

## The Construction of the Bridge between Mrs Dalloway and to the Lighthouse: The Combination of Codes and Metaphors in the Structuring of the Plot in the Work of Virginia Woolf

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**Abstract :** Tzvetan Todorov (1971) designs a model of narrative transformation where the plot is constituted by difference and resemblance. This binary opposition is a synthesis of a central figure within narrative discourse: metaphor. Narrative operates as a metaphor since it combines different actions through similarities within a common plot. However, it sounds paradoxical that metonymy and not metaphor should be the key figure within the narrative. It is a metonymy that keeps the movement of actions within the story through syntagmatic relations. By the same token, this articulation of verbs makes it possible for the reader to engage in a dynamic interaction with the text, responding to the plot and mediating meanings with the contradictory external world. As Roland Barthes (1957) points out, there are two codes that are irreversible within the process: the codes of actions and the codes of enigmas. Virginia Woolf constructs her plots through a process of symbolism; a scene is always enduring, not only because it stands for something else but also because it connotes it. The reader is forced to elaborate the meaning at a mythological level beyond the lines. In this research, we follow a qualitative content analysis to code language through the proairetic (actions) and hermeneutic (enigmas) codes in terms of Barthes. There are two novels in particular that engage the reader in this process of construction: Mrs Dalloway (1925) and To the Lighthouse (1927). The bridge from the first to the second brings memories of childhood, allowing for the discovery of these enigmas hidden between the lines. What survives? Who survives? It is the reader's task to unravel these codes and rethink this dialogue between plot and reader to contribute to the predominance of texts and the textuality of narratives.

**Keywords :** metonymy, code, metaphor, myth, textuality

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