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The Spanish flu and the fiction literature

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ABSTRACT

This review focuses on the fictional literature in which the Spanish flu is represented either as an anecdotal or as a historical aspect and the effect on the author or fictional character. We examine this sociocultural period in the press and mainly in Anglo-Saxon literary works and from other countries, including Spanish and Latin American literature that is not very represented in some international reviews on the subject. Also, we include books about the previous and subsequent influenza pandemics to the Spanish flu.

Keywords: Spanish flu; Influenza; pandemic; medicine in literature

La gripe española de 1918 y la literatura de ficción

RESUMEN

Esta revisión se centra en la literatura de ficción en la que la gripe española se representa como un aspecto anecdótico o histórico y el efecto sobre el autor o el personaje ficticio. Examinamos este período sociocultural en la prensa y principalmente en obras literarias anglosajonas y de otros países, incluida la literatura española y latinoamericana que no está muy representada en algunas revisiones internacionales sobre el tema. Además, incluimos libros sobre las pandemias de influenza anteriores y posteriores a la gripe española.

Palabras clave: Gripe española, gripe, Pandemia, medicina en la literatura

INTRODUCTION

"I had a little bird.

Its name was Enza.

I opened up the window,

And in flew Enza."

(Old nursery rhyme)

Flu has caused global pandemics over the centuries. In the 18th century, the influenza pandemic between 1708-1709 was not fairly assessed [1]. During epidemics and pandemics in 1847-1848 and 1889-1893, it was recognized that the respiratory complications of flu could greatly elevate the death rate [2]. Another pandemic has been in 2005, the avian flu, with the emerging cultural patterns and interpretative repertoires and metaphors [3].

The Spanish flu, in 1918, killed 50-100 million people in the World and, in Spain, caused as many deaths as in the Spanish Civil War. About the Spanish flu, there are different studies, this is not an exhaustive list, in the world [4-13] and in Spain [14-17] with its spatial-temporal patterns [18].

This pandemic has been reviewed from different points of view: sociological or historical and the origin of the flu [19-21].

This review focuses on the fictional literature in which influenza is represented either as an anecdotal or as a historical aspect and the effect on the author or fictional character. In neither case it is an exhaustive review, but it focuses mainly on Anglo-Saxon literary work and from other countries, including Spanish and Latin American literature that is not very represented in some international reviews on the subject. All literature books are cited in the Tables with authors and their books in English and Spanish and we include books about the previous and subsequent influenza pandemics to the Spanish flu.

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The name of influenza. The name of influenza is believed to have been used in the city of Florence in the 14th century (by Villani in 1358), considering that the disease was due to the «*influenza di freddo*» (to the cold) or «*di stelle*» (to the stars, by the astrological theories in those times) [22-23]. In 1742, Sauvage use the name «*grippe*». The terms «*grippe*» (French), «*to grip*» (English) or «*greifen*» (German) mean in Spanish «*agarrar, atrapan*».

Perhaps the abrupt way of presenting this disease on many occasions has justified the name «*grippe*», that in Spanish it was written «*grippe*» until at least 1925, and then with a single *p*. At the beginning of the Tolstói's book, "War and Peace" (1869), a novel that is the chronicles of the French invasion of Russia and the impact of the Napoleonic era on Tsarist society, Tolstói writes that: "On a July day in 1805... Anna Pávlovna had been coughing for a few days; it was a "grippe", as she said ("grippe" was a new word then, that very few used").

Another word in Spanish was "trancozo" ("strike with a bar"), "tranca" means "iron or wood bar" and from this word derives "trancozo" that is a colloquial name for flu.

Other nicknames were *Spanish flu* or *Spanish Lady*, also *French flu*. It appears that French journalists had, initially, called it the "American flu"; but the fact that the American soldiers were his allies in the warlike conflict advised not to assign such a link to them; and as there were also cases of influenza in Spain, it was decided to generalize the use of this expression, which was later assumed by Germans and others [22].

Another most popular name in Madrid, was the "Soldado de Nápoles" ("Naples soldier"), a popular song in the zarzuela (popular musical genre or "género chico" in Spain) called *La canción del olvido* (*The forgotten song*) due both, were "highly contagious".

Today, there are many authors who avoid such a name (the Spanish flu) and they aptly refer to it as the "1918-1919 influenza pandemic".

The origin of the Spanish flu pandemic. There are several theories about the origin: a) the origin could be in China and after in Philippines and the USA and the army in Europe. b) English soldiers in France in 1916, the disease soon spread to other neighboring countries (England, Italy, Spain) and to more distant ones (the USA) as a consequence of the displacement of the troops [22]. c) the regular arrival of Chinese workers to Africa and Europe, throughout those years, could have been the origin of an earlier introduction (coinciding with the war). And this is a very plausible interpretation due to the circumstance that the Spanish Royal Family and the Spanish ministers suffered the flu, in the month of May 1918, and could contribute to this unjustified name [21].

The flu in the Spanish King is debated, the majority of scholars think that it was a flu. For Cervera C [24] was scarlet fever: between September and October 1918, Alfonso

XIII had to interrupt this work and his conversations with Germany to stop sinking Spanish ships in the Atlantic. The "ABC" newspaper reported on September 30, 1918 that «*H. M. the King is sick with the flu. The attack is mild, and although his majesty has a fever, so far the ailment is of no importance*». On October 4, however, the official party pointed out a fact that indicates that the King did not suffer from the flu: a series of "scarlet fever eruptions of normal evolution" on his body. Skin rashes that do not fit with the usual symptoms of the Spanish flu, in the same way that the fact that ten days later the press continued to report mild fever and more skin problems does not coincide with the picture of this disease for Cervera C [24]. The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature of 38 °C or above, a sore throat and swollen neck glands.

