Abstract

This dissertation addresses the ontological status of the literary characters from the perspective of Miguel de Unamuno's philosophical thought. The aim of the thesis is to investigate and structure Miguel de Unamuno's ontological ideas related to literary characters, in order to read this author's short stories according to what has been established. The classification of Miguel de Unamuno's literary characters according to the ontological categories is taken as the methodology of the study. The different types of characters were identified and categorized through the analysis of selected works of this author: *Amor y Pedagogía*, *Vida de don Quijote y Sancho*, *Niebla*, the prologue of *Tres novelas ejemplares y un prólogo, Cómo se hace una novela*, *Sombras de Sueño* and *La novela de don Sandalio, jugador de ajedrez*. The method is enriched by the achievements of Unamunists devoted to the ontology of fiction of this author. The construction of the research tool was based on the basic categories of being, as they are understood in the analytical philosophy and theories of possible worlds. Narratological theories examining the construction of fictional characters were also used. The research work consisted of verifying which of the categories described in the research tool occur in Miguel de Unamuno's short stories, that is, in the analyzed corpus.

In the thesis, I established the classification of literary characters in Miguel de Unamuno's short stories using the perspective of the two main positions in the tradition of analytic philosophy: abstractionism and concretism, as well as upon theories of non-existent objects. This typology is complemented by a category devoted to the literary character of problematic ontological classification, and the character of Miguel de Unamuno which is a category in which one of the characters is named Miguel de Unamuno. Within the category of concrete entity character, I find the following subcategories: *noumenal character*, *temporal character*, and *real character*. The category of abstract entity character is divided into *independent creation character*, *dependent creation character*, and *the section that analyzes the situation of the reader in the textual world*. The set of characters of problematic ontological classification is determined by the following categories: *character in dialogue with the narrator*, *character-type born of a situation*, *character-tool to say what the author does not dare*, and *to investigate human reality*. In addition, I present the categories of *character non-existent entity* and *character-Miguel de Unamuno*.

It is worth noting that during the detailed analysis of the corpus, the category of the *character non-existent entity* was discovered in *El Redondismo*. The new category has not been included in any other study on the author and does not appear in any other work by Unamuno.

Key words: character, Unamuno, ontology, fiction