resist and chose another path to makehis soul rest in peace and those memories disappear, so he threw himself out the window and committed suicide. thus the tragic story of Septimusended.

#### Septimus as the double of Clarissa:

There is a relationship between two people in Mrs. Dalloway that have things in common, even though they don't know each other and have never spoken, but each one of them have memories, one is that they cherish and the other that shattered. And these two characters are Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus.

The story of Mrs. Dalloway is divided between two characters Clarissa party and Septimus, Although they have naver faced each other, readers can feel that they are becoming closer and closer. 'That in the first version Septimus, who afterwards is intended to be her double, had no existence; and that Mrs. Dalloway was initially to commit suicide instead of Septimusherself, or just die at the end of her party.(Quixia 2).

Throughout the novel, Clarissa is contrasted with Septimus Warren Smith, a shell-shocked World War I herowho suffers from mental illness. In many ways, Septimus serves as Clarissa's alter-ego or double. The two never meet, but Septimus' eventual suicide is mentioned during Mrs. Dalloway's party. (Tanushree 1).

both Character are mentally residing in the memories and events of the past while physically being in the present. Clarissa and Septimusboth refer to their thoughts about the meaning of life and death after the war, especially when we get deeper into their consciousness using the stream-

of-consciousness approach. This concept is used by Wolf to convey a sense of proximity between the two stages of death, Septimus' physical death and Clarissa's symbolic death.

Woolf establishes a physical link between the two characters by giving them basic physical parallels, such as their desire to retain their soul privacy. The similarity of Clarissa and Peter we see when the two stood in front of the window. Clarissa opened the window to inhale the air and began to reminisce about the past. On the other hand, Septimius stood infont of the window and threw himself because he could no longer bear the pain.

Clarissa believes she has reached the magical center and escaped the fatality that was hidden in the novel's center thanks to Septimus's suicide. At this point, Septimus shows up as a duplicate of Clarissa. He not only grants her last request but also gives her the ability to live on.

Clarissa and Semptimus are also attracted to people of the same sex. Clarissa was attracted to her friend Sally, but their love did not blossom, and in the end the two married a rich men. On the other hand, Septimius, who was attracted to his friend Evan and was greatly affected by his death, eventually married Lucrezia in order to hide his tendencies.

According to critic Alex Zwerdling, "Woolf's fiction frequently depicts homosexual and lesbian attachments with sympathy and yet without special pleading," challenging Victorian sexual prejudices by treating homosexual characters with the same "basic dignity as sexually conventional characters" (Zwerdling). Clarissa and Septimus are victims of the past, although their past differ in that they share many things.

#### **Conclusion**

All in all we see that Virginia Woolf has presented her main characters in a unique way, all of them cannot accept the fact that they are living in the present. isolated and lonely characters sharing the same suffering but in a different way, there is Clarissa who cherishes her memories of her youthful days with her best friend and lover and she doesn't seems bitter about peter all and what he did to her, on the other hand there Septimus who was the victim of his past with his traumatic memories because of the war.

**Chapter Three:** 

**Modernist techniques and memory** 

Introduction

**Treatment of Time** 

**Flashback** 

**Stream of consciousness** 

**Interior Monologue** 

**Moment of being** 

Conclution

# **Chapter Three:modernist techniques and memory**

# Introduction

The third chapter focuses on Virginia Woolf's use of her major modernist techniques in her novel Mrs. Dalloway, the use of time, free indirect speech, stream of consciousness, interior monologue and moment of being. We will also show how the writer contributed these techniques in order to develop the theme of memory in the novel as well as helping the reader to understand every character's thoughts and feelings and experience their suffering like they are living them.

Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway is a modernist novel, which shows new techniques to express a different point, Woolf with her creative way and ideas to connect the sequence of the events in a mysterious way in her novels, she uses the narrative modernist techniques to make it more interesting and makes the reader want to know all of the details of the story and live the role with every single character specially the main one.

# **Treatment of Time:**

Among the techniques that Woolf employs in order to develop the theme of memory in her Novel, Mrs. *Dalloway* is her treatment of time. Bergson argued that time has two faces. The first face of time is "objective time": the time of watches, calendars, and train timetables. The second, la durée ("duration"), is "lived time," the time of our inner subjective experience. This is time felt, lived, and acted. (Moravec).

