**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter conducts the introduction of the study which includes; background of the study, limitation of the study, problems formulation, objective of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study.

1. **Background of the Study**

”It is far more difficult to murder a phantom than a reality.”

**--Virginia Woolf**

”If this work seems so threatening, this is because it isn’t simply eccentric or strange, but competent, rigorously argued, and carrying conviction.”

**--Jacques Derrida**

Sinking in the very bottom of Pacific, then never being able to lift back, it somehow illustrates Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*, a novel which eludes the life of British post-World War I in London, 1923. Shaping the main theme of arguing the existential vacuum and illness due to the illusion of war, the major characters, who are the victims of post-World War I in *Mrs. Dalloway* always come up with the presupposition in which themselves remain in jeopardized. This novel highly catalyzes the readers to follow the mind-plot of the major characters which often plotting a disillusionment while passing the London’s street altogether.

*Mrs. Dalloway* eludes the genre of modernist fiction novel as Virginia Woolf is a modernist writer, and her work provided a place to give critics toward the reality in modern literature. Hence, this derives to the genre of modernist literature itself:

Modernism is often defined as a response to the scientific, political and economic developments of the time and the way people dealt with those issues. The tension and unease that these issues brought along with them also manifested in the art of the time; it affected music, philosophy, visual art, and of course literature. (Wrenn 428)

Though, *Mrs. Dalloway* yet develops to be a tool for an author as Virginia Woolf in exposing the reality of post-World War I in London while people terribly experience a shell shock.

As the characters in the novel are the victims of post-World War I, hence they experience the phenomenon of ‘the stream of consciousness’ to describe the reality in the novel. In essence, in modernism, the stream of consciousness becomes its characteristic which directs to the form of a desire in drawing the history in hope that can be called as a reality, or a true present (BOUZIT 7). Thereof, Virginia Woolf in her imaginary characters, Clarrisa Dalloway and Septimus Smith, the victims of post-World War I, having fantasized the history in London; buildings, streets, people, and stuffs then react them as ever occurred in the past.

While the issue of the stream of consciousness is reflected in the novel in which it emerges as a reaction toward either or history, accident, and a reality. Dahiya defines the stream of consciousness as:

The stream of consciousness is characterized by the thoughts of the main character and the dialogue taking place weaving seamlessly together to give the narrative a rambling, dream-like quality. . . Together, these elements blur together what is actually happening and what is happening in the minds of the characters, creating a more visceral and realistic mood of the novel (Dahiya 725).

As stated above, the characters who experience the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness tend to have a strong self-awareness surround them, and the phenomenon they see will derive to the disillusionment, then having fantasized as a reality.

Under the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness which resulting in unstable expression by the major characters, textually, in deep understanding about the expression in the novel, the major characters’ utterances are highly considered ambiguous and dynamic which drive to the uncertain meaning. Gnanasekaran revealed in his article that in one side, the expressions of the human experience, the language feature of writings and the human experience create the uncertainty between the genuine and the implied benchmarks. In the other words, the eternal bind of signifiers in the text will never meet the conclusion, in which the signifiers tend to never result an absolute signified (212). In this way, the finding signified of the signifiers will remain flexible, as long as the signifier, or the binary opposition is discovered.

Due to no fixed ground in the expression which is spoken by the major characters, hence, the text can be further discussed by finding the binary opposition that resulting a signified. “The binary opposition is usually the key to the text’s ideological framework . . . it can be examined to find the ways in which the opposing elements in the text overlap or aren’t really opposed.” (Tyson 262).

Moreover, Derridarian deconstruction is used to investigate the hidden meaning in the text. “Deconstruction defined as a thought process precisely a kind of evasive dance whereby one doesn’t settle for distinct positions, for any sort of idea that can be understood as governed and this is what structure, sign and plays are all about. . .” (Hooti 3903-3904). It is confirmed that a text does not contribute to an exact meaning but the signifier in the text can be considered providing other signifiers which direct to another signified.

Still, it is elaborated in the book *Critical Theory Today* by Lois Tyson about the essence of language as well as the meaning in text through the lens of Derrida which stated:

For deconstruction, (1) language is dynamic, ambiguous, and unstable, continually disseminating possible meanings; (2) existence has no center, no stable meaning, no fixed ground; and (3) human beings are fragmented battlefields for competing ideologies whose only “identities” are the ones we invent and choose to believe. (258)

Tyson still believes that even the words have been deconstructed, the signified may still result in beyond belief, or ambiguous, however, meaning is created in the act of reading by readers (258). Clearly, that the expression before and after being deconstructed directs to the no final words.

Furthermore, the study of Derridarian deconstruction in literary work can be done in Virginia Woolf’s novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. Clarrisa and Septimus, the two post-World War I victims in the novel begin to explore London after returning from India. Clarrisa enjoys her life in London after all, and overlooking to the crowded in London, she experiences the stream of consciousness in witnessing the performance of marching band before the Queen around Buckingham Palace. However, it just remains her to a moment then hints to the critics. On the other hands, Septimus sometimes tries to move on from his past, who was an army, then further adores London after war, and having back with a shell shock that overlaps his disillusionment. Clarrisa and Septimus show a significant habit which different from other characters such as Peter Walsh and Miss Pole. Clarrisa and Septimus perform a high disillusionment which takes them to the stream of consciousness. Though, under the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness, the text is interesting to be discussed further in order to observe its hidden meaning. The deconstruction approach is used to find the contrasted matters found in the text by discovering the binary opposition even if contrary to the previous exiting meaning.

1. **Limitation of the Study**

This literary study only focuses on revealing the hidden meaning by finding the binary opposition in the text. Still, the expression as conversed by Clarrisa and Septimus, due to the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness in the novel *Mrs.* *Dalloway* becomes the objectives that will be further discussed with Derridarian deconstruction study, and the stream of consciousness.

1. **Problems Formulation**

Based on the limitation of the study above, the statements of the study can be represented as follows:

1. What is the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness reflected in the novel *Mrs. Dalloway* in a deep meaning?
2. How is the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness deconstructed by finding binary opposition in the novel *Mrs. Dalloway*?
3. **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness as found in the novel *Mrs. Dalloway* in a deep meaning.
2. To analyze the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness in the *Mrs. Dalloway* as expressedby the victims of post-World War Ibased on Derridarian deconstruction study.
3. **Significance of the study**

The result of this literary study is expected to be able to contribute to the following benefits:

1. This literary study can help the readers in learning the phenomenon of the stream of consciousness as found in *Mrs. Dalloway* novel.
2. This literary study can be the source of information and further research to understand the stream of consciousness.
3. This literary study also may be source of information related to deconstruction, mainly on how to observe the binary opposition by having deep critical thinking which becomes a determination in resulting the deconstruction product is.
4. **Outline of the Study**

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter consists of introduction in which the study gives the illustration of the background and a significant reason in choosing the topic, limitation of the study, problems formulation of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and outlines of the study. Meanwhile, the second chapter consists of review related literature, synopsis of the novel, and the discussion of the theory which is used in this study, such as; the stream of consciousness and deconstruction. The third discusses about the research method, the description of the method and the procedure of the analysis in this study. In addition, the chapter gives a discussion about the findings which are about the stream of consciousness in the novel *Mrs. Dalloway*, and also the deconstruction of the stream of consciousness. Finally on the fifth chapter derives to the conclusion and also the suggestions.