**Stream of Consciousness technique in Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf**

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Abstract: In the “Stream of Consciousness” novel everything is presented an apparently unorganised succession of images and ideas connected by association rather than by narrative sequences. The action takes place and the plot develops through the mind of the principal character. The stream of consciousness desriber or suggests the states of mind. The present paper researches Virginia Woolf's use of the stream of consciousness technique in her novel, *Mrs Dalloway*.

**Keywords:** Impressionism, Sane, Insane, Stream of consciousness.

**INTRODUCTION**

Virginia Woolf is regarded as a major twentieth century author, a great novelist, essayist and a key figure in literary history as a feminist and a modernist; She along with James Joyce and Dorothy Richardson is regarded as the exponent of stream of consciousness novel. Her two other major Novels are:

*“To the Lighthouse”* and *“The Waves”* says John Bennett-

*Mrs. Dalloway* no longer the story of Clarissa Dalloway, not of Septimus Smith but of human life itself. The stream of consciousness technique is essentially based impressionism, invented by William James and popularized in his book “The Principles of Psychology”. He writes:

Consciousness does not appear to itself chopped up in bits… it is nothing joined it flows. A river or a stream are the metaphors by which it is the more naturally described. James, states-

“In talking of it, let us call it the stream of thoughts of consciousness, or of subjective life.”

The stream of conscious novelists take us to the hidden recesses of our changing consciousness of their character’s mind. We plunge into the character’s pre-speech level of consciousness and see what is happing these. E. Bowling subscribes the technique as –

“A direct quotation of the mind not merely of the language area but of the whole consciousness.”

The novel of Mrs. Woolf represent a complete break from the 19th century fiction. She has made English novels truly psychological. An inner meaning is almost expressed in *Mrs. Dalloway*.

The internal/external dichotomy of chiming of nors. Mrs. Woolf has adopted the technique of probing into the consciousness of her characters. In her essay Modern fiction she states:

“Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged it is a luminous halo, a semitransparent envelope surroundings us from the beginning of consciousness to the end.”

*Mrs. Dalloway* represents a compromise between the formal clarity of the the formal clarity of the stream of consciousness Technique’ Mrs. Woolf has invented a new technique that suits her purpose. Joan Bennett:
“Mrs. Dalloway has adopted the process of selection and clarification”.

The action starts with Clarissa preparing for party in morning and presiding one it in the evening. The first introduction of Mrs. Dalloway is the interior monologue of Scrope Purvis;

“A charming woman, Scrope Purvis thoughts her…”

Then instantly Clarissa Dalloway reacts upon the chiming of Big Ben. She thought-

“The leaden circles dissolved in the air such fools me are, she thoughts crossing Victoria street. For heaven only knows why one loves it so…”

The Clarissa thinking about Peter Walsh and her own relationship and about the understanding of Peter Walsh’s character made her proclaim-

“Her only gift was knowing people almost by instinct she thought walking on…”

Then she thought upon her decision marrying Richard Dalloway in spite of peter Walsh only for her personal identity but even after marrying Richard Dalloway after thirty years, she feels no happiness rather felt a loss of her own identity and thus we find a note of feminist i.e. of Virginia Woolf-

“She had the oddest sense of being herself invisible, unseen; unknown.. being Mrs. Dalloway, not even Clarissa anymore, this being Mrs. Richased Dalloway.”

Mrs. Dalloway violent hasted for miss killman is quite significant expressed through her interior monologue where she says-

“…Miss Killman had become one of those specters with which one battles in the night…. she would have loved Miss Killman! But not in this world. No.”

Clarissa though after meeting Peter Walsh about his strange habit of always carrying a knife-

“What an extraordinary habit that was, Clarissa thought playing with a knife. Always making one feel frivolous; empty minded; a mere silly chatterbox as the he used.”

Peter Walsh thoughts for clasissa-

Clarissa had grown hard he thoughts and a trifle sentimental into the bargain….”

At the look of an old lady Clarissa utters very philosophical lines-

“That old woman looking out of the window quite unconscious that she was being watched.”

Septimus Warren Smith has also been portrayed dry the stream of consciousness technique. He is a shall shocked veteran of war, according to Dr. Holmes out of sorts utterts philosophic lines of Shakespeare, Dante, Keats etc. He suffered from hallucinations of his diseased friend evens. Then he thoughts very significant and specific thing -

“The world wavered and quivered and threatened to burst into flames. It is I who am blocking the way he though.”

His only problem was –

“He could not feel”

Mrs. Woolf doesn’t use the pronoun ‘I’ but often used the world ‘I’. The novel has been printed as one piece from the beginning to the end. These are no parts, divisions or characters. This method gives internal unity to the novel. Says, Bernard Black Stone:
“For technical mastery, them novel is unparalleled in English fiction”

“Mrs. Dolloway which was published in 1925, has been called by David Daiches:

“The first wholly successfully novel that Virginia woolf produced”.

The novel attempts to present the world seen by the and the insane side by side though the characters of the sane woman protagonist Mrs. Clarissa and the insane would was veteran septimus and the societal oppression confronted by both in the form of brutality meaninglessness and loneliness of the modern British society.

Virgenia woolf herself determine to conceive this book as a whole-

“to forsee (it) better than the others and get the ulmost out of it.”

According to James, “Consciousness is an amalgam of all that we have experienced and continue to experience. Virginia Woolf writing on James Joyce in1919 said similar thing:

“Close to the quick of the mind.. life is a luminous halo, semi transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end.”

And thus suggest us about the psychological problem of the stream of consciousness.

The “Stream of Consciousness” technique is based on psychology. And reflects a deep interest in the psychoanalytical school of Jung, Freud and Adler - in the theories of free Association, the collective unconsciousness mind the interpretations of dreams and so on.

Throughout Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway the main characters most notably Septimus Warren Smith and Clarissa Dalloway float in and out of their own thoughts rather than through each other’s lives. Woolf originally imagined these separate stream of consciousness to depict 20th century England through the eyes of both the same and the insane. E.M. Forster, writing in “The Criterion” April 1926, says -

“It is perhaps her masterpiece but difficult and I am not altogether sure about every detail except when my fountain pen is in my hand.”

REFERENCES