

Space, language and identity in Luis Humberto Crosthwaite's *Estrella de la calle sexta*

Abstract:

The so-called Literature of Northern Mexico (*literatura del norte*) asks for a theorization of space in which the vicinity with the United States is a transcendent aspect; therefore, the images produced are related with the border and its peculiarity. This results in numerous ideological and linguistic variants, which in Luis Humberto Crosthwaite, are configured in the popular speech of his characters and in characterizations which present its conflicts in an extravagant and poetic Tijuana; the site of a clash which takes place between cultural elements of the English and Spanish languages. This article will analyze the thematic and formal affinities between a set of short stories by this author, which are united by its interest in the border area as its scene of transit, and convergence. The author of "Sabaditos por la noche" undertakes a poetic recreation, not a mimetic one, of the national limits, which is key for understanding its artistic proposal. The border, in Crosthwaite, is not understood merely as a scene, but rather as a core element for the story's construction and its appealing to certain significant elements. Before us, therefore, is a thematization of space and the union of universal and regional elements, which otherwise are considered mutually exclusive.

Keywords:

border, Literature of Northern Mexico, popular speech, *literatura del norte*