

**T.C.**  
**KAFKAS UNIVERSITY**  
**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**  
**DIVISION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**THE INFLUENCE OF VIRGINIA WOOLF'S**  
**UNDERSTANDING OF FEMINISM ON HER NOVELS A**  
***ROOM OF ONE'S OWN* (1929) AND *NIGHT AND DAY***  
**(1919)**

**MASTER'S THESIS**

**by**

**Handan YILDIZ**

**Advisor**

**Assist. Prof. Dr. Turan Özgür GÜNGÖR**

**KARS- 2016**



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Assist. Prof. Dr. Turan Özgür GÜNGÖR

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**KARS- 2016**



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**VİRGİNİA WOOLF'UN FEMİNİST ANLAYIŞININ  
*KENDİNE AİT BİR ODA* (1929) VE *GECE VE GÜNDÜZ*  
(1919) ROMANLARINDAKİ ETKİSİ**

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This study titled “The Influence of Virginia Woolf’s Understanding of Feminism on her Novels *A Room of One’s Own* and *Night and Day*” by Handan YILDIZ is approved as thesis of Master’s Degree in the Division of Western Languages and Literatures, English Language and Literature Department by our jury in the end of the thesis depense exam on 14/10/2016.

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SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ'NE

*Handan YILDIZ* tarafından hazırlanan **The influence of Virginia Woolf's Understanding of Feminism in her novels *A Room of One's Own* and *Night and Day*** başlıklı bu çalışma, **14/ 10 /2016** tarihinde yapılan tez savunma sınavı sonucunda başarılı bulunarak jürimiz tarafından Batı Dilleri ve Edebiyatı Anabilim Dalı, İngiliz Dili ve Edebiyatı Bilim Dalı'nda Yüksek Lisans Tezi olarak **oy birliğiyle kabul** edilmiştir.

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Doç.Dr. Mustafa ÖZDEMİR

Enstitü Müdürü

## BİLİMSEL ETİK BİLDİRİMİ

Yüksek Lisans tezi olarak hazırladığım **The Influence of Virginia Woolf's Understanding of Feminism on her novels *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Night and Day* (1919)** adlı çalışmanın öneri aşamasından sonuçlanmasına kadar geçen süreçte bilimsel etiğe ve akademik kurallara özenle uyduğumu, tez içindeki tüm bilgileri bilimsel ahlak ve gelenek çerçevesinde elde ettiğimi, tez yazım kurallarına uygun olarak hazırladığım bu çalışmamda doğrudan veya dolaylı olarak yaptığım her alıntıya kaynak gösterdiğimi ve yararlandığım eserlerin kaynakçada gösterilenlerden oluştuğunu beyan ederim.

### Scientific Ethic Statement

I declare that I complied with the rules of academic and scientific ethics from the proposal stage to the process of completion of the study titled **The Influence of Virginia Woolf's Understanding of Feminism on her novels *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Night and Day* (1919)** as a Master Thesis I prepared, that I obtained all information in term Project with the framework of scientific ethics and traditions, that I showed sources to the each quotation I made directly or indirectly in this study I prepared as a term Project in accordance with the writing rules and works which I used have been shown in the bibliography.

14/10/2016

Öğrenci Adı Soyadı

Handan YILDIZ

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**ETKİSİ**

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**ÖZET**

Adeline Virginia Woolf, özellikle feminist yazılarıyla bilinen, deneme, roman yazarı, editör ve eleştirmendir. Bilinç akışı yöntemi ile yirminci yüzyıl modern edebiyatının önde gelen yazarlarından biridir. Virginia Woolf'un feminist anlayışı, kadının bir birey olarak var olmasını destekler niteliktedir. Feminizm, erkekler kadar kadınların da toplumda eşit haklar elde etmesini amaçlayan bir akımdır. Erkeğin üstünlüğünü ve kadının daha aşağı bir nitelikte olmasını reddeder. Kadın ve erkeğe sosyal, politik, ekonomik ve kültürel alanlarda eşit haklar verilmelidir.

Bu çalışmada Virginia Woolf'un feminist yaklaşımı, ataerkil toplumdaki kadın kavramı *Kendine Ait Bir Oda* (1919) adlı eserinden örnekler verilerek incelenmektedir. Birinci bölümde, çalışmanın amacı ve Virginia Woolf'un özel yaşamı kısaca açıklanmaktadır. İkinci bölümde, feminizm ve feminist yazar olarak Virginia Woolf'un değerlendirilmesi ayrıntılı olarak tartışılmaktadır. *Kendine Ait Bir Oda* (1929)'daki feminizm yansımaları gösterilmektedir. *Gece ve Gündüz* (1919) adlı eserinde, kadın yaşamında eğitim ve evliliğin önemi tartışılmaktadır. Sonuç olarak, Woolf'un her iki eserindeki feminist bakış açısı karşılaştırılmakta ve analiz edilmektedir.

**Keywords:** Virginia Woolf, Feminizm, Kadın, Ataerkil Toplum, Evlilik

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**HANDAN YILDIZ**

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**ABSTRACT**

Adeline Virginia Woolf is essayist, novelist and publisher, critic, especially known for her feminist writings. She is one of the literary figures in English literature in the twentieth century. The feminist approach of Virginia Woolf supports woman's existence as an individual. Feminism is a movement that aims to obtain equal rights for woman as well as men in the society. It attacks the superiority of men and the inferiority of women. Both women and men should be given the same rights in social, political economic and cultural fields.

In this study, Virginia Woolf's feminist approach is examined by giving examples from Woolf's work *A Room of One's Own* (1929). In the first chapter, the aim of the study and the private life of Virginia Woolf are explained briefly. In the second chapter, feminism and evaluation of Virginia Woolf as a feminist writer, patriarchal society and women in patriarchal society are discussed in details. In her work *Night and Day* (1919), the importance of education and marriage in women's life are discussed. In conclusion, the feminist approaches of Woolf in her two works are compared and analyzed.

**Keywords:** Virginia Woolf, Feminism, Women, Patriarchal Society, Marriage

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## INTRODUCTION

Virginia Woolf is considered as one of the most important innovators in the English because she breaks the molds with her experimental language rejecting the traditional literary techniques. She is an active writer defending women rights towards the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century in terms of the women's place especially in the world of fiction. In spite of social restrictions imposed on the women in the society, Virginia Woolf is aware of women's potentialities to achieve great things. She advocates women's sexual freedom and equality throughout her life. Another issue Woolf defended is that women should have economic freedom to express their more freely and produce their own works (Urgan, 1995).

Woolf believes that the only way to express her inner world is to write. In order to write she is luckier than other women of her time. For example, her father is author as well as historian and mountaineer, and has a vast library where Woolf could find whatever she wanted to read about. Thanks to Virginia Woolf's father literary circle, she grows under the influence of the Victorian literary circle with guests such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Henry James, and James Russell Lowell. Virginia Woolf is taught at home in her father's library, not in a formal school. Through her intellectual and cultural environment, Woolf develops herself in these fields (Koç, 2011).

When in 1895 her mother died, Virginia Woolf was only 13. Her half-sister also died two years later; this provoked Woolf's first nervous breakdown. Virginia Woolf had many other breakdowns throughout her life. She lost her mental stability and suffered from her first nervous breakdown. All these breakdowns increased her creativity in writing. Woolf struggled with mental illness that gave her an opportunity to witness firsthand how insensitive medical professionals could be. In the early twentieth century, mental health problems were considered as the product of moral weaknesses.

Apart from her father's library's contribution to her education and her own experiences, Bloomsbury Group had a special role in her training as a literary figure. Virginia Woolf was a member of the Bloomsbury Group, an intellectual circle of artists and writers. The Bloomsberries as they are called are mostly privileged and

well-educated members from upper middle class. The thing that made them different from other intellectual groups at the time was that they were the only group supporting the gay rights, women in the arts, pacifism, open marriages, uninhibited sexuality and unconventional ideas. They were in the opposite side of the society at their time. The Bloomsbury Group rejected the old Victorian ideals and values and accepted more liberal thoughts and ways of life. In the Bloomsbury group, Woolf met Leonard Woolf whom she married in 1912 despite his poverty. Their marriage had a profound impact on her development as a writer; she called her marriage as the most beautiful thing in her life. The couple had led a happy life and collaborated each other professionally. After founding of the Hogarth Press, Woolf had the chance of publishing the works of some socially rejected writers without any boundaries (Başak, 1998).

Woolf's mental illness is described as a manic-depressive illness. This illness turns out to an opportunity for Woolf; her creativity is supported by her mental illness. On 28 March 1941, the depression comes back and she begins to experience fear and fright. Woolf commits suicide by drowning herself into the River Ouse, filling her coat's pockets with stones. Her body is found on 18 April, and she is buried by her husband in the garden of their house in Sussex.

Virginia Woolf criticizes the society of the nineteenth century. Women were not esteemed in society unless they marry with a leading person in the nineteenth century. As a woman writer, Woolf supports women and thinks that women should write about themselves and try to learn how women experience the life and the world. Even though women have household burden on their shoulders at home, according to Woolf, women should be against societal assertiveness. Instead of housework, women should arrange time for their own needs and expectations (Güneş, 2007).

She is interested in the inner world of people rather than outside of people. Virginia's professional writing begins in 1905, when she starts writing for the Times Literary Supplement. However, her first individual work *The Voyage Out* (1915) is published in 1915. Most of her works are published by her own Hogarth Press. Her novels are *The Voyage Out* (1915), *To The Lighthouse*(1927), *Night and Day* (1919), *Jacob's*

*Room* (1922), *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *Orlando* (1928), *The Waves* (1931), *The Years* (1937), *Between the Acts* (1941) and her short stories are *Kew Gardens* (1919), *Monday or Tuesday* (1921), *A Haunted House and Other Short Stories* (1944), *Mrs Dalloway's Party* (1973), *The Complete Shorter Fiction* (1985) and *Carlyle's House and Other Sketches* (2003).

Woolf's perception of feminism does not include classical thoughts. She brings new perceptions to life and to the feminist issues. There are lots of works about concept of feminism, Virginia Woolf and her perception on feminism. With the emergence of feminism in 1897, there have been lots of different studies on this new field. A *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) by Mary Wollstonecraft is one of the earliest works about feminist philosophy. In work, Wollstonecraft focuses on the need and necessity of the freedom for all members in society. Bell Hooks is another writer supporting feminist ideals in her work *Feminism is For Everybody* (2000). Hooks says that feminism is a necessity for everybody because even in the patriarchal society men have to live under patriarchal slavery.

Margaret Fuller emphasizes the concept of identity in her work *Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1845) for an identity, and the struggle for women rights (Orestes, 1998). This struggle will be won with the help of education. Necla Arat advocates this point and says that women are intentionally taught to see men protector of women in her work *Feminism's Abc* (1991). The crucial way of struggle is to have a good education (Arat, 2010). Simone de Beauvoir criticizes in *Second Sex* (1949) that women are hindered by men and she adds that women are seen as the inferior to men (Beauvoir, 1949).

Patriarchal way of life will be analyzed in this study. Patriarchal system is the one which was developed and controlled by men. As men are powerful figures, they evaluate themselves as superior group in the socio-cultural perspective. In patriarchal society both men and women have some biological differences. The norms and the rules belonging to the patriarchal system bring about inequality between men and women (Sümer, 2011). Woolf does not blame men for the inequalities between men and women. She is aware of the fact that society's norms, rules and traditional aspects should be questioned as well (Uysal, 1998).

Mina Urgan suggests in her work *Virginia Woolf* (1995) that the most important materials are leisure time, private area and both social and economic financial independence for women to write in literary works. However, she was not given these materials as she was imprisoned and was to serve her husband and children at home (Urgan, 1995).

In her work *A Room of One's Own* (1929), Woolf reveals the possible ways for women to write in spite of the difficulties they have to face in a patriarchal society. As a feminist writer, Woolf criticizes the social conditions of women and rejects the roles imposed by male-dominated society such as obeying the orders of their husbands, giving birth and feeding their children and cleaning home, doing housework. These duties do not make it possible for women to create time for reading and writing in a patriarchal society (Woolf, 2004).

In this study, Virginia Woolf's feminist approach will be discussed in details in her work *A Room of One's Own* (1929). Her ideas about the relationship between writing and earning money will be given in the following chapters. The general problems that women have to face will be analyzed. The reasons why women cannot struggle for their freedom and educational development will be discussed. Patriarchal society and women in a patriarchal society will particularly be studied in the second chapter.

