

General Introduction

Background of the Study

Literature and society are connected in a dynamic way. Books can be visualized as an art that reflects human life experiences about culture and politics. Writers carry the cultural and political side of their society into fiction and to raise peoples' awareness so they make the necessary changes in their world. Speaking of which, Latin American authors create a precious legacy, consisting of knowledge and experiences of social and political reality of Latin America. The reality that is encountered in their texts is based on magical realism narration. The latter amalgamates the indigenous myth, folkloric storytelling and imaginary world to form the literary genre (Mudrovčić 3). The most famous example of literary Magic Realism remains Gabriel García Márquez's novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* which is the case study of the dissertation.

Aim of the Study

The study aims to investigate the use of magical realism genre as literary technique, which enabled Latin American writers to mirror their cultural and historical experiences in their writing. It also seeks to highlight the impact of this genre on Latin American novels, and more specifically on Gabriel Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

Previous Studies

Many books tackled either magical realism or Gabriel Garcia's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* novel as a subject matter of their writings. Among these, Maggie Ann Bowers' *s Magic (al) Realism* (2004) which helped the field in tracing the origins and the history of the magic (al) realism, it, also provides analysis of key works of magic (al) realists fiction. In addition, there is Anne C. Hegerfeldt' *s Lies that Tell the Truth* (2004) book which adds 2 a

critical analysis of several works to reveal how magical realists techniques generate a complex critique of the West's rational-empirical worldview from the Western context itself. Susan Muaddi Darraj's *The Great Hispanic Heritage: Gabriel García Márquez* (2006) presents biography of Gabriel García Márquez; his childhood, self-realization and his career. Finally we cannot deny the fact that Eva Aldea's *Magical Realism and Deleuze* (2011) contributed to vanish the fusion of the idea of what drives the fantastic engine in magical realism through Gilles Deleuze's philosophy and readings of literature. These books are the final results of a long process of research of magical realism that shows the importance of the genre in the world literature.

Research Questions

For the purpose of achieving the research objectives, the following questions have been asked. - To what extent has magical realism contributed to the development of Latin American literature? - What is the extent to which the incorporation of magical realist elements in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* have succeeded in depicting the social and political life in Latin America?

Hypotheses Formulation

To search for the responses of the research questions, we find it logical to formulate these hypotheses:

1 The incorporation of the Magical realist elements in Latin American literature have reinforced the literary movements in this area, and gave it primacy over Third World post-colonialist literature.

2 Magical Realism in Gabriel Garcia's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* has succeeded in depicting the social and political life in Latin America.

(The inclusion of Magical Realism in Gabriel Garcia's One Hundred Years of Solitude led to the success in depicting the social and political life in Latin America)

Research Methodology

This section encompasses three main constituents: the choice of the method, the corpus subject to our analysis, as well as the source from which we intend to select the corpora, Gabriel Garcia's One Hundred Years of Solitude.

Choice of the Method

Since this study is concerned with the chronological development of Magical realism, its maturity in Latin America, and its expansion worldwide, we find it wise to incorporate the techniques of three methods: the historical, the descriptive and analytical methods. The historical method attempts to trace the origin and progress of magical realism. It can also, provide a general scope of the historical framework of Colombia, the host country of our case of study. Equally important, the use descriptive-analytical techniques can help us select and analyze the gathered Corpora in One Hundred Years of Solitude. Eventually we stand on the chosen methods as the most suitable approach to answer our research questions.

Corpus Selection and Analysis

In order to get comprehensive answers to our questions, and to test the validity of our hypotheses, we decided to gather our data or corpora from Garcia's One Hundred Years of Solitude. Of course, the aim is to measure the extent of the magical realist elements in the novel, and examine whether they have really depicted the social life in Latin America, and how they contributed to the development of the literary movement, in general. The selection of One Hundred Years of Solitude is mainly related to its value in literature as a great demonstration of magical realistic techniques. In short, the selected corpora analyses tend to

test and prove whether our hypotheses, which claim that Gabriel Garcia's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a vivid representation of magical realism that reinforced the Latin American literature, are true or false.

Definition of Term

Expressionism: According to the Oxford Dictionary, expressionism is a style of art which expresses the artist feelings and thoughts instead of the external reality.

Magical Realism: It is a term coined by Franz Roh in 1925. It refers to the art of blinding the fantasy with the realist subjects.

Post-colonialism: It is the academic study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism, focusing on the human consequences of the control and exploitation of colonized people and their lands.

Post-modernism: It is the name given to the period a literary criticism that develops toward the end of twentieth century. The theory was a reaction to the rational, scientific and historical aspects of the modern age.

The boom: It is the narrative development of Latin American literature between 1960s and 1970s. In this period, the Latino literary works acquire an international recognition in the World Literature.

Structure of the Thesis

The research is organized into three chapters. The first chapter introduces the magical realism genre and its historical development in literature. It starts with the emergence of the term in Germany. It also provides a definition for this genre, highlights its characteristics and

themes, and underlines its contribution to other literary movements. The second chapter accounts for the maturity of the genre in Latin America and its expansion to other third world literary movements. Moreover, it introduces some prominent writers, who contributed to the genre development in Latin American literature, mentioning their most prominent works. The last chapter focuses on the selection, analysis and discussion of the corpora available in '*One Hundred Years of Solitude*'. The aim is to answer the research questions and support the hypotheses. This section also outlines the plot structure, the major characters, themes and the style; in particular, the chapter attempts to analyze the main themes which include identity, solitude, propriety, sexuality, incest, magic vs reality and the circularity of time. It also discusses the use of magical realism notions in the narrative style.