It could be probable that these two theories may be both true, the flu can later in the course of the disease be complicated by scarlet fever in a percentage of patients. Scarlet fever circulating with chickenpox or influenza can be particularly dangerous. Another explanation is, although infrequently, the flu can take with an exanthematous skin rash.

The treatment and vaccines of the Spanish flu pandemic. The treatment was based in several substances and bacterial vaccines in relationship with the belief in the bacterial theory of disease: "Bacterial vaccines, some were derived exclusively from the Pfeiffer's bacillus, the presumed cause of influenza, were widely used, while others contained one or more other organisms found in the lungs of victims" [25].

The treatment included "symptomatic therapy with salicylates and quinine and codeine, for pneumoniae intramuscular or intravenous silver or platinum colloid, digitalis, alcamphor oil, or adrenaline, and bleeding" [26].

In the *Espasa* encyclopedia (popular Spanish Encyclopedia), it was cited that "the serums and vaccines inspired by bacterial associations are now abandoned"; and that "strychnine, oxygen inhalations, arsenicals, salicylates and bleeding are prescribed" [27].

Other treatments were vapors from aromatic plants, purgatives, sweats, medicinal plants, and hydrotherapy, strong showers with alternating hot and cold water, iodine, leeches, cardenal brand water filter to trap all microbes. Marañón advocated to use a light antiseptic nasal douches twice a day [19].

Loeb L [28] found "striking similarities between orthodox and commercial suggestions for treating influenza" in *The Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* between 1889 and 1919.

THE SPANISH FLU AND THE PRESS

The first reference in the Spanish press to an epidemic

outbreak in the Spring of 1918 can be found in the Madrid newspapers "ABC" and "El Sol" (*The Sun*), the latter one published its first headline about the subject on 22 May 1918 [18]: "What is the cause? An epidemic in Madrid. In June 2 of 1918, "The Times" in Madrid, talked about an epidemic with the name the Spanish flu and this name began to circulate and in August the 'Journal of the American Medical Association' dedicated its number to the "Spanish flu" [18]. An important book about the Spanish flu and the press is that of Davis RA [19].

In the Spanish press, it was the subject of attention with different comic strips that are not included in this work but that can be found in the digital newspaper archives [29a]. These comic strips remember the previous coloured engraved satires, in the Wellcome collection, such as "An Address of thanks from the Faculty to the Right Hon.ble Mr. Influenza for his kind visit to this country" (by Temple West) (<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kn2xshu9>) [29b].

THE SPANISH FLU AND THE RELIGION

The God punishes is a typical approach to the plagues and pandemics. This is just one example: In León, Spain, during the Spanish flu in his prayer "Pro tempore pestilentiae" ("For the times of pestilence"), the bishop: "exhorts their parishioners to repent of their guilt because sins are the cause of scourging with that God punishes us". Among the reasons cited by the bishop to explain the incidence of influenza are the desecration of holidays, blasphemy, obscene and immoral amusements and debauchery [29a]. And in Zamora (city in Castilla), with one of the highest mortality, there were a lots of Mass and the consequent spreading of the flu.

WHY DOES THE LITERATURE IS SCARCE IN THE INFLUENZAE?

Instead the literature of the plague (Boccaccio's *Decamerone*, Camus's *The plague*), or tuberculosis (such as Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*), the 1918-1919 pandemic have hardly been the subject of novel or realistic descriptions by writers. Could it be the coincidence in the time of the First World War with the most fatal stages of the pandemic that contributed to the desire not to insist more on the evocation of so many sufferings, and thus favor a deliberate forgetfulness? Stalin said: "a single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic", the little literature in the 1918 pandemic, perhaps was due to the "flu overwhelmed language in ways that World War I did not" [31]. The Spanish flu is called a "forgotten pandemic" [31], that's the difference for example, between literature of the Spanish flu and the literature of the World War I and the poets of the war. Or for F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway and John Dos Passos, the flu did not represent a topic in their novels, the Great

War could represent the newness material to build your novels, whereas the pandemic represented historical continuity of the past plagues and this matter was not modern for their literature [32].

In the essay "On Being Ill" (1926), Virginia Woolf lamented that flu hadn't become a central theme in literature [33].

Susan Sontag pointed out, "novelists tend to focus on illnesses that can be "used" as metaphors, plague with its medieval aura, cancer with its mysterious provenance, tuberculosis with its rosy-cheeked energy and Dickensian associations. These illnesses, unlike influenzae, carry built-in mythologies primed for literary appropriation" [33].

For Hovanec [34a]. "The flu acts as metaphor for the dehumanizing and denaturalizing aspects of modern life, which take on many forms".

But, since Woolf first complained about the lack of novels devoted to influenza, a small body of English, Spanish -language literature and other languages about the virus has arisen, some of them in relationship with the World War I. "The resurgence of interest in the flu during the 1930s may have been influenced by new developments in virology and influenza research" [34a].

ENGLISH LITERATURE (TABLES 1-3)

Belling [31] divides fiction representing the pandemic in two groups: the authors with "experienced" disease, or autobiographical works, and those with "registered rather than experienced" motifs.

