

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Narratives of Suffering: The Fiction of Adelaida García Morales**

**Jennifer Patrice Williams**

This thesis presents a thematic analysis of the fictional works of Adelaida García Morales, published between 1985 and 1996.

By means of a textual interpretation of her works, this thesis identifies and explores the portrayal of suffering as one of her major thematic concerns and as a unifying factor of her narratives. The writer's concern with suffering is studied in terms of its manifestation in the experience of the child and in that of the adult. It is also examined from a feminist perspective.

Narrative elements are recognized as explicitly thematic, as projectors of the human encounter with suffering, which is considered to be the overriding experience in the fiction of Adelaida García Morales. The writer explores the individual's emotional experience of suffering by focussing on the causes and responses to painful situations and by emphasizing internal events, such as thoughts, feelings, and perceptions, conveyed in the narrator's discourse.

This study demonstrates that it is through García Morales's handling of narrative elements, features of various genres, such as the Gothic, the fantastic, the *Bildungsroman*, and fictional autobiography, as well as intertextual references, that the reader is kept constantly aware of the persistence and the pervasiveness of the experience of suffering in human existence.