

Abstract:

In this study, I will analyze the legacy of the picaresque genre as seen through the novels *Lazarillo de Tormes/ The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes* and *El Buscón/ The Swindler*, products of the society of Spain's Golden Age. This study will examine the relationships between social classes and how they are portrayed in *la novela picaresca*, in which certain injustices are portrayed by the *pícaro*, an anti-hero. The second half of the study will examine how *la novela picaresca* affected the society of Spain, both immediately and long term, in a cultural and literary sense. The first of the novels, *La vida de Lazarillo de Tormes y de sus fortunas y adversidades / The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes*, written anonymously in 1554, portrays society through the lens of Lazarillo, a *pícaro*. In the first *novela picaresca*, I will focus on the relationship between the Church and the people. The second novel, *Historia de la vida del Buscón, llamado Don Pablos, ejemplo de vagamundos y espejo de tacaños/ The Swindler*, was written around 1604 by Francisco de Quevedo. In *El Buscón/ The Swindler*, I will specifically look at the structure of the social class and the yearning of Pablos to climb the social ladder.