**Woolf’s Use of Narrative**

Woolf achieves the suitable flow of the storyline in these ways:

**Indirect Interior Monologue**- This occurs in the way she captures the private thoughts of her characters. It allows her to vacillate and move easily from one character to the next, and allows the reader insight into each character’s mind. The narrative leaves one mind and enters another, hovering between the minds of the characters. Human consciousness transcends the limitations of individual minds.

**The 20th – century writers understood it was impossible to reproduce the complexity of the human mind using traditional techniques, and looked for more suitable means of expression.**

**They adopted the interior monologue to represent, in a novel, the unspoken activity of the mind before it is ordered in speech.**

**Interior monologue is often confused with the stream of consciousness, although they are quite different. Indeed the former is the verbal expression of a psychic phenomenon, while the latter is the psychic phenomenon itself. It is its immediacy which distinguishes the internal monologue from both the soliloquy and the dramatic monologue, which are formal speeches respecting conventional syntax.**

**This “immediate speech” is freed from introductory expressions like “He thought, he remembered, he said”, from formal structures, and from logical and chronological order.**

**It is necessary to distinguish between four kinds of interior monologue:**

1. **The indirect interior monologue, where the narrator never lets the character’s thoughts flow without control, and maintains logical and grammatical organisation; (VIRGINIA WOOLF)**
2. **The interior monologue, characterised by two levels of narration: one external to the character’s mind, the other internal;**
3. **The interior monologue where the character’s thoughts flow freely, not interrupted by external elements;**
4. **The extreme interior monologue, where words fuse into others to create new expressions.**

The indirect interior monologue is also characterised by the following devices:

1. the narrator is present within the narration; the character’s thoughts can be presented both directly and by adding descriptions, appropriate comments and explanatory or introductory phrases to guide the reader through the narration.
2. The character stays fixed in space while his/her consciousness moves freely in time: in the character’s mind, however, everything happens in the present, which can extend to infinity or contract to a moment. This concept of “inner time”, which is irregular and disrupted with respect to the conventional conception of time, is preferred to “external time”, since it shows the relativism of a subjective experience.
3. Adapted from: <http://keynes.scuole.bo.it/ipertesti/movie\_minds/Mrs.Dalloway/ideology%20and%20style.htm>