

# A PHENOMENOLOGICAL READING OF VIRGINIA WOOLF'S FICTIONS: THE PROCESS OF SELF-FORMATION

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## Abstract

One of the most challenging issues in Woolf's novels is the notion of selfhood. It is obvious that she differentiates her autonomous self-conscious characters from those who suffer from mental illnesses and have fractured sense of self. Woolf tried to explain the nature of humanity, consciousness and selfhood through fundamental concepts of phenomenology, founded by Husserl, such as temporality, intentionality, displacements, intersubjectivity, epoché and categorial intention. These notions are the coral focus in Husserl's philosophy. Husserlian phenomenology is an attempt to clarify the structure of consciousness and sense of selfhood. In a comparative attempt to adapt Husserl's philosophy and Woolf's viewpoint of the world, it has been shown that Woolf's characters develop their senses of selfhood through the same characteristics. In three novels reviewed in this article, *Mrs. Dalloway*, *The Waves* and *To the Lighthouse*, Woolf beautifully zeroed in on the importance of awareness of self-awareness as one of the most important criteria in defining who her characters are.

**Keywords:** Virginia Woolf, Edmund Husserl, Phenomenology, Selfhood, Consciousness, Sense of self.