Latin American and Caribbean Literature Transposed into Digital: Corpus, Ecosystem, Canon

Adrián R. Vila, University of Buenos Aires, Chivilcoy, Argentina & Instituto de Formación Docente Nº 6 - Chivilcoy, Argentina

ABSTRACT

The aim of the present paper is the study of the action performed by the publishing industry in the context of the transposition into digital format of printed books comprising a Latin American and Caribbean literary corpus. The designed corpus includes works and authors labelled as a Latin American segment of the Western Canon, in addition to those segments provided by feminist, queer, postcolonial, and/or decolonization critical theories. It is described/defined the digital ecosystem to which the corpus is transposed as well as some of the strategies implemented by the major e-book trade platforms and the main digital libraries to offer Latin American and Caribbean literature transposed into digital format.

KEYWORDS

Digital Libraries, Ebooks, Harold Bloom, Latin-American Literature, Literary Canon, Paper Work, Sales Platforms, Transposition of Literature

INTRODUCTION

Firstly, the research was focused on the transposition of printed Latin American and Caribbean literature into digital format.

Secondly, it was established the terminological and conceptual clarification of definitions inherent to the literary and geo-cultural fields, such as Canon/Corpus; Latin/Iberian/ Latin America/ Latin America and the Caribbean; Latin American and Caribbean literature-among others. Thirdly, a literary corpus comprising Latin American and Caribbean titles (LA&CLC) was selected to undertake the research. Once the LA&CLC was defined and circumscribed, and the agent components and the features of ecosystem to which the LA&CLC is transposed, as well as the digital platforms and libraries where the search will be conducted. Finally, it was decided how to actually carry on the field work and how to display the data obtained based on the elucidation of strategies implemented by the publishing industry for the transposition of the LA&CLC into digital format.

DESIGNING A LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN LITERARY CORPUS (LA&CLC)

The LA&CLC arises from the survey of heterogeneous Latin American and Caribbean literary documentary sources (repertoires, essays, anthologies, articles, memoirs, catalogues, dictionaries) which differ from each other, as well as the perspectives and criteria for selecting authors and works produced by the sources themselves.

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• The 18 authors and 36 works that Harold Bloom includes in the Latin American segment of his Western Canon were included as well as the 5 authors and 7 works he introduces in the Caribbean segment (West Indian), i.e., 43 titles and 23 authors.

• The *Diccionario de autores latinoamericanos* (Dictionary of Latin American Authors) by César Aira contributes substantially to the incorporation of authors, playwrights, poets, novelists, short story writers, scientists, historians, chroniclers, journalists and essayists. Authors emerged since 1985 are excluded. It furnishes 11,102 titles by 1,322 authors.

• The *Diccionario de la literatura latinoamericana* (Dictionary of Latin American Literature) by Susana Cella brings a list of authors and literary works which completes Aira’s *Diccionario de autores latinoamericanos* since it includes authors born until 1940 or, if born after 40’s, those who were deceased in 1998. It provides 4,737 titles by 595 authors.

• The *Encyclopaedia of Latin American and Caribbean Literature 1900-2003*, edited by Daniel Balderston and Mike Gonzales includes works produced between 1900 and 2003.

• *Saraus. Movimiento - Literatura - Periferia - São Paulo. Antología* (Movement- Literature-Periphery-São Paulo. Anthology) by Lucía Tennina brings authors and works by contemporary Paulistas poets from the so called “marginalia”. It provides 58 titles by 38 authors.

• *De la Tricolor a la Wiphala. Narrativa contemporánea de Bolivia*, (From Tricolor to Wiphala. Contemporary Narrative from Bolivia) by Sergio Di Nucci, Nicolás Recoaro and Alfredo Grecco y Bavio furnishes short stories by Bolivian authors in a selection that displays the emergence of a new independent Bolivian narrative. It supplies 67 titles by 14 authors.

• *McOndo* (una antología de nueva literatura hispanoamericana- An Anthology of New Hispanic American Literature) edited by Alberto Fuguet and Alberto Gómez contributes to this LA&CLC stories by authors born from 1959 on as well as not-so-well-known authors until mid-1990’s, and whose selection lays aside all traces of magic realism for programmatic reasons. It brings 17 titles by 15 authors.

• The *Manifiesto del Crack* (Crack Manifesto) supplies a list of 6 Mexican authors (Jorge Volpi, Pedro Ángel Palou, Eloy Urroz, Ignacio Padilla, Ricardo Chávez Castañeda and Vicente Herrasti), with a poetic program of Mexican narrative dislocated of time and space, and works produced after 1996 which display a split narrative stance for both Latin American magical realism and certain ‘light’ poetry (Ángeles Mastretta, Marcela Serrano, Laura Esquivel). It provides 22 titles by 6 authors.

• *1.000 millones: poesía en lengua española del siglo XXI* (1,000 million: XXI Century Poetry in Spanish) edited by Daniel Helder, Daiana Henderson and Bernardo Orge, provides a list of 33 Hispanic American authors born between 1980 and 1995, whose works were previously edited in digital format or printing. It brings 95 titles by 32 Latin American authors (one is from Spain).

• *Bogotá 39* is the result of a selection by the Colombian authors Piedad Bonnet, Héctor Abad Faciolince and Óscar Collazos. It incorporates 133 titles by 33 authors.

• *La gran novela latinoamericana* (The Great Latin American Novel) by Carlos Fuentes provides a repertoire of authors and novels from the perspective of an author of the ‘boom’. It brings 124 titles by 65 authors.

• A section including titles by Caribbean, Antillean and Guyanese authors, designed on the basis of the combination of the titles and authors comprising the different compilations, anthologies and selections: *West Indian Narrative: An Introductory Anthology*; the anthology *They Came in Ships: An Anthology of Indo-Guyanese Writing*; the selection *The Routledge Reader in Caribbean; The Companion to Anglophone Caribbean Literature*; the selection *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse* and *Jahaji Bhai: An Anthology of Indo-Caribbean Literature*, and the
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