The first group: authors who were alive at the time ("experienced") (table 1)

The best known is Katherine Anne Porter's novella *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*.

a) At the beginning, was considered not a serious infection. On 24 June 1918, the war poet Wilfred Owen composed an ironic letter to his mother and considered the flu something of a joke: "STAND BACK FROM THE PAGE! and disinfect yourself" [35].

b) T. S. Eliot makes a possible reference to the Spanish flu in his poem *Sweeney among the Nightingales*: "The person in the Spanish cape". Eliot and Vivien (his wife) caught the disease in November 1918 and he was working in his masterpiece poem "The waste land".

c) D.H. Lawrence suffered influenza in 1919, the flu nearly killed him, in a town in the United Kingdom, after the end of the World War I. In his book, *The Fox*, the soldiers begin to return home, and the shadow of the Spanish flu glides in the environment.

d) F. Scott Fitzgerald. He fell ill while finishing his novel *This side of the paradise* (1920):

"—He represented Beatrice's immortality, also

Table 1		American and British authors and their books (in chronological order) about the 1918 influenza pandemic (The Spanish flu)	
Title of book in English and Spanish (year)		Author (dates)	
Letter to Susan Owen, 24 June 1918', in H. Owen and J. Bell (eds), Wilfred Owen Collected Letters (London: Oxford University Press, 1967), 560.		Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)	
Sweeney among the Nightingale (Poem) (1918). Sweeney entre el ruiseñor. Not translated		T. S. Eliot (1888- 1965)	
This side of the paradise (1920) A este lado del paraíso. Trad. Hernán Poblete Varas. Ed.		F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)	
Three soldiers (1921) Tres soldados. Trad. Mary Rowe. Ed. Debolsillo, 2014		John Dos Passos (1896-1970)	
The Fox (1922) La mariquita. El zorro. Trad. Pablo Mañé. Ed Los Libros de Plon 1980.		D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930)	
One of ours (1922) Uno de los nuestros (Trad. Beatriz Bejarano del Palacio). Nórdica Ed.2013		Willa Sibert Cather (1876-1947)	
The green hat (1924) El sombrero verde. Trad. Eduardo de Guzmán. Ed. Lauro 1946		Michael Arlen (1895-1956)	
On being ill (1926) De la enfermedad. Trad. Ángela Pérez. Ed. Centellas 2014. Mrs. Dalloway (1925) La Señora Dalloway Trad. Andrés Bosch Alianza Editorial, 2012		Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)	
Look homeward, Angel; A story of the buried life (1929) El ángel que nos mira (Trad. José Ferrer Aleu). Valdemar Ed. 2009		Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938)	
Death in the afternoon (1932) Muerte en la tarde. Trad. Lola Aguado, Ed Planeta, 1993		Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)	
The doctor's son (1935) El hijo del doctor. Not translated)		John O'Hara (1905-1970)	
Pale horse, Pale rider (1936) Pálido caballo, Pálido jinete (Trad. Maribel de Juan). Circulo de Lectores Ed. 1992		Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980)	
They came like swallows (1937) Vinieron como golondrinas (Trad. Gabriela Bustelo). Libros del Asteroide Ed. 2007 Other Maxwell's books with flu aspects are: Ancestors (1971), So Long, See You Tomorrow (1996), and Time Will Darken It (1948)		William Keepers Maxwell (1908-2000)	
Letter to Lord Byron, poem in Letters from Iceland (1937) Carta a Lord Byron. Not translated The fall of Rome (1947) La caída de Roma, en Canción de cuna y otros poemas. Trad. Eduardo Iriarte. Ed. Debolsillo 2016		W. H. Auden (1907-1973)	
The Big Rock Candy Mountain (1938) La montaña Big Rock Candy. Not translated		Wallace Stegner (1909-1993)	
Goodbye to Berlin (1939) Adios a Berlin. Trad. María Belmonte. Ed. Acantilado 2014 The sixties. Diaries volume two: 1960-1969 Autobiografía. Not translated		Christopher Isherwood (1904-1986)	
The Case of the Caretaker (1942). In: Miss Marple's Final Cases and Two Other Stories El caso de la vieja guardiana. In: Tres ratones ciegos y otras historias. Ed. Molino 1957 Hallowe'en Party (1969) (Hercule Poirot) Las manzanas. Trad. Alberto Coscarelli. Ed RBA 2011		Agatha Christie (1890-1976)	
Memories of a catholic girlhood (1946) Memorias de una joven católica (trad. Andrés Bosch). Lumen Ed. 2019		Mary McCarthy (1912-1989)	

Table 1 American and British authors and their books (in chronological order) about the 1918 influenza pandemic (The Spanish flu) (cont.)	
Title of book in English and Spanish (year)	Author (dates)
The Autobiography of William Carlos Williams (1951) Autobiografía. Not translated	William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)
Anthony Burgess, Little Wilson and Big God: being the first part of the confessions of Anthony Burgess, London, Heinemann, 1987, p. 18. Anthony Burgess, Little Wilson y el Gran Dios: Primera parte de las confesiones de Anthony Burgess. Not translated	Anthony Burgess (1917-1993)
Unity (1918). Talonbooks, Vancouver 2002. Unidad (1918). Not translated	Kevin Kerr (1968-) (Canada)
Wickett's remedy (2005) El remedio de Wickett. Not translated)	Myla Goldberg (1971-)
This time of dying (2006) Tiempo de muerte. Not translated	Reina James (1947-)
October mourning (2006) Luctuoso octubre. Not translated	James Rada, Jr (-)
Kyrie (Messenger) (2007) Kyrie. Not translated	Ellen Bryant Voight (1943-)
The last town on earth (2007-) La última ciudad en la tierra. Not translated	Thomas Mullen (1974-)

love-affairs of numerous dead men who surely had never thought of him... if it wasn't appendicitis, influenza maybe".

