

## Abstract

This master's thesis aims to compare Horacio Quiroga's short story with a general theory of the short story and to juxtapose it with Quiroga's own *Ten Rules for the Perfect Storyteller*.

The first theoretical part looks at the short story from the point of view of literary history with a special focus on the differences between a short story and a novel. It goes on to give a short overview of the literary development in Latin America, outlining specific features of the given area and their influence on Horacio Quiroga's works. A separate chapter covers the Hispanic - American fantasy short story, its general principles and some examples of Horacio Quiroga's works. In the next chapter the paper refers to Quiroga's essays concerning theories of the short story, particularly *Ten Rules for the Perfect Storyteller*, aiming to introduce the theoretical concept of Quiroga's art of storytelling. *Ten Rules for the Perfect Storyteller* provides the paper with the background to interpret a number of selected Quiroga's short stories as well as to compare the theories of the short story between Horacio Quiroga and Edgar Allan Poe. Having briefly outlined the context of Quiroga's complete work, the paper identifies the main recurring themes and touches upon Quiroga's character in his short stories set in the jungle. To conclude, the paper looks at the author's own life to highlight its tragic aspect which considerably impacted on Quiroga's view of the world and the way his works feature some autobiographical components.

Practical part of the thesis is the interpretation of Quiroga's short stories *The Feather Pillow* and *Drifting*, both from the perspective of composition and style and the comparative point of view. A particular focus is placed on the way Quiroga's leitmotif is depicted in both works. The text interpretation is based on Quiroga's own theory of the short story, studying individual parts of the short stories and attempting to prove a connection with *Ten Rules for the Perfect Storyteller*.