

# **THE AVATAR IN PANAMA**

**MODERN AND POSTMODERN DOUBLES AND  
DOUBLING IN ENRIQUE JARAMILLO LEVI'S  
WORLD OF *DUPLICACIONES***

**DENISE MACLEOD**

**Bachelor of Arts, Honours Degree, Flinders University**

**A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree  
of Doctor of Philosophy  
Flinders University of South Australia  
Faculty of Education, Humanities, Law and Theology  
Department of Languages / Spanish and Portuguese  
September 2008**

*To my other half*

<b>THE AVATAR IN PANAMA.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>MODERN AND POSTMODERN DOUBLES AND DOUBLING IN ENRIQUE JARAMILLO LEVI'S WORLD OF <i>DUPLICACIONES</i> .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Introducing the Double: The Seductive Paradox.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ORIGINS, PSYCHOANALYSIS, AND THE EURODOUBLE.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>1.1 Double, Double, Toil and Trouble .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Shadows, Souls, and Sinister Silhouettes .....	13
Self Love or Self Loathing?.....	16
Distorted Perception .....	19
Freud's Uncanny Stranger Within.....	21
Duplication, Division and Deathly Repetition .....	23
In Two Minds: Dissociative Personality .....	25
Fantastic Double Lives .....	28
Beside Oneself: Impaired Reality .....	32
<b>1.2 Fantastic Psychoanalysis and the Doppelganger ....</b>	<b>36</b>
Psychoanalysis on Tour .....	37
Emergence of the Modern .....	40
Fantasy and the Fantastic .....	42
Urban terror and the Gothic Shocker: <i>Dracula, Jekyll and Hyde</i> .	45
Folie à deux: "Le horla" .....	51
Myself, the Other .....	61
Substitution and Scapegoats .....	65
<b>DOUBLING THE AMERICAS: NORTH AMERICA, <i>MODERNISMO</i>, LATIN AMERICA.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>2.1 The North American Double.....</b>	<b>73</b>
Alcohol and Asphyxia: Edgar Allan Poe .....	74
Mister Mirror: Nathaniel Hawthorne .....	80
Death's Twin Brother: O. Henry.....	83
The Double Squared: F. Scott Fitzgerald.....	86
<b>2.2 <i>Modernismo</i> and its Masters: Darío and Quiroga.....</b>	<b>92</b>
The Latin American Short Story.....	95
Macabre Storyteller: Rubén Darío .....	99
Hospitals and hallucinogenics .....	102
Enrique Jaramillo Levi on Fantasy.....	104
Uruguay's Answer to Poe: Horacio Quiroga .....	105
The Dead and Dying: Animals and insects .....	108

## **2.3 Dobles and Duplos: Latin American Perspectives . 113**

Second Nature: Julio Cortázar.....	114
Dead to the World: Enrique Anderson Imbert.....	125
A Double Trilogy: Jorge Luis Borges .....	127
Dolls and Dummies: Felisberto Hernández .....	131
Brazil and Budapest: Chico Buarque.....	137

## **THE MODERN, THE POSTMODERN AND THE NEW..... 142**

### **3.1 Shoes and Mirrors: Images of Doubling ..... 142**

The Shoe: Putting Your Foot in It .....	143
Big Shoes to Fill: Selfhood and Status .....	144
Footloose and Fancy Free: Sexual Identity .....	146
When the Shoe's on the Other's foot: Shoes in Literature of the Double .....	148
Vecinos, Vigilantes y Vigilancia .....	149
Face to Face - The Reflected Double .....	162
Upon Reflection: Mirror Images .....	163
Looking-Glass Literature and the Loss of Likeness .....	164
Death of the Double.....	169
Portals and Palimpsests .....	172
Vanity, Fear, and Loathing.....	176

### **3.2 Double Whammy: Mixed Doubles..... 181**

The Case for Modernism and Postmodernism .....	182
Fictional Déjà-vu: Unity and Repetition in Enrique Jaramillo Levi's Work .....	185
Haven't we met? Reappearing Characters.....	186
Siblings, Objects and Offspring .....	195
Where or When: Setting the Scene .....	196
Double-talk: Recurring Words and Phrases.....	197
Encore: Same Circumstance, Similar Scenario .....	199
Double Vision: Iterated Images; Obstinate Objects .....	201
Recurring Concepts and Themes .....	203
Jaramillo Levi's Revisionist Texts .....	205
Textual Relations.....	210
Beyond Fiction.....	211
Strategies of Identity.....	214
Modern and Postmodern Selves .....	217

### **3.3 Reinventing the Double: The Avatar in Panama ..... 222**

The Old, the Borrowed and the New .....	222
Twice-Told Tales: Doubling and Multiplication of Texts.....	224
Literary Double-talk .....	227
Metamorphosis and Mutation: A Change for the Better?.....	230
Death, Demise, Disintegration and Disappearance .....	239

Tricky Texts: Multiplicity and Metafiction .....	247
Fused Fiction and Reality .....	253
Avatars and Alternates: Simultaneous and Subsequent Lives ...	257
<b>Concluding Remarks: the Paradox in Panama.....</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>i</b>
Appendix A1: Double-Speak: Interview with Enrique Jaramillo Levi.i	
Appendix A2: Dentro de los zapatos: Tres preguntas a Enrique Jaramillo Levi .....	i
Appendix B: Enrique Jaramillo Levi: Un hombre de letras.....	iii
Appendix C: Thematic Taxonomy of Doubles and Doubling in the Fiction of Enrique Jaramillo Levi .....	xv
<b>List of Works Cited .....</b>	<b>xxxviii</b>

*Psychiatry's fugues are literature's flights*

*Karl Miller*

## ***Summary***

The concept of the double in literature has long enjoyed controversy. Originally, its purpose was to function purely as a comic device or to create an atmosphere conducive to the theme of mistaken identity. As the artistic and social milieu changed, the double came to embody unconscious desire in the form of a projected second self. Although its popularity as a theme seems to have waned in recent times, the double has re-emerged with a new twist as it has moved into the realm of postmodernism. Panamanian writer, Enrique Jaramillo Levi, has become synonymous with the concept although to date the theme has not been researched at all in its application to his work. This thesis deals with the treatment of this literary device in the work of Jaramillo Levi from a modern and postmodern perspective by using representative writers from around the world.

I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

.....

### ***Acknowledgements***

I would sincerely like to thank my supervisors, Dr. María Elena Lorenzin and Ms. Fiona Taler, for the many hours of reading and advice given from various parts of the globe. Without them, I may not have made it through.

Thank you also to Dr. Ian Ravenscroft for his understanding and support during my many appeals for the endless extension.

I must express my gratitude to the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarship Office for the opportunity I was given to continue this journey with a Flinders University Research Scholarship.

A special thank you must go to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for encouraging and supporting me in my quest to continue my studies.