

Abstract

The purpose of this work is an interpretation of the essay *Argiropolis* written by Argentine author Domingo Faustino Sarmiento. This work aims to determine the aspects of the essay and the utopia in Sarmiento's work; the interpretation, i. e. reading of the text in wider context, integrates *Argiropolis* into the contexts of the essay and the utopia in order for the present work to transcend the writing's historical ambit and portray the timelessness of Sarmiento's ideas. The first part of this work examines the essayistic genre, describes its genesis and sources in Europe and Latin America. This section accentuates the singularity of the Latin American essayistic tradition and presents the basic characterization of the form of essay. The analysis of essayistic aspects of Sarmiento's book is based on characteristic attributes of the essay. The second part of the work is focused on the utopia. In the context of the utopia, this work attempts to elucidate why Sarmiento preferred the genre of essay to the novelistic genre, while creating a book containing utopian aspects. The last part of the present work is focused on the peculiarity of the Latin American utopian thinking and includes the analysis of the aspects of the utopia in *Argiropolis*.