

Abstract

The main aim of this thesis is to analyse and compare in various aspects two literary works *Tiempo de silencio* by Luis Martín-Santos and *El árbol de la ciencia* by Pío Baroja. The work focuses on the social decadence of the society, mainly in the field of science and its insufficiency. In spite of the fifty year, the works of art are linked with similar problems in the area of science. These works of art have many similarities, such as the autobiographical style, the lack of science in the time period and the tragic destiny of the main characters. Baroja, with The Generation 98, considered the topic of science to be very important and due to the underdeveloped state of science in Spain in comparison to the rest of Europe, Spain had to face to the strong criticism. Martín-Santos also shared these views on science and even though he criticised Baroja for his political views, there was still a considerably influence in his first book.

Key words: *Tiempo de silencio*, *El árbol de la ciencia*, Generation of, 98, science, social decadence