



"Ah, but what is Herself? I mean what is a Woman?": Rhetorical analysis of Virginia Woolf's Feminist Essays [

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Analítica

The essays of Virginia Woolf are especially known for her concern about women's condition throughout history, and her reflections on various aspects ranging from the review and assessment of works and characters, to the reference to historical and literary figures more or less recognised. In her textual practice of this argumentative genre, she follows Montaigne's influx with regard to his trying to communicate the thoughts of a conflicted self in a digressive prose, but placed in her Modernist context. Starting from these considerations, it is especially interesting to read Woolf's essays bearing in mind the rhetorical categories and the partes orationis given by Rhetoric, conceived as the science capable of analysing the argumentative discourse. In this paper, I suggest a revision of those rhetorical components, and I seek to explore various arguments and rhetorical figures found in some of her texts, for the most part dealing with different histories of the women inhabiting Woolf's particular vision of History. Rhetorical argumentation allows the review of textual representations and their communicative effect, including the figures of writer, argument and reader

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