

A New Lacanian-Feminist Reading of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* and Jane Austen's *Persuasion*

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بهمن ۱۳۹۱
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Abstract

This study aims at misconceptions modern feminism has projected on women in terms of misandry, reluctance toward heterosexual love or marriage and concepts like motherhood as well as all other biologically prefabricated features. On the contrary, his thesis does not intend to deny the suppression masculine society has been imposing on women; it sincerely attempts to enlighten the reader to a humane touchstone concerning social issues about women's lives in modern times through Virginia Woolf's *To The Lighthouse* in comparison and contrast with Jane Austen's *Persuasion*: Woolf's Lily Briscoe is taken as a fairly modern type of personage within feminism, while Austen's Anne Elliot is considered a rather traditional one; it is asserted here that neither could fill personal and social feminine gaps, and this is done in the light of, Jacques Lacan's semi-Freudian notion of Phallus value in case of human sexuality on the above characters. Since Lacan pursues Sigmund Freud's notion of Phallocentrism through sexuality in a rather masculine mould, he has opted a more psychologically tentative concept toward human sexuality which still could feel masculine. Taking a new Lacanian view, this study plans to approach Phallocentrism bisexually, since it hopes to indicate Phallus not as superiority but as a credit which happens to be within men. Therefore, this study stresses differences rather than superiority or inferiority of any kind in order to take a step forward a rationally progressive society.

Key Words: heterosexuality, Phallocentrism, Lacan, Woolf's To The Lighthouse, Austen's Persuasion