The portrayal of young English women from the upper middle class will be given in Woolf's work. Additionally, the social world and characters' inner worlds will also be discussed. Virginia Woolf's work *Night and Day* (1919) reflects the meaning of the reality in the life. The social sides of life and the characters' inner lives and also their aspect of life will be discussed with different examples from the *Night and Day* (1919).

In this study, descriptive method is used while describing characteristics of the subject. In addition to this method, historical method is used and it includes the background of the subject, as well.

## **CHAPTER I:**

### **PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY AND WOMEN IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY AND VIRGINIA WOOLF AS A FEMINIST WRITER**

#### **1.1. Patriarchal Society and Women in Patriarchal Society**

Patriarchy is a system in which men are dominant, and violence is considered as legal. Men's needs and choices are more important in that kind of society. The relationships between men and women and the roles of both sexes are organized in accordance with the patriarchal norms and rules (Sultana, 2011).

According to Woolf, men have got the power and they can oppress women according to his desires. Women behave the way they are expected by men. They do not struggle for their freedom and educational development shortly for their own desires and thoughts and feelings. They cannot fulfill their choices and meet their needs and they have no right to choose what they want in reality. They are evaluated by men's words in the world of writing. Women have got the lowest statue in the eyes of men and men treat as if women were slave to men. Women do not have any speech about their existence and even about their own body (Hogarth, 2005).

Patriarchal system is one developed and controlled by men. In this system, men have the power, and they take from this strength socio-cultural environment. In patriarchal society, because of their biological differences women and men should work in different works. From patriarchal point of view, women were created as emotional, patient and devoted creatures so that they could be wives and mothers. And there is no possibility for women to exist in competitive business life. They cannot be active in literature and art, because their creativity has been limited by the society. To speak and write mean to dominate the world for women. Therefore, men could shape their world with their own words and own realities adding their desire and wish (Sümer, 2011).

In patriarchal ideology, it is asserted that art should be only men's job. So works of art created by women are disregarded. Human's perception of the world has been affected by the society in which they are born and grew up (Sümer, 2011).



The society itself ignores women's talents; therefore, their talents cannot be recognized by others. Patriarchal society holds women responsible only for housework and childcare. Therefore, women are kept away from business life. Women are forced to live only at their homes. Men look down on women and women are kept away from all important social and educational activities and civilization. Women are educated by their mothers to please their future husbands and children. Their education and whole life are set up on their marriage. Their existence is dedicated to marriage in which they have not got any rights to choose the men with whom they are going to marry within the patriarchal society (Phulong Le, 2009).

### **1.2. Feminism and Feminist Struggle in Patriarchal Society**

The term feminism was first used at the end of the nineteenth century. It supports equal rights for both women and men in the society. It rejects general assumptions that men are superior to women. It asserts that women should have their own identities and be free to explain their thoughts, desires, feelings and anxiety freely.

Feminism questions sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression on women in a patriarchal society. It does not justify male domination. Bell Hooks states in her work *Feminism is For Everybody* (2000) that feminism is essential for everybody because in a patriarchal society men have to live under patriarchal slavery. So not only women but also men need feminism in order to be free. Feminism advocates comparable worth doctrine (Hooks, 2000).

To raise the consciousness is one of the most important objectives of feminism. As mentioned in *Feminism is For Everybody* (2000), women firstly organize in groups to talk together about the issue of sexism and male domination. Male domination and sexism have victimized, exploited and oppressed women for ages. Through consciousness-raising women have power to challenge patriarchal forces at work and home. The major threats to the woman rights are the oppression on women imposed by men on the sexist attitude in society (Hooks, 2000). During the growth process of a girl, she is taught to accept herself as inferior to men. The needs of women are self-esteem and self-assertion and being raised as valuable human being.

Feminist objects to the view that women's bodies are regarded as men's properties. The sexual exploitation of women's body is a common problem. Women do not have any rights to say something about their bodies. When women do not want to give birth to an unwanted child, they face antiabortion laws. Women are supposed to give birth to an unwanted child and their opinion is not taken into consideration (Johannstodtir, 2009). At this point, Hooks focuses that many of us are unplanned children, the children of unwanted pregnancies. Perhaps these unwanted births cause disappointments and bitterness of women in the society. Therefore, women need abortion rights. Hook states this need as follows:

*Before women's liberation all females young and old were socialized by sexist thinking to believe that our value rested solely on appearance and whether or not we were perceived to be good-looking, especially by men. Understanding that females could never be liberated if we did not develop healthy self-esteem and self-love feminist thinkers went directly to the heart of matter-critically examining how we feel and think about our bodies and offering constructive strategies for change (Hooks, 2000, p. 31).*

According to the norms in patriarchal society, the value of women is appreciated with their sexual attraction and beauty; it is not the same for men. Men's reason and intelligence are perceived as valuable. Women become worthless in the eyes of the man and patriarchal society. Therefore, women will lose their liberation and they have to spend much time to make themselves look beautiful. Women are dignified only when they meet the demands requested by men.

According to capitalist investors in the cosmetics and fashion industry, feminism would destroy their business, because feminists do not give importance to the appearance and beauty of women. Compulsive eating and starvation are highlighted in the beauty area. Women who are under the influence of appearance will be badly affected. Today anorexia is mentioned in the magazines and it represents for young bodies the height of beauty and desirability. This message is damaging for the young so the beauty should not be the aim of women. Women should accept their bodies as they are and they do not spend time to stimulate the women to the thing that the media wants to be. All females should be aware of the dangers of embracing sexist notions of female beauty. Women should be aware of all these facts in life (Hooks, 2000).

The education of women is an important issue for feminist movement. Through education, feminism will increase consciousness level of female population. According to them, women should be educated especially in sexual education, preventive medicine, and birth control method.

Not only gender discrimination or sexist oppression but also low-paying and unskilled jobs keep women away from working life. At this point many well-educated women have to stay at home instead of doing ordinary jobs and accepting lower payments. A few women accept to work in low-paying and unskilled jobs. Women are exposed to racism, class discrimination and sexism in economic field and to have a job becomes a must for women. Even though women begin to earn money they also continue to do housework. While women expect that exploitation and oppression should be ended up, they are exposed to be captured both at home and work (Jackson).

Hooks states that if women have opportunity to obtain economic independence, they do not stand with male domination and they choose liberation. In fact, having a job does not completely liberate women. But this fact does not change the reality that economic freedom is needed. In order to sustain their class status and lifestyle women have to work and earn money. Through business life, women begin to gain self-esteem and positive participation in the community. Women start to solve their problems at works by sharing the problems with colleagues. While attempting to solve problems at work, women do not feel themselves alone.

*When women in the home spend all their time attending to the needs of others, home is a workplace for her, not a site of relaxation, comfort and pleasure. Work outside the home has been most liberating for women who are single (many of whom live alone; they may or may not be heterosexual). Most women have not even been able to find satisfying work, and their participation in the workforce has diminished the quality of their life at home (Hooks, 2000, p. 50).*

The aim of the feminism is to correct the secondary position of women. Women demand equal rights in employment, training and political fields. They are evaluated as secondary gender (Johannstodtir, 2009).

The oppression on women has transmitted from one generation to another unconsciously. The dignity of women must be protected as women deserve to have

dignity as human being. Feminism supports the idea that women have the right to choose the most competent life to improve them. If women want to gain right, they should have power and organization (Gardiner, 2004).

Mary Wollstonecraft states in her work *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* (1792) that if the emancipation of women in the society is provided, the freedom of society will be provided, as well. The idea of being a person superior to another one legally hinders the development of human being. In feminist struggle, the organization of the resistance with meetings, walking and hunger strikes are seen. Margaret Fuller asserts in her work *Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1845) for an independent identity, women should fight (Orestes, 1998). Women in business life are fighting against prostitution. Women fight for better-working conditions, higher wages, and unionization and also fight against child labor problem and sexual freedom. Women are exposed to economic pressures, commercial exploitation, and legal discrimination. Each individual both men and women are responsible for their own lives (Arat, 1991).

Jean Jack Rousse exposes in his work *Emile* (1762) that inequality means dependence of a person to another one. Women lose liberty being dependent on other people (Bell & Karen, 1983). But Rousse does not support feminism. He adds that women should be educated to please their husbands and children; they do not need knowledge more than this. In the special area, women should do housework, childcare and make their husbands happy. From this point of view, it can be seen that women are neglected and underestimated. The lifestyle considered to be suitable for women prevents women's ability and virtues. Women need equal opportunities in which they can develop their talents, they can choose the profession.

Margaret Fuller states in *Women in The Twentieth Century* (1845), women should have individual freedom. Housework should not comprise the whole life, women should not only play the roles, and women should get out of mother and wife models (Orestes, 1998). The women's aim is to live free life and be independent. Fuller rejects the opinion that women undertake men's role. According to John Stuart Mill, freedom is to choose his or her own values. Women do not have the freedom they are obliged to obey to other people's rules and norms especially their brothers, fathers, husbands or the society (Bennet, 2009).

Simone de Beauvoir asserts in *Second Sex* (1949) that women have been restricted by men. Beauvoir adds that women as being considered as being the other by men have been seen the object of men. Beauvoir describes women as the objects and victims under the suppressed male's point of view. Beauvoir suggests that a society, in which women's personal experience is valuable, created (Beauvoir, 1949).

Necla Arat focuses that women are accustomed to sitting at home and they are taught to see men as our protector in her work *Feminism's Abc* (1991). That is why education and training women are of crucial. Education is very important as it gives opportunities to women to fight for woman rights, family planning. Modern education increases women's sensitivity to socio-political and cultural issues. Women need attain to their economic independence, for getting rid of the oppressions of women in society (Arat, 2010).

The struggle of women's movement is the result of patriarchal oppression on women. Since classical times, women have always been the weaker gender and they were to live under the protection of men. Women's lives were shaped and determined patriarchal rules and orders. Firstly, women were seen as a secondary gender who should serve to the needs of men; in their lives women should be like a good girl, daughter, and wife and mother. At that point, their training did not include any serious learning. They were not expected to improve their intellectual capacities. While men studied Greek, Latin, music, astronomy, mathematics, both at school and home. Women lacked academic learning. Their education included only domestic skills as if these skills were the core of their lives (Perry, 2003).

As it is known, men and women have many innate differences. Some of the differences may be removed when equal education and social, politic and economic opportunities are given to both sexes. Their cognitive ability becomes equal. Gender discrimination affects these differences, but with the help of equal opportunities the understanding of women and men of the world will be equal in many fields (Hakim, 2006).

Women did not find the opportunities to improve their intellectual capacities. Therefore, they were not educated; they could not find any prestigious jobs. During

the seventeenth century, women could only find jobs as servants in the rich families' houses, or they worked in less skilled labors such as dairying and tailoring. In the middle of the seventeenth century during Civil War in England (1644-1651), married women continued their husbands' businesses during their absences. During the industrialization period, women worked in waged works as nurses and also found jobs as supervisors. In the late of the eighteenth century, there were women who ran their own businesses and these businesses were on food, drink, entertainment, laundry work, and clothing. Both at home and work, it necessitated almost same kinds of roles parallel to their private areas (Barge, 2013).

In patriarchal society, women were kept away from intellectual and social life the fields where were dominated by man. For women, family and children were the main priorities throughout the life so women generally cannot prefer working life. Family values such as caring, sharing, non- competitive, communal life gain importance for women in their daily lives (Hakim, 2006). Therefore committing the whole life to business life becomes impossible and some women choose their families and children. Consequently, some women choose to combine employment and family life. They choose certain occupations such as school teaching as it will help them to facilitate work- family balance. Most of the women find to part- time jobs in order to have time to spend with their family and children. Home or family-centered women are far away from working areas in the society. This kind of life choice affects person's values and goals in life (Sullivan, 2004).

The women cannot find any opportunities to express friendly their ideas against the subordination of women. At the late of the eighteenth century, women's voice supporting and defending their gender rights in patriarchal society was firstly heard. The woman writers criticize marriages imposed by parental oppressions. With the liberty of thoughts after French Revolution (1789), women's movement attracted much attention; because French Enlightenment included natural rights such as vote right, freedom, equality and independence. Writers emphasized that women should be accepted as individuals by society and should have their own rights. With political means, it could be possible for women to achieve their aims. Through given

responsibilities in the society they could have right to express themselves to the others (Craciun, 2005).