e) Michael Arlen, in *The green hat*, the protagonist was inspired in the heiress Nancy Cunard, who caught the flu in 1919 with pneumonia and depression.

f) Virginia Woolf wrote an essay on flu, *On being ill*, and she describes the mental effects of disease. Her mother had died of influenza in 1895. In her diary writes: "Influenza, which rages all over the place, has come next door." "Rain for the first time for weeks today and a funeral next door; dead of influenza". She had several bouts of influenza: in 1918 was kept in bed 8 days, in 1920, 1922, 1923 and 1925.

In her book, *Mrs. Dalloway*, there are two flu quotations: "For having lived in Westminster—how many years now? Over twenty, —one feels even in the midst of the traffic, or waking at night, Clarissa was positive, a particular hush, or solemnity; an indescribable pause; a suspense (but that might be her heart, affected, they said, by influenza) before Big Ben strikes".

"Thus, when she said in her offhand way "How's Clarissa?" husbands had difficulty in persuading their wives and indeed, however devoted, were secretly doubtful themselves, of her interest in women who often got in their husbands' way, prevented them from accepting posts abroad, and had to be taken to the seaside in the middle of the session to recover from influenza".

g) Thomas Wolfe, *Look homeward, Angel; A story of the buried*. This is his first novel, a semi autographic story, covers the span of time from Eugene's birth in 1900 to his definitive departure from home at the age of 19. The setting is a fictionalization of his home town of Asheville, North Carolina, called Altamont, Catawba in the novel. Brother's writer died with influenza.

h) John O'Hara, in a short story *The doctor's son*. His father worked during the flu outbreak in the Pennsylvania mining and O'Hara accompanied his father on house calls. Here, O'Hara, as the narrator, adopts a point of view of observer not such as a personal or familiar victim also dramatizes another major public health risk: the gathering of crowds [34].

i) While *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* represents the best literature of the flu and perhaps the paradigm of the Spanish flu, there was a lack the interest on it, maybe the reason is the traumatic experience just of a person [36] and without importance in comparison to the World War I. Katherine Anne Porter, the author, suffered influenza at twenty eight years old in 1918, and her father had planned in advance her funeral. Twenty years later, she published *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*, a novella in which her autobiographical protagonist, Miranda, almost dies of the flu. The story closely follows an account of Porter's own illness and recovery during the pandemic, when she was working as a reporter in Denver.

j) William Keepers Maxwell wrote *They came like swallows*. A novel about a Midwestern family that falls ill

when the flu reaches their town. Maxwell describes the fever and the sleep. Mother's writer died by influenza and pneumonia and he caught the flu in 1918: "*My aunt put her hand on my forehead and got up from the table and took me upstairs and put me to bed because I had a high fever. And I think what happened was that I slept and slept and slept and slept*". That is revisited too in other Maxwell's books: *Ancestors*, *So Long*, *See You Tomorrow*, and *Time Will Darken It*. Uncle Wilfred, in *They came like swallows*, insists that the flu was purposely spread by Germans in U-boats, and seems familiar for us now, with the SARS Cov-2 and China.

k) William Carlos Williams, *The autobiography of William Carlos Williams*. Poet and doctor during the time he turned to the exercise of his profession wrote that, we doctors made up to sixty visits a day. Several of us lost consciousness, one of the young people died, others were infected and we had nothing that was effective in controlling "*the potent poison that was sweeping the world*". "*The war and the influenza epidemic, in particular, provided a collective trauma, Williams infected twelve people in his immediate family, including his wife and children*" [37].

l) Mary McCarthy wrote *Memories of a catholic girlhood*. She suffered influenza at six years, in 1918, and her deceased grandmother, mother and father.

m) Anthony Burgess, in *Anthony Burgess, Little Wilson and Big God: being the first part of the confessions of Anthony* wrote: "*In early 1919 my father, not yet demobilized, came on one of his regular, probably irregular, furloughs to Carisbrook Street to find both my mother and sister dead. The Spanish Influenza pandemic had struck Harpurhey. There was no doubt of the existence of a God: only the supreme being could contrive so brilliant an afterpiece to four years of unprecedented suffering and devastation. I apparently, was chuckling in my cot while my mother and sister lay dead on a bed in the same room*".

The second group: "registered rather than experienced" (table 1)

They are authors with recent historical fictions that attempt to reconstruct accounts of the pandemic such as in 2006: Thomas Mullen's *The Last Town on Earth* and Myla Goldberg's *Wickett's Remedy*.

a) Willa Sibert Cather, *One of ours* (Pulitzer Prize in 1923). She suffered influenza. The book is a contemporaneous literary accounts of the 1918 pandemic, on American soldiers aboard the fictional troop ship *Anchises*, bound for France.

b) Craig Dilouie, *The Thin White Line*. Fictionally documented history of an avian flu pandemic in 2012. He describes the fever and the sleep: "*...unconscious. I felt like Rip Van Winkle, sleeping through history*".

c) Thomas Mullen, in *The Last Town on Earth*, describes the bleeding, cyanosis and the quarantine in Commonwealth, a small town in the Pacific Northwest, to keep the influenza out of the town.

d) Myla Goldberg, *Wickett's Remedy*. She describes the death of her family. Both Goldberg and Mullen describe pulmonary congestion as a creature inhabiting the lungs.

e) Ernest Hemingway, *Death in the Afternoon*. He describes a Spanish flu death choking on snot.

f) W. H. Auden wrote *Letter to Lord Byron*, poem in *Letters from Iceland*, and another poem *The fall of Rome: "Unendowed with wealth or pity,/ Little birds with scarlet legs,/ Sitting on their speckled eggs,/ Eye each flu-infected city"*.

