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Faculty of Arts
Assiut University

Literary Discourse Analysis of Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway (A Critical Approach)

A Ph.D. Thesis

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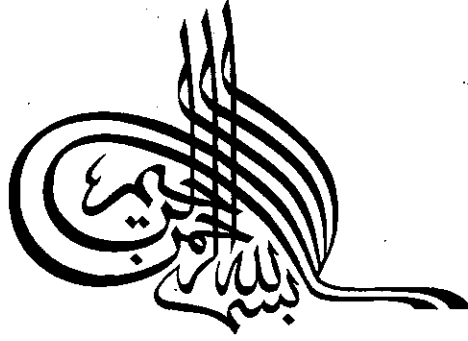
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وَعَلَّمَكَ مَا لَمْ تَكُنْ تَعْلَمُ
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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This study aims at analyzing Woolf's prose in Mrs. Dalloway. In this novel, she uses many complicated techniques to achieve her points of view. Nearly each passage holds in it narrative complications which end in uncertain conclusions to the reader. In fact, Woolf's novels, and Mrs. Dalloway in particular, move forward up to the end without providing an answer to the uncertainties in the plot, theme, and characterization. However, readers find her novels very interesting and meaningful. This public applause is probably ascribed to the rhythm of her prose and the suspense that pervades in her narrative technique. This technique promises readers answers as they read forward up to the end of the novel. Again, Woolf refuses to sustain one meaning in her fiction. She uses a very complicated writing technique, which helps her not to be committed to one particular meaning in her prose. In general, Woolf's prose suggests many different interpretations because of the various possibilities of the meanings she intends her reader to think about. In this introduction one will review the nature of Woolf's prose and present a suggested critical approach to be used in interpreting and finding solutions to the ambiguity of her prose.

Woolf has her own point of view about the nature of fiction. She believes that the task of fiction is to convey through its representations a vision of the profound meanings of existence. Fiction should not only reflect or represent every day reality, but it should outline the patterns that lie beneath the obvious (Woolf 1953: 156). Her prose has a very special nature, which makes it very difficult and complicated. Beattie (1986: 521-522) discusses the nature of Woolf's fictional world: