

Waiting for Godot Without Simpatía:
A View of Samuel Beckett through the Cultural Script of Hispanics.
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The aim of this paper is to explore why Samuel Beckett does not appear to have integrated into Contemporary Spanish Culture. While it is true his novels have been translated, his works performed in Spanish theatres across the country, there still remains little or no real interaction with his worldview. The author is hardly ever mentioned in intellectual discourse, apart from relatively few writers acquainted with his work, and once he is established as a ‘classic’ author, he is very much forgotten and left aside by scholars and academics.

In coming to understand the reception of Beckett in Spain especially *Waiting for Godot*, as an emblem of his philosophical and artistic aesthetic, I propose to use the pragmatic concept of a *cultural script*, which recognises the varying linguistic conventions of different communities and appreciates the subtle intercultural nuances by detecting accepted patterns of social interaction for a particular group.

I will draw on one of the most influential empirical studies of Hispanic culture (“*Simpatía as a Cultural Script of Hispanics*”), which confirms a preference for and expectation of certain interpersonal relations known as ‘*simpatía*’. These discernible characteristics include the deemphasis of negative behaviour in negative situations, the emphasis on harmony and the externalisation of positive feelings. Furthermore, the research posits that deviation from this script or ignorance of these tenets incurs anything from stress and discomfort to complete rejection by Hispanics. Reading *Waiting for Godot*, through the perspective of *simpatía* as a cultural script for Hispanics, it is evident that Beckett’s characters fail to meet expected norms of behaviour that allow for acceptance and ultimately integration on a cultural level. Therefore, this paper sheds new light on understanding the reception of Beckett in Spain.

Short Bio:

Robert Patrick Murtagh is an independent researcher. He graduated with a First Class Honours Bachelor of Arts International degree from University College Dublin, majoring in Spanish with a minor in English. He was awarded the Bachelor of Arts Stage 2 Scholarship for the 2011/12 Academic session. His research interests are located in the field of Modern Literature with an emphasis on the work of Samuel Beckett, his reception in Spain and Translation Studies.