Even though women were expected to accomplish their domestic roles after social changes such as industrialization and urbanization, they became active in the progress of the society. Suffrage Movement (2004) is also women's movement which supported women's participation in public as well as their traditional roles and responsibilities. It is known as female suffrage, women suffrage or women's right to vote. With the help of both national and international organizations it became possible to have voting right for women in Europe. When women obtained voting right, which meant having a say in the parliament, women won their individuality and legal rights. They tried to change the rules of male dominated social life and believed they could have their own life. They wanted to be provided with employment opportunities, economic independence and educational opportunities (Holton, 1980).

An essay *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) by Wollstonecraft is accepted as the starting point for feminist movement, and it includes the principles of French Revolution. Feminism draws attention that the each gender is born with his/her equality, independence and liberty rights in fact. But dominant social orders perceive him/her wrong in the society. Women are opposed to dominance of men and they are forced to live under the negative effects of norms and perceptions in the society. Because of the rapid growth in economic development, a number of women can work and participate in the feminist movement. It becomes effective on the concrete lives of women and consciousness levels of women in a positive way. Even though women fight for rights to have a say in the society, basic rights are not sufficient to rescue the women from their difficult situations such as wages that they do not deserve, extra labor in business life (Botting, 1992).

There is no balance between men's and women's business life. In every parts of social life, women were prevented from being active. Delay in the participation of women in the educational process and not having been improved in the science, women need the effort to improve herself. The desire of women is to benefit from the higher education process to improve them and to get away the pressured on them.

Women's education and employment become more important subjects after women gain rights as individuals in the society. Awareness of the individual is perhaps the most important issue to be evaluated. To understand the role of women better, the traditional structure of the society should be analyzed. In family life, education and career men have the right to give the order to do whatever they wanted. Men have their own identities in the society; they can show easily and freely their existence, thoughts and imagination. Therefore under the burden of men's authority, women have to fight for their individualization (Koç, 2011).

The women have double burden on their shoulder they have to fulfill their duties as a housewife and mother at home and they have to work harder at the working places to enter into rivalry with male colleagues. To serve men as a housewife at home is an obstacle for women, because they cannot make real their future plans. Unfortunately, this unequal system remained the same. Women have revolt against the identity imposed by the society, but patriarchal society does not accept this kind of opposition. The patriarchal society has been set up on women's obedience. In modern society, the individual and the preferences of the individuals have gained importance; therefore men cannot put the obstacle to the freedom of the individual's selection. Women begin to create their personal preferences (Woldegiorgis, 2015).

With urbanization and industrialization, it has become easy for women to be active in business life, and they could benefit from educational opportunities. By having a better education women could find jobs with better salaries in the business life (Aktaş, 2013).

There are certain forms that have been burdened on women such as private, sacrifice, silence and loyalty. These values confine women in special areas and prevent women from using the facilities offered by the public spaces. Business life provides facilities such as status, income, social relations, social security and all these facilities are required criteria for women to take place in societies (Hakim, 2006).

When money becomes one of the most criteria in women's life, even though their education level rises and they have job to earn their lives, they are exposed to the economic violent by men. This restriction gives harm to property, life, health, physical integrity and individual freedom. Consequently, the lack of money can



cause poverty, poor economic status, education level of impairment, mental illness, alcoholism, bad habits in women's lives (Gökkaya, 2011). The inequalities both in education and employment isolate women from society and make women poor and unprotected. All the discrimination exhibited against women should be eliminated.

Political participation is an obligatory concept for women's voice. Through politics, women will have opportunities and rights in the management of society. In this context, it was the year 1928 as a turning point in women's movement in Britain women won voting right. Women were represented in Parliament where their legal, social, economic and political rights were defended. In the following years, marriages at early ages and high birth rates were their major focuses as well as gender discrimination in employment. Women also struggled for free secondary education in modern technical schools. Therefore, they could have a chance to attend to universities. Women were in the pursuit of their careers but they were expected to fulfill their domestic duties as wives and mother in the family, and this was a burden for women (Menteşe, 2014).

Political activist writer Simone de Beauvoir underlines that women must react against their images as housewives, and must struggle to gain individual rights in *The Second Sex* (1946). Women's participation in political activities will give women rights to make decisions independently and they will be recognized as independent as independent individuals like men in the society. When the individual political participation is achieved successfully, women will gain confidence and try to be successful in other fields in the society. Unfortunately in traditional culture, women are taught to be passive and obey other people's rules, while men are taught to be active, strong and courageous. Women have always kept from being active in social fields; their private life has been controlled by their fathers or brothers. When women were isolated from the social fields, as they could not gain money and perform whatever they wanted. Therefore, women's labor is exploited in home-based work. The existence of women in the economic life is highly important step for them to create their individual identities (Menteşe, 2014).

With the rise of the novel, women are interested in writing. Woman writers such as Jane Austen, Emily Bronte and her sister Charlotte Bronte were active in writing.

Even though they were criticized by men, writers went on writing with using male pseudonyms because they were afraid of being disapproved. Curer Bell, Ellis Bell, Mary Ann Evans and Aurore Dupin, George Eliot and George Sand were pseudonyms names used by woman writers, because they wanted to protect themselves from the assaults of man writers of their time (Woolf, 2004).

### 1.3. Virginia Woolf as a Feminist Writer

Virginia Woolf is a well-known British novelist who has added a new term to the novel as the stream of consciousness technique which is an unusual technique when compared to traditional technique. She is different from other modernist writers, because she dealt with emotion, subjective matters in a different way. She gave the details of mind and passions, emotions. She was interested in woman's rights and struggle against the norms of the society. With her novels and works, she gave her thoughts via the characters of the works. At this point, she was criticized by the critic, she did not mention about social or political problems of her own time in her novels. According to E. M. Forster, Woolf is passive to the weakness of her female gender identity (Güneş, 2007). Woolf says in one of her article in 1934:

*I have to some extent forced myself to break every mold and find a fresh form of being, that is of expression, for everything I feel and think... This needs constant effort (Urgan, 1995, p.63).*

As a modernist writer, Woolf wants to give an end to the traditional reality. She tried new experiment new methods in her works. According to Woolf, traditional reality does not reflect the facts of life. It is an artificial way of narration, because the reality is relative concept and varies from person to person. Her aim is to reflect emotions, feelings, desires, and passions instead of dealing with external reality. Woolf opposes to the thoughts of realist novelists and she states in one of her articles that:

*If a writer were a free man and not a slave; if he could write what he chose, not what he must, if he could base his work upon his own feelings and not upon convention, there would be no plot, no comedy, no tragedy, no love interest (Urgan, 1995, p.66).*

According to Ali Güneş, the utmost important point for women's writing throughout their writing career is that their characters gain psychologically freedom and they develop themselves in their minds and thoughts. Apart from traditional comments, Woolf reveals her ideas about political and social issues in an artistic way. Woolf

criticizes the patriarchal culture, family life and marriage which enslave women within the domesticity. Woolf was a close observer of the changes of her time such as World War II; she showed how deeply she was affected from the war and wrote about this event in her works. She thought the war was a cripple for her creative power as a writer. Woolf felt that war was meaningless because there was no winner and as there were negative effects of the war on people. They were affected both psychologically and physically and war affected the creativity of people. Woolf stated that authoritarian system threatened artistic freedom and creativity (Güneş, 2007).

Virginia Woolf refused and stood up against the political, cultural and moral views that had been shown as natural by patriarchy for ages. She differs from other writers of her own time in the way of her treatment of writing. She does not write her works as a means of propaganda, but she writes to reveal her views on the social and political issues. She tries to make the readers aware of these realities of the society. Readers are enriched with the help of lives of various characters in her works. She was concerned with the events of her surroundings and she was sensitive to events and was affected by the events in her environment. She reflected her feelings, thoughts and comments in her short stories, novels and, diaries, novels, letters and discussions (Koç, 2011).

Woolf majorly writes against the tyranny, war, and egotism of masculinity. In her work, she intentionally kept away from patriarchal political norms. The young generation was aware of the absurdity of war and they thought that killing millions of people for nothing was irrational facts. In her writings, it can be possible to understand the nature of war and the root of war as well as oppressions on women. Woolf's struggle against male dominated society raised consciousness against all kinds of tyrannies. According to Woolf, while men were fighting abroad, women were fighting at home (Koç, 2011).

Virginia Woolf defended the education for women for their having liberty in order to have a chance to express their own feelings. She mainly focused on the importance of education, the limitations and obstacles for education and the women's deprivation of education in her work *A Room of One's Own* (1929):

*I found myself walking with extreme rapidity across a grass plot. Instantly a man's figure rose to intercept me. Nor did I at first understand that the gesticulations of a curious-looking object, in a cut-away coat and evening shirt, were aimed at me. His face expressed horror and indignation. Instinct rather than reason came to my help; he was a Beadle; I was a woman. This was the turf; there was the path. Only the Fellows and Scholars are allowed here, the gravel is the place for me (Woolf, 2004, p.6).*

In this work, when Judith, one of the major characters of the work, wants to enter into the library she is not permitted by the officials because of gender. While men can get formal education and develop themselves intellectually, women cannot even enter into the library. This is an important scene reflecting the obstacles against women. Even though it is the time of enlightenment, the difficulties that women come across are different from the features of the era. Such kind of rejection by men to women's education opportunity shows that men see women as second-class person in the society as if they were a slave in the hands of men. Virginia Woolf reflects the general situation of women which were prepared by patriarchal society (Woolf, 2004).

Virginia Woolf criticizes the traditional approaches to knowledge and literature. She is also against gender discrimination. She is interested in especially women's professional education, she supports women's reading and writing to show their existence in the society, Virginia Woolf also wants to prove how women are clever and how they can be successful if they have a private space in their world and economic freedom.

In Virginia Woolf's feminism, androgyny concept is seen. It is the form of repression or self-discipline. She asserts that women should write from the point of view men and similarly from the point of view women. Woolf thinks that formal education is obligatory for women. As women have to learn and read about literature world after that they can produce literature works (Woolf, 2004).

One of the reasons that why Virginia was interested in woman rights is that she herself as a woman was exposed to inequality in education applied to women. When she was eighteen, in her family life she was not given any chance to go to Cambridge unlike her brothers. Unfortunately, even the universities did not accept women as students. Only the colleges could accept women as students. The education and

teachers in those colleges were not as good as universities. She was luckier than other women because his father was an educated man and he had a vast library and Woolf could be tutored. She was aware of inequality and throughout her life she suffered from this deprivation of formal education (Urgan, 1995).

When Virginia Woolf wanted to examine the women's issue, she attained lots of books and she was shocked. She saw that all of these books were written by men. When she defended woman rights, she understood that even in the higher level of society, women were unable to do anything no matter how aristocrat family they came from. And she added that in the nineteenth century, women were not given the right to live freely, they could not travel alone without men's accompany. She could not take part in new environments so they could not increase their experiences in life (Urgan, 1995).

Being a woman writer is of utmost importance to struggle against the prejudices of a male- dominated society. Norms of society do not accept the existence of women. Women in their struggle tried to show their unique experience for their freedom and perspective of the world. In her fight, women had to be strong enough both spiritually and psychically (Woolf, 2004).

## CHAPTER II

### VIRGINIA WOOLF 'S FEMINISM IN *A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN* (1929) AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC FREEDOM IN *A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN* (1929)

#### 2.1. Virginia Woolf's Feminism in *A Room of One's Own* (1929)

In the beginning of the novel, there is a university named Oxbridge, an abbreviation of the combination of Oxford and Cambridge. While the narrator is walking on the grass, narrator is not allowed to enter by university security guard who warns her about not walking on the grass (Woolf, 2004).

Woolf gives examples from the women novelists of the nineteenth century and points out the struggle they give in the process of their writings. The narrator wants to see the library but she is not allowed to enter into university as she is not accompanied by a fellow from college or it necessities a letter of introduction. Because of her gender, she is not allowed to enter into library alone. It is a frustrating scene for her. Her education opportunity is prevented. There is a serious obstacle for her development. Her academic studies are restrained. It seems that women have no place even in social life not only in library but also at university (Woolf, 2004, p. 10).

*A Room of One's Own* (1929) is Woolf's one of the most important works. In this work she mentions about different issues related to women. Woolf discusses some issues such as education, marriage, status of men and women in society. Woolf tries to find answer to the question what would happen if Shakespeare, one of the most important writers of the past, were a woman. Virginia Woolf creates a character Judith Shakespeare as a woman version of Shakespeare and Woolf compares Judith to William Shakespeare. Woolf focuses on the woman writer's existence in the literature by adding the necessities required for writing in literature. These materials which woman writers needs are leisure time, privacy area, social and economic independence, so women will be able to write more qualified works. These are the most essential materials which they have been deprived of for centuries (Urgan, 1995).

