

SUMMARY

The thesis *Architecture of Contemporary Spanish Novel (2006-2014)* examines contemporary Spanish novels which are fully immersed in its contemporaneity, i.e., those that are closely related to the current social, cultural, economic, technological and linguistic contexts of modern day Spain. The main hypothesis of this study is that a significant part of thus defined novels is becoming an artifact of contemporary culture, negotiating reality in the same way other media do (television, new technologies). Rather than being a strictly homogeneous literary creation many contemporary Spanish novels are becoming hybrid creations that depict reality in ways similar to other artistic and non-artistic means. The objects of analysis are narrative works by Spanish writers published between 2006 and 2014, after the publication of Agustín Fernández Mallo's novel *Nocilla Dream*, which caused a heated debate on the transformation of the novel genre in Spain.

The thesis explores the possibilities of applying the guidelines of architectural analysis to the field of literary theory. It reviews, therefore, the degree to which a methodology based on architectural theory and post-classical narratology is operational in the field of literary theory, as well as the possibility of establishing a series of distinctive features present in the selected novels through the study of its components and structures. For this purpose, it has been fundamental to subject theory to practice and observe to what extent the analyzed novels share both literary and extra-literary characteristics, and whether it is possible to generate an integrated narrative category for current narratives that draws on cultural contemporaneity.

The organizing principle of this thesis derives from the analytical guidelines of architectural theory. The study begins with the analysis of easily discernible elements (paratexts, visual components, etc.); moves on to focus on literary devices, affinities with specific novelistic genres, aesthetic and extra-literary peculiarities of the narrative voice; ending with an inquiry into how it all merges into coherent narratives, i.e., how novels are structured.

The thesis demonstrates a high level of heterogeneity of the works of the corpus and their relation with many typical postmodernist literary techniques. It also demonstrates that the methods of depiction in the contemporary Spanish novel are becoming convergent with the sensitivity and perception strongly influenced by new technologies and media. It establishes that the theory of architecture, given its undoubted respect for the idiosyncrasy and uniqueness of works, proves to be a very suitable tool in guiding readers through the literary present.