

ABSTRACTS



José Luis Calzada, *Libros*

DOSSIER

WRITING, CRITICISM, AND SEMIOTICS:
ETHICS AND POLITICS IN LITERARY PRACTICE

Raymundo Mier

SUMMARY. The notion of “writing”, as it was developed chiefly by the French critics, Maurice Blanchot and Roland Barthes since the decade of the 50’s, deeply transforms the domain of literary studies: the philosophical and semiotical ground of these reflections involves a radical change of the point of view on language, rhetoric, and even the object and sense of the analysis itself. The concepts built upon this convergence of different disciplines makes it possible to foster new expectations and reveals another relevance for the reflection on literature. This text seeks to explore the contemporary developments of the notion of writing since the introduction of the notion of negative semiotics and the radical approaches on the relation of reading and rhetoric in the perspective of literary criticism.

KEY WORDS: Literary criticism, writing, negative semiotics, rhetoric.

THE CHRONICLE: HUMANITY WITH A CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE

Virginia Rioseco Perry

SUMMARY. This article explores the narrative capacity of the chronicle and recognizes its intrinsic ability to tell time, that is, to account for time, and to give to humanity a certificate of existence. The chronicle, as a hybrid *genre*, is capable of showing life through narrative and this has been the case since centuries ago. An example is the conquest of the Americas and the role of the writer of chronicles in showing the monarch what there was to see in the new world, so the latter, could

take possession, in his imagination, of the territories. But the chronicle didn't stop there. It migrated, according to Walter Mignolo, to other disciplines: to literature and to journalism. And it is relevant to this day in the works of those who work on the plane that doesn't distinguish reality from fiction. The chronicle is alive and will continue to be a narrative vehicle that saves lives.

KEY WORDS: chronicles, chronicles of the Indians, time, space, narrative.

“SILOUETTES THAT GO PAST,” A COLUMN BY ÁNGEL DE CAMPO (MICRÓS)

Daniel Santillana

SUMMARY. Although the remarkable writing career of Ángel de Campo y Valle (“Micrós”) (1868-1908) consisted of newspapers sketches, (almost) two novels (one of them hopelessly lost) and stories and chronicles to magazines and newspapers, around 60% of his works lay unpublished until now in some Mexican archives. Therefore, I have begun a new research project in Mexican periodicals in order to find some of De Campo's lost productions. Due to the length of this article, I present here only a partial result of my search: seven of the 32 “Siluetas que pasan” chronicles I found in 1899's *El Mundo* —daily edition—.

KEY WORDS: 19th Century Mexican Literature, Ángel de Campo (Micrós) and Flaubert: a relationship, The recovery of an unpublished column of Micrós: “Silouettes that Pass By”

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LITERARY STUDIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COORDINATES A. AUTHOR, B. WORK, C. READER, AND D. CONTEXT

Adriana Rodríguez

SUMMARY. This work has a didactic intention essentially, and could be considered a “state of the question” about the place of literature within

the very long field of expressions that represent the object of study in the analysis of discourse. The essay presents a synthesis of the most recognized tendencies within the discipline, including the definition that they have proposed for literature. Immediately thereafter, it enumerates and analyzes the conceptions that these tendencies offer about the fundamental factors of literature: author, work, reader and context.

KEY WORDS: Analysis, speech, literature, reader, author, work, context.

WAS BORGES A MISOGYNIST? THE CONSTRUCTION OF MASCULINITY AND THE CRITIQUE OF BINARY THOUGHT IN SOME OF THE WORKS OF JORGE LUIS BORGES

Adriana González Mateos

SUMMARY. This article starts with a discussion of Borges' alleged misogyny to analyze several works by him from the point of view of the construction of masculinities. Then it explores the relations between Borges' work and the destabilization of binary systems of thought discussed by Foucault and later taken by Judith Butler as a point of departure of her critique of gender binarism.

KEY WORDS: Borges, gender, masculinities, literary criticism.

LITERARY DISTANCE ON THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER

Roxana Rodríguez Ortiz

SUMMARY. This article seeks to establish the differences that exist between Chicano writing and border writing taking as elements of analysis discourse/performance and the urban phenomenon, respectively, with the intention of promoting the literary work that develops on the U.S.-Mexican border.

KEY WORDS: Chicano writing, border writing, discourse performance, urban phenomenon, comparative analysis.