Woolf writes about women's sociological situation and imagines an ideal world where both sexes have equal rights in art and literature. Woolf rejects and opposes every traditional rule of her time. Woolf draws attention on the resources of fiction to compensate for gaps about women by countering the prejudices that affect more conventional scholarship.

The narrator questions the reasons why women have always lived in poverty. Women cannot hand down their money and heir to their daughters for their education or needs. Law and custom prevent women from having legal property rights. On the contrary, women themselves are seen as materials. Woolf deals with this complication. She mentions about the relationship between women and men. Woolf discusses materials and social conditions for achieving matters in art and literary. The importance of physical conditions is of crucial importance for intellectual and creative activities. Woolf especially pays attention to a private room. She thinks that a private room is a requirement for creative work. Another requirement to write better works is leisure time. Women should have leisure time for themselves, if they want to create important works. They should not spend their whole time at home doing housework. Women should have freedom and be equal with men in social activities, and they should not be isolated from social life (Koç, 2004).

In literature, Woolf does not take up seriously men's effort in writing about women's problems. She asserts that only woman writer can give all details about women and only woman writers can know their problems, desires, emotions and thoughts. At this point, Woolf claims that women have mirrored to men for ages. Women need financial freedom to earn their livings, to have educational opportunities, to write and to think. Even though women work as much as men, they do not have equal payment (Uysal, 1998).

Woolf does not blame men for the inequalities between men and women. She questions the Victorian social values, norms, rules and traditional aspect towards women for the unequal practices. In life, what women and men need are courage, self-confidence, and struggle. Men are lucky because they can be represented in politics, while women are not given any chances to have a voice in that field. Financial support is another important point for women to think in a positive way and to write freely. Money is needed because women have to ask for permission of

others, if they have not enough money to experience new things in life and then to think and to write (Uysal, 1998).

In the third chapter of the work, the narrator deals with the lives of English women during the Elizabethan period. Woolf thinks that Shakespeare's works are about human beings' sufferings. These works are about the reflections of the real life. Throughout the history, women tried to gain legal rights and struggled for woman rights. However their rights were not granted by male-dominated society. Woolf mentions about powerful female characters from ancient times to today in literature. In order to understand the Elizabethan women, it is required to examine the works written by women in the past such as historical and fictional resources (Woolf, 2004).

As women are being told regularly about their female insufficiency, women would start to believe that they are intellectually insufficient and they are discouraged as a result of these statements. Therefore women isolate from society and give up being a part of literature. In the following part, the narrator focuses on the relationship between women and literature. Woolf also questions why women writer do not write poetry in the Elizabethan age, how women are educated and taught to write. While portraying the women of Elizabethan Age, the writer shows the oppression of the society on women. Intelligent women's experiences become valueless in the society.

It is emphasized in *A Room of One's Own* (1929) that the genius is based on certain materials such as social and economic materials. There are two important ideas here. Firstly, Shakespeare is lucky enough as he is enabled by all historical, social and economic realities because of his gender as a man. Secondly, as Shakespeare is loyal to his personal experiences and the happenings around his surroundings, he could write more freely when it was completely difficult for woman writers because they could not learn their surroundings apart from their own emotions, world and desires for the world and the life. Woolf questions the reasons why women writers are novelists. She mentions that one of the reasons is that women cannot write in the space of the sitting room, they cannot concentrate on poetry. Women are in a condition which has lots of distractions. Another reason is that without any formal literary education, it is not easy for women to observe their surrounding and to create characters (Urgan, 1995).



Women are in need of the financial independence. For women's career in literary tradition, they need money itself. Woolf's female way of writing is different from other feminist writers. She argues what women see and feel and reflect the voice of the women and their struggle in the political area of the society in literary tradition. Woolf focuses that today women are writing books as men do. Women can reach books in almost all subject areas. Woolf wants women to stand difficulties for the sake of writing. Woolf emphasizes that women should not be remembered with her relationship with men. Women should be remembered with their interests and struggles outside their home. They will reflect their experiences and creative power inside them to be successful in their works (Urgan, 1995).

In the work, according to Woolf's thoughts, creative minds included both the masculine and the feminine perspectives. For being a successful writer, the writer should use not only masculine side of human but also feminine side of women. Mina Urgan in her work *Virginia Woolf* (2004) says that, Virginia asserts that human should be both woman-manly and man-womanly for creativity. Woolf emphasizes that in order to use writing as an art, not as a method of self-expression, women should write about the inner world of people, rather than outside of people and with their own comments. Woolf uses the stream of consciousness technique to convey her feelings, thoughts and desires through her characters in her work.

According to Woolf, writing is her whole life, without writing she cannot take breath, she cannot go on her life, this fact is seen in her writings. "The synthesis of my being... Only writing composes it... Nothing makes a whole unless I am writing... Nothing is real unless I write..." (Urgan, 1995, p. 62). By writing, she records the rhythm of life; she finds power in order to continue her life. According to Woolf, for women in order to write, they have to get rid of the identity which has been given by the society and men. Women have to take time for them and they should be sometimes away from the kitchen and should create their own space at home with the aim of writing. All the forces and pressures made by the society to women have caused women to lose their own identity, cultural identity. Therefore, they cannot use their inner worlds. Fatmagül Berktaş focused on the relationship between being a woman and being a writer:

*There is also complex, contradictory and often a painful relationship between being a woman and writing. Whereas conventionally, it is defended that the absence of gender in art and literature all the conditions are the same for women and men, for all artists, even for the*

*most fervent defenders of this thesis are women. We often hear that women writer's saying 'I am writing as human being not as woman'. Whereas so far we have not heard any man's saying 'I am writing as the human not as man.' Because in the existing society man is already representative of humanity and there is no need to specify this. The concept of the female writer is strange and funny in reality, but it reflects an important reality; divided according to gender, femininity and writing are not easily compatible concepts, one gender being under the other gender's sovereignty. Being able to reconcile them; it requires a challenging effort to overcome the limitations of gender namely femininity and masculinity identity which was culturally specified (Sümer, 2011, p. 227).*

Woolf states that woman writers face great obstacles when producing their works giving examples from past female writers such as Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte and Emily Bronte whose novels are important literary works, they had to struggle against the prejudices to female writers. Woolf discusses social, economic, psychological obstacles those keep women from professional writing area. Woolf gives these situations with the help of characters' experiences in their lives. For the world of literature Virginia questions men's writing:

*Why do men drink wine and women water? Why one sex is prosperous and the other poor? What effect poverty has on fiction? And what conditions are necessary for the creation of a work of art? (Woolf, 1945, p. 27)*

She wants to learn the reason of men's writing about women. Because she thinks that men cannot write completely true things about women, and it is not justice to write about women's life just with men's perspective, it will not be enough clear also. She also considers that generally professor writes about women. These are the reasons:

*One is that the professor, which is to say many men, fear that women want to seize their power just as the poor wants to seize their wealth. Another reason might be that they realize women provide an essential psychological function which they are afraid of losing. The function is the insurance of self-confidence. Maybe they were not angry at all. While trying to emphasize their superiority, maybe they are not concerned about women's inferiority. What worries them is their own superiority, which has been preserved throughout time by the viewpoint of the other sex (Woolf, 1945, p. 34).*

Since men have the power in social, economic, political society, they are reluctant to share that power with women. They do not want to let women independence. They are sure that if opportunity is given to women, women will be more successful than

they are. If the equal chances are given, women will be able to develop themselves in all fields of life. Women will become rival to men. In order not to lose that superiority, they continue to see women inferior to themselves. Woolf continues to explain the importance of being independent. Women need to act and write rejecting all kinds of pressures upon them.

*No need to be anybody but oneself. We are all going to heaven and Vandyck is of the company- in other words, how good life seemed, how sweet its rewards (Woolf, 2004, p.14).*

Virginia Woolf identifies the environments in detail and continues to question why no woman writes a song or a sonnet. She answers this question in the following parts of the work. She focuses the general situation of women in the Elizabethan Age. She says that women are extremely servile, beaten, and sold to men under the name of marriage. As Woolf is aware of women's position in society, she has to create a woman character to give women's struggles, the obstacles they have to fight. She draws the picture of women's position in society. Woolf makes William Shakespeare's sister Judith Shakespeare as the major female character in her work. Woolf reveals the century's social norms and rules that do not give permission and do not accept leaving the heritage to women. Woolf adds:

*At the thought of all those women working year after year and finding it hardtop gets two thousand pounds together, and as much as they could do to get thirty thousand pounds, we burst out in scorn at the reprehensible poverty of our sex. What had our mothers been doing then that they had no wealth to leave us? Powdering their noses? Looking in at shop windows? Faunting in the sun at Monte Carlo? (Woolf, 2004, p. 24).*

Woolf emphasizes women do not have any properties and cannot leave anything to their heirs as heritages. Woolf continues:

*Now if she had gone into business; had become a manufacturer of artificial silk or a magnate on the Stock Exchange; if she had left two or three hundred thousand pounds to Fernham, we could have been archaeology, botany, anthropology, physics, the nature of the atom, mathematics, astronomy, relativity, geography. If only Mrs. Seton and her mother and her mother before her had learnt the great art of making money and had left their money, like their fathers and their grandfathers before them, to found fellowship and lectureships and prizes and scholarship appropriated to the use of their own sex, we might have dined very tolerably up here alone off a bird and a bottle of wine; we might have looked forward without undue confidence to a pleasant and*

*honorable lifetime spent in the shelter of one of the liberally endowed professions* (Woolf, 2004, p. 25).

In the feminist approach of Virginia Woolf, there is a kind of feminism that supports women should have a job to earn money to meet their needs and have identity in society. Their understanding of feminism is completely different from the traditional understanding of feminism in which women have to shout at the streets to have a voice in politics. Because women cannot choose their jobs and patriarchal society decide that women can only work as teachers or nurses, because they will have much time for their families and house works easily. It is almost impossible process for women to have a good education and a well-paid job as well as having five children (Cavitolo, 1995).

Women are housemaids of men at home; they cook, clean and so that men can have a free time to do whatever they want such as reading, writing, developing themselves. In fact, men are dependent on women in lots of different household subjects. Women are like mirrors as they reflect men. Therefore, men have confidence to success in both individual and business life. Woolf says:

*I went, therefore, to the shelf where the histories stand and took down one of the latest, Professor Trevelyan's History of England. Once more I looked up Women, found 'position of and turned to the pages indicated. 'Wife-beating', I read, 'was a recognized right of man, and was practised without shame by high as well as low.... Similarly,' the historian goes on, 'the daughter who refused to marry the gentleman of her parents' choice was liable to be locked up, beaten and flung about the room, without any shock being inflicted on public opinion. Marriage was not an affair of personal affection, but of family avarice, particularly in the "chivalrous" upper classes. . . . Betrothal often took place while one or both of the parties were in the cradle and marriage when they were scarcely out of the nurses' charge* (Woolf, 2004, p.48).

Marriage is another important main subject of *A Room of One's Own Room* (1929). Women have a right to use violence on women. Even the women are far from understanding the realities about women. Woolf is so much interested in fiction, poems and in writings of writers that she needs to mention their names and works; she is also interested in literary classics. She focuses on Clytemnestra, Antigone, Cleopatra, Lady Macbeth, Phedre, Cressida, Rosalind, Desdemona, the Duchess of Malfi as dramatic characters; and Millamant, Clarissa, Becky Sharp, Anna Karenina, Emma Bovary, Madame de Guermantes as female characters in novels (Urgan,

1995). She wants women to write something in order to explain their own world by writing a poem or keeping a diary or to giving details about their own life. Woolf knows that the only thing women should have is encouragement. The lives of women are divided by lots of different struggles such as her home, children, and husband.

Judith Shakespeare is as clever as her brother William Shakespeare but not as lucky as he is. She does not have equal opportunities unlike her brother. She does not have formal education and she is not sent to school, and she is not given permission to develop her abilities. As seen in all women's destiny, she is obliged to marry. However, she rejects to marry and escapes to London. Although she intended to be an actress, she is forced to be a mistress of a man. When she realizes that she is pregnant, she kills herself. The end of her struggle for her ambitions turns out to be her death (Woolf, 2004).