Auden was thinking in the Spanish flu.

g) Wallace Stegner, *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*, is a semi autographic novel. In 1916 he was trapped one day in the school due to the low temperatures.

h) Christopher Isherwood in *Goodbye to Berlin: "The whole city lay under an epidemic of discreet, infectious fear. I could feel it, like influence in my bones"*. Christopher Isherwood's time in 1930s Berlin, describes the pre-Nazi Germany. The book was adapted into the musical and the film *Cabaret*.

In your diaries, *The sixties. Diaries volume two: 1960-1969: "I found Dorothy well but shaken by flu...Gerald and Michael had flu..."* (January 1962). "*...but Michael won't let me see him because I might give Gerald flu..."* (March 1966).

i) Agatha Christie, *The Case of the Caretaker* (Miss Marple's novel) and *Hallowe'en Party* (Hercule Poirot's novel). Finding A. Christie in bed with influenza, her mother suggested she write down the stories she was so fond of telling. And so, began her literary career.

The Case of the Caretaker (Miss Marple cases): "Miss Marple smiled at him wanly from pillows. 'I suppose, really, that I'm better,' she admitted, 'but I feel so terribly depressed. I can't help feeling how much better it would have been if I had died. After all, I'm an old woman. Nobody wants me or cares about me.'

Doctor Haydock interrupted with his usual brusqueness. 'Yes, yes, typical after-reaction of this type of flu. What you need is something to take you out of yourself. A mental tonic.'

Hallowe'en Party (Hercule Poirot novel): "He has not got 'flu,' said Hercule Poirot. 'He has only a nasty cold. Everyone always thinks they have 'flu. It sounds more important. One gets more sympathy. The trouble with a cattarrhal cold is that it is hard to glean the proper amount of sympathetic consideration from one's friends."

j) Others:

-Kevin Kerr, *Unity (1918)*, a theatre work about the return of the soldiers in the World War I and the presence

Table 2A Other English books (in chronological order) about the 1918 influenza pandemic (The Spanish flu) and flu in general

Title of book in English (year)	Author	Plot's place
Hero Over Here: A Story of World War I (1992)	Kathleen V. Kudlinski	World War I (Youth literature)
Gracie's Angel (The Latter-Day Daughters Series) (1996)	Launi K. Anderson	Salt Lake City, USA
A Time of Angels (1997)	Karen Hesse	USA (Youth literature)
The Flu Epidemic (1998)	JoAnn A. Grote	Youth literature
Ghost Dance (1999)	Mark T. Sullivan	-
Ponies from the Past (Pony Pals #31) (2001)	Jeanne Betancourt	USA (Youth literature)
When the War Came Home (2002)	Sarah Ell	Auckland, New Zealand
A Doctor Like Papa (2002)	Natalie Kinsey-Warnock	Vermont, USA (Youth literature)
Marven of the Great North Woods (2002)	Kathryn Lasky	USA (Youth literature)
The Name of the Child (2002)	Marilynn Reynolds	Canada (Youth literature)
A Doctor Like Papa (2002)	Natalie Kinsey-Warnock	Vermont, USA (Youth literature)
Marven of the Great North Woods (2002)	Kathryn Lasky	USA (Youth literature)
A different sort of real: the diary of Charlotte McKenzie, Melbourne 1918-1919 (2002)	Kerry Greenwood	Melbourne, Australia (Youth literature)
When the War Came Home (2002)	Sarah Ell	Auckland, New Zealand
The Trouble with Jeremy Chance (2003)	George Harrar	Boston, USA
Joshua's Song (2003)	Joan Hiatt Harlow	Boston, USA (Youth literature)
The Sailmaker's Daughter: A Novel (2003)	Stephanie Johnson	Suva, Fiji
The Memory Quilt: A Tale of Friends And Family Lost And Found In The Great Cloquet Fire Of 1918 (2003)	Pamela J. Erickson	USA (Youth literature)
A Bird Named Enza (2003)	Dawn Meier	Story based in the influenza 1918
Divining women (2004)	Kaye Gibbons	USA
And in Flew Enza (2004)	Sherri Fuchs	Cincinnati, USA
Voices Airy (2004)	Catherine Karp	San Diego, USA
The Serpent's Tooth (2006)	Michelle Paver	Scotland, UK
If I Die Before I Wake: The Flu Epidemic Diary of Fiona Macgregor (2007)	Jean Little	Canada in 1918
Loving and Losing (2007)	Pamela Oldfield	England
Upon the Mountains (2007)	Gale Sears	Salt Lake City, USA
The Heirs of Ravenscar (2008)	Barbara Taylor Bradford	UK
War's end (2008)	Victoria Bowen	Australia
Hellie Jondoe (2009)	Randall Platt	USA (Youth literature)
Fire Angels (2009)	Joseph Richardson	Florida, USA
Fever Season (2009)	Eric Zweig	Montreal, Canada (Youth literature)
Pushin' Up Daisies (A Black Swan Historical Romance, #2) (2009)	Carolyn Brown	Arkansas, USA
Winnie's War (2009)	by Jenny Moss	Texas, USA (Youth literature)
Hellie Jondoe (2009)	Randall Platt	USA (Youth literature)
Fever Season (2009)	Eric Zweig	Montreal, Canada (Youth literature)
Fire Angels (2009)	Joseph Richardson	Florida, USA
The Keening (2010)	A.Lafaye	Maine. USA
Ambitious Love (2010)	Rosie Harris	Cardiff, UK
All That We Are (2010)	Elizabeth Lord	London, UK
An American Family Myth (2010)	Norine G. Johnson	Louisville, USA
Diamond Ruby (2010)	Joseph Wallace	New York, USA

