

## 外国語要旨

学位論文題名 A Study on Rosario Castellanos: Living and Writing across Borders within Mexican Society.

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This dissertation assesses Rosario Castellanos's (1925–1974) achievement as a feminist writer in the Third World. As an intellectual and successful writer in 20th-century Mexico, she depicted various marginalized women in her literary works during the country's formative years as a patriarchal nation-state.

Because Castellanos' father was a wealthy plantation owner in Chiapas, she received a high level of education, unusual for the time, and finished graduate school in Mexico City. While continuing her writing, she held various posts including time as a government official, a university professor, and a diplomat. In many of her works which include poetry, novels, dramas, and essays, she crossed various geographical and social borders moving back and forth between the indigenous and the non-indigenous worlds, the local village and the big city, the First World and the Third World, as well as the government and the people. Under the country's strict censorship system and oppression such as abduction and torture, she persisted in writing despite the possibilities of facing serious human-rights violations. While Castellanos criticized the ruling party's policy on women, stating that it lacked concreteness, she also produced literary works that expressed her support for the contemporary regime. This ambiguous stance reflects her complicated political positioning as a female intellectual and writer from a wealthy family in the Third World. There are few studies that examine her marginalized female characters focusing on her complicated personal background. A comprehensive examination of her works and her background will clarify where Castellanos stands in modern Mexican literature.

This dissertation consists of two parts. Part One explores the background to the prevalent theme in her writings, namely the problems about women in Third World patriarchal society. In Chapter One, taking up the Tlatelolco Massacre in Mexico, I discuss the issue of censorship in Latin America and the complicated socio-political situation that Castellanos had to deal with as an intellectual.

Chapter Two explores her point of view regarding the indigenous people in Chiapas. Growing up as a daughter of an owner of a local plantation, she witnessed the complicated relationships of the indigenous people and their landowners which are reflected in her novels. Chapter Three examines Castellanos's view on female creative activities, a viewpoint she first explored in her master's thesis and later developed into a book about women's issues.

Part Two consists of five chapters on Castellanos's fictional writing, analyzing her female characters. Chapter Four demonstrates that her first novel, *Balún-Canán* (*The Nine Guardians*), published in 1957 in Mexico, describes problems peculiar to the Third World that cannot be articulated with the Western feminist ideas imposed by white middle-class women. Chapter Five explicates the historical background of the discourse of Machismo and then examines the male landowners in the novel. Chapters Six, Seven and Eight analyze aspects of women who are taken advantage of, and are marginalized by the patriarchal society. Chapter Six examines the sufferings of a "spinster" of a plantation owner family in *Balún-Canán*, who goes through an abortion, only to fall out of her own closed community. Chapter Seven further examines the situation of a "spinster" of an upper-class family who is neither able to sustain herself nor to escape from the local community under constant surveillance in "Los Convidados de Agosto" ("The Guests of August," 1964). Chapter Eight examines *Oficio de Tinieblas* (*The Book of Lamentations*, 1962), which raises the issue of childless women and their lack of self-fulfillment.

Castellanos was a part of the establishment as she came from a landholding family, privileged for generations in terms of class and language. However as a woman she was marginalized by the patriarchal society, never being treated as a legitimate successor to the plantation. Throughout her life, she traveled back and forth between the center and the margins of society as a result of the alienation she had experienced as a female. This dissertation presents the accomplishments of Rosario Castellanos as a writer who lived and wrote across the borders of Mexican Society. She constantly wrote about the problems of marginalized women in Mexican Society and her works are to be understood in the socio-political context peculiar to Third World patriarchal society. By so doing it is revealed that Rosario Castellanos was not only a feminist, but a Third World feminist writer.