

# CHAPTER: V



## Chapter: 5

### Conclusion: A comparative perspective

The comparative study of “Stream of Consciousness technique in Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* and Arun Sadhu’s *Mumbai Dinank*” enables us to note the similarities and differences in the use of Stream of Consciousness technique. A detailed analysis of Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* and Arun Sadhu’s *Mumbai Dinank* proves that in both these novels writers use the Stream of Consciousness technique.

The similarities and differences may be a result of the peculiar familial, social, religious, political and cultural traditions to which these writers belonged. Both Woolf and Sadhu belong to different countries, different literary traditions, cultures and languages. However there is lot of similarity between their uses of stream of consciousness technique. Both are known as experimental novelists from their distinguished literary traditions.

Many tenants of the Stream of Consciousness technique can be exemplified through these two selected novels. Both are similar in the use of interior monologue, in the art of characterization and in the use of time and space.

Woolf and Sadhu are predominantly concerned with the existential problem of loneliness and adjustment in the metropolitans' cities, explored unbroken flow of thoughts in the minds of their characters.

Both writers Woolf and Sadhu reveal their pre-occupation with Time in *Mrs. Dalloway* and *Mumbai Dinank*. These writers make a clear distinction between the calendar time and the mental time. In these novels, they abandoned the principles of narration and constituted new narrative technique to suit their motif. The narrative of these novels moves up and down through the layers of time and unfolds the complex layers of the human psyche. Both novels stand above time and turning their own axis slowly in past and present to comprehend the whole story. In their works, the present is inseparable from the past.

For both these writers, the boundaries of a single day offer the best scope for their genius. *Mrs. Dalloway* opens on a day in June and ends the same evening when at party, Clarissa comes to know about the death of Septimus. Similarly, *Mumbai Dinank* starts from the morning of that particular day and ends late at night. In *Mrs. Dalloway*, the narrative flows smoothly without any chapter scheme on the other hand, in *Mumbai Dinank* Sadhu presents his characters through the chapters entitled after the names of the characters. The texture of the time developed by controlled shifts from present to the past. Both these novels design the web of interaction occurring physically on the settings of metropolitan cities like London and Mumbai and mentally in the memories and associations of the characters.

The time sequence is depicted in both the novels with the help of an omniscient narrator or it is revealed through the inner thinking of the

character. In addition to it, Woolf uses the Big Ben clock to indicate the time. Thus, Woolf and Sadhu through the skillful use of time explore the stories of different characters.

There is little scope for plot development in Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and Sadhu's *Mumbai Dinank*. The plots of these novels are not simple and achieve the progression through the diverse thinking of the characters. This is because they are more interested to depict the inner struggle of the characters. In these novels, the purpose of the writers is to study the working of human mind. For them, the exterior was only a path to achieve the glimpses of human mind. They depict the responses and reactions of the characters to the external events. The subordination of plot to the exploration of human consciousness is common in the Stream of Consciousness fiction and it proved in these novels.

Another important similarity is that both stories are set in metropolitan cities like London and Mumbai. These metropolitan cities add the different dimensions to the life. The problems like alienation and frustration of the urban life is similarly depicted in these novels.

Another similar thing in both these novels is that the stories deal not with the sensational and the momentous but with the ordinary experience of life. The major concerns of these novels are to explore the personalities of the characters not by judging their outer actions but by assessing their thoughts. What they present are moments in the lives of their characters. Woolf and Sadhu avoid the conventional devices for drawing the characters, but they describe the physical and mental attributes of the characters. Woolf and Sadhu use memories and interior monologues of the characters to

uncover the understandings and perceptions of the characters. Sadhu, like Woolf, allows the reader glimpses into the minds of the characters and reveals the secret facts of their personalities. For instance, Clarissa's extreme dislike of Mrs. Kilman is revealed through depiction of the inner working of her mind. Sadhu reveals the inferiority complex of Kishor Vaze through the description of his thoughts.