Mrs.Dalloway, set in one day but this day is very eventful, so many things have happened in just twenty four hours. the beginning of the novel was not in a chronological order, but rather he gradual beginning of Dalloway's memories. this is what makes the novel interesting and unique.

from the first time that woolf present Clarissa, we automatically travel between her present, her past, and her thoughts about the future. we understand pieces of her life. We see the lifetime culmination of beautiful moments and painful moments embodied in Woolf's characters.

Woolf's style impresses upon the reader the time which exists in our minds. This point is illustrated by Clarissa's arrival at the flower shop in the morning; her senses are effortlessly taken to evening time as she thinks.(Armentrout).

And it was the moment between six and seven when every flower—roses, carnations, irises, lilac—glows; white, violet, red, deep orange; every flower seems to burn by itself, softly, purely in the misty beds; and how she loved the grey-white moths spinning in and out, over the cherry pie, over the evening primroses! (Woolf 13).

The smooth transition from clarissa buying flowers in the present to going back to her memories and past is so unique. Woolf's message about time would not be as effectively or enjoyable if she had written it in another way .(Armentrout) . Critic Bernard Blackstone wrote that Essentially, Woolf's style adds emphasis to her idea of time as a constant flow—time that is the present but also the past; linear but sporadic; eternal but vanishing. (Bernard ) .

The sound of Big Ben flooded Clarissa's drawing-room where she sat, ever so annoyed, at her writing table; worried; annoyed" (Woolf 117). "a suspense before Big Ben strikes. There! Out it boomed. First a warning, musical; then the hour, irrevocable. The leaden circles dissolved in the air" (Woolf 4). What is audible is the bell of big bang, that loud riningfrightings Dalloway and wakes her from her delirium, Big bang is a warning to the characters of the novel to wake up from their past, and memories and the time is actually passing and they are not young anymore and they must move one ('Mrs Dalloway and Time').

time is also seen in septimus condition him and clarissa face the same dielma while clarissaconforonts her time in the hourly stuck of big bang septimus faces his doctor and ww1 septimus is tortuned by the death of his friend Evan . both clarissa and septimus fates can be undrestood in the terms of their ability to face this hard challenge(Quixia 7).

Time, in the novel, is both act and actor; character and concept. The flux of time, in all of its guises, gives a real sense of agency to the novel, allowing everything to be measured against it.

The notion of the infinite nature of time is often just as important for Woolf as the moment itself.

This focus upon time in Mrs Dalloway reflects Woolf's own obsession with it. Hermione Lee writes: 'Her compulsive and compulsory timetables fulfilled her need for order, and stopped her thinking about death'( lee ).

#### Flashback:

Treatment of time is connect by the technique of flashback literature define flashback as an interruption in the chronological order or timeline of a narrative to give a feed back story needed to further the reader's understanding the characters. In a flashback, the current action of the story is interrupted by a clear or distinct memory to reveal a serious past events and background information, author use toresovl a personal secrets or inner conflict, authors also use flashbacks to foreshadow important events or to create a unique interest within the chronological flow of the story. (Sedillo)

Many Scholars have defined flashbacks with different perspectives here are some definitions:

Britannica Encyclopedia state that: "Flashback, in motion pictures and literature, is narrative technique of interrupting the chronological sequence of events to interject events of earlier By using flashback technology the author can start the story from a high point of interest and avoid

the monotony of the chronological presentation. It also preserves the story in the substantive dramatic present. ('Flashback | Cinematography and Literature').

Andrew Sedillo an instructor of Language Arts, Social Studies, and Technology who says "Authors use flashbacks as a means of adding background information in the present events of their story. They interrupt a specific event within their story by using events that have already occurred or that have not been presented. This gives the reader added information about a character's past, including his or her secrets, inner or external conflicts, or significant events that affected his or her life. If the author is able to do this well, the reader will begin to convey reasoning for the actions of the characters throughout the story and develop a better understanding of present events. This also helps the author create a theme for the story and increase the emotional impact it will have on the reader" (Sedillo).