ARTÍCULOS

THE ERRORS OF POPPER: A CRITICISM

Enrique Suárez Iñiguez

SUMMARY. In this work, the author criticizes some aspects of Popper's philosophy, including his emphasis on the necessity of committing errors, his assertion that we don't learn by repetition or routine, his criticism of inductivism, the parallels between his scientific philosophy and his political philosophy, his excessive emphasis on the role of criticism, Popperian Darwinism, the contradiction between his "situational logic" and his "methodical individualism," and his false affirmations about war. The author also points out some of the inconsistencies of the Austrian philosopher.

KEY WORDS: Science, criticism, errors, contemporary problems, inconsistencies.

WHERE IS SOCIAL CITIZENSHIP HEADING? (FROM MARSHALL TO SEN)

Marcos Freijeiro Varela

SUMMARY. The concept of social citizenship, as formulated by Marshall in the middle of the 20th century, is in crisis. Its most evident sign is the impact of the privatization policies initiated by neoliberal governments in 1980. This paper attempts to open a debate about its future, which is linked to the examination of what we understand as welfare. In Amartya Sen's work, it is possible to find patterns that allow us to go in this direction and ask if it is time to move from a welfare

focused on covering needs to another whose aim would be the creation of capacities.

KEY WORDS: Welfare, capacities, social citizenship, Marshall, Sen.

ART, ETHICS, AND SOCIALIZATION: A WAY OF UNDERSTANDING PRAGMATIC AESTHETIC IN POSTMODERN COORDINATES

Vivian Romeu

SUMMARY. This article presents a reflexion on the social function of contemporary artistic practices. The work takes, initially, a position on postmodernism and also reviews the principal philosophical positions that allow us to assert a pragmatic proposal about the aesthetic proposal. By means of the critical analysis of these proposals, the author indicates the aspects that could be taken into account to elaborate a view that allows us to think about the inmanent relations between art and ethics, which is oriented in this work through the concepts of “dialogue”, “knowledge” and “aesthetic experience”.

KEY WORDS: Pragmatic aesthetic, arts, ethics, socialization, dialogue.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TEACHING AND RESEARCH. INCLUSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, FACULTY OF SCIENCES OF UNAM (AN EXPLANATORY MODEL).

Angélica Pino Farías

SUMMARY. This article is the result of the study of the process of incorporating research in an institutional milieu originally devoted to teaching and how the relationship is between these two activities, converting the institution studied into a body which provides education through scientific research.

The case of the Department of Biology, School of Sciences of UNAM. Research in this community has been implemented with the creation of thirty-nine laboratories, all of them designed to support teaching.

The interest of the analysis is to try to explain that what happened in Department of biology from the mid-sixties (1964) is a significant achievement among academic institutions in Mexico and around the world.

The theme was addressed through three analytical axes: discipline, institution and major. However the centerpiece was the discipline itself. Each of them worked throughout the history of the institution from 1915 to 1994.

The paper analyzes the development of Biology through the process of institutionalization and corroborates under the proposed analytical framework, which is the discipline with its own mechanisms of evolution, which offers moments of connection between teaching and research and stages of separation of the two functions. The notion of discipline helped build the conjecture that what happened in the Department of Biology was part of the academic development (cognitive) of the area and that it was through the process of integration and diversification processes and that the two processes were consecutive. At the same time, it was understood that in the pursuit of both mechanisms, the disciplines evolved and assured continuity, beyond the influence of external factors and the rise of research in the international arena. These processes undoubtedly contribute but without proper disciplinary advances would not have resonance.

We concluded that this could be a model for the interpretation of historical work of other institutions and disciplines. Furthermore, it underscores the idea that respect and understanding these processes is essential to enable the advancement of scientific development in our country.

KEY WORDS: The link between teaching and research, Department of Biology, disciplinary development, institution and discipline.

HANGING BY EXCESS: HISTORY, ETHICS AND IDENTITY IN THE NOVEL COLOMBINA
DESCUBIERTA BY ALICIA FREILICH

Mariana Libertad Suárez

SUMMARY. In the 1990s, a significant group of Venezuelan writers has carried out in its fiction a dialogue about the major events of national History. From this dissident group comes the author Alicia Freilich, who in her novel *Colombina descubierta* (1991), transcends the concept of reproduction of history as a set of identities and resorts to the destabilization of speech, of artefacts of memory and of subjectivity in the most traditional sense of the term. She thus proposes the existence of an ethical identity based on core emotional bonds, and on the individual's proteic ability.

KEY WORDS: Ethical identity, antihistory, Alicia Freilich, intimacy, subjectivity.