

While the first two chapters of the thesis provide the necessary theoretical framework concerning the classical detective story and the metaphysical detective story, in the third chapter this framework is employed to analyze the particular themes that are present in *The New York Trilogy* and *The Crying of Lot 49*.

To explain the metaphysical detective story, a step back to the classical detective story as its predecessor is required. To sum up the oppositions expressed in criticism dealing with this subject, the contrast between these two genres has been defined in terms of high art and popular art (Todorov), art and kitsch (Holquist), ontological dominant and epistemological dominant (McHale), postmodern and positivistic mode of thinking (Spanos).

The metaphysical detective story takes the conventions of the classical detective story and distorts them in order to betray the reader's expectations. Since the popular genres are constituted by their corresponding sets of conventions which need to be familiar, any change in them causes the work to lose its status as part of the genre. In this case, the classical detective story has served as a point of departure for many authors who transformed it into a completely different genre which had no longer anything to do with popular literature.

Classical detective stories are often included in the popular literature category because of their constant repetition of the same pattern and their sense of completeness. These stories can be consumed like fast food, since the point of reading them and the pleasure of it consist only in the gradual revelation of the solution. Once we know the solution, there is no need ever to read the story again.

The classical detective story follows the Saussurean view that all signifiers do have their corresponding signifieds, together forming the units of meaning, signs. The classical detective never fails to connect the signifieds (clues) with the signifiers and always reaches the final solution in the end which provides the reader with a satisfaction of bringing the world of chaos back to order.