

Abstract:

Virginia Woolf creates characters whose epiphanic, genuine but shocking moments of being revolve around the awareness of the possibility of the individual of suddenly ceasing to exist. In Mrs. Dalloway, *To the Lighthouse* and her own diaries, death acts as the alien other that allows the characters to fully embrace the present, and that chaperones them in their journey of both creation and discovery of the self. Virginia Woolf is a character herself in her diaries, and her own experiences of the present, her existential inquiries and modern anxieties shape the fears, quests for identity and moments of being of Clarissa Dalloway and Lily Briscoe.

Key words:

alien, anxiety, death, other, Modernism, moment of being