

## INTRODUCTION

Virginia Woolf is one of the most sensitive novelists of her age. Critics have observed that she uses more direct verbal means of suggesting emotions and her vocabulary guides the readers to an awareness of emotional and sensory reality. She manipulates the sentence curve according to the need of the novel or the character's particular emotion. She bends and curves her language to achieve the exact subjective tone she wants. In the present study, I have made an attempt to work out her use of language through stylistic analysis of the extracts selected from her novel. "To The Lighthouse". I have analysed these passages paying attention to the linguistic devices used in them. I have also analysed a few passages to consider the modes of narration used in the novel. I have discussed only limited no. of significant features of the novel, considering the limitations of this dissertation.

Virginia Woolf is unique with regard to her technique, style and her use of language. Her novels fascinated me ever since I studied "To The Lighthouse" in my college days. "To The Lighthouse" is a master-piece. Which has drawn the attention of many critics and linguists. I have given critical assessment of Virginia Woolf as a novelist. I have also given the critic's evaluation of the novel "To The Lighthouse" with regard to its formal structure, theme, technique, style and use of language-symbols, imagery etc.

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Finally, I have analysed a few extracts chosen from the novel to consider the linguistic devices in them and to show their relevance to the meaning of the novel. The stylistic features noted in the novel and their relevance to the total meaning of novel is my main concern for which I have taken critic's subjective comments on the use of language in the novel as a lead in starting point.

Generally, poets do "interesting things" with language.

Language in poetry creates aesthetic effect and it can't be separated from aesthetic effects. In prose, the other factors such as plot, theme, characters create aesthetic effects. But the new stylistics which studies style in fiction has proved that there are great novelists who are also great artists. Studying prose style is more challenging than the study of style in poetry because the use of language in poetry is obviously foregrounded. It is rather difficult to locate linguistic technique used in a long stretch of a novel. In prose, the problem is how to select good passages. Which would reveal the author's unique use of language. It is apparent that even the most detailed analysis would be incomplete. Taking into consideration the limited scope of the study. I have focused my attention on some significant features of the novel for stylistic analysis.

The design of this dissertation is as follows :-

The first chapter discusses stylistics in brief. I have highlighted ~~to~~ the use of stylistics in the study of

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literature and its goals of analysing, interpreting, evaluating literary texts. I have discussed how stylistics bridges Literary criticism and Linguistic analysis. I have referred to the different views and theories in linguistics and have illustrated how by applying them a given literary text can be interpreted. I have given many illustrations of analysis of literary texts worked out by stylisticians to show how subtle their perceptions<sup>are</sup> with regard to the use of language in literature. I have also discussed the usefulness of stylistic methods in the interpretation of prose fictions, particularly in the study of novels. Lastly, I have given the justification for my choice of Virginia Woolf and her novel "To The Lighthouse".

The second chapter deals with Virginia Woolf as a novelist. I have discussed her contribution as a novelist, the factors that shaped her creativity and her experiments in the field of novel. I have discussed how she rejected conventions and adopted new methods of writing a novel. I have also discussed her "stream of consciousness" technique. In the second part of this chapter, I have given critical assessment of the novel "To The Lighthouse". I have introduced the novel in brief paying special attention to its plot, theme, characters and form. At the end, I have given critic's evaluation and interpretation of different aspects of the novel which throw light on the use of language, symbolism, imagery, vocabulary, poetic devices ect.

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3rd chapter comprises the stylistic analysis of the novel. The first part deals with the formal structure of the novel in detail. In the second part, I have analysed interior monologues by using a stylistic method. I have also attempted the close study of sentence structure with regard to its length, embeddings, deviations etc. which show relevance to the thematic concerns of the novel. I have also pointed out poeticalness of the language used in the novel and tried to account for this poeticalness.

In the conclusion, my observations and findings derived from chapters I, II & III are given.

I hope, this dissertation is a modest attempt to study some of the features of "To The Lighthouse" from the point of view of the use of stylistic devices and their importance in the interpretation of the novel. I am aware that this dissertation has its own limitations in the absence of a set model of analysis. As a result, the statements made in the analysis are sometimes tentative and open-ended.

#### MY ECLECTIC APPROACH :

In my analysis of Virginia Woolf's novel "To The Lighthouse", I am going to use a linguistic approach. I am also going to consider its formal aspect as 'Form' happens to be equally important in a literary text. I have concentrated my attention more on how Virginia Woolf expresses her themes.

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My stylistic analysis is entirely compatible with a critic's close reading and a linguist's objective analysis. It would achieve a balance between critic's intuitive response and linguist's objective analysis. This is done by analysing interior monologues, sentence structures and poeticalness of language of some of the extracts from the novel. My approach is not rigid, it is open - ended. I have selected stylistically relevant items - instances of syntactic parallelism, alliterative patterns, sound patterns, lexical repetitions, syntactic structures which are significant in the organisation of the novel.

I am aware that mere analysis of a literary text conducted for its own sake is of no great use and may sound uninteresting. That is why, I have considered the opinions of critics wherever available and have attempted to show the relevance of my analysis to the thematic meaning of the novel. The approach in this dissertation is based on the linguistic observations of a no. of stylists already mentioned earlier in the 1st chapter. However, as no one model can be used in carrying out the analysis of the novel, the approach followed here is eclectic one.