

## **Constructing the reader in Borges' detective narratives. Theory and practice of, a minor genre?**

### *Abstract:*

Borges' detective stories contributed to the evolution of the reception this genre. In his essays, the Argentinean writer pondered on the characteristics of a narrative which was often undervalued. The author of "La muerte y la brújula" ("Death and the compass") studied the type of reader that the detective story constructs, which in turn led him to vindicate a narrative that, from his perspective, contributed the enrichment of the literary panorama of his times. Borges also underscored the rigor of the detective story, which he contrasted with other types of literature where, according to him, chaos ruled in the suppression of characters and arguments. Nonetheless, Borges undertakes a subversion of the genre that is patent in the story mentioned above, for example, in which the traditional roles of the detective and the criminal are questioned when these do not fulfill with determined aspects of the tradition (which the storyteller had already analyzed in his essays concerning Poe, Chesterton and Arthur Conan Doyle). The result is a new Reading of classical models and the problematization of the elements put into action in the detective story

### *Keywords:*

detective story, tradition, Argentinean literature, reception