

Abstract

The goal of this thesis is to map the portrayal of mestizo characters (sometimes also called cholos) in the literature of Peru and Ecuador, who take the long road to descend from the mountains into the big cities. Besides the stigma connected to their origin, they also have to handle the problems connected with being city people, and their task to find their own place in contemporary society. The most important sources are novels in which the main characters themselves, either with pride or shame, identify as mestizos. These are no longer the idealized archetypes of characters that are only somewhat of a bridge between a native American and a Creole. Through the heroes of these novels' mental diversity, which offers a number of perspectives, it is possible to watch an authentic display of life in the decadent city community of Peru and Ecuador. With the help of the analysis of particular works and recurrent motifs in the novels of the 20th and 21st centuries that constitutes the main part of this thesis, we will demonstrate their effort in finding and defining their own identity.

Klíčové slová v ANJ

Peru, Ecuador, mestizo, cholo, identity, The Andean Area, society