

This thesis focuses on Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours* in the context of postmodernism. As *The Hours* is a postmodernist interpretation of *Mrs Dalloway*, the thesis also discusses Virginia Woolf's modernist approach in order to compare it with Cunningham's postmodernist position.

I have adopted the methods of close reading and analysis in both *Mrs Dalloway* and *The Hours*. To substantiate my assertions I have consulted a number of secondary sources that form the basis of the theoretical part. The aim of the thesis is to provide a sufficient theoretical background to a detailed analysis of the two novels in question and support it by a number of adequate examples contained in the novels.

The thesis consists of four chapters, each divided into several sections that focus on specific aspects of modernism and postmodernism.

The first chapter "Major principles of modernism" deals with the basic features and principles of modernism, with a special focus on the genre of the novel.

The second chapter "Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*" focuses on *Mrs Dalloway* in the light of modernism and draws an outline of the techniques used and themes contained in the novel.

The third chapter "Major strategies of postmodernism" tries to demonstrate the links between modernism and postmodernism to further explore major features and strategies of postmodernism in literature.

The last chapter "Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*" focuses in detail on Cunningham's novel, discussing the three stories individually. I have tried to show the links between the individual stories as well as their reference to *Mrs Dalloway*. This last chapter concentrates predominantly on the analysis of specific extracts from *The Hours*, comparing them with extracts from *Mrs Dalloway*.