Men are seen as opposing force women as they have the power to hinder intended thing to be done:

*Alas! a woman that attempts the pen, Such a presumptuous creature is esteemed, The fault can be no virtue be redeemed. They tell us we mistake our sex and way; Good breeding, fashion, dancing, dressing, play, Are the accomplishments we should desire; To write, or read, or think, or to enquire, Would cloud our beauty, and exhaust our time, And interrupt the conquests of our prime. Whilst the dull manage of a servile house Is held by some our utmost art and use (Woolf, 2004, p. 63).*

These lines show the position of women. In fact she deserves to write, read and think, enquire and experience freely in life. The importance of the existence of women in life should not be ignored. The permission must be given to women to have a voice in the world. The importance of women's intelligence and freedom must be accepted by men and society. Educated women can be efficient. With education, women can learn how to think, imagine and overcome the obstacles. When they are given permission to speak they will be the happiest people in the world (Woolf, 2004).

Women could earn money by writing if they were given the chance. Women need a room which is silent that will be easy to concentrate on writing.

*If a woman wrote, she would have to write in the common sitting-room. And, as Miss Nightingale was so vehemently to complain—"women never have an half hour . . . that they can call their own"—she was always interrupted. Still it would be easier to write prose and fiction there than to write poetry or a play. Less concentration is required (Woolf, 2004, p.74).*

When women want to write something else, they are always interrupted by others, by their husbands and children and by other daily household chores. Woolf is against closed life that is shaped by the society. It is impossible for women to travel lonely, to eat something else at a restaurant lonely. So how would it be possible to imagine, think and write without having experiences? In following lines this point is focused by Virginia Woolf:

*And then she longed—and it was for this that they blamed her—that 'then I longed for a power of vision which might overpass that limit; which might reach the busy world, towns, regions full of life I had heard of but never seen: that then I desired more of practical experience than I possessed; more of intercourse with my kind, of acquaintance with variety of character than was here within my reach. I valued what was good in Mrs. Fairfax, and what was good in Adele; but I believed in the existence of other and more vivid kinds of goodness, and what I believed in I wished to behold (Woolf, 2004, p.76).*

Woman writers try to keep their values according to other's values. Woolf focuses especially that women should write as women not as men to explain all their emotions, anger, happiness, hatred, confusion, peace, love, unrest with frankness. Women should write freely by getting out of the traditional obstacles. In order to succeed this, they need private times and place to relax and then to think and write. Woolf wants women to write in different writing species such as poems, plays, criticism, biography travel and research books, philosophy, science and economics books (Woolf, 2004).

Woolf says that man writers cannot reflect women's struggles as well as women writers can. Only women can know and explain these difficulties in a clear and simple way.

*He would open the door of drawing-room or nursery, I thought, and find her among her children perhaps, or with a piece of embroidery on her knee—at any rate, the centre of some different order and system of life, and the contrast between this world and his own, which might be the law courts or the House of Commons, would at once refresh and invigorate; and there would follow, even in the simplest talk, such a natural difference of opinion that the dried ideas in him would be fertilized anew; and the sight of her creating in a different medium from his own would so quicken his creative power that insensibly his sterile mind would begin to plot again, and he would find the phrase or the scene which was lacking when he put on his hat to visit her (Woolf, 2004, p. 97).*

Women's struggle is discouraged by men. When women are supported, educated women can control themselves. From their childhood to adulthood they are thought to be how they can be good housewives and servant of their prospective husbands. They are told that they cannot succeed something else. Thus without experiencing the thing they want to do, they begin to think that they cannot do that. If women are considered as birds, thought and wanted to believe that their wings are crippled they cannot fly, without learning that they have already wings and the task of wings is to fly.

## **2.2. The Importance of Women's Economic Freedom**

Earn money for writing or write for earning money are the most important questions in women's writing process. This is one of the main questions that can be focused in the struggle of women of the nineteenth century. In the narrow frame of patriarchal society, under the norms of the society women try to have a voice of their own through writing. Virginia Woolf supports woman's rights for writing freely rather than their rights to vote. She expresses that women need enough money to live on and to make them possible to write.

A room is a compulsory requirement to write because women are imprisoned in the kitchen to cook and close to home to clean, to work like a slave at home for their husbands and children. Women have to work at least to meet their daily needs. They have no chance to have heritage from their parents because of their gender, only alternative way women to earn money is to have a job. In the following lines this situation is focused:

*The news of my legacy reached me one night about the same time that the act was passed that gave votes to women. A solicitor's letter fell into the post-box and when I opened it I found that she had left me five hundred pounds a year for ever. Of the two—the vote and the money—the money, I own, seemed infinitely the more important. Before that I had made my living by cadging odd jobs from newspapers, by reporting a donkey show here or a wedding there; I had earned a few pounds by addressing envelopes, reading to old ladies, making artificial flowers, teaching the alphabet to small children in a kindergarten. Such were the chief occupations that were open to women before 1918 (Woolf, 2005, p. 42).*

These sentences of Woolf also prove the female reality of women in the sixteenth century. Under all the obstacles and challenges, women give their own struggles

without encouragement from others. Woolf asserts that women work like slave and in worse situations even without questioning they like that job or not. They have to work otherwise they have to be dependent on their husbands and that means they will sell their freedom, soul and desires, abilities, dreams to men. They have to earn money for food, clothing, household needs. Woolf also questions the difference of the value of the position of the women who have eight children and they say that they are servants (Urgan, 1995).

Earning money is one of the most important chances for women to have formal education or even if women are obliged to improve their knowledge informally, and women need money for educational materials such as books. When women do not have economic problems they will be able to have new experiences convenient places to think and to write about their life experiences. Even though education is considered unnecessary and unimportant for women in patriarchal society, for equal opportunities and necessary information for life women will need money (Güneş, 2007). Ali Güneş says in his work *Dark Fields of Civilization* (2007) that a cultural and ideological approach to the issues of women in the works of Virginia Woolf that women are financially poor therefore they cannot support their education or even they cannot follow their dreams and desires. As money is controlled by men in the society, women are dependent financially on men.

Women need money for a room as they are always hindered by domestic responsibilities. It means that women are interrupted by outside forces such as their husbands, children and household works. Freedom of movement for women is unfortunately limited because of norms of Victorian patriarchal society. The society itself decides what is right and acceptable and what is not right and unacceptable. The rules of society limit women. Women are excluded from formal education as the society thinks that women are safe and good at home. But Woolf says that when women participate in the world of outside they will feel happiness to produce fiction. They will describe their lives, hopes, desires, requests from life again with their own words and experiences. Money has an effect on the psychology of women. Thus, they will have a creative mind. Güneş says that a life without money means lack of comfort, confidence, leisure time, meditation and experience (Güneş, 2007). All these deficiencies make the life of women half and affect self-expression of women.



Virginia Woolf mentions about the right of women for writing in their works, novels and diaries reflecting their real life experiences through the characters and the events and circumstances. In her work *A Room of One's Own Room* (1929), she emphasizes the importance of financial independence of women to have a voice in all areas of life. Women should have her financial independence by working. Women should be educated formally like men. After education, they should earn money to continue their lives without depending on men's money. With earning their own money, they can possess material things and reach intellectual freedom, too.

*This may be true or it may be false—who can say?—but what is true in it, so it seemed to me, reviewing the story of Shakespeare's sister as I had made it, is that any woman born with a great gift in the sixteenth century would certainly have gone crazed, shot herself, or ended her days in some lonely cottage outside the village, half witch, half wizard, feared and mocked at. For it needs little skill in psychology to be sure that a highly gifted girl who had tried to use her gift for poetry would have been so thwarted and hindered by other people, so tortured and pulled asunder by her own contrary instincts, that she must have lost her health and sanity to a certainty. No girl could have walked to London and stood at a stage door and forced her way into the presence of actor-managers without doing herself a violence and suffering an anguish which may have been irrational—for chastity may be a fetish invented by certain societies for unknown reasons—but were none the less inevitable (Woolf, 2004, p. 56).*

Beyond earning money by writing, women even could not have time to consider about life. They need money to have new experiences in life and therefore, they can have a reason to think and to write. Women need to travel around in order to see new areas, environments to observe and have different experiences which are far away from the experiences they have in marriage and at home. Money would open the ways of these experiences.

## CHAPTER III

### VIRGINIA WOOLF'S FEMINISM IN *NIGHT AND DAY* (1919) AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE IN *NIGHT AND DAY* (1919)

#### 3.1. Virginia Woolf's Feminism In *Night and Day* (1919)

*Night and Day* (1919) is work of Virginia Woolf that first published on 20 October 1919. It was published by Duckworth and Company. The company was managed by Gerald Duckworth who was Virginia Woolf's stepbrother on her mother's side. The novel was set in Edwardian London, *Night and Day* (1919) gives the contrast of the daily lives and romantic attachments of two acquaintances, Katharine Hilbery and Mary Datchet.

*Night and Day* (1919) is evaluated as dramatic and complex. There are five acts in the novel; opening, rising action, climax, denouement and the resolution part. There are daydreams that reflect character's secret thoughts and desires and emotions. Woolf emphasizes the description of people and places vividly. Woolf depicts young English women of upper middle class; additionally, she represents and compares the social world and psychological of characters. This work reflects the meaning and the visionary of the reality and social side of the life. It deals with characters' inner lives and their aspect of life. Day and night represent different meanings. Day reflects the concrete world, social conventions and traditions. Night reflects the hidden aspects of personality, reality, facts and the life itself. In the work, characters' decision and indecision are presented as the sunlight and fog like in the nature as the facts of the life. Physical surroundings symbolize the inner sides of the characters in the work (Dyrud, 1980).

There are hidden sides of the personalities of characters and with the help of events and thoughts, awareness of the characters are rising and they begin to find the realities they should have. It is perceived as a conventional love story. In the work, it also reminds the reader Jane Austen novels, and Shakespearean comedy. Shakespeare is seen as a poet with the sensibility to recreate perception of life. Woolf has important points in her plotting, as she uses a very traditional three-act structure that introduces our protagonists, she takes the characters from different scenery to

convey them into the works, and she brings them back to their original habitat with everything in an organized way (Urgan, 1995).

Woolf reflects the relationships between love, marriage, happiness, and success in her work. Dialogue and descriptions of thought and actions are used in the novel. There are four major characters, Katharine Hilbery, Mary Datchet, Ralph Denham, and William Rodney. Motifs are used throughout the work that includes the stars and sky, the River Thames, and walks and surroundings, streets, houses and the furnishing at the houses. On the other hand, Woolf makes much reference to William Shakespeare and writers and poets from the past.

In the following chapters of the work, it is seen that the attempts of a group of upper-middle-class young people to find their rightful marriage partners is the main concern of the work, the conventions of courtship in Edwardian England form the substance of *Night and Day* (1919). The plot, which includes a nine-month period from October to the following June, has many of the elements of dramatic farce. There are chance meetings, overheard conversations, misinterpretations, and comic figures, but all difficulties are happily resolved in the traditional comic ending (Dyrud, 1980).

The work begins with Katharine Hilbery's pouring tea at an afternoon party in her parents' house. Many of the key events and conversations take place over that English convention at afternoon tea time. A late guest at the tea party is Ralph Denham, a young solicitor who has written an article on the review and it is edited by Katharine's father (Woolf, 2005). Katharine belongs to one of the most distinguished families in England. She is a proud girl and thrusts herself and her knowledge. In this sense, Katharine is being courted by William Rodney, a cultured but somewhat vain man, who works in a government office during the day, but he spends his nights with his chief love, literature.

Denham's closest friendship is with twenty-five-year-old Mary Datchet, who is involved in the women's suffrage movement. She and Denham have known each other for two years, but she is an independent spirit and does not want to marry with him. Virginia Woolf depicts characters, places and the emotions of the characters in detail. It begins in the drawing room of the Hilbery who lives in Cheyne Walk in

Chelsea, beside the river. Mr Fortescue, a novelist, is talking. Ralph Denham, a young man, enters this tea party (Alp, 2013).

In the work, there are lots of achievements of the characters that their famous families have given to them. The work questions if the next generation will break the rules of the past generation. The main characters are under the influence of their past and their late family members. There are explorations for new ideas and way of livings. As the work follows, Katherine's interest in mathematics and astronomy is seen.

