

Abstract

This thesis studies the relationship between Leopoldo Alas "Clarín" and German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, and examines how it is reflected in Clarín's literary work. This paper focuses primarily on his short stories. It comments on Schopenhauer's pessimistic philosophy, contemplates its influence over Spanish background and subsequently investigates how Clarín approaches the pessimistic philosophy and Schopenhauer himself. The object of this thesis is to prove, that Schopenhauer's perception had significant effect on Clarín's philosophical development, which is also reflected considerably in his stories and novels. In the analysis which is based on particular extracts from the work of both authors, the paper observes analogical thoughts in genuine Schopenhauerian topics such as: will, representation, time, transience, pain, boredom, solitude, love, compassion or art (music). At the same time it points out the fact, that the concurrence with Schopenhauer is the strongest in those stories in which the author displays exceptional deal of empathy with the endless pain of the human race. This study finds the key to Clarín's "sentimentalism" in this very honest compassion.