

Abstract

The aim of this work is to capture and explain the motivic and thematic aspects of the poetical work of Rubén Darío. Rubén Darío has substantially contributed to the formation of the hispano-american modernism, that originated mainly from the literary movements of the 19th century in Europe. Hispano-american modernism has formally revived obsolete poetical structures of its time and has provided other Spanish speaking writers for enriching their writings with new elements.

This work then concerns itself with the analysis of themes, which have appeared in his writings most frequently. The motivic part of his writings was, especially in his earliest writings, deeply influenced with mythology, mainly the classical and the germanic one, but also with oriental art, and often evoked the environment of aristocracy. His critics have often declared those motives to be exotic as they were not common in Darío's times.

Finally the work is trying to capture the motivic and thematic shift between his fundamental writings, the *Worldly hymns (Prosas profanas)* and the *Songs of Life and Hope (Cantos de vida y esperanza)*. In contrast to the Worldly hymns, the Songs of Life and Hope decline to existentialism.