

# A Study on Mrs. Dalloway Novel Written by Virginia Woolf

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## Abstract

The church clock that rang in the church indicates the British time. This showed the England's culture. Clarissa likes Victorian streets so much, because at home she felt lonely and isolated. But Victorian streets are full of life and movements. This complete surrounding backs her the time when she was eighteen years old. At that time she was standing near an open window in Burton seeing the flowers. She can feel the touch of fresh breeze. Now she reminds that at that time Peter Walsh was her lover and childhood friend. Now she compare with nature to nature and man-woman relationship with lover beloved relationship. Now she was the nature of London streets with a sense of loneliness. And in Burton nature, there was only enjoyment, freedom and everything looks bright at that time. Now this nature reminds the relationship between the men and the women also. In past she was with Peter Walsh, there was no fear of lost and coming other women between them. How she attracted to Richard's wealth, economic security and at in room. But now nature help to realized her that wealth can't gave real happiness.

**Keywords:** Culture, Woolf, Different, Environment, Nature

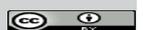
Effect of Work Culture in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century: In Mrs. Dalloway: V. Woolf presented the situation of women characters living in nature and showed that how nature affects their way of life. Women are closer to nature than men. She showed how nature is controlled and shaped by culture and present different people in different environments which are totally different from each-other. She presented Clarissa Dalloway as proud on her English culture. She thought that England has a high environmental culture. She showed that the Govt. of every country, mainly those of England, control nature and decorated her with their environmental culture. V. Woolf showed in this novel dominance of man on woman in the form of dominance on nature. There is a close relationship between the both domination. Domination of nature is a characteristic of male-

domination. Feminist theory accepted this thought of patriarchy.

So first we know what culture is and how it affected. In culture everything is noticed what we wear, what we eat, what we speak, how we think, how we help, that is called culture. We can know it clearly, when we enter in another culture on another place. Then we can know the difference and value of two cultures. We have to live according to our culture, follow the rules of culture, and do everything to the culture. We learnt from our culture the sense of dominance, violence, civilization, un-civilization and way of living. Culture gave us knowledge that

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in human surroundings who has authority in the present days, the environment around usage formed by human culture. Our identity is also bound with nature (Woolf, 1925).

There was a fall in sexual morality also. Now public opinion on sex and taboos were no longer under control. The condition of women became worse than previous. But a new concept of the welfare state emerged. At that time all responsibilities was on the shoulder of the writers and the reformers. V. Woolf was one of those writes, who raised the issue of 19<sup>th</sup> century to try to give a direction to solve these issues. People do blind faith on customs and traditional values. But scientific and rationalism spirit immersed at that time. There was criticism for traditional beliefs in Victorian era. In 20<sup>th</sup> century writes like Shaw, wells and Galsworthy also criticized the existing social, economic and moral system. A common man was in much more confusion at that time because he have no knowledge what to accept and what to reject.

Some psychologist like Freud and William James gave the theory of streams of consciousness. Woolf also followed this theory of stream of consciousness in her essays. She used stream of consciousness in Mrs. Dalloway also. Freud focused on the attitudes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the matters of sex. He said that repressed sex is the cause of neurosis and other sign's of abnormality. So at that time all male and female writes wrote frankly on sex. They discussed frankly on sex topics. Freud's theory of Oedipus complex has had a profound impact on private and family relationship. It was said in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that gone was the Victorian taboos on sex and there is a free discussion on sex. This effect can be seen on women also. Now women frankly put their problem related to sex. It became easier to reformer and feminist to solve problem related to women.

## DISCUSSION

V. Woolf wrote frankly in Mrs. Dalloway on sex. She showed the love relationship and extramarital relationship in London society. But in Indian society love relationship is slowly desirable. But extra marital relationships were prohibited, not able in Indian societies. At that time women started to focus more on identity than on society. Many women encouraged to the frank treatment on sex and they started to write. And writing for women became

some easier in publishing. Writers at that started to give importance to nature. V. Woolf also gave a beautiful scene of nature. She praised nature on highly pitch. In Mrs. Dalloway, V. Woolf gave the experience of a whole day. Mrs. Dalloway goes to buy flowers from market. At that time, it is a fine June morning. It is very calm and fresh morning. There was no disturbance of any types. V. Woolf compare the calm and fresh nature at morning time with Clarissa's fresh memory about her childhood time and last meeting with Peter Septum's. The silence of nature helps Clarissa to recall her childhood days as well as past days (Woolf, 1929).

V. Woolf wanted to show through nature that nature is same but the situation in Clarissa's life is not the same. How she remains under the workload of family, culture and she remain to become a hostess of her home. Richard has no time to talk to her. He can give all facilities but can't give time. After passing Victorian Street, she enters St. James Park. Here is again found the silence of natures.

V. Woolf showed the silence of women through nature. In 19<sup>th</sup> century women remain calm like nature. They bear all type of mentally and physically exploitation without speaking a word. After that Clarissa reminds her girlhood friend Sally Seton. And she reminds how they smoked cigarettes to sit on the floors (Judith, 1994).

