

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to reveal motifs of existentialism in the novel *El túnel*, the introductory part to a cycle of three connected novels written by the Argentinean author Ernesto Sabato. In the opening chapter we concentrate on the approximate delineation of the movement, since the disunity of opinions on the topic cannot provide an exact definition. The following chapter is dedicated to Sabato's life's milestones, the circumstances of the novel's origins and to specific attributes of his novelistic work. The theoretical knowledge lays the foundation for the analysis, which is the third and most important chapter of this work. First of all we concentrate on the main male character, Juan Pablo Castel, who is also the narrator of the whole story. Subsequently María is introduced and the development of their peculiar relationship is described. The final part of this chapter deals with a few other existentialist aspects: the way characters interact, dreams of Juan Pablo and the motif of blindness.