



Julian Barnes



Julian Barnes (Leicester, 1949-)

- A través de la ficción, Barnes reflexiona sobre el sentido de la vida y, por lo tanto, sobre la vejez y la muerte, dentro del contexto británico contemporáneo.

- La muerte es uno de los principales temas en la obra de Barnes, desde sus primeras novelas hasta la actualidad. Para Barnes, debemos hablar más de la muerte y desde la perspectiva de la muerte.

- En su obra, la ironía prevalece en temas como la vejez, la enfermedad y la muerte.

CITAS:

“Jean had often wondered what it would be like to grow old. When she had been in her fifties, and still feeling in her ghirties, she heard a talk on the radio by a gerontologist. ‘Put cotton wool in your ears,’ he had said, ‘and pebbles in your shoes. Pull on rubber gloves. Smear Vaseline over your glasses, and there you have it: instant ageing.’

It was a good test, but it naturally contained a flaw. You never did age instantly; you never did have a sharp memory for comparison. Nor, when she looked back over the last forty of her hundred years, did it seem to be initially, or even mainly, a matter of sensory deprivation. You grew old first not in your own eyes, but in other people’s eyes; then, slowly, you agreed with their opinion of you.” (*Staring at the Sun*, 1986: 139)

“Why make the assumption that the heart shuts down alongside the genitals? Because we want – need – to see old age as a time of serenity? I now think this is one of the great conspiracies of youth. Not just of youth, but of middle age too, of every single year until that moment when we admit to being old ourselves.” (*The Lemon Table*, 2004: 190)

“When I first came to mortal awareness, it was simple: you were alive, then you were dead, and bid the Deity farewell: Goodbye. But who can tell how age will affect us?” (*Nothing to Be Frightened Of*, 2009: 113)

“Later on in life, you expect a bit of rest, don’t you? You think you deserve it. I did, anyway. But then you begin to understand that the reward of merit is not life’s business.

Also, when you are young, you think you can predict the likely pains and bleaknesses that age might bring. You imagine yourself being lonely, divorced, widowed; children growing away from you, friends dying. You imagine the loss of status, the loss of desire – and desirability. You may go further and consider your own approaching death, which, despite what company you may muster, can only be faced alone. But all this is looking ahead. What you fail to do is look ahead, and then imagine yourself looking back from that future point. Learning the new emotions that time brings. Discovering, for example, that as the witnesses to your life diminish, there is less corroboration, and therefore, less certainty, as to what you are or have been.” (*The Sense of an Ending*, 2011: 59)



PUBLICACIONES:

- Oró-Piqueras, Maricel. "Exploring the path to death through Julian Barnes's older characters: between irony and melancholic meditation". *Journal of Aging Studies*. Vol. 44. 15-21. 2018.

COMUNICACIONES presentadas a congresos:

- Oró-Piqueras, Maricel. "Ageing and Wisdom in Julian Barnes's *The Lemon Table*". I Congrés Internacional INDEST: Desenvolupament Social i Territorial. Universitat de Lleida. 23 -24 November 2017.

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- Oró-Piqueras, Maricel. "Cheer Up! Death is round the Corner". Death, Ageing and Irony in Julian Barnes's Works. Trent Ageing 2019. Take Back Aging: Power, Critique, Imagination". Trent University, Peterborough (Canada), 28-31 May 2019.

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