

Rosario Castellanos (1925-1974) was a significant Mexican writer. She engaged in all the literary genres: lyrical poetry, narrative prose, essays and drama.

The main themes of her work were outcast groups in the Mexican society (a woman, an Indian) and also death as a part of life.

The first novel *Balún-Canán* (1957) contains certain autobiographical features from the writer's childhood. It is set in Chiapas during the government of Lázaro Cárdenas (1934-1940). It is divided into three parts.

The first and the third part are narrated in the first person from a seven-year-old child's point of view. These two parts are rather poetic since such an immature girl cannot describe all that is happening around her. The biggest part of the plot takes place in the second section of the book, which is written in the third person from the point of view of an independent adult narrator.

The topic of this novel is the decline of the structure of the colonial society which was the result of Cárdenas' agricultural reform. The novel deals also with the process of discovering one's self-consciousness.

Inspired by the events which occurred in Chiapas in 1867-1870, she wrote the second novel *The Book of Lamentations*. She shifted these events to the era of the government of Lázaro Cárdenas. The main topic is an uprising of the Indians against the white oppressor. The religious issues play an important role in this novel. The Indians want to be equal to the white men, they wish to have the same might and power and they believe that this power springs from the fact that Jesus Christ died for them on the cross. They crucify a little mestizo, however he does not rise from the death and in the result of his crucifixion exodus and diaspora of the Indian tribe begin.