

ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL OF "MRS. DALLOWAY" BY
VIRGINIA WOOLF.

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Abstract: *The article reviews the meaning the novel carries. It aims to demonstrate how incorrect decision may cause troubles and bring unhappiness for the rest of one's life. Furthermore, the research attempts a detailed study of ideas that affect both social, personal, and interpersonal problems in just one day of narration in the work of British writer and women's rights activist Virginia Woolf.*

Keywords: *woman, incorrect decision, suffer, eternal torment, frustration.*

The narrative centers on the life and relationships of Clarissa Dalloway, but Virginia also portrays the social, economic and political changes that took place in London after the First World War, through the thoughts and observations of the characters that we get to know during the whole novel. In fact, this is a palette of colors and their shades in the form of various London characters, all of whom are connected with Clarissa. Mrs. Dalloway, it's like the original color from which the spectrum can be decomposed. The story is not about a man, not about a woman, but about society. Multifaceted, but united by a time frame. A book that allows you to forget about the characters and just plunge into one of the summer days at the beginning of the 20th century. It shows quite colorfully how the decline of the Victorian era took place, what stages it went through, how the atmosphere changed, how people changed. "That day Queen Victoria passed by in a carriage," and now another person is riding in the carriage and only a monument and photographs on the shelves remind of the great epoch.

Molly Hoff in her book "Invisible Presences" states that "*Mrs. Dalloway is the portrait of a middle-class lady joining its elite literary predecessors, Madame Bovary, Anna Karenina, Moll Flanders, Hedda Gabler, and Emma.*" [1. 11] However, we do not consider her as a stereotyped woman of that time. She has her own unique problems, special features of personality. One quote in the work highlights the whole essence of the main character, Clarissa. For example: "*Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.*" [2. 3] Actually, this quotation introduces us to the whole work itself. We should not forget who is the author of this work, because we are talking about the defender of women's rights and freedoms, independence from other people, Virginia Woolf. This quote shows Clarissa's real personality and priorities, reminding us that the main character is used to doing everything herself, without needing anyone's help. After all, at that time, she was a rich and fashionable lady, and servants were provided to her in full, but in order to do everything herself, she went to the flower shop herself. Moreover, this quote highlights how much Clarissa does not want to stay at home. Yes, Clarissa loves her family, daughter, husband, but her life is full of regrets and

disappointments, and we can deeply feel it in almost every word of the heroine, and with this road to the flower shop we see how the heroine leaves the house to take another walk and escape from these thoughts that are in her head is almost always. Possessing the external and superficial signs of a charming woman, she is essentially devoid of femininity; the sharp mind of the heroine is dry and reasonable; she is catastrophically poor in the sphere of emotions — the only burning emotion of Mrs. Dalloway found in the book is a feeling of regret and understatement.

Developing the theme of suffering from one's decision, not ability to be happy and regrets of the main character in this work, it is worth to mention the failed love of Clarissa and Peter. Once they loved each other very much, but Clarissa, due to the fact that she loved her freedom much more and wanted to be an independent woman both from others and from her husband, she chose another man, more "convenient" for herself. It is worth emphasizing that Peter is a power-hungry man, and that, according to Clarissa, prevented their happiness. Having once rejected Peter's offer, Clarissa doomed herself to eternal torment, and the following quote confirms this: *"And Clarissa had leant forward, taken his hand, drawn him to her, kissed him — actually had felt his face on hers before she could down the brandishing of silver flashing — plumes like pampas grass in a tropic gale in her breast, which, subsiding, left her holding his hand, patting his knee and, feeling as she sat back extraordinarily at her ease with him and light-hearted, all in a clap it came over her, If I had married him, this gaiety would have been mine all day."* [2. 33] She would like to spend her whole life sitting next to Peter and comforting him, talking to him, holding his hand and just being there. To her great regret, she is unable to do this, since she once chose Richard, her current husband. The tragedy of Clarissa is not that she once made the wrong choice, but that she still suffers from it. She doesn't want to change anything, although Peter is divorcing his wife, but continues to regret every day. This incorrect decision, according to the main character, is the starting point of the fact that Clarissa feels dead among living people. She is no longer happy with the little things in life, she is no longer interested in dinner parties and dinners, she no longer feels pleasure arranging or attending receptions. Clarissa is a vivid example of how a person can suffer from once incorrectly made decisions in their favor.

