



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



### **Time on the Mind: Comparing the Representations of psychology of Time in *Mrs***

#### ***Dalloway and The Hours***

Sruthi P

Research Scholar

Department of English

School of Social Sciences and Languages

Vellore Institute to Technology

#### **Abstract**

Time is a significant part of the human consciousness. The human consciousness has its very own time framework, which registers the length of emotions and experience. It doesn't depend on division of time into minutes and hours. Time keeping has constantly assumed a significant role in human culture, and its systems have experienced numerous progressions consistently. The Industrial Revolution realized impressive change, and the constant procedure of progress even in the public arena today. The thoughts of Taylorism presented remarkable perspective on industrialization. Psychological time is a term that alludes to the pace of the time arrangement of the mind. The interior time arrangement of the human mind turned out to be progressively significant, in light of the fact that outer time turned out to be incredibly organized and inflexible. One of the most conspicuous topics in Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* is time. Time has a significant influence in Cunningham's *The Hours*, as he has employed Woolf's novel as a foundation of motivation. This paper tries to attempt psychology of time is part of human mind and consciousness in the light of *Mrs Dalloway* and *The Hours*.

**Keywords: Time, Mind, Human conscious, Clock**

-----

#### **Introduction**

The Roman philosopher Plotinus was the first to name the phenomenon of time on human consciousness. It is imperative to take note of that disguised time is constantly identified with remotely estimated time. One can exist just in contrast with the other, on the grounds that disguised time must be communicated as far as clock time. *The Hours* is a novel that traverses the twentieth century twice. The first run through in quite a while production



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



history: in 1925 Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs Dalloway* was distributed, which had *The Hours* as its working title. In 1998 Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours* was distributed, and in 2002 a film roused by Cunningham's tale was discharged. *The Hours* presents a subsequent cross area of the twentieth century by covering account grounds in 1923, 1949 and the 1990s. It turns out to be certain that Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and Michael Cunningham's *The Hours* are impressively associated through time, Tory Young adds, "The relationship between *The Hours* and *Mrs. Dalloway* is impossible to simplify; Cunningham interweaves aspects of Woolf's life, her novel, and her theories" (Young 38)

Virginia Woolf composed the story of Mrs. Dalloway moderately aged lady and her sunny June day in London became the greatest Modernist works of art. The clock estimates time, however then again time is spoken to by the term of encounters as the human consciousness registers them. Cunningham straightforwardly recognizes Mrs Dalloway as his source for the novel. He has depicted his novel as "an improvisation on Woolf's [*Mrs Dalloway*]" (The Years 4). Specifically, Cunningham is devoted to Mrs Dalloway, as he also uses time as a significant component in his novel. He has embraced a few of Woolf's methods and uses Mrs Dalloway as a motivation so as to speak to a sense of feeling for the portrayal of 'time.' All things considered, *The Hours* additionally moves from Mrs Dalloway. *The Hours* is a re-recounting Mrs Dalloway, however it is likewise an improvisation, as Cunningham calls it. As Mary Joe Hughes says in her article on *The Hours*, an improvisation is a variation on an existing melody; it changes when an author adds more new elements: "Although *The Hours* contains a similar cast of characters to those of *Mrs. Dalloway* and repeats the themes of love and death and time, Michael Cunningham does not simply ape the structure of *Mrs. Dalloway* and transpose it to New York in the late twentieth century" (Hughes 350).

This paper attempts to uncover time is a psychological term that closely attached to mental illness of characters in Mrs Dalloway and *The Hours*. The first part explores the concept of psychological time and later continues this exploration by applying it to Mrs Dalloway finally to *The Hours*. This paper also attempts to illustrate similarities between *The Hours* and *Mrs Dalloway* on the notion of psychology of time.

### **The Psychological Concept of Time on the Mind**



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

**DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE**

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



The time arrangement of the brain is subjective and personal, while the clock speaks to time that is objective and public. Apparently, there are two unique sorts of time: the time clock tells and time in the human mind. These two kinds of time have distinct attributes, which obviously separate one from the other. Clock time administers the persevering advancement of life, requesting occasions in a sequential, direct grouping as indicated by when they occurred in time. It is the thing that history is made of. Minutes, hours, days, weeks, years and hundreds of years are on the whole markers of clock time.

The other sort of time is the worldly involvement in the human personality: it is adaptable; it is always in motion and can be packed or expanded. A period that compressed in the brain appears to pass rapidly in contrast with clock time: an occasion took more clock time than the human mind perceived. Time on the mind is additionally alluded to psychological time by the French rationalist Henri Bergson. Questions, for example, why the human consciousness can make an individual time-framework and whether it tends to be impacted by outer components stay past the extent of this discourse.

The most significant advancement in timekeeping, positively one of the most compelling, is the innovation of the mechanical clock. The innovation of the clock did obviously not occur incidentally and was subject to numerous issues. Indeed, even calendars were at that point being used trying to control life as indicated by the progression of time in nature. The effect of the mechanical clock on history is overpowering. Clocks could sort out and direct networks and it has been made conceivable to quantify space as far as time, which made the probability of long separation voyaging.