Woolf wanted to show the culture of England. The culture of England allowed women to smoke and drink in 20<sup>th</sup> century. But in Indian culture all this was not allowed to women. In 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century women couldn't smoke and drink. In 21<sup>st</sup> century now the duty and rights are same for men and women.

But now in Indian culture and societies men are allowed to do something more and women are not allowed to do little. If a woman smoke and drink, it is criticized, firstly by women and then to men. But if a man smoke or drank, it is said by man and women that what problem is there, all are smoking and drinking. May be he is smoking due to some tension or want to remove his tiredness. Through this V. Woolf don't want to say that smoking and drinking is good. But she wanted to say that there is so much difference between the treatment with man and woman.

Next V. Woolf wanted to show England's culture in form of splendid achievements- world of doctors, business, politicians and material splendor. Peter Walsh liked to all and loves England. He returned after five years in England due to culture. Mrs. Dalloway also loves material comfort and economic security. But she accepts Mr. Richard Dalloway who has everything (material comfort). The love of Peter Walsh was only for Clarissa, but with Richard Dalloway, she always remain in panic that any time Richard can go with other woman. V. Woolf tried to show Clarissa through nature these differences. On the other side Peter also reminds his past days with the help of nature. Nature reminds him all when he returned after five years in England, when he is in Regent's park. He recalls the time when Sally Seton had asked if any unmarried women could have a baby. Through this V. Woolf wanted to show culture of England. But this is not allowed in Indian culture, at the time of 21<sup>st</sup> century. In Indian countries extra-marital relationship is seen as a victim and forced to die with this child. Many writers also showed in their writings as a victim (Arnold Benet, 1928-1931).

V. Woolf showed the culture of London. How young boys and girls are getting mixed up more freely than before. This showed that girls have freedom to walk outside. They are longer in four walls of houses. In 21<sup>st</sup> century in India, it allowed to women work outside to the home. Now they can job outside, took part in politics. They can go anywhere. They have to right to do everything. But there are so many obstacles in the form of social taboos. Firstly they have to surpass all these, fight to all these social taboos. After that they can achieve their goal. There is lack of awareness in Indian societies. Peter Walsh fined London a very beautiful place. He finds all who passes by him are beautiful and will fall in love with him. The culture of London the London, the cosmetics, ladies use make them look more charming. He sees that how now a day's living become comfortable in a rich house near Manchester.

Through this V. Woolf wanted to show the culture. How a culture taught women to remain faithful, honest and play the role as directed by man. There is benefit for them or not. They have no identity and independence after that they play their role honestly. Peter Walsh realized after meeting with Clarisse, that there is no benefit to love Clarissa

any longer. She engaged in her family. She says my Elizabeth and remembers my party. These words gave a different type of pain to Peter Walsh.

V. Woolf compared the suicide of Septum's with nature. When Septum's suicide, there were black clouds in the sky. Before suicide Septum's was very happy with his wife. But like clouds, his mood changed and started to hear the voices of dead. There was nothing that helps him in suicide. There was only the window. As Holmes reach the door of his room. Septum's jumps violently down on the railing with shouting. I will give it you Regia and her wife understands everything. There was nothing remain in Regia's life. Thus V. Woolf showed every movement in this novel with nature.

V. Woolf presented three kinds of time in England that showed the culture of England. These three types of time change with the changing of character or showed the mentally condition of the protagonist of V. Woolf. First the mechanical time was (cock time). It shows the simple action of characters. It is early morning when Clarissa has stepped out her house in Westminster. Eleven O'clock when peter suddenly comes in. Half past one when Richard Dalloway met with Lady Burton for lunch.

The next is the Mechanical Time and Inner Time, it focused on the transition from one character to another, from present to past, from one place to another like London to Burton and Burton to London. Time is indicating on shifting of character and place. Time played a very important role in London society. In Mrs. Dalloway every character is affected by clock time. Septum's talking with Clarissa. Then the church bell rang and Septum's leave her without speak a word. Through this we can imagine the role of clock.

V. Wolf focused on the effect of war with the effect of culture. Due to the effect of war people's interest shifted from outer to the inner. The effect of war played major role in society. It was not possible to over estimate the effects of the First World War to know the contemporary world picture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the war the values of the old world were falling. War deprived people to joy, happiness and celebration. War involved people forget to laugh, due to effected the family relationship because men demanded to loneliness and isolation. V. Woolf showed the war effect in Mrs. Dalloway

clearly. She showed some characters suitable due to war and after that women's suffering. She showed men in the quest of new values and system.

First this responsibility took by some writers like D.H. Lawrence, T.S. Eliot etc. But Marxist focused on the vision of a new society. The modern novelist from the values and the attitudes of their society is reflected not only in the subjects, but in the structures of their writing. Their mode of presenting is reality. Literature represents society. First World War affected society, so it was natural to affect writers. Most of the characters are remain isolated in this novel. V. Woolf showed People's attitude towards their inner life. They don't want to share their feelings with others. Their focus was only to enrich their inner life (Abram, 2000).

