

This thesis investigates the principle of play in the diverse constituents of the modern novel, represented by the works of *Rayuela* by Julio Cortázar and *Tres tristes tigres* by Guillermo Cabrera Infante. In the chapter 1, it inquires into the conception of play in the point of view of the philosophy (mainly of Eugen Fink), sociology (of Roger Caillois) and psychology (of Carl Gustav Jung). In the chapter 2, it focuses from the point of view of the literary science on the play in the modern novel and it gives some examples from the world-literature. The chapter 3, which is the center of the thesis, applies the outcomes of the previous chapters in the analysis and comparison of the principle of play on the thematic, language, compositive and narrative level directly in the novels *Rayuela* and *Tres tristes tigres*, and on the finish it tries to formulate the sight of the world and the man in both works.