

Abstract

This thesis explores the presence of *desaparecidos* in the exile poetry of Argentine poet Juan Gelman, specifically in his collection *Open Letter* (*Carta abierta*). The aim of the thesis is to show how the poet works with the image of his son, who disappeared during the Argentine dictatorship between 1976 and 1983. In doing so, the close connection between Juan Gelman's autobiographical experiences and his poetry is considered. Because the poet wrote *Open Letter* in exile, the thesis places this collection in a typological context with exile poetry in general. In the interpretation of individual poems, emphasis is placed on Gelman's experimental language techniques and recurring motifs related to his son's disappearance, as well as the love and pain of the father. Special attention is also paid to the theme of memory. This thesis shows that Gelman's poetry prevents the forgetting of the crimes committed during the military dictatorship and reminds us why the struggle for humanity and justice must continue.