Woolf and Sadhu believe that a personality can be revealed through the depiction of the unbroken, uninterrupted flow of thoughts of the characters. Both writers, instead of describing situation or event describe the responses of the characters motivated immediately by the outer events. The reader is moved smoothly from the external to the internal and from present to the past. Both writers place their reader in the mind of character and experience the stream of their consciousness. Thus, in both of these novels, the psychological associations, understandings and perceptions are nicely demonstrated. Both writers allow their reader to witness in the mental processes of the characters. In fact, these novels are the records of feelings and thoughts of the characters. There is less concentration on the sequence of the thoughts because they are depicted as they fall upon the mind.

Both the novels are similar in the use of Omniscient Narrator. Woolf and Sadhu use the technique of omniscient narrator to achieve the uniqueness in the novel. In both these novels omniscient narrator functions as a thread that binds each story of different characters in a single plot. They use this technique to communicate the continuity of the narration. Through the omniscient narrator Woolf and Sadhu, reveal many personal secrets without entering into the first person narration. In both these novels

omniscient narrator collects the various thoughts and presents the readers the concerning fact.

In spite of the above similarities, the styles of Woolf and Sadhu are different. The most striking difference between the two novels is in structure. Woolf presents his story as a flow of the thoughts in the mind, without any classification of the chapters. On the other hand, Sadhu makes the classification of his story in ten chapters. Two chapters deal with one character in the novel. And on the basis of time we can divide *Mumbai Dinank* into two sections former depicts the time span of early morning to the evening and second describes the events occurred from the evening to late night. Woolf switches from mind to mind without any indication. Sadhu indicates the shift by the titles of the chapters. The title Ayyar suggests that the author now showing or describing the situation through Ayyar's point of view.

In the works of both Woolf and Sadhu, the present interrupts by the past. But, there is a difference between the techniques used to explore the past life of characters. Woolf uses the vehicle of memory of the character to explore his or her past life. For instance, Clarissa's Bourton life is revealed through her memories. The past life of the characters revealed through the inner working of the mind. On the other hand, to expose the past life of character (instead of using the memories of that character), Sadhu describes it plainly. For instance, he reveals the past life of Ayyar, Panitkar, Di-Casta and Jivajirao Shinde by describing it through the omniscient narrator.

In *Mrs. Dalloway* Woolf only concentrates on the inner life of the characters, though she mostly deals with the social themes, whereas Sadhu concentrates on the personal as well as the social issues like corruption and smuggling. The inner thoughts and feelings of female characters are not taken into consideration by Arun Sadhu. The female characters are depicted through the consciousness and relationships with the male characters in the novel.

In *Mrs. Dalloway*, the order of the plot is very abrupt because she presents her narration as a flow of thoughts; on the other hand, Sadhu very consciously develops his plot.

Another striking difference between these two novels is the interpersonal relations between characters. In *Mrs. Dalloway*, the characters are connected with each other either physically or mentally. Woolf develops the interpersonal relations through the mental processes. Clarissa and Septimus, two major characters in the novel are only related mentally. Sadhu, in the second section of the novel, very artificially makes attempt to connect his characters physically. For instance, Kishor Vaze meets and rescues Di-Casta when he goes to wander with his friend; the motif of this meeting is only to reveal Di-Casta's affection towards Nila. This physical meeting of Kishor Vaze and Di-Casta seems very artificial because, Sadhu already clears the relations between them through the mental processes like thoughts and memories. Thus, both novels can be seen, in a wider context, as a sensitive studies of human psyche.

Thus, the present study is a humble attempt to study the Stream of Consciousness technique in Virginia Woolf's and Arun Sadhu's selected novels. It is hoped that along with scholars, this study will help the students of literature to understand the technique of Stream of Consciousness and its use in fictions.

Great literary minds have always tried to understand human life and to comprehend the man's place in the universe. In order to obtain this understanding they have made experiments with the style and techniques of their works of art. The Stream of Consciousness technique is one of them. The critical study of the selected novels necessarily reveals that human actions are the outward manifestations of the thoughts and feelings within their minds. Therefore, the understanding of the working of human mind becomes very significant. Both the novels demonstrate how the consciousnesses of the characters affect their lives. The study of selected novels does not show us how to control the working of the human mind. It only shows that <sup>it</sup> is the working of human mind that creates and defines the arena of human activity and it is responsible for human predicament whatever variety it may take.