

## **The comparison of two pieces of writing:**

### **Kew Gardens by Virginia Woolf and The Tiredness of Rosabel by**

#### **Katherine Mansfield**

Both these stories are set in London in the time of WWI. so that the stories are mostly influenced by the war. There is visible the effort of escape from the reality to the dream world.

I would say that Kew Gardens by Virginia Woolf was written in the style of impressionism because of the detailed description of nature, people, time, society and so on. The writer doesn't use the full description but the object of her description was every time something else. The each description creates the mosaic of the piece of writing. In Kew Gardens is given a portrait of typical London Garden, which presents the part of urban space and how it looked like. On the contrary The Tiredness of Rosabel doesn't point to the typical London (or part of London). There are some short descriptions of the surroundings and the place where Rosabel lives but that's all.

Virginia Woolf uses in her works special style of writing called stream of consciousness, which well appears in this piece of writing. I would say that the reader might get lost in Kew Gardens because she at one time describes the nature in the garden really in detail, then she begins with description of people and at once there is a stream of people's thoughts. I would say that there is less of plot development; the whole story is just description, there is no end, no connection between the people and their stories.

By contrast to Katherine Mansfield her story has scenic line and we can discuss about the plot. There is some plot development, the end of the story, connection between people that appear in the story. The use of stream of consciousness is rather less. Katherine Mansfield

doesn't use direct speech when she expresses the people's thoughts; in this work she uses er-form to express them.

In *Kew Gardens* there are depicted four groups of people with their thoughts, memories, and troubles of everyday life expressed by direct speech. Firstly the writer illustrates a married couple with their children. Actually they were physically together but separated in mind. The man was thinking about the past and his first love and what his wife was thinking, we don't know. Then there is given a description of two men, young couple and two elderly women. Each group of people tends to escape from reality by their memories or thinking about something that makes them happy. They try to remind happy situations because the story is situated after WWI. when people lost their belief, trust, hope of new better life, so that they try to escape.

In Katherine Mansfield's *The Tiredness of Rosabel* is depicted only one main character – strong woman Rosabel, who lives alone only with her dreams. As well as people in *Kew Garden* are not able to escape, so she can't. As I have already said at the beginning, the writer doesn't use primarily the direct speech to express people's thoughts. Rosabel is thinking about the better life and future with a man who she met. I would say that there are two stories in one – her life and her dreams of better life. The same is in Virginia Woolf's *Kew Garden*, but there are more stories in main one.

In conclusion (how we can see) these two stories are in some parts very similar but in some very different. Similarity – effort of escape to better life, war, stream of consciousness, place (London), lost of belief, hope. Difference – scenic line vs. description, plot development, one main character and four groups of people.