Table 2B Other English books (in chronological order) about the 1918 influenza pandemic (The Spanish flu) and flu in general		
Title of book in English (year)	Author	Plot's place
Wings of a Dream (2011)	Anne Mateer	Texas, USA
Like the Willow Tree: The Diary of Lydia Amelia Pierce, Portland, Maine, 1918 (2011)	Lois Lowry	Portland, Maine, USA
Home by Morning (2011)	Alexis Harrington	Oregon, USA (Youth literature)
Death and the Spanish Lady (2011)	Carolyn Morwood	Melbourne, Australia
A Bird Named Enza (2011)	Joseph J. Bakewell	USA
Palace Beautiful (2011)	Sarah DeFord Williams	Salt Lake City, USA (Youth literature)
Enza (2012)	Kristy K. James	
Foul Ball in Beantown (2012)	G.S. Rowe	Boston, USA
A Bride Sews with Love in Needles, California (2012)	Erica Vetsch	France and USA
Yesterday's Dead (2012)	Pat Bourke	-
Pandemic: Spanish Flu, 1918 (2012)	Sally Stone	New Zealand
The Flu (2012) (there is a confusion between bacteria and virus)	Jacqueline Druga	Ohio, USA
Yesterday's Dead (2012)	Pat Bourke	
Beret (2012)	Chris Womersley	Nueva Gales del Sur, Australia
Dunaway's Crossing (2013)	Nancy Brandon	Savannah, USA
Innocents into War (2013)	Murray Rowlands	New Zealand
The Wings of Morning (2012)	Murray Pura	Philadelphia, USA
Peacetime for Alice (Our Australian Girl) (2012)	Davina Bell	Melbourne, Australia (Youth literature)
A Bride Sews with Love in Needles, California (2012)	Erica Vetsch	France and USA
In the shadow of blackbirds (2013)	Cat Winters	
An Unmarked Grave (Bess Crawford, #4) (2013)	Charles Todd	France
The Romanov Cross (2013) / La cruz de los Romanov. Trad. Valentina Reyes. Ed. Algaid, 2014.	Robert Masello	Alaska
Horrors of History: People of the Plague: Philadelphia Flu Epidemic 1918 (2014)	T. Neill Anderson	Philadelphia, USA Youth literature
The given day (2008)/ Cualquier otro día. Trad. Carlos Milla Soler y Ferrer Marrades. RBA Libros, 2014.	Dennis Lehane	Boston, USA
The Goodbye Season (2015)	Marian Hale	
In a Gilded Cage (Molly Murphy Mysteries #8) (2015)	Rhys Bowen	New York, USA
The uninvited (2015)	Cat Winters	USA
A beatiful posion (2017)	Lydia Kang	New York, USA
One for Sorrow: A Ghost Story (2018)	Mary Downing Hahn	USA (Youth literature)
Light Over Water (ebook)	Noelle Carle	Maine, USA

of the Spanish flu

-James Reina, *This time of dying* and *October mourning*

-Ellen Bryant Voight, *Kyrie*, cycle of poems, is part of the 2007 poetry compilation "*Messenger*" that gives voice

to American victims of the Spanish flu.

k) Below is a short list of other writers with an experience with the Spanish flu:

-Raymond Chandler Chandler was sent to the infirmary twice in England, in July and October 1918. Each time,

Table 3 American authors and their books (in chronological order) about the influenza pandemic (genetic manipulation of the virus and bioterrorism)

Title of book in English and Spanish (year)	Author (dates)	Plot
Ninth day of creation (1998) El noveno día de la creación. Not translated	Leonard Crane	Genetic manipulation of the virus and bioterrorism
The first horseman (1998) El primer jinete del Apocalipsis. Trad. Sofia Coca y Roger Vázquez de Parga. Ed. Planeta, 2001	John Case	Genetic manipulation of the virus and bioterrorism
Pandemic (2005) Pandemia. Trad. Teresa Camprodón. Ed. Plaza y Janés. 2006	Daniel Kalla	Genetic manipulation of the virus and bioterrorism
The thin white line (2008) La delgada línea blanca. Not translated	Craig DiLouie	Avian influenza pandemic
Hidden and imminent dangers (2009) Peligros ocultos inminentes. Not translated	D. W. Hardin	Avian influenza pandemic
The Jakarta Pandemic (2010/2012) La pandemia de Jakarta. Not translated	Steven Konkoly	Avian influenza pandemic
The Stand (1978) Apocalipsis. Trad. Lorenzo Cortina. Ed. DeBolsillo, 2003	Stephen King	Post-apocalyptic pandemic
Flu (2010), Fever (2011) Pandemia. Dolmen Ed.2011	Wayne Simmons	Belfast pandemic and Zombi story
Station Eleven (2014) Estación once. Traductor: María del Puerto Barruetaña Díez. Ed. Kailas 2015	Emily St. John Mandel	Pandemic in Michigan, USA
Pandemia (2015) (in French) Pandemia. Trad. Joan Riambau Möller. Ed. Planeta, 2017	Franck Thilliez	-
The Cobra Event (1998) Operación Cobra. Trad. Javier Guerrero Jimeno. Ed. B 2001.	Richard Preston	A terrorism release of a fictional virus (not influenza) combining various qualities of different diseases upon New York City,