Family's dependence on the old generation within a family is a major theme. There is Katherine's struggle for independence and uniqueness within her family. Ralph Denham comes from a large family who lives in Highgate. His brothers and sisters argue and discuss intelligently new ideas. His sister Hester has ambitions to go St Hildas College Oxford and confidence to believe that is where she is bound. Ralph himself is qualified as a solicitor, working at the offices of Mess Grately and Hooper in Lincolns Inn Fields. Mary Datchet works as a secretary for a suffragette organization in Russell Square. She is passionate and she sacrifices her whole self to what she really wants (Woolf, 2005).

The Otways, who are related to the Hilberry's through Mrs.Hilberry, live in country house in Lincolnshire. Mr. Otway is a retired Colonial Civil Servant who has retired back to England and he is disappointed when he loses promotion. His family is in a bad situation economically. He has spent money on the education of his older children, but the younger members have not been educated as well as he has been run out. The younger members of the families are entering into a modern world with different expectations and ideas.

In *Night And Day* (1919), it can be seen how there is a fluidity beginning to take place between different parts of a social class and even between classes represents the Otways, the Hilberrys, Datchetts and Denhams. The process is painful and there is a sense of the characters reaching into the unknown. Most of the actions include how the characters have connection amongst themselves and their way of speaking, thinking, imagining and feeling. Characters analyze their feelings and emotions and

struggle through anxiety towards decisions. Ideas about love and marriage are predominantly mentioned in *Night And Day* (1919). The main characters struggle throughout the work with unsolvable problems of relationships and what they actually feel and want. William has anguished and reasoned his love for Katherine up to his encounter with Cassandra. Cassandra changes his feelings. He thinks his emotions and love are always with Katherine. He explains all these to Katherine expressing his love for her. He sees the light and agrees. There are anxieties, reasoning and emotions in characters' experiences (Dyrud, 1980).

Virginia Woolf uses various methods to portray reality. Virginia Woolf uses interior dialogue to give what the characters say in their minds what they say out loud. Within the event and the dialogue, imagination and physical presence come together. There is a theme about what reality might be and how it can be expressed. Cassandra, when she arrives from the Otway country home at the Hilberry's house in Chelsea, the family has dressed for dinner in the evening.

Ralph writes a letter to Katherine with stream of consciousness way. He does not think about what he is writing. He draws a picture in this stream of consciousness mode. Both Katherine and Ralph find words inadequate. Katherine, when she is getting close to an understanding of her feelings for Ralph Denham, wanders on the streets of London looking for him. These are streets she knows well but she is lost in an emotional search for him. She becomes no longer aware of her surroundings and where she exists and where she is going (Woolf, 2005).

Ralph and Katherine, William and Cassandra come together not because of reasons but through an unconscious psychology. In addition, fantasies and reveries are seen and it makes the reader remember Freudian theories. During the anguished courtship of Katherine by Henry Rodney when he is feeling insignificant and mocked by Katherine, Henry Rodney tries to reason all his good points which he thinks are pertinent to why Katherine should love him. Virginia Woolf portrays her idea of real love as something much deeper within the subconscious. It is difficult to distinguish the reality and the imagination in *Night And Day* (1919) Cassandra is given the choice of having a trip to the zoo, Hampton Court, Kew Gardens or Greenwich. Each

has its social and historical meaning for humanity but it's the zoo that she chooses. Woolf explains the situations of the characters by making contact with nature (Urgan, 1995).

In this sense, the reader thinks that the people involved have solved their problems with all their efforts. All the rules of his generation seem to have been scorned. Katherine's family believes in marriage. According to her family, there are duties and procedures to fulfill. Engagements must be taken seriously and choosing a partner is as much about social and financial considerations as about being in love. There is a conflict between two generations which brings the hopes and wishes of Katherine, Cassandra, Ralph and William. Mr. Hilberry sends Cassandra back to Lincolnshire, Ralph and Henry are eliminated from the house and Katherine is sent to her room. She believes in the power of love. She brings the couples back together. The characters wander on the streets of a smoky, gas-lit London, walking for miles along the river, pounding the red brick streets of Chelsea, working in the terraces of Bloomsbury, on crowds on the Strand, observing the exotic plants at Kew, watching the monkeys perform acrobatics at the zoo. Woolf defines everything in motion (Woolf, 2005).

There are day characters in *Night And Day* (1919), Mr. Hilbery, Katharine Hilbery, William Rodney and Cassandra Otway. They are concerned with social conventions and the reactions of the society. There are night characters: Katherine Hilbery, Mary Datcher, Ralph Denham. Night characters' live in the world of reality. These characters give personal conflicts. To give an example, Katherine is a night character she is interested in astronomy and mathematics but the society which she is born in expects her to be interested in social issues rather than numeric fields. As she is a woman, she is expected to behave accordance with the norms of society. The characters are inclined to talk about marriage, their personal relationship and social issues. Their dreams do not constitute fulfillment of their wishes (Woolf, 2005).

There are four main characters in the work; Katherine Hilbery is one of the major characters, a beautiful, free-spirited girl in her late twenties. She is very lucky to have been raised by her well to do family and with intellectual parents. History and ancestry are important subjects for her. She is the granddaughter of a distinguished

poet and belongs to a privileged class. Her family is active in literary world, but Katharine prefers mathematics and astronomy. In Woolf's work, Katherine becomes engaged to William Rodney. After a time, they end their engagement so that Rodney can explore a relationship with Katherine's cousin, Cassandra Otway. Eventually, Katharine agrees to marry Ralph Denham (Woolf, 2005).

Katharine's mother, Mrs. Margaret Hilbery, plays an important role in Katharine's life, whereas Katharine's father, Mr. Trevor Hilbery, is only seen in a few occasions. Mr. Hilbery observes his disapproval of the actions of Katherine and her friends when he learns that she and William have broken their engagement so that William could become engaged to Cassandra. Although Mary and Katharine are fundamental women characters, Katharine does not often interact with Mary. Katharine is a very solitary person, and she struggles to reconcile her needs for her personal freedom. She is a beautiful, upper-middle class woman who lives with her rich family. As she is related to a famous British poet, everyone expects Katharine to have a talent for poetry, or an opinion about literature. However, Katharine's desire in her inner world is not related with literature. Katharine wants to study mathematics but she has to hide her passion throughout her life (Woolf, 2005).

William Rodney is another important main character in *Night and Day* (1919). He is a flat character and he is very eligible, an odd, self-obsessed poet, conventional poet in his late thirties. He thinks that Katherine is an example of womanhood and a model for his wife. He is earnest-man. He is a frustrated poet and dramatist, who often subject others to his ordinary works. He is Katharine's first romantic interest, but he is attracted by her grandfather's status as one of the greatest English poets. Rodney often tries to impress Katharine without realizing his limitations. After Katharine determines not to marry him, Rodney becomes interested in Katharine's cousin, Cassandra Otway. While Katharine represents the new generation's ideas about marriage, Cassandra represents conventional Victorian ideas about marriage in which the wife serves her husband (Woolf, 2005).

At the end of the work, Rodney and Cassandra are engaged Ralph Denham is an idealistic young lawyer who writes articles for Katherine's father's periodical. He falls in love with her at first sight. He is a poor lawyer who lives in an old house with his enormous family. He sometimes writes articles for a journal. Ralph follows

Katharine through the streets of London and he passes her house, hoping to see her inside. Ralph's relationship with William Rodney is formal relationship, while Ralph's relationship with Mary is friendlier. In the work, Ralph realizes Mary's love for him and he proposes to her. Mary has already realized that he loves Katharine and rejects his proposal.

Mary Datchet is a sensible suffragette woman character and she works in an office in Bloomsbury. She lives alone. She is in love with Ralph. She is the daughter of a country vicar, and she works in the office of an organization those campaigns for the enactment of women's suffrage. Though she can live comfortably without working, Mary chooses to work. She is supportive of feminism and social reforms. Mary's romantic life is short-lived and unsuccessful. She is divorced from her physical environment and her mind. She escapes from pressures of the social world. Physical journey makes Mary easy to have an opportunity to search her inner world and desires. She falls wildly in love with Ralph Denham, and wishes to move to the country with him. However, when he finally proposes to her, she rejects him. Mary serves emotionally for the characters, especially Ralph and Katharine. Whenever Ralph, Katharine, or the other characters need to tell someone about their love, they always go for tea at Mary's (Woolf, 2005).

In conclusion, there are connections between Virginia Woolf's own life and the characters' lives and personal. She has been in surroundings like the characters in *Night and Day* (1919). She has used her own sister, Vanessa as a model for Katherine Hilberry. Vanessa has to deal with life as the daughter of a great man. She has to work out relationships and she uses painting. Night's following day and day's following night is the rhythmic process of all our lives. Night means searching and understanding the sides of the world whereas the day is the bright sides of the characters in *Night and Day* (1919) (Uysal, 1998).

Mina Urgan says in her work *Virginia Woolf* (1995) that Woolf's feminist approach differs from other feminist as she addresses especially the issue of women writers' problems. Woolf does not pay attention to the subject that focuses women organizing to defend woman rights. She is not interested in communities that aim changing the electoral system or women's obtaining the right to vote (Woolf, 2005). For women's independence, very important changes should become in the social order. Woolf is



not like some of the feminist as she does not adopt a completely negative attitude towards men. She shows that she does not keep only the female side. She believes that for creativity both women and men sides should exist.

Woolf depicts both physical and psychological sides of the characters. She is a very good observer as a writer.

*She had the quick, impulsive movements of her mother, the lips parting often to speak, and closing again; and the dark oval eyes of her father brimming with light upon a basis of sadness, or, since she was too young to have acquired a sorrowful point of view, one might say that the basis was not sadness so much as a spirit given to contemplation and self-control. Judging by her hair, her coloring, and the shape of her features, she was striking, if not actually beautiful. Decision and composure stamped her, a combination of qualities that produced a very marked character and one that was not calculated to put a young man, who scarcely knew her, at his ease. For the rest, she was tall; her dress was of some quiet color, with old yellow-tinted lace for ornament, to which the spark of an ancient jewel gave its one red gleam (Woolf, 2004, p. 7).*

Woolf focuses on the importance of the materials that are needed to write and think such as book, pencil, table and a room. There are many writers in the society who are lucky as they have these materials. In the work, main character has a room and a table and pen to write. All these kinds of materials are needed by writers. In the following lines:

*This is his writing-table. He used this pen," and she lifted a quill pen and laid it down again. The writing-table was splashed with old ink, and the pen disheveled in service (Woolf, 2004, p. 10).*

Woolf emphasizes the importance of the materials to write. She says:

*The green-shaded lamp burnt in the corner, and illumined books and pens and blotting-paper. The whole aspect of the place started another train of thought and struck her as enviably free; in such a room one could work--one could have a life of one's own (Woolf, 2004, p. 365).*

Virginia Woolf pays attention to the education of human beings and she says that if the power of the people is enough to learn something, he/she should learn something.

*It may be said, indeed, that English society being what it is, no very great merit is required, once you bear a well-known name, to put you into a position where it is easier on the whole to be eminent than obscure. And if this is true of the sons, even the daughters, even in the nineteenth*

*century, are apt to become people of importance--philanthropists and educationalists if they are spinsters, and the wives of distinguished men if they marry. It is true that there were several lamentable exceptions to this rule in the Alardyce group, which seems to indicate that the cadets of such houses go more rapidly to the bad than the children of ordinary fathers and mothers, as if it were somehow a relief to them (Woolf, 2014, p. 41).*

Woolf criticizes the society of the nineteenth century. Women are not evaluated as valuable people by the society; they have no name without their marriages. As a prolific woman writer, Woolf mentions about important names of past and their works in her work such as Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth, Shelley. These important names are very crucial in the works of Woolf as she has been brought up with their books and works; she has a chance to make use of his father's library. She can obtain their works and she read them all. She misses these writers' ancient times. She thinks that ancient writers cares about and contributes a lot to the spiritual and intellectual development of people.

*She had no difficulty in writing, and covered a page every morning as instinctively as a thrush sings, but nevertheless, with all this to urge and inspire, and the most devout intention to accomplish the work, the book still remained unwritten. Papers accumulated without much furthering their task, and in dull moments Katharine had her doubts whether they would ever produce anything at all fit to lay before the public. Where did the difficulty lie? Not in their materials, alas! nor in their ambitions, but in something more profound, in her own inaptitude, and above all, in her mother's temperament. Katharine would calculate that she had never known her write for more than ten minutes at a time. Ideas came to her chiefly when she was in motion (Woolf, 2005, p. 45-46).*

Woolf asserts that women have responsibilities to fulfill at home. While the main woman character Katherine is fulfilling the responsibilities, on the other hand, she tries to concentrate on what to write. Katherine tries to write her better as she is aware of her possesses such a table heaped with bundles of old letters and well supplied with pencils, scissors, bottles of gum, rubber bands, large envelopes, and other appliances for the manufacture of books (Woolf, 2005). Woolf wants women to understand their own feelings and to express these feelings in manner language in an intelligent and an eagerly way.