In this novel V. Woolf gave us the women's point of view because she was a woman. She showed women's hatred and dislike towards society, through her characters. The status in society liked social, political and economic hardly to attract any women. V. Woolf was the sheltered female of her age; she has scarcely any chance to have any knowledge of the brutal aspect of life. In this way we find that her picture of life was not involved vice and the brutality of our age. It is clear through this that V. woolf presented the feminism of the British novel. Her presentation of English culture was remarkable. She presented each part of society through feminist point of view.

V. Woolf's characters played a remarkable role in her essays. They were convincing in their own way. They have a little freedom or can say their role was in a very limited range. She presented upper middle class society in her works. The characters have a certain temperament of their own. She didn't use the passionate love theme in her essays, because the requirement was something else at her time. She could write on sex frankly, she didn't give a touch in her novels. But after all she got greatness and artistic perfection despite of these imitations her hard work overcome on these limitations, because she determined to aware women. She wanted to become a part and parcel of women's movement. V. Woolf had no care of society, what it thinks by people for her. She tried to present the culture of British and Indian societies through reader response theory and the stream of consciousness technique. Her main motto was to make able women to get

their rights, raised their voice for rights. It is also considered a psychological novel, because it focused on the psyche of women in society.

V. Woolf presented attractive hostess in her writing. She used the necklace for the dinner party, how Mrs. Ramsay made her attractive, accompanied by the children and presented in the dining room at the same time. This showed a women's work load. This is by work-culture. Culture didn't allow to man to do work at home. And woman didn't allow a little space and time for herself at home. Man often thought that women can hardly achieve anything special in their life. Mrs. Ramsay was a patriarchy woman and proves true to man. She did nothing in her life for herself. She always does and thinks for men. She was a devoted woman of Victorian age. But her husband has no care about her. That's why she did nothing in her life and her life was a tragic end.

In patriarchy society a man tried to made his status and identify. But a woman has to compliment with man. The patriarchy society didn't allow women, their own identify and status. A woman was treated like animal or non-living things. There were no foundations for man. They had no need to make them attractive, but the custom bounds to women to wear heavy clothes, jeweller and to make themselves attractive for men. Mrs. Ramsay was a centre of attraction for all guests in the summer house. She attract to all by her beauty and sympathy. Her behavior was good to all men. All the responsibility of parties took by Mrs. Ramsay. The effect of culture is shown on children also (Beauvoir, Simone De, 1949).

Mrs. Ramsay felt sad to find her son James so critical at the early age. This is the effect of culture that makes James anger on Mr. Ramsay's statement about trip to light house. She thinks that this is the result of the differences between rich and poor, the high and the low. All these she saw daily with her own eyes in London. There is shown the contrast between warm humanity and motherly love of Mrs. Ramsay.

V. Woolf presented the effect of modernism and industrialization in her novels. Somewhere Lily Briscoe also presented modernism in her painting. She is like to V. Woolf concerned about the initial things and moments. Readers are hardly able to

reconstruct about it. V. Woolf didn't introduce it only a simple story of any person but she wanted to give a new direction to modern people. In this novel when Mrs. Ramsay feels angry on her husband's abnormal concern about his children's feelings. But she says nothing to her husband even she comforts James, because at that time culture didn't allow women to say something to their husband. Men have full rights on women but women have not a single right on men. Even Mrs. Ramsay says nothing to her husband in anger but she tells the anger the folly of her mind. But on the contrary Mr. Ramsay has no effect of it. Even he thinks that it is childish wish by Mrs. Ramsay and James that is out of question. This type of thinking by men and women was due to customs and society. Mrs. Ramsay taught tolerant and sympathy to their children. She wants to create a healthy environment for her grown-up children, She doesn't want that they grown-up in a terrible and hostile life.

## CONCLUSION

V. Woolf didn't introduce a simple story of any person but she wanted to give a new direction to modern people. In this novel when Mrs. Ramsay feels angry on her husband's abnormal concern about his children's feelings. But she says nothing to her husband even she comforts James, because at that time culture didn't allow women to say something to their husband. Men had full rights on women at that time but women had not a single right on men. Even Mrs. Ramsay says nothing to her husband in anger but she tells the anger the folly of her mind. But on the contrary Mr. Ramsay has no effect on it. Even he thinks that it is childish wish by Mrs. Ramsay and James that is out of question. This type of thinking was by men and women due to customs and society. Mrs. Ramsay taught tolerant and sympathy to their children. She wants to create a healthy environment for her grown up children. She doesn't want that they grow up in a terrible and hostile life. But stand against this patriarchy society's customs and rules that are barriers for women. Lily stands in the middle from one side she

is forced by the inspiration of her self-actualization and on the other side she is forced by the limitations of patriarch world. One side she is in the prison of her feminist and on the other side imprisonment of men's relationship. She fears about her feminine roles that finds unfulfilling. Lily felt guilty and insecure about being forced to relieve herself in the party. But up to last she enabled to achieve fulfillment. But in last she is able and V. Woolf showed a woman's achieving on limitations based resources.

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