he recovered after six days. The digitized military records reveal two bouts with influenza during the peak of the deadly pandemic (<http://www.thekeptgirl.com/2017/07/the-clews-from-raymond-chandlers-war.html>).

-Arthur Conan Doyle stopped writing fiction, after losing his son with the Spanish flu, and went to spiritualism.

-Hilda Doolittle was nearly to die with the Spanish flu

-John Dos Passos perhaps saved his life, as he contracted it on a military transport while crossing the Atlantic to fight in Europe.

-Dashiell Hammett enlisted in the United States Army, and in 1918 was afflicted during that time with the Spanish flu and later contracted tuberculosis.

-W. B. Yeast took care of his pregnant wife through the illness

l) Writers died in the Spanish flu pandemic:

-Randolph Bourne, American progressive writer and

public intellectual, (December 22, 1918)

-Bernard Capes, British Victorian novelist (2 November 1918)

-Stephen Sydney Reynolds, English writer, (February 14, 1919)

In tables 2A and 2B, we show a list the other authors and books, and in table 3 books in relationship with the genetic manipulation and bioterrorism.

WORLDWIDE LITERATURE (TABLE 4)

a) Johan Olof Wallin, Swedish minister, orator and poet, in his poem *The Angel of Death: "Those plagues of night and of desolation"*.

b) Leon Tolstoi, *War and Peace*. The plot is in July 1805

c) Sforim, *Tales of Mendele*, describes the flu in Odesa 1st October 1886. In 1918, the first wave of flu affected Russia in May, but it went unnoticed except in Odessa, where

Table 4 Other worldwide authors and their books (in chronological order) about the influenza

Title of book in English (Original title) and Spanish (year)	Author (dates) (country)
The Angel of Death (1838). Jefferson Publication, 2016 El angel de la muerte. Not translated	Johan Olof Wallin (1779-1839) (Sweden)
War and Peace (1869) (Voiná I mir) Guerra y Paz. Trad. Lydia Kúper. Ed Mario Muchnik 2010.	Leon Tolstoi (1828-1910) (Russia)
Tales of Mendele. The book peddler (1868-1888) - Trad. English Ted Gorelick and Hillel Halkin. Ed. Dan Miron and Ken Frieden. 1996 Historias de Mendele, el vendedor de libros. Not translated	Sholem Yankev Abramovich (Mendele Mocher Sforim) (1836-1917) (Belarus)
The red-haired girl (1908) http://www.radixlab.net/andraslasso/sites/default/files/Hungarian-Short-Stories.pdf La chica pelirroja. Not translated	Géza Csáth (1887-1918) (Hungary)
Letters to Felice (1912-1917) (Briefe an Felice und andere. Korrespondenz aus der Verlobungszeit) Cartas a Felice. Trad.: Pablo Sorozábal. Ed. NØrdica, 2013	Franz Kafka (1883-1924) (Czech Republic)
Storm of Steel (1920) (In Stahlgewittern) Tempestades de acero. Trad. Andrés Sánchez Pascual. Ed. Austral 2015	Ernst Jünger (1895-1998) (Germany)
Letter from an Unknown Woman (1922) (Brief einer Unbekannten) Carta a una desconocida. Trad. Berta Conill Purgimon. Ed. Acanilado, 2002	Stefan Zweig (1881-1942) (Austria)
The Wilko Girls' (1933) (Panny z Wilka) Las Señoritas de Wilko. Trad. Bozena Zaboklicka y José Ramón Monreal. Ed. Cátedra. 1993	Jaroslav Iwaszkiewicz (1894-1980) (Ukrania)
Love and Death (Ai to Shi) (1939) Trad. William F. Marquardt. Twayne Publishers, New York 1958. Amor y Muerte. Not translated	Saneatsu Mushanok ji (1885-1976) (Japan)
A life Misspent (memoir) (1939) Una vida malgastada. Not translated	Suryakant Tripathi (Nirala) (1896-1961) (India)
Cevdet and sons (Not translated in English) (1982) (Cevdet Bey ve O ulları) Cevdet Bey e hijos. Trad. Rafael Carpintero. Ed. Random House Mondadori 2013	Orhan Pamuk (1952-) (Turkey)
The club of angels (1998) (O clube dos anjos) El club de los ángeles. Trad. Juan Carlos Gentile Vitale. Ed. Plaza y Janés 2001	Luis Fernando Verissimo (1936-) (Brazil)
Moonstone – The Boy Who Never Was (2013) ("Mánasteinn – drengurinn sem aldrei var til"). El chico que nunca existió. Trad. Enrique Bernádez. Ed Letras Nórdicas, 2016	Sjón (Sigurjón Birgir Sigurðsson) (1962-) (Iceland)

