

Virginia Woolf is the pioneer of this method.

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This method is the deeper study of the mind of characters. The writer, enters deep into the conscious mind of the characters and with the help of monologues gives expressions to the thoughts. Here the traditional method of presenting a behind of action in time sequence is rejected and there is elimination of an action in the ordinary sense of the term.

Stream of consciousness is properly a phrase for psychologists. It has its origin in the novels of Miss Dorothy Richardson and James Joyce, and they are perhaps the best exponents of this experiment who make most frequent use of this technique may be mentioned in Mrs. Virginia Woolf, author of "Mrs. Dalloway" and "To the Lighthouse." This technique is also followed by Conrad Aiken in his 'Blue Voyage' Nathan Asch in his 'Day Day.'

The stream of consciousness of literature is psychological literature. The attempt to create human consciousness in fiction is a modern attempt to analyse human nature. Most of us will be convinced now, that it can be the starting point of that most important of all intellectual functions consciousness. Then where we are aware of human experience. And this is enough for the

novelists. He collectively leaves nothing out. Sensations and memories, feelings and conceptions, fancies and imaginations and those very unphilosophical, but, consistently unavoidable phenomena.

We call intuitions visions and ~~insights~~ insights.

The stream of consciousness represents an enlargement of technical procedures. As a type of narrative it is a new and radical development from subjectivism and its most important feature is exploitation of the ~~most~~ element of incoherence in our conscious process. Ordinarily novels concern themselves with action, with states of mind only in so far as they bear upon a definite line of conduct. The stream of consciousness novel concerns itself mainly with states of mind. This technique is applied to abnormal people, or people temporarily fallen into a state of abnormal passiveness to sensation. The association of ideas is not guided or controlled by any "sense of for conduct." The characters talk to themselves make indirect comments on their mixed thoughts, things and impressions. The stream of consciousness novel is not a story told in chronological sequence. It is like a movie



picture which makes plentiful use of cut-back, symbolic themes, and dissolving news

~~What these~~  
Stream of Consciousness has opened up a new area of life. It added mental functioning and psychic existence to the already established domain of motive and action. James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and Dorothy Richardson are the best novelists of this new technique. 'Ulysses' by James Joyce, 'Mrs. Dalloway' and 'To the Lighthouse' by Woolf and 'Printed Roads' by Dorothy are this type of novels.

### Stream of Consciousness Novel

\* write a note on stream of consciousness novel.

#### ⇒ Introduction

As we pass from the novels of the Victorian age to the 20<sup>th</sup> century novels, we note a sea of change in them. Science, psychology, and sex affect the novelist. Virginia Woolf pronounced in 1924 that "or about 1910 human nature changed." Though human nature may not have changed but men's notions of their nature do. Samuel Butler's "The Way of All Flesh", The plays of Shaw, Chekhov's short stories and Dostoyevsky's novels

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are the first signs of this change. In Vienna, Freud had already laid the foundations of psycho-analysis the individual human being, the individual sensibility and reaction.

## (1) Idea of Realism

During the 20th century every poet, dramatist and novelist talks about realism in literature Virginia Woolf says,

"The distinctive quality of the novelist is a permanent interest in the character itself."

Woolf explains her whole point of 'Reality' in this way,

"Examine for a moment an ordinary mind ~~receives~~ on an ordinary day. The mind receives a myriad (myriad) impressions absurd and fantastic. From all sides they come an incessant shower of innumerable atoms. (innumerable) And in this way they compose the life of Monday or Tuesday. If a writer were a free man, and not a slave of convention, (convention) there would be no plot, no comedy, no tragedy in the accepted sense. Life is not a series of (series) street lamps, symmetrically (symmetrically) arranged; life is a luminous (luminous) halo." (halo)

Thus, Virginia Woolf defends her idea of realism and her technique of stream of consciousness.



## (2) Theory of stream of consciousness novel.

Virginia Woolf defines the technique in these words,

"consciousness does not appear itself chopped up in bits. It is nothing dis-jointed; it flows, let us call it the stream of thought of consciousness or of subjective life."

The phrase "stream of consciousness" was first employed by a critic May Sinclair in 1918 while reviewing Dorothy Richardson's novels. Dorothy employed the new method of rendering consciousness as it flows from moment to moment. This technique is used, with varying degree of intensity by Dorothy Richardson Virginia Woolf and James Joyce for a short period up to 1930.

With the stream of consciousness technique novel the reader is taken straight inside the characters mind the old barriers of novelist as narrative between the reader and the characters are down. The historian is almost disappeared with James Joyce and Virginia Woolf and Dorothy Richardson we as readers are as if were inside the minds of characters. We can see the functioning of a particular mind as a clock-maker can see the functioning of a clock from inside by opening the lid. We share the conditions present of their consciousness we know Joyce's Mr. Bloom and Dorothy's Miriam

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in a way. We know no characters, intitions before them whether we know them ~~truly~~ truly than we do Fielding's Tom Jones or Jane Austen's Emma or George Eliot's Maggie, is a different question.

### (3) Main exponents of these technique.

The first novelist who deliberately employed the technique of stream of consciousness was Dorothy Richardson, whose novel 'Pointed Roots' was the beginning of a dozen novels which together compose in 1935. Pilgrimage satisfies Virginia Woolf's idea in that it contains no plot no comedy, no tragedy, no love interest or catastrophe. There is only Miriam living from day to day experiencing feeling and reacting to the outside world of people and things. While reading we live within her mind in an eternal presence. It was by reading her novels that May Sinclair first used the phrase stream of consciousness.

But, it was Virginia Woolf who consciously implemented this technique in at least three of her novels. She not only implemented the technique but also explained the whole theory of 'Reality' with the exact recording of the consciousness of a character. What happens in Woolf's novel is on the surface of it is unimportant. For example in the novel



'Mrs. Dalloway' a fashionable lady gives a party a man who had been in love with her comes back from India - a young man, suffering from war-neurotic commits suicide. All these things happen in the mind of Mrs. Dalloway. While, going to the market to buy flowers for the evening party. In a novel like 'Mrs. Dalloway' one sees life as in a state of constant creation like a fountain, the moment being individual drop of water of the fountain.

Then, in Woolf's another novel 'To the Lighthouse' the issue is simply whether or not a family on holiday will be able to row out to the lighthouse. In this novel the reader is taken into the minds of different characters to see himself how a particular character thinks or gives reaction. One character Lily Briscoe serves as central intelligence who commences upon all the other characters. There is very little plot or action in the conventional sense.

In another novel 'The Waves' action in any normal sense is done all together. Virginia Woolf is a novelist of very narrow line. But, she made important contribution in her deft handling of the technique of stream of consciousness. E. Albert comments,

"It's great advantage's are that it offers, previously undream of possibilities

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for the analysis of mental states, its disadvantages are the great demands it makes on the reader, and the danger of incoherence. Because, of the lack of a logical time sequence, and temptation to go, into the most minute details."

#### (4) James Joyce

Whose talents were so much greater. is the most important novelist of the stream of consciousness technique E. Albert write in his use of the "stream of consciousness" technique and in his handling internal monologues, he went further and deeper than any other his two novels 'Ulysses' and 'The Portrait of an artist as a young man' are very great.

'A Portrait of an young man' is set in Dublin (1916) is an intense account of a developing writer torn between the standards of an ascetic, religious upbringing and his desire for sensuousness.