*Ordering meals, directing servants, paying bills, and so contriving that every clock ticked more or less accurately in time, and a number of vases were always full of fresh flowers was supposed to be a natural endowment*

*of hers, and, indeed, Mrs. Hilbery often observed that it was poetry the wrong side out. From a very early age, too, she had to exert herself in another capacity; she had to counsel and help and generally sustain her mother. Mrs. Hilbery would have been perfectly well able to sustain herself if the world had been what the world is not. She was beautifully adapted for life in another planet (Woolf, 2005, p. 50).*

Unfortunately, the burden of household chores is on the shoulders of women at home. She cannot be against the norms of the patriarchal society as she is the part of the society. There are lots of things to do at home, cooking, cleaning, raising children, dealing with children and husband and all household chores. These things consume the time of women so that they cannot find time to deal with the desires of their own. They learn how to struggle with household chores from their mothers. Woolf thinks that women are amateur workers as they are not paid for their daily works (Koç, 2011).

The women characters are far away from opportunities offered by the vote association; they are buried with house works. Without voting, women will not be given any importance and they will not have a say in the management of society. Women need to have vote right if they want to be valuable people next to their husbands. Each human has right to maintain an honest living without distinction of sex. All the opportunities in life must be accessible to everyone.

While Woolf is criticizing the female profile that is created by patriarchal society, she draws the picture of modern woman in *Night and Day* (1919). She does not accept the limitations and obstacles that the society renders to women and she adds:

*It's not altogether her fault, poor girl. She lives, you know, one of those odious, self-centered lives--at least, I think them odious for a woman--feeding her wits upon everything, having control of everything, getting far too much her own way at home--spoilt, in a sense, feeling that everyone is at her feet, and so not realizing how she hurts--that is, how rudely she behaves to people who haven't all her advantages. Still, to do her justice, she's no fool," he added, as if to warn Denham not to take any liberties. "She has taste. She has sense. She can understand you when you talk to her. But she's a woman, and there's an end of it," he added, with another little chuckle, and dropped Denham's arm (Woolf, 2004, p. 90).*

Modern women have such self-confidence that they do not care about other's thoughts, emotions and desires. They have their own ideas, sense, feelings and they are very clever. They control themselves; they decide on their own and behave the way they want. They become active in new learning areas. They are free and aware

of the power they have. As modern women, they can control their feelings and thoughts. Women cannot tolerate disrespect. She knows how to play the musical instrument. Modern women cannot be controlled by man. They decide freely (Kuhn, 2009).

Women are brought up with norms of the environment. When they are children, their mothers teach them how to behave as a consequence of their gender. They are filled with the idea of marriage. The pictures of their imaginations are affected by the norms and rules of the society. They are thought to obey orders and parents. Life is a process of discovering and women should be given the opportunities to discover and experience the life (Woolf, 2004). Women are filled with a more closed mental development. Therefore, their imaginations are limited with restraints and rules. As they are close to homes, and they cannot wander around alone, their individual experiences are limited. In order to realize both the reality and the fiction, women need to taste the beauties and flavors of life. Women should experience what they want; thus, they can feel love, anxiety, hate, tolerance, respect. Thus women will be happy and they will thrust themselves.

One of the female characters Katherine says that she is not domestic, or very practical or sensible as a woman. She thinks that if she could calculate things, and use a telescope, and she could work out figures, and know to a fraction where she is wrong, she could be very happy, and she believes that she could give William all he wants (Woolf, 2014). If women can do whatever they want, whatever they want to study in their lives, they will get whatever they want and consequently they will be happier. If they are happy they will make others happy, as well.

*The late Mrs. Datchet had left an excellent cupboard of linen, to which Elizabeth had succeeded at the age of nineteen, when her mother died, and the charge of the family rested upon the shoulders of the eldest daughter. She kept a fine flock of yellow chickens, sketched a little, certain rose-trees in the garden were committed specially to her care; and what with the care of the house, the care of the chickens, and the care of the poor, she scarcely knew what it was to have an idle minute (Woolf, 2004, p. 239).*

Women are expected to be calm, patient, compatible. Men are expected to be selfish; they dominate women as if they are materialistic things while women are expected to be helpful, who like sharing, obedient. These kinds of features are shown to be

natural behaviors and it is tried to impose on society. Katherine, a female character in the novel *Night and Day* (1919), thinks that if she obeys to her husband's desires and orders, she will betray to herself and her individual personality.

Norms of the society affect the relationship between men and women. The men, who are responsive to the community's traditions, will act according to these rules. Even their reactions will be suitable for these norms.

*She saw to the remote spaces behind the strife of the foreground, enabled now to gaze there, since she had renounced her own demands, privileged to see the larger view, to share the vast desires and sufferings of the mass of mankind. She had been too lately and too roughly mastered by facts to take an easy pleasure in the relief of renunciation; such satisfaction as she felt came only from the discovery that, having renounced everything that made life happy, easy, splendid, individual, there remained a hard reality, unimpaired by one's personal adventures, remote as the stars, unquenchable as they are* (Woolf, 2004, pp. 351-352).

Woolf supports women's having their own life experiences. In order to have a taste for life both in positive or negative ways they will have personal experiences. Only with this way, they can understand their reality and imagination and what they want to do in their lives. Woolf gives importance to experience process. If women want to write how can they produce something without having any experience? If they travel around they will see lots of different vital status then they will be exposed to different emotions such as excitement, anger, love, difficulty, compassion. They will observe the environment and learn the life. Thanks to these experiences, women can think and imagine and in the end, they will be successful in writing (Hooks, 2000). Woolf wants women to find a reason in order to continue their own lives. They should not be addicted to their husbands, children or house. There should be some other goals and desires that will encourage women to continue their lives. Consequently, they will be more livable and enjoyable (Woolf, 2004).

One of the female character's Mrs. Hilbery says that marriage is a kind of school. Unless women go to school they cannot learn anything and take any award. This is the traditional response to marriage phenomena. Another female character asserts that unless women obey their husband, there is no advantage in marriage. All these thoughts prove that women have no value without a marriage in patriarchal society. Mrs. Hilbery states that for the happiness of women, they have to marry and obey their husbands. Even though Katherine has an environment which has lots of people

who think like that, Katherine as a modern female character is against to this prejudice. She is aware of her potential as a woman (Woolf, 2004).

When modern women's personalities are discussed, it is understood that modern women give confidence to the man. Men feel comfortable. Modern women have responsibilities, they are aware of everything. Female character Katherine is fond of her family and she cannot afford to live alone without her family throughout her life. She is accustomed to living with her family members therefore she feels deep feelings towards her family. In spite of the fact that she wants to live alone, and have a private space for her, she is depended on her family members emotionally. Katherine has a rejection to the past forms and experiences. She does not confirm the conventions of the past and the norms of the patriarchal culture. She ignores the literary of her family. Woolf is against traditional modes of the language, she wants her character to write in new forms of language. Katherine is against domestic duties and the restraints on her freedom and she tries to be successful in order to obtain her identity (Urgan, 1995).

Mary Datcher is self-possessed and self-assured women. She is more realistic and she has got a social consciousness, she is aware of the complexities of her inner world so that she thrusts herself. She is aware of her power and potential. She is independence and free-thinking, a powerful and complex character. As she is fond of free-thinking of people, she provides a room for meeting place for free discussion of everything. Mary is free from conventions of the society and she lives alone, her thrust allows her to escape from marriage and she does not see marriage as the necessity for her in order to continue to her life. Mary supports feminism and social reforms in the society. In fact, Mary has the desire for protection and romance but she is free from the responsibilities that marriage entails from woman. She wants to have an ideal relationship. She is far away from the pressures of the social world. She perceives the futility of love. The following lines prove this:

*From an acute consciousness of herself as an individual, Mary passed to a conception of the scheme of things in which, as a human being, she must have her share. She half held a vision; the vision shaped and dwindled. She wished she had a pencil and a piece of paper to help her to give a form to this conception which composed itself as she walked down the Charing Cross Road (Woolf, 2004, p. 349).*

Mrs. Hilbery has got literary struggles. Her creative activity is her writing the biography of her father. She is interested in poetry and the works of Shakespeare. Mrs. Hilbery works in a library full of materials: boxes stuffed to bursting with old letters, unpublished manuscripts, piles of paper and lots of books. She writes freely rather than depending on someone or some ideologies that are expected from her to write. She struggles to write in an environment full of opportunities to write. Virginia Woolf thinks that marriage is a kind of voyage out to the dark and unknown seas (Woolf, 2005).

Cassandra is more willing to marry when she is compared her to Katherine. She is brought up in a traditional way and she sees the evidence simple in life. In the traditional life of the society, marriage is an inevitable phenomenon for women. It is sometimes liberation location under the oppression of the family or the male characters of the family. She is content with obeying the rules of an ordered society. Her dream is simple as the society expects women in general. She has no experience to learn about her inner world, her emotions and desires from the life. Her only desire is to marry William.

In conclusion, Woolf focuses on the importance of poetry and novel art. Writing is very crucial to express women's inner world. Main materials are focused to write.

*The future emerged more splendid than ever from this construction of the present. Books were to be written, and since books must be written in rooms, and rooms must have hangings, and outside the windows there must be land, and an horizon to that land, and trees perhaps, and a hill, they sketched a habitation for themselves upon the outline of great offices in the Strand and continued to make an account of the future upon the omnibus which took them towards Chelsea; and still, for both of them, it swam miraculously in the golden light of a large steady lamp ( Woolf, 2004, p. 705).*

### **3.2. The Importance of Marriage In *Night and Day* (1919)**

Marriage is an important subject of *Night and Day* (1919). Women are seen as tool for the sake of men in the patriarchal society .Woolf always focuses the subjects such as family, domesticity, marriage, women's place and role (Güneş, 2007). Marriage is seen as a necessity for women in patriarchal society rather than a choice. Even

women do not understand how old they are, before realizing their identities they are obliged to have marriage. Therefore, from early ages they become financially dependent on their husbands. In reality, women deserve respect because they are human beings; they should be equal to men both at home and on the street. Although they are not given permission to behave as they are.

Under the forms and the norms of the society's acceptance, women act the way they are expected. Society has never cared of women and her identity. Woolf continues to give the importance of women's imaginations. They are considered to be worthless in real life. Woolf questions whether women will be happy enough if they marry and have children. At the same time if they spend time with the household chores rather than spending time for reading poems or writing some fictional works, it is a question whether they will feel better or not. Even though women's responsibilities are more than men's, there is no value of these responsibilities because there is no fee for these efforts. Virginia Woolf is questioning the capacities of men and women to do business (Woolf, 2004).

Generally, women know to obey by instinct. Even the characteristic features of women and men are determined by the society. Women are expected to be far away from selfishness. They are the people who sacrifice their whole lives to others. Women need to marry in order to have a room of their own, have a private area for them to think, to imagine and to write. Thus, it can be possible to explain them more freely and comfortably, Woolf concentrates on these necessities:

*To begin with, I'm very fond of William. You can't deny that. I know him better than anyone, almost. But why I'm marrying him is, partly, I admit-- I'm being quite honest with you, and you mustn't tell anyone --partly because I want to get married. I want to have a house of my own. It isn't possible at home. It's all very well for you, Henry; you can go your own way. I have to be there always. Besides, you know what our house is. You wouldn't be happy either, if you didn't do something. It isn't that I haven't the time at home--it's the atmosphere (Woolf, 2004, pp. 258-259).*

Marriage should not be a necessity for women. If they have a job and enough money they can have a home of their own. If they have not, in order to have a house and a room they feel themselves forced to marry. At their family's homes, it is not possible to constitute a room of their own; they believe that only with this kind of choice, they can walk on their own way. In fact women should exist with their personalities and characteristics not because of their marriages. In this sense, they become worthless



assets. Even if the society seems to make marriage important, in reality women transform women into material. (Woolf, 2014).

