**The Structure of Virginia Woolf’s Mental World as a Tree Reflected by the Symbols in *Kew Garden***

**This story was threaded by the climbing track of a snail, and stuffed by the conversations of four couples of people walking around the snail.**

**It reminds me of Deleuze book: a thousand plateaus.**

**Specific spcacial structure, inspire me**

**In my eyes, the theme of the story is formed as a tree, whose truck is the snail of mental depression rooted on Virginia Woolf’s childhood of being sexual assault, and whose leaves are the four conversations of trauma after war.**

**Snail—Childhood Being Sexually Assaulted—The Root**

The most confusing symbol in Kew Garden must be the snail who made every effort to climb over a dead leaf at the center of the garden. At the very beginning I was confused by it as well, but after being orally harassed by one of my male schoolmates for a night and a day in a row, and when I just felt that a disgusting snail is creeping over my skin, I suddenly realized that the “snail”, a creation with strange body structure and disgusting secretion, might be a symbol of the experiences of being sexual assault of Virginia Woolf.

*The snail appeared three times in this story. In the 1st paragraph,*

*…the shell of a snail with its brown, circular veins…*

**The color “brown” is similar to the color of human skin, and the shape “circular” usually reminds people of a sense of dizziness. Both of the two words bring a sense of disgust.**

Paragraph 10 describes:

*…its antennae trembling as if in deliberation, and then stepped off as rapidly as and strangely in the opposite direction.*

**The “antennae” is also a part of the strange structure of the snail, while in the word “strangely” we might sense a kind of heterogeneity in the snail, namely the existence and the movement was not controllable for Virginia Woolf.**

*…to breast it there came past the bed…*

**“Breast” is also with sexual implication.**

**Virginia Woolf had a childhood of being sexually assaulted by her two cousins at a very young age. As many psychologists and sociologists suggest, this experience indirectly resulted in her mental depression in her following years.**

**The Snail’s Movement on Dead Leaves—Mental Depression—The Trunk**

**Virginia Woolf suffered from severe mental depression during her whole life, and finally she even suicide due to its intensification.**

**As Kew Garden is viewed as a story told “in the snail’s standpoint”, the snail’s deed of climbing with a heavy weight on dead lead might symbolize her heavy mental depression climbing over her tortured mind.** The analysis is quite similar to the previous point.

The leaf is emphasised twice to be “dead”, which add one more sense of lifelessness to the confusing scenery.

**Four Conversations—Trauma after War—The Leaves**

Maxims of communication

The conversation of the second couple of people show trauma from the war especially.

*He was talking about spirits---the spirits of the dead, who, according to him, were even now telling him all sorts of odd things about their experiences in Heaven.*

It is obvious that the old man witnessed a great number of deaths during the war and fail to get out of the trauma, and thus he behaves mentally disorder.

The third conversation is also presented to be not understandable.

*“Nell, Bert, Lot, Cess, Phil, Pa, he says, I says, she says, I says, I says-“*

*“My Bert, Sis, Bill, Grandad, the old man, sugar,*

*Sugar, flour, kippers, greens,*

*Sugar, sugar, sugar.”*

These seemingly meaningless words arranged in disorder are also nearer to words uttered by mental disorder patients.

**As the World War 1 has brought tremendous disaster to human beings, the illness of** mental disorder has increased after war. Virginia Woolf suffered the her greatest depression in 1915 during the World War 1. It is reasonable to speculate that the war has also tremendous impact on her mental state. Thus, **those distorted conversations are likely to be disordered people viewed in a disordered one’s eyes.**

**Conclusion**

**Kew Garden as a well-selling modernist novel in after war period, shows Virginia Woolf’s mental illness both deep-rooted and intensified by the war. In a special structure of a tree, this story symbolizes the flowing and dream-like mental world of Virginia Woolf. The reflection of the authors character and the caring on people after war might count for its popularity in Britain in 1919.**