In the mid twentieth century, the continuous modern advancement was set apart by the presentation of Taylorism in 1911, which included paying workers time-based compensations and presenting the mechanical production system in processing plants. Therefore the generation rate in production lines went up, however the impact of Taylorism that was most significant for society and arts was the way that it commoditized time. Time ended up worth cash, since workers were paid continuously. Society progressed toward becoming clock-governed. The impact of the clock-administered society is reflected in crafted by mid twentieth-century craftsmen.



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

**DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE**

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



The psychological time is an idea that emerged out of the propensity of twentieth-century brain research and reasoning to investigate the human consciousness. It is concerned with memory, expectation, duration, extension, compression, and association; it moves in flux and is highly subjective. The advanced enthusiasm for the human personality brought about new strategies for breaking down the human consciousness. New method, psycho analysis is developed by Sigmund Freud during the 1890s, were very mainstream in the primary many years of the twentieth century. Disclosures made about the activities of the awareness brought about another perspective on time and the experience of temporality. The French logician Henri Bergson was one of the thinkers who applied Freud's hypotheses and strategies onto society and consistently on everyday life.

Bergson thought the truth was described by the diverse experience of time in the mind. Bergson employed the term 'psychological time' to allude to the experience of time. Psychological time, as per Bergson, is certainly not an alternate kind of time, however an alternate way of seeing time. Psychological time isn't exposed to sequence or linearity. It is concerned with memory, desire, expansion, pressure, and affiliation; it moves in motion and is profoundly emotional. These qualities make it hard to bind and increasingly hard to speak to in art and literature.

In his book *Novels into Film*, George Bluestone examines sequential and psychological time and their portrayal in the two books and movies. He uses the differentiation made by Henri Bergson to recognize two sorts of time in the story of a novel or a film. Sequential time (or clock time) comprises of the term for reading, the measure of time the storyteller takes to relate the story and the ordered range of the account occasions. Sequential time is estimated in discrete units, minutes, days, weeks or years. Bluestone clarifies two significant attributes of psychological time, "distends or compresses in consciousness, *and* presents itself in continuous flux" (Bluestone 48-49). Psychological time speaks to how much time a person perceives his experience to last. A moment can be 'extended' to last a tangible hour, while an hour can be 'compacted' into a moment in our mind. Besides, psychological time presents itself in a persistent transition. It is in consistent development, and therefore it is endless, as indicated by Bluestone.



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



### Time on the Mind in Mrs Dalloway

Woolf contrasts psychological time and clock time. A few proper attributes of the novel show a distraction with time. As a matter of first importance, the working title of the novel was *The Hours*, which proposes an enthusiasm for the boundaries of time. The described time of Mrs Dalloway is a solitary day. The way that the Mrs Dalloway ranges crosswise over one single average day for a conventional lady demonstrates that the story doesn't concentrate on the chronological order of time. Seemingly, very little occurs during the day in June that is depicted in Mrs Dalloway. The focal point of the novel is on the consciousness of the characters. Another normal for the novel is that it doesn't have a part sign. It is displayed as one huge part entitled Mrs Dalloway. Despite the fact that the novel doesn't have sections, the story is divided into units as Big Ben strikes the hours. Clock time separates the narrative into pieces. The absence of a part division in the novel likewise makes a persistent progression of psychological time.

Woolf used a bounty of various strategies to pass on the characters' connectedness, their thoughts and their experiences. An expressive element that quickly draws in the consideration is the way that Woolf wrote her novel using stream of consciousness. Another gadget present in *Mrs Dalloway* is the thing that Woolf herself alluded to as burrowing. One more significant strategy that adds to the novel is repetition. Several pictures and sentences are repeated all through without the storyteller attracting consideration regarding it.

Virginia Woolf's tunneling technique empowers her to speak to the assortment of the human mind and to forget past and present as well as psychological time and clock time. It makes the possibility to get some distance from conventional direct account. The passages she exhumed behind her characters surface all of a sudden and in startling spots in the narrative. It "gives the impression of simultaneous connections between the inner and the outer world, the past and the present, speech and silence: a form patterned like waves in a pond rather than a railway line" (Lee 93). The picture Lee uses, the example of waves in a lake, is fundamentally the same as the picture of a bug catching networks, Woolf's image for literary fiction.



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



In an article on understanding Mrs Dalloway, Anna Benjamin contends that in Mrs Dalloway “the events are related as they apply to the present” (Benjamin 215). Later in her article Benjamin proposes that “the revelation [of events] is not done in chronological order, but according to the significance of the past to the present” (Benjamin 218). The key idea here is that 'events' surface in the story when they are applicable. The surfacing of occasions happens through memories. The characters in Mrs Dalloway are practically automatic activated into recollecting occasions from the past by boosts they get in the present.