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The technique of flashback we can see it in MrsDalloway which take a place over a single day opens onto a flashback ...characters memory is jotled by the thought of some squaking doors there is work going on in the house which reminds her of similar sound from her teenage day this

leads to a reverse of memories from 30 years ago when she was young her older father had feelings that something bad might happen .clarissa has some arrands to run on trais particular morning she is hosting an important party but memories from her past continue to haunt her . this flashback has a specific purpose because although the action of the novel takes a place on one they enable the leader to learn more about Clarissa girlhood and youth and memories .( Oliveros 1).

#### **Stream of consciousness:**

The term "stream of consciousness" was coined by psychologists in the nineteenth century to describe the constant flow of subjective thoughts, feelings, memories, and observations that everyone experiences. However, literary critics began to use the term "stream of consciousness" to characterize a narrative approach pioneered by writers such as Dorothy Richardson, Marcel Proust, James Joyce, and Virginia Woolf in the early twentieth century. Many of these authors were fascinated by psychology and the "psychological novel," in which authors devote at least as much time to explaining the characters' thoughts, ideas, and internal growth as they do to discussing the plot's action (Frissella).

Authors that employ this technique are attempting to convey emotional and psychological truth: they seek to offer a snapshot of how the brain flows from one location to the next. These authors point out that thought isn't linear; we don't think in logical, well-organized, or even entire phrases(Delf).

Virginia was afraid that her books will be andoned and and people will forget about her the day she passes away, so she used her stream of consciousness to further develop her works more And the novel Mrs Dalloway was the book that paved the way for her to became more famous for this work.

Characters like Clarissa and Septimus lived in their own separate universe, which has become a daily reality for everyone in modern life. Septimus is a returnee soldier who suffers from self-shock and mental instability, eventually committing suicide, whereas Clarissa lives in her own isolated world with her marriage to a mediocre politician Richard. Another man who lives in his own isolated world is Peter Walsh, who is reminded of his prior relationship with Clarissa by the chiming of the bell.

feelings and emotions are translated which shows their relationships and stresses more on their inner flow of thoughts. As Clarissa walks down the street of London, she meets her old acquaintance and the flow of her inner thoughts or the inner time from past floats in the novel. She goes back in time where a reader sees the past relationship between Clarissa and her old friend Sally. Through Clarissa's inner thoughts, one can observe the complex weave of relationships between the two girlhood friends in the past. (mrs dalloway as a stream of

The technique focuses on the individual self and the inner time of their minds. The individual

Lastly, because time was being experimented with at the time of Woolf, the stream of consciousness approach distorts time. "Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged but a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end. Is it not the task of the novelist to convey this varying, this unknown

consciousness).

and uncircumscribed spirit, whatever aberration or complexity it may display, with as little mixture of the alien and external as possible?" (woolf,) Woolf's story was influenced by Einstein's theory of relativity of time.

### **Interior Monologue:**

Interior monologue is often times associated with streams of consciousness, where mostInterior monologue is a narrative style used in both dramatic and nondramatic fiction to show theprotagonists' inner thoughts. These concepts could be loosely connected perceptions that resemble spontaneous association or more rationally planned cognitive and emotion processes. ('Interior Monologue | Literary Device').

Virginia Woolf, allow for the reader to develop a deeper connection with the characters of the story by using this technique. We are able to know what a character is thinking or feeling which helps us better relate to and better understand the novel itself. A greatexample of this is Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. In this novel, Virginia Woolf gives many examples of interior monologue, like the one below):

"For they might be parted for hundreds of years, she and Peter; she never wrote a letter and his dry sticks; but suddenly it would come over her, If he were with me now what would he say?—
some days, some sights bringing him back to her calmly, without the old bitterness;" (Woolf 7).

The bold line in this passage represents Clarissa Dalloway's longing for Peter Walsh. She wonders that he would say if he was with her at that moment. Here, if Virginia hadn't given us Clarissa's thought about peter, we'd never know what She was thinking of and how much she is waiting to see him.

### Moment of being:

The last technique that is so interesting but unfortunately it did not receive much interest and this technique is the use of Moments of being. The characters of *Mrs. Dalloway* are most receptive to moments of being in all of Woolf's literature.