Women's struggle for being active in the society is generally possible with their marriages in patriarchal society. Only with this way they can find a chance to have a voice. Unfortunately, marriage is sometimes seen as a way of salvation from limitations for women. It is seen as a step or a level to up rise women's positions. Woolf is against the idea that supports women's being imprisoned by the society or their husbands to their homes and to do chores. They reflect the characteristics of modern women in a position that is far away from all obligations and obstacles in *Night and Day* (1919).



## CHAPTER IV:

### THE COMPARISON OF *A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN* (1929) AND *NIGHT AND DAY* (1919) IN THE CONTEXT OF VIRGINIA WOOLF 'S FEMINIST APPROACH

#### 4.1. The Comparison of *A Room Of One's Own* (1929) and *Night and Day* (1919) In The Context Of Virginia Woolf's Feminist Approach

*A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Night and Day* (1919) are Virginia Woolf well-known works that include mainly the subjects such as women and patriarchal society, Woolf's feminist approach, marriage and the obstacles that women come across in patriarchal society. The aims of feminism are to provide women equal rights as well as men in the society in order to struggle for woman's rights in the society. It does not accept the superiority of men and the inferiority of women; it supports that both women and men should be given the same rights in all areas of life such as social, political, economic and cultural areas (Botting, 2016).

When Woolf's two works *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Night and Day* (1919) are compared, common points are seen in terms of the feminist approach of Woolf. In both works, the characters are grown up in a house where the effects of great man are seen in the atmosphere of the home. Women in both works have possibilities to develop themselves and have new experiences that will contribute to their imagination worlds and works. These homes are large enough to have private space in order to write. There are social activities such as parties and tea parties when people come together and they share their thoughts and hear new comments to talk about the past great writers that they had read before (Urgan, 1995).

The main characters read about the works of the past great writers. In fact, Woolf herself reflects her own approach with her characters and she reflects her life. Her father has a vast library of his time and Woolf is lucky enough to reach all the sources of past writers and read and analyze them all. Therefore, for the main characters of both works it is easy to get works of great writers. They have read them and in tea parties they talk about works of these writers, their poems and novels and they even make comments about their poems and speeches.

In *Night and Day* (1919) women have difficulty in expressing their inner worlds and they have not got any opportunity to reflect literary tradition in the patriarchal society. Men dominate the area of literary tradition. In fact, women try to produce works in literary world even in limited and obstacle areas. Men have identity and a right to say. In male-dominated the world, women have difficulty in proving their existence. Male also governs the world of writing. The dominance of men on literature makes women's productions and works worthless. Men are always one step ahead of women. Woolf cannot accept this inequality and Woolf fights for women's economic independence and also spiritual freedom (Urgan, 1995).

Woolf focuses on the writings of Mrs. Hillbery and the importance of writing as a work of art (Güneş, 2007). She says that her writings are the lack of integrity as women have difficulty in writing. Mrs. Hillbery cannot easily write and explain what she perceives because Mrs. Hillbery and Katherine are under the influence of the past. Woolf uses modernist techniques in order to convey modern experiences.

In both works to write freely, Woolf focuses the necessity of materials for writing. Women need a separate room and money which are necessary materials for writing and for freedom of women in the society. In *A Room of One's Own* (1929) Woolf emphasizes the importance of money in order to write. To get money women need jobs and education. In *Night and Day* (1919) Woolf focuses on the importance of marriage. Only with marriage, women can have a room of their own and can write their feelings, desires and thoughts more easily.

In *Night and Day* (1919), Katherine has all needed materials but because of her dependence, she cannot follow her desires and she cannot get her achievements as Katherine is under the influence of her mother's conventional moral views and approaches. Mrs. Hillbery thinks that Katherine is a kind of tool that will convey traditional tendencies to the next generations. Katherine has a conflict between conventional at home and her dreams of freedom through marriage. Marriage will provide her a room of her own which means that a life of her own. Without interruption, she will have a chance to study her beloved subject area mathematics (Steinfeld, 1985).

Katherine defines domestic life as boring and unsatisfying kind of life. She has her own world that she wants to create:

*The only truth which she could discover was the truth of what she herself felt--a frail beam when compared with the broad illumination shed by the eyes of all the people who are in agreement to see together; but having rejected the visionary voices, she had no choice but to make this her guide through the dark masses which confronted her. She tried to follow her beam, with an expression upon her face which would have made any passer-by think her reprehensibly and almost ridiculously detached from the surrounding scene (Woolf, 2004, p. 423).*

Katherine wants to discover her own inner world and thoughts; she rebels against conventional values, norms. She desires to reach the truth with her feelings and imaginations. She is looking for a kind of lifestyle which is an independence and full of experiences. She prefers a different life from her family. She chooses a marriage that is based upon friendship, respect, love, freedom and equality which are the values that women need to have. Woolf shows that marriage is shaped by the society that includes selfishness, violent men and husbands, personal limitations. A kind of marriage is accepted where women obey all the rules both at home and abroad. Katherine is looking for her own freedom and value.

To the end of *Night and Day* (1919), Katherine rises from the level of self-sacrifice to self-consciousness. She becomes aware of her identity. In *Night and Day* (1919), Woolf questions the role of women in society and their identities the relationship between men and women and gender discrimination in the society besides traditional responsibilities and norms.

In *Night and Day* (1919), Katherine and the other characters are concerned with reflections of love and marriage. Women are trying to find the best suited person for them to marry, they want to be away from arranged marriages but they cannot decide the one according to their thoughts and emotions (Drobot, 2005). Katherine, one the main characters in *Night and Day* (1919), she is looking for a life which she has chosen. She is defined as a modern character in the novel.

In both works libraries and books are seen. In *A Room of One's Own* (1929) Woolf criticizes the patriarchal society that makes it impossible for women to reach

education and even books of great writer to develop themselves on the other hand, in *Night and Day* (1919) women already have lots of different books from different writers and it is easy to get books from the library, they can get whenever they want. They read and consider on books and share their comments. In *A Room of One's Own* (1929), the male-dominated society discourages women and destroys women's self-confidence with their norms and rules. In *Night and Day* (1919) women have restrictions on their decisions. The women characters are under the effect of past great writers and their family members such as their mothers and fathers. For example, when Katherine wants to make a decision about her future and her marriage, her mother Mrs. Hilbery says her thoughts and wants Katherine to obey her thoughts (Lin, 2014).

The reason that Woolf emphasizes on women's writing is that when men write about women, men cannot completely reflect women's desires, all sides of their emotions women feel in life. Men cannot give limitations of women, imaginations of women and women's hopes and disappointments. Men can explain only with male perception. Woolf knows that women can create both poems and novels when they are given the chance for education and opportunity to experience the life.

In *Night and Day* (1919), love, marriage and happiness, success subjects dominate the work. In *A Room of One's Own* (1929) women are closed to homes. In *Night and Day* (1919), modern women are looking for new explorations, new ideas and struggles for independence no matter how much women are successful or not. Women here have a chance to apply their talents to their lives and experiences. Modern women have different expectations and have deeper consciousness in life. Marriage is a social and financial consideration for women in *Night and Day* (1919), whereas in *A Room of One's Own* (1929) marriage is a tool for getting a private room to think and to write and an opportunity that will meet the materials needed.

## CONCLUSION

Patriarchal society has drawn the frame of living areas of women and the rules and norms of the life of women. In the patriarchal society of the nineteenth and the twentieth century, as women are seen and behaved as slave by the society and men, women cannot have any chance of exposure of their existence especially in writing and literature fields of life. Virginia Woolf as a writer, who has got a high awareness, supported women's financial independence in order to have a spare time to write, to express them freely. Woolf herself is exposed to limitations of the society; she cannot get formal education and she does not have as much opportunity as man has. She supports in her essays, novels and letters women's struggle to be what she is.

Society does not support women's experience in the society. Women suffer from the damaging effect of gender and sexual abuses in the eyes of the men. In the framework of feminist evolution which means that the aims of feminism are to provide women equal rights as well as men in the society, women begin to take the breath. On the other hand, even using pseudo names women start to write novels and poems. With the improvements in the feminist studies women's voice rises in the society (Urgan, 1995).

In *A Room of One's Own Room* (1929), Woolf focuses on the strong relationship between money and writing. Women do not have jobs and a right in the business world; they are completely addicted to men's income. Therefore, women can go on their lives with the financial support of men's, it is really very difficult to have time and money to produce something independently. Their duties have already been described. All their duties are to take care of her husband and children.

In addition, the reason of Woolf's reputation as a feminist is her *A Room of One's Own* (1929) includes her opinions about women and fiction. In *A Room of One's Own* (1929) Woolf mentions about the place of women in literature and questions why women are excluded from the literary world and what the solutions can be. Furthermore, Woolf focuses upon the problem of the right to vote and she states that if she had a chance to choose between vote and money, she would choose money because it is more important than vote for her. In general, Woolf supports women's

are being educated. Without considering other's support, women could thrust themselves financially and with a free mind, they can contribute to fiction.

Furthermore, education is one of the crucial phenomena that Virginia Woolf focuses in her work *A Room of One's Own* (1929). Traditional education is not enough as Woolf wants women to be educated in science and literature. Education makes women possible to have a profession. To get a profession means for women to get a job and to gain money to continue to the life. Money is the first step to being financially independent of men. Thus, women can find a chance to do whatever they want without taking permission and economic support of their husbands. Woolf thinks that job is obligatory rather than a choice for women (Koç, 2011).

Woolf also says that women have heavy responsibilities at their homes and private life, because of their environment in patriarchal society. They work at home but this kind of job is worthless as it has not got a regular payment or regular working hour or rest or holiday time. To work at home has no legal right, laws or regulations. However women make efforts to do something at home, it has no meaning in the eyes of their husbands and society.

Women do not work in companies or in any business that has certain hours for working. Their responsibilities go on during night and day. So women cannot find enough time for their own life. Whereas men have certain qualifications for certain jobs, so they have enough time to rest and to do whatever they want such as reading or writing. Woolf wants women to be aware of their potential and try to do something for her identity. If women can stand determinedly towards the inequalities between men and women, they will achieve their aims (Kreydatus, 2005).

The concept of feminism is criticized. It supports the defense of woman's rights. In this sense, women need to be educated in order to have a job which will help them to be in the society. They try to defend their rights against inequalities between men and women. If women have independence, they will be far away from the norms of the society and be active in the social life. Feminism's struggle is for individual awareness. Women will compose their own intellectual mind. Virginia Woolf as a prolific writer focuses women's creativity mind. Woolf has come across inequalities; therefore, she struggles against rules and limitations. She tries to emphasize the

differences between traditional approaches to the literature. The intellectual development of the mind of women is more important than their psychical appearance.

The female profile that is created by patriarchal society is criticized and Woolf draws the picture of modern women in *Night and Day* (1919). She does not accept the limitations and obstacles that the society renders to women. In *Night and Day* (1919), women have difficulty in expressing their inner world they have got both dark and light aspects. Women have not got any opportunity to reflect literary tradition in the patriarchal society in the time of male dominance. Women cannot be active in a male-dominated the world, women had difficulty in proving their existence. Men who are dominant not in business life but also in literary govern the world of writing (Woolf, 2005).

Patriarchal system is controlled by men. Woolf comments on the effects of women's poverty. Especially economic obstacles keep women away from experiences. Women cannot find even a room to consider about something to write. Marriage is another important issue Woolf focuses in *Night and Day* (1919) and *A Room of One's Own* (1929). Women have no value in her marriages. They are used as if they are robots to serve their husbands and children. The burden of marriage hinders women's becoming independent.

In the fourth chapter, both negative and positive sides of the characters of *Night and Day* (1919) are dealt with. The relationship between love and marriage and happiness a success are focused on. Modern and traditional women characters are seen in this chapter. They have opposite characteristic features. Modern women do not care about others' thought they choose their own way and lives. They are interested in not only music, art and literature but also mathematics and engineering (Woolf, 2005).

In the fifth chapter, the common and opposite points of the two works are given. The struggle of women characters against patriarchy and the limitations, they have to fight against are dealt in this chapter. The crucial focus of Woolf on individual awareness of women is explained. With social experiences, women gain identity and self- confidence. The materials such as room, money and job are needed to produce work in literary. All these things will contribute to their intellectual development.



In this context, the feminist approach of Virginia Woolf is dealt in her works *A Room of One's Own* (1919) and *Night and Day* (1919). Even though there are lots of different kinds of obstacles against women's liberty struggle, they will go on their fight against life and to produce works that proves their existence.



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### PERSONAL INFORMATION

#### UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION INFORMATION

<b>University</b>	<b>Selçuk University</b>
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#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

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