

ABSTRACT

Women In Selected Works of Mariano Azuela

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The focal point of this study is the treatment which the major female characters receive in four novels by Mariano Azuela. There has been a resolute effort to demonstrate that these women have been employed effectively in the presentation of theme, as well as in other important literary roles. The study reveals also that these women are drawn from different significant periods of Mexican history and, in consequence, are presented in diverse ways, which help to provide a deeper insight into these periods of Mexican life.

The novels which have been selected are Mala yerba, Los de abajo, Las moscas and Regina Landa. Each novel depicts a different phase in the history of Mexico, and, therefore, presents the woman in a different role.

The study includes four chapters, each of which provides a detailed analysis of the women who appear in a specific book. Chapter One provides an examination of the author's portrayal of both the peasant women and the women of the hacendado class of pre-Revolutionary Mexico, in Mala yerba. Chapter Two examines the author's use of women to show the tyranny of the Revolution, as they are presented in Los de abajo. In Chapter Three, the parasitism which characterized the bureaucrats and middle class during the Revolution, is explored, as treated in Las moscas. Chapter Four reveals the author's use of a female character to expose and criticize the corruption and immorality which developed in post-Revolutionary Mexico.

The study shows that women were a vital and integral part of Mexican life and that for Azuela, an authentic portrayal of his society would not be complete without the inclusion of these women. The presentation of the female characters, moreover, demonstrates Azuela's great literary skill in creating characters, as we see the use of various methods and devices in his portrayal of Mexican women.