Having considered the life and inner world of the main character, Clarissa Dalloway, it is worth mentioning other characters as well and consider them not only as minor characters, but try to understand their role in this novel. An important role is played by the description of the character of Dr. Bradshaw, who appears several times in the novel. This doctor is directly related to Septimus Smith, the mentally ill husband of Lucretia Smith, who fell ill as a result of the First World War. Seeing all bad sides of the war and witnessing the death of his friend, he could not manage it and started to suffer from the shell shock. Dr. Bradshaw, who was a leading doctor of Septimus Smith, as a character in the book is conventionally compared with the mentally ill Septimus himself. On the one hand, Smith is full of emotions and understand people not only from his own perspective, but from others' as well. He supports his wife a lot when in short periods his disease retreats; on the other hand— Bradshaw is a very reserved, unemotional and calculating person who does everything quite deliberately and carefully. Here is his description: *"He had*

worked very hard; he had won his position by sheer ability (being the son of a shopkeeper); loved his profession; made a fine figurehead at ceremonies and spoke well — all of which had by the time he was knighted given him a heavy look... the reputation not merely of lightning skill, and almost infallible accuracy in diagnosis." [2. 68] Dr. Bradshaw is a simple man, and he dislikes all these "aristocratic personalities" who do not give out simple human emotions, but only show their well-mannered side: "there was in Sir William, who had never had time for reading, a grudge, deeply buried, against cultivated people who came into his room and intimated that doctors, whose profession is a constant strain upon all the highest faculties, are not educated men." [2. 70] It should, like, impress and attract readers, since ordinary people always attract, but in fact, more precisely from a professional point of view, Dr. Bradshaw causes ambiguous emotions and attitude towards him as a character. Firstly, in most cases he does not try to understand the problem of his patients, the mentally ill, he simply considers them according to a template and assigns them a stay in his own hospital (a special institution for patients like Septimus Smith), and here he prescribed the same treatment method for all patients: "order rest in bed; rest in solitude; silence and rest; rest without friends, without books, without messages; six months' rest." [2. 71] This attitude towards patients allows us to conclude that this doctor is programmed for the successful "recovery" of his patients, not paying attention to the causes of these mental disorders, to special methods that would help in treatment. He does not even delve very well into the problem of his patients, he does not care about their suffering, problems and other symptoms. Reading the lines about Dr. Bradshaw, one gets the impression that his goal is not to help people as living beings in curing their problems, but he just needs to read everything correctly in order to "cure" each patient. Being a rather callous person who does not empathize with his patients, we can conclude that he is the same with his family: cold, not supportive, not full of feelings. Maybe even he has the same mission "to provide financial support and save family" as he has at work, but without emotions, with precise calculations. The author himself gives a rather interesting description of Bradshaw: "Sir William not only prospered himself but made England prosper, secluded her lunatics, forbade childbirth, penalised despair, made it impossible for the unfit to propagate their views until they, too, shared his sense of proportion." [2. 71] In addition to this quote, Virginia Woolf points out every time that Dr. Bradshaw clearly lacks strong-willed and moral qualities that should be present in every single person, and in the inner world of this Dr. Bradshaw there is only a strong desire to "turn" all his mentally ill patients into adequate and normal people, there is only a permanent sense of proportion and cautiousness in his mind. What is the result of this behavior of the doctor? As we learn from the novel, eventually Septimus Smith, feeling what Bradshaw's assistants want to do to him at this Bradshaw Hospital for the mentally ill, jumps out of the window and dies. He was very scared, because this method of "treating" mentally ill patients, as experience has shown, does not lead to anything good. If Dr. Bradshaw had shown a little humanity and empathy, maybe Septimus would be alive and would be on the road to healing.

To conclude all the above quotations, the issues of that time clearly echo the problems of the twenty-first century. For example, we have always wanted and want freedom and want to be independent from other people of our society and family, just like Clarissa. It is

absolutely true that, sometimes, like Mrs. Dalloway, we do not always succeed in this, but at least we try our best. Like Clarissa, we have a huge number of regrets about the decisions we have once made in the past, many of us would like and be happy to change something if we only had a chance, but because of the inability to do this, we suffer, blaming ourselves and others. Especially well these problems can be felt by the female part of our modern society. Frankly speaking, this novel is designed for a female audience, as it mostly reveals the inner world of a woman's soul, shows the strengths and weaknesses of a woman's soul who wants to be close to a loved one. Virginia Woolf has always been for women, about women, and, as the author of the work, it was extremely important for her to show the feminine side: the side of problems, anxieties and torments, the happiness and misfortunes of a woman part of society of all times. Touching upon common problems that concern not only women and men, but also the professional side of people, I would like to note how skillfully Virginia Woolf showed the personality of a minor character of Dr. Bradshaw. Being a callous and insensitive person, he does not want to delve into the problems of other people, but tries to cure them using the same method. The mistake of this doctor is that he does not see the difference between people, and works with everyone as if they are just a bunch of creatures with the same causes of their problems. This reminds us of most modern doctors who rarely pay attention to patients' problems, but only prescribe the same medications and treatment methods and rather wait for their working day to end. It is these similarities that allow us to reread this novel over and over again and discover either ourselves in the faces of the main characters of the novel, or the problems of our modern society.

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