Rubén Darío, Modernismo and the Construction of the Autonomous Literary Field in Latin America

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Abstract

In Latin American literary history, the advent of modernismo, a literary movement in prose and poetry which had its heyday around the turn of the nineteenth century and which should not be confused with European ‘modernism’, occurs not long after the genesis of the literary field in France, as it is described and analysed by Bourdieu in The Rules of Art. This paper seeks to apply Bourdieu’s theoretical framework to Latin America in order to generate a new reading of modernismo and its most iconic figure, the Nicaraguan poet Rubén Darío.