

## La virgen de los sicarios or the De-Composition of Power-Sharing (By José Manuel Torres Torres)

Following Foucault's ideas on power, understood not as an abstract theory, but rather as an analytic tool to reveal the functions of power, this article reviews the discourse in this novel as a critical exercise: on the one hand, from a historical perspective, it finds its roots in the making of the nation-state through a strong oligarchic dominion, and on the other, it shows a language that combines the standard Spanish of the character-narrator with the jargon of the underclass of Medellín. Power in Colombia is seen as shared by Church and State, and more recently, by drug lords, thus provoking a spiral of violence that to our days has found no durable solution. In that sense, it is possible to understand the actuality of the issues set forth in this novel, an actuality validated by the events presently affecting Colombia.

Key words: Foucault, State, Church, drug traffic, violence, Fernando Vallejo, Virgen de los Sicarios, Colombia.