Virginia Woolf has applied various methods in her novel *Mrs Dalloway* that disturb linear time and make a feeling of attachment in the fragmented reality of the mid twentieth century. These parts of Mrs Dalloway, together with the distraction with time previously proposed by the conventional qualities of the novel, make a novel wherein the Modernist enthusiasm for the human awareness and the psychological experience of time is clearly represented.

### **Time on the Mind in *The Hours***

Cunningham recognizes Mrs Dalloway as his source in a few distinct ways. He gives Mrs Dalloway a role as one of the associating components in *The Hours* and uses it to resist linearity and make a circular narrative. Maybe the obvious presence of Woolf's epic can be found in the Mrs Brown scene. It recreates enormous passages taken actually from Mrs Dalloway as Laura Brown is understanding them. The second clear exhibit of the nearness of Mrs Dalloway is the character Clarissa Vaughan. She is nicknamed Mrs Dalloway in the novel, and along these lines has a similar name as Woolf's eponymous character Clarissa Dalloway. The reader follows Clarissa as she walks through a city on her approach to purchase flowers in planning of a gathering.

The structure of the novel is similar Mrs Dalloway to the degree that all three narratives strings cover one single day. The primary distinction between the novel is that the characters in *The Hours* are isolated by time and space, while all the character in Mrs Dalloway are in a similar city around the same time. The thread concerned with Mrs Woolf happens in 1923 in London, Mrs Brown's in 1949 in Los Angeles, and Mrs Dalloway's toward the finish of the twentieth century in New York City. Despite the fact that the three strings



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



appear to be isolated, Michael Cunningham figures out how to accomplish a sense of unity similar to the solidarity of Mrs Dalloway. The three ladies are interconnected, regardless of the better places and periods they live in.

The main structural device that Cunningham uses from Woolf is the single-day story. As Schiff calls attention to: “The single-day novel provides a clear, manageable, and predetermined time frame and structure. In addition, it allows the particular (a single day) to reveal the whole (an entire life)” (Schiff 363). Cunningham is interested by this idea. In a short article on *The Hours* he clarifies that “any day in anyone’s life contains most of what we need to know about all of life, very much the way the blueprint for an entire organism is imprinted on every strand of its DNA” (*The Years* 7). Woolf was by all account not the only Modernist author who depicted the single-day structure. Joyce's *Ulysses* likewise investigates the lives of a few characters on a solitary day. A solitary day as the transient structure of a novel constrains the creator to concentrate on the consciousness of the characters. This focus outcomes in the portrayal of idea and internal experience by illustrating the stream of consciousness technique.

The title of Cunningham's novel recommends a distraction with clock time, since the hours are units by which time is estimated. The hours are the snapshots of which the characters' lives are created, the minutes that are loaded up with trivialities, for example, heating a cake or cutting the stems of flowers. The hours are the acknowledgment of clock time. Their reality empowers mental time. The items in Clarissa's kitchen trigger her into craving a parallel world, in which she is “still full of hope, still capable of doing anything” (Cunningham 92). The objects are tokens of the time-governed reality in which Clarissa lives and they make the probability of a parallel world that exists just in psychological time.

### Conclusion

The distinction between clock time and psychological time has a significant impact in Mrs. Dalloway, and Woolf depicts a few distinct procedures to speak to the transition of time. The stream of life that includes every one of her characters. She makes a plane of reference that exists in mental time, and which can just exist by standing out it from the truth of clock time. Michael Cunningham has portrayed his novel *The Hours* as an extemporization on Mrs.



## Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-05

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department  
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



Dalloway. He has applied several of Woolf's methods and has appropriated them to accommodate his novel. The exploration of the human consciousness and psychological time is important for all periods Cunningham depicts.

### References

- Abrams, M.H., et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2 vols. W.W. Norton & Company, 1993.
- Benjamin, Anna S. "Towards an Understanding of the Meaning of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*." *Wisconsin Studies in Contemporary Literature*. vol. 6 no. 2 (Summer 1965): 214-227.
- Bluestone, George. *Novels into Film*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, California: University of California Press, 1961.
- Cunningham, Michael. "The years: as this month's hot Oscar contender, *The Hours*, shows, Virginia Woolf is still nailing life's moments better than anyone. Here, writer Michael Cunningham tells why." *Interview*. Gale Group: 2003.
- , *The Hours*. Fourth Estate, 1999.
- Hughes, Mary Joe. "Michael Cunningham's *The Hours* and Postmodern Artistic Representation." *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*. vol. 45 no. 4 (Summer 2004): 349-361.
- Lee, Hermione. *The Novels of Virginia Woolf*. Methuen & Co Ltd, 1977.
- Lodge, David. *Consciousness and the Novel. Connected Essays*. Secker & Warburg, 2002.
- Schiff, James. "Rewriting Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*: Homage, Sexual Identity, and the Single Day Novel by Cunningham, Lippincott, and Lanchester." *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*. vol. 45 no. 4 (Summer 2004): 363-382.
- Young, Tory. *Michael Cunningham's The Hours: A Reader's Guide*. The Continuum International Publishing Group Inc, 2003.
- Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs Dalloway*. Penguin, 2000.