Abstract

The dissertation is dedicated to the critical study of Virginia Woolf’s short fiction, published in *A Haunted House, The Complete Shorter Fiction*, through the analysis of the creative interplay established with the main literary techniques dominant in the Russian literature of the second half of the 19th century, namely in Ivan Turgenev’s *Sketches from a Hunter’s Album*.

The dissertation is divided into three chapters, which together expect to provide an understanding of the complex historical and literary contexts of Russia in the 19th century and of England in the beginnings of the 20th century, in order to show relevant aesthetic features common to both the writing methods practiced by Turgenev and the new narrative instruments created by Woolf in her shorter fiction.

The first chapter is centred on the critical approach to the historical, social and cultural context of England at the beginning of the 20th century and of Russia at the second half of the 19th century, special attention being paid to the perspective of distance but also to the simultaneous proximity in perceiving reality and the nature of existence shared by both countries.

The second chapter forwards an analysis of the aesthetic and literary interplay between Turgenev’s writing and a desire to renew thematic materials and methods of telling a story cultivated by Woolf. Here, the emphasis falls on the study of correspondence, essays, diaries and other published materials of both authors, which help to grasp the nature of the literary relationship between their texts, as well as to verify the existence of important aesthetic elements, such as the use of the “hidden psychology” or the suggestion technique, which approximate their works of art.
The third chapter provides a kind of a literary dialogue between selected narratives of Turgenev and Woolf, in order to reveal, through detailed literary analysis, the nature of the aesthetic relationship established between writing techniques practiced by Turgenev in his literary works and the innovative narrative methods elaborated by Woolf during her writing career.