

ABSTRACT

Isabel Allende: Literary Inheritance and the Establishment of a new Dimension in Chilean Female Fiction

Linda Waldron

This dissertation examines firstly the literary influences of Marta Brunet and María Luisa Bombal in the fiction of Chile's famous female writer, Isabel Allende. The extent to which Isabel Allende has contributed towards the further development of Chilean female fiction is also explored. The approach taken in this dissertation is that of comparative analysis and central focus is given to the areas of literary techniques, characterization, and themes. The significance of the approach taken in this study is that of highlighting the existence of a generational continuum between Isabel Allende and her antecedents of the early twentieth century, as well as the way in which the author has been able to acquire her own space on both the regional and international literary stages.

**Keywords: Linda Waldron; Isabel Allende; Marta Brunet; María Luisa Bombal;
Chilean female fiction; literary inheritance; the establishment of a new dimension**