

## ABSTRACT

### VIRGINIA WOOLF AND THE PURSUIT OF FEMALE LANGUAGE

Within Woolf's life and texts, the theories of *l'écriture féminine* were carried through to their end, and she demonstrates the dangers of attempting to return to the period of the pre-Oedipal mother. The movement's avoidance of Woolf might be because her search for a female language and her desire to return to the lost mother resulted in an ultimately destructive ambivalence towards identity, intermittent madness, and suicide.

Laura Holden  
May 2006