

## Abstract

The main objective of this thesis is to define narrative scheme and elements of the fantastic in the novel *Blank Gaze* (Nenhum Olhar, 2000) by a Portuguese writer, José Luís Peixoto. His works have been considered part of the *mythic narrative* current, which, according to a common definition, often draws attention to deformed values of today's society. For José Luís Peixoto, the fantastic, from a modern perspective, or neofantastic, an alternative means for expressing a need for belief in today's society. This fact becomes the main and timeless legacy of the work, and the reader does not be aware of details of religious rules.

After the introduction the thesis focuses on outlining the literary and historical context of contemporary Portuguese prose. The second chapter also pays attention to the biography and bibliography of José Saramago, both politically and ideologically involved author. Similarly to Peixoto, in his works he touches the human essence and presents unconventional reflections about values of present society.

The third chapter tries to introduce Peixoto as an autor of *Blank Gaze*. It also mentions him as the laureate of the 2011 José Saramago Prize – a reward which is awarded to Portuguese writers younger than thirty five.

The fourth chapter discusses the beginning and development of the fantastic literature concept. It looks at it from a traditional approach and then is introduces the *neofantastic*. Its definition, together with Freud's term of "unfamiliar familiarity" as the core of the modern fantastic, is the most crucial element for a literary analysis of the novel *Blank Gaze*.

The fifth chapter provides general characteristics of the work, with special attention dedicated to the novel's formal structure and a literal analysis as such, according to its narrative schemes and modern fantastic elements.

The final chapter concludes this thesis with a statement that the fantastic in this novel is above all a means for communicating universal validity of principles of life. Therefore, the novel *Blank Gaze* can be looked at as a work of the fantastic literature.