The juxtaposition of the characters' flashbacks with the present day in Mrs. Dalloway creates an additional temporal realm that can be seen. Virginia not only describes the illuminating "moments of being" from the past, but she also invites the reader to see how those powerful feelings came to be, as if inviting them to take part in the making of a piece of art. This is apparent, for instance, when Peter Walsh exits Regent's Park while contemplating Clarissa. In their childhood, Clarissa and Peter were extremely close, but eventually Clarissa left Peter and married Richard Dalloway. Despite this, Peter is still much in love with Mrs. Dalloway. Up to the time mentioned, Peter had not fully healed. The section under discussion, however, features him. (Flis4).

The events of Mrs. Dalloway take place over the course of a 24-hour period, with London's Big Ben clock serving as a timekeeper. However, the characters' recollections, associations, and criticisms of one another move them from the present into the past and even the future.

Additionally, although being a distinct individual, every character in the book is constantly related to everyone and everything else in it in different ways. (Dintino). Clarissa Dalloway, the protagonist of Mrs. Dalloway, has a good day in the novel. It is a day filled with numerous intersecting moments of existence that, for her and others, come together into a sort of nexus, culminating in the party she will hold that evening. Each word in Mrs.

Dalloway is chosen with care and purpose, creating mesmerizing writing. It reads like one long sentence or a lengthy poem. It can be read repeatedly to catch new themes, relationships, and occurrences. Woolf's ability to create vivid imagery with simple, concise sentences is astounding. (Dintino).

# Conclution

All this modernist techniques contributed in order to create a smooth blend in an interesting way that made the novel Mrs Dalloway unmatched . Every single technique contributed to the development of the theme of Memory . and Virginia Woolf was such a genius novelist for using these techniques in her novels .

**General conclusion** 

#### **General conclusion**

We have shown through this dissertation how Virginia Woolf employed the theme memory in her novel Mrs.Dalloway . The theme Memory is connected by several modernist techniques mainly The treatment of time , the Stream of Consciousness ,interior monologue and moment of being . all these techniques and the theme memory makes the reader confused and curious about each character and their thoughts .

Mrs Dalloway (1925) is a master piece novel written by the genius Virginia Woolf, the novel is all about the characters conscious thoughts and their struggle about their past and present. through the theme memory we have learned that there are two types of memory the happy one and painful and sad memory

In this research, an important aspect was addressed which is the theme of Memory in the novel of Mrs Dalloway (19925) by Virginia Woolf, the research problem revolved about highlighting how Virginia used the theme of memory in her novel as well as her narrative techniques, the theme of memory is connected by several modernist techniques mainly, Flashback treatment of time interior monologue stream of consciousness and moment of being, all these techniques and the theme portrayed in a very unique way it makes the reader curious about every single character

and their thoughts feelings and past and present.

Mrs Dalloway which was published in 1925 is a master piece novel that led Woolf to be one of the most iconic novelist of all time, the novel is all about characters struggling between their happiness and depression between their past and present as well as their unknowing future.

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# الملخص:

خلال القرن العشرين بدأ ظهور عصر جديد بما يسمى عصر الحداثة مما شهد ظهور أهم الكتابساهمو في تطوير الأدب الانجليزي من بينهم جيمس جويسي وفيرجينيا وولف خصوصا فيرجينيا وولف التي بسسبها تطورت الكتابة عن الافكار والمشاعر. وهذا ماجعل اعمالها جد مميزة وخالدة ومن بين اهم اعمالها التي جعلت فيرجينيا من أشهر كتاب هي روايتها السيدة دالواي التي صدرت عام 1925 ليلة واحد لكنها مشوقة جدا. فلشخصيات الرواية يتصارعون بين حاضرهم وذكريات ماضيهم.

حاولت وولف ان تتعمق في الشخصيات من خلال موضوع الذاكرة وتقنيات الادب الحديث حيث جسدت وولف كل شخصية بميزة خاصة استخدمت وولف موضوع الذاكرة والتقنيات الحداثة مما جعلت القصة فريدة من نوعها وتجعل القارئ مشوش ويحب أن يعرف احداث القصة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الذاكرة، السيدة دالواي، فيرجينيا وولف، تقنيات الحداثة.