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Stockton Professor's Comparative Study Reveals Connections Between Language, Reality

Dr. Francisco Javier Sanchez's Latest Book Constructs Meaning in the Spanish and French New Novel

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Galloway Township, NJ- Language can be a powerful tool for writers. "Language has the capacity to reconstruct and modify any particular reality," said Dr. Francisco Javier Sanchez, a resident of Bayville.

Sanchez, an assistant professor of Spanish language and literature at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, conducted a comparative study of the written works of Alain Robbe-Grillet and Juan Benet, the acclaimed founders of the French new novel and the Spanish new novel, respectively.

Sanchez recently published a book, titled *Constructing Meaning in the Spanish and French New Novel: Juan Benet and Alain Robbe-Grillet*, documenting his findings.

Sanchez's book, which is written in English, compares and contrasts two distinct national genres through the writings of two innovative authors from different countries.

Critics have often generalized, Sanchez maintains, that both Spanish and French new novels are superfluous, consequently assuming that the novels lack substantial meaning. However, Sanchez shows that "meaning emanates from these texts when readers become aware of the functionality of language."

Despite Sanchez's observation that critics classify these novels as "models of art for art's sake," he exposes the significance within these texts. "These novels force readers to think about how reality is formed through a particular use of language," he said.

Sanchez explained, "I focus on the novelistic world of Juan Benet and Alain Robbe-Grillet and describe the major theoretical views maintained by these two writers."

He also takes into consideration the literary, social and philosophical background to their literature.

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“My inspiration and passion to write this book came from my deep interest in exploring the interconnectedness and relationships between language and reality. This led me to investigate writers who delved into these matters,” said Sanchez.

Sanchez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Universidad de Salamanca (Spain), a Master of Arts from North Carolina Central University and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently teaches a variety of courses at Stockton College on global literature, Spanish literature, language, culture and on the history of the Spanish Civil War.

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