

# The feminine representation and the Trujillato in the texts of Álvarez and Vargas Llosa



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# Content

- I. Inspiration of the study
- II. Purpose
- III. Research Questions
- IV. Historical Context
- V. Literary Review
- VI. Methodology
- VII. Analysis
- VIII. Conclusion
- IX. Acknowledgements
- X. Bibliography



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# Inspiration of the study

- We were inspired by the course SPAN 426 Hispanic Narrative
- We did not have knowledge about the dictatorship (The Trujillato)

# The purpose of the study

- Primary objective of this study is to inquire more about literary representations of women experiences and social consequences toward women of the Dominican Republic
- We utilized 2 fiction texts
- The oppression of the Trujillato is illustrated with anecdotes and the representation of the feminine body

# Research Questions

1. How the women's experiences during the dictatorship are relatable?
2. What were the consequences towards women in the Dominican Republic during the Trujillato?

# Literary Context

- “The Trujillato” Rafael Leónidas Trujillo Molina
- Late 20th century and early 21st century (1930-1961) dictatorship



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# Mario Vargas Llosa

- Born in 1936 in Arequipa Perú
- Obtains Spanish nationality in 1993
- Won the Nobel prize for Literature in 2010
- He represents the “Boom” of Latin America
- He was a politician and assisted a military college (inspiration)
- La fiesta del Chivo (2000)
  - Historical novel (The Trujillato)



Fuente Biography.com



Fuente Biografía.com

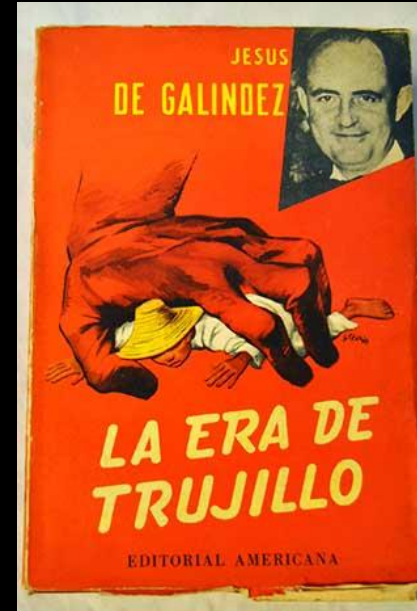
# Julia Álvarez

- Born in New York City in 1950
- Daughter of dominican parents (Dominican-American)
- Her family escaped in 1960 to the United States ( 4 months before Trujillo was assassinated)
- *En el tiempo de las mariposas (1994)* narrative genre that narrates the life of the Mirabal Sisters



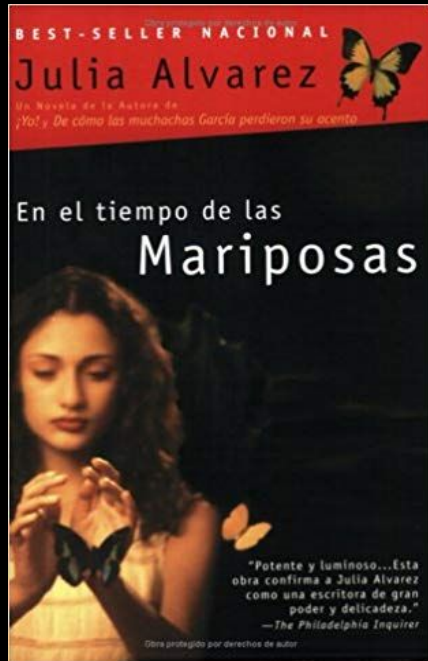
# Literary Review

- Fiction books
  - Jesús de Galíndez- *La era de Trujillo* (1973)
  - Julia Álvarez- *Antes de ser libres* (2002)
  - Junot Díaz- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007)
  - Luis Alvarez Lopez- *estado y sociedad durante la era de Trujillo* (2017)



Fuente Libros-antiguos-alcana.com

# Methodology



Fuente Amazon

*En el tiempo de las mariposas (1994)*



Fuente Barnes & Noble

*La fiesta del Chivo (2000)*

# Analysis: Rafael Trujillo



Fuente Blogs

- Rafael Leónidas Trujillo Molina
- Armed forces (military)
- Some nicknames: El Jefe, El Benefactor, El Generalísimo and others
- A person without scruples and machista
- El SIM: Servicio de inteligencia militar

# Analysis: Male Chauvinism

- “La universidad no es un buen lugar para las mujeres en estos días” ( *En el tiempo de las mariposas* 134).
- “Cuando descubrí para que visitaba el Generalísimo a sus señoras, los ministros ya no podían hacer lo que Henríquez Ureña. Como don Froilán, debían resignarse a los cuernos. Y, puesto que no había alternativa, sacarles provecho” ( *La fiesta del Chivo* 72).

# Analysis: Abuse of Power

- “El teniente García Guerrero le puso el caño de su pistola en la sien y disparó. El tiro lo ensordeció y le hizo cerrar los ojos, un segundo” ( *La fiesta del Chivo* 60).



Fuente Listin diario

# Analysis: The Role of the Woman

- The women in Latin America
- *En el tiempo de las mariposas* by Julia Alvarez illustrates the woman ...
- Gender roles
  - Everyday life
  - Politics ( The Mirabal Sisters)

# Analysis: The Mirabal sisters

- Dede Mirabal is the only sister that survived and she gives voice to her sisters through her anecdotes
- The assassination of the sisters was the cause by the involvement of the clandestine movement led by Minerva Mirabal



# *La fiesta del Chivo: Urania*

- She self exiled to New York at a young age because she was sexually abused by Trujillo
- She returns to the Dominican Republic at the age of 49 years old
- She blames her father for all the suffering she went through



Fuente Cine encuentro.com



# Analysis: Fear and Trauma

- “Más nunca un hombre me volvió a poner la mano, desde aquella vez. Mi único hombre fue Trujillo. Como lo oyes. Cada vez que alguno se acerca, y me mira como mujer, siento asco. Horror. Ganas de que se muera, de matarlo. Es difícil de explicar. He estudiado, trabajo me gano bien la vida, verdad. Pero, estoy vacía y llena de miedo, todavía” (*La fiesta del Chivo* 520).
- Both novels represent the trauma
- The trauma is towards masculine figures
  - The consequence of being sexually abused

# Analysis: Polyphony

- Polyphony- narrative threads within the texts

## *En el tiempo de las Mariposas*

- **Dedé Mirabal**
- Patria Mirabal
- Maria Teresa Mirabal
- Minerva Mirabal

## *La fiesta del Chivo*

- **Urania**
- Conspiradores
- Trujillo

# Analysis: Anachronistic structure

- **Analepsis**- A literary device in narrative, in which a past event is narrated at a point later than its chronological order place in story (OED)
- **Prolepsis**- The representation of a thing as existing before it actually does or did so (OED)
- Both novels are utilized to represent the trauma

## Conclusion:

- The day of no violence towards women
- The representation of the feminine body of the woman through the Mirabal Sisters and Urania
- The Mirabal Sisters museum

## Conclusion: Our perspective

- En el tiempo de las mariposas (1994) encourages the audience to initiative
- La fiesta del Chivo (2000) is a deeply profound novel because of the details it contains
- Both novels give a perspective of the feminine body
- Vargas Llosa gives voice to a narrative thread (Urania) en La fiesta del chivo (2000)

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