

SUMMARY

The concept of time and its passage have long fascinated philosophers, thinkers, and writers as they grapple with its elusive nature and profound impact on human existence. In literature, few authors have explored the intricacies of temporality as intricately and profoundly as William Faulkner. Faulkner's narrative mastery and philosophical depth allow him to delve into the complexities of time, memory, and the interplay between past, present, and future.

This thesis examines the problematic nature of time and temporality in Faulkner, focusing on his three seminal novels: *The Sound and the Fury*, *Absalom, Absalom!*, and *Light in August*. Drawing inspiration from various philosophical theories, the analysis unravels the multifaceted nature of temporality within Faulkner's literary universe.

The first chapter explores the philosophical theories on temporality, beginning with the insights of Wilhelm Dilthey. Dilthey's ideas on the subjective experience of time will serve as a starting point to delve deeper into the subsequent theories of Henri Bergson, Edmund Husserl, and Martin Heidegger. By synthesising these diverse perspectives, we can develop a comprehensive framework for understanding the complexities of time in Faulkner's novels. Subsequent chapters focus on the three novels, each offering a unique exploration of temporality within Faulkner's literary tapestry. Chapter Two examines *The Sound and the Fury*, a novel renowned for its fragmented narrative structure and non-linear chronology. By analysing the Compson family's subjective experiences of time, we uncover Faulkner's portrayal of the disintegration and reconstitution of temporal order. Chapter Three shifts the focus to *Absalom, Absalom!*, a work that addresses the intricacies of storytelling, memory, and the construction of history. Here, we explore how Faulkner portrays the complexities of temporal dissonance through multiple narrators and shifting perspectives, unravelling the profound impact of the past on the present. In Chapter Four, our attention turns to *Light in August*, a novel that interweaves the lives of various characters and their encounters with time, identity, and societal expectations. Through an analysis of Joe Christmas's journey and the exploration of circularity, isolation, and self-realisation, we gain insights into Faulkner's depiction of the passage of time and its transformative effects.

By examining these pivotal works, I want to shed light on the diverse and profound ways in which Faulkner engages with temporality, challenging traditional notions of linear time and offering a deeper understanding of the human experience. Through exploring philosophical

theories and close textual analysis, I seek to unravel Faulkner's unique portrayal of time's passage and its impact on the characters and narratives that inhabit his literary world.