with the ongoing Russian civil war, it had a major problem of food shortages and the existence of gangster gangs. Due to its strategic position and suffering from different infections throughout history with quarantines since the time of Catherine the Great, Iliá Mechnikov chose Odessa in 1886 as the first center of disease control (Bacteriological Institute) of Russia with vaccinations against the rage. His assistant Yakóv Bardakh continued his work investigating anthrax, typhoid, cholera, malaria and tuberculosis. Bardakh's Jewish origin led to his dismissal and one of his students, Stefansky, was put in his place, but his fame was so great that he was the most famous doctor in southern Russia. The arrival of the Spanish flu (*ispanka*) and other infections such as cholera and typhus made Odesa

a chaotic city and many did not want to listen to the rational explanations for the reason for that epidemic, so on October 1 was celebrated the first black wedding (*shvartze khasene* in Yiddish). Sforim recounts the first black wedding in his book: It was a Jewish ritual to protect themselves from deadly epidemics, consisting of looking for a boyfriend and girlfriend among the most disadvantaged in the city (crippled or destitute) and marrying them in a cemetery [20].

d) Géza Csáth, Hungary writer, in the short story *The red-haired girl*: "I had taken to my bed. I had contracted influenza. In the evening, fever developed. At such times it is as though the air has become as dense as oil, and everything seems to be swimming in a soft warm fluid.... I saw my father hurrying to

my bedside as soon as he was awake. He feels my pulse, examines my eyes and throat and then leaves to wash his hands... Having no appetite, I did not eat any lunch, yet my temperature went up again in the afternoon. I was gazing with tired, feverish eyes at the grey winter sky above the blank wall."

e) Franz Kafka, Czech Republic, in *Letters to Felice* (1912-1917). He contracted the flu in Prague on October 14, 1918 and while in his sickbed he witnessed the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from his window. "Getting the fever as a subject of the Habsburg monarchy and recovering from it as a citizen of a Czech democracy was certainly overwhelming, but also a little comical" wrote his biographer. In: *Letters to Felice (18-19, XII, 12)*: "But, my love, I am writing so calmly here and perhaps you are ill. In the next letter to Schillings Flucht you get to mention the possibility of a flu. By God, my love to whom my life belongs, take care of yourself! I confess that when I think you are sick the first idea that comes to mind is not that you are suffering, but that I may not receive news from you, and immediately, under the harassment of despair, I feel mortified by everything around me. On Tuesday the sore throat gave way to a cold, which certainly represents an improvement in these chills totally unknown to me. Do you still have migraines, though? I am seeing how after closing the last letter you go looking for aspirin and you swallow it: I get chills".

f) Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*, about the Spanish flu.

g) Stefan Zweig, *Letter from an Unknown Woman*: "My son died yesterday. For three days and three nights I have had to fight with the death that surrounded that small and fragile life. I sat next to her bed for forty hours, while the flu stirred her poor burning body. I held cold cloths over his boiling temple and, day and night, I held his uneasy hands.

I think I have a fever, maybe I even have the flu, which now goes door to door"

h) Jaroslaw Iwazskiewicz, *The Wilko Girls*, about the Spanish flu. The story of an ex-military man (Wiktor) who, after fighting in World War I, quelling the communist revolt in Russia, decided to return to his town, where he had a relationship with six sisters who each represent a different type of love. His cousin, the Polish composer Karol Szymanowski composed his opera *King Roger* in a Black Sea resort in the autumn of 1918 when he contracted the Spanish flu and composed this opera: "a sleepless Spanish night came to mind" [20].

i) Saneatsu Mushanokōji, member of the Japanese avant-garde Shirakaba, in *Love and death*, described the death by flu of a young's girlfriend.

j) Suryakant Tripathi (Nirala) (first modern Hindi poet of India). In 1918 many members of Nirala's family died of flu and there was not enough wood to cremate them. "My family disappeared in the blink of an eye" [20].

k) Orhan Pamuk, *Cevdet and sons*, in the 30s and flu:

"29, Wednesday

On Monday afternoon my fever rose to forty. I fell back into bed. Doctor Izak came. It seems like I'm having a bad flu.

Than disaster being here, in bed, tied its own hands!

-He has been with the flu for ten days and it still hasn't passed. It worries me.

I hope it's not the flu ... What do they call it? Spanish, Asian or than?"

l) Sjón (Sigurjón Birgir Sigurðsson), *Moonstone - The Boy Who Never Was*. The Spanish flu

m) Sigmund Freud, who in 1920 wrote an essay entitled *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (1920), in which he introduced the concept of the death drive alongside the sexual drive. At the time, he denied that, the death from the Spanish flu of his daughter Sophie pregnant with their third child (she died of septic pneumonia as a result of the flu), had any influence, but later admitted that perhaps it had something to do with it. The "fear of contagion" possibly affecting his scientific reasoning and resulting theories [38].

n) Writers died in the Spanish flu pandemic:

-French poet and proto-surrealist Guillaume Apollinaire (November 9, 1918)

-French witer Edmond Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac's* author (December 2, 1918)

-Margit Kaffka, Hungarian writer and poet, (December 1, 1918)

-Ivan Cankar, Slovenian Writer, (December 11, 1918)

SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE (TABLE 5)

The authors talk about the facts: "I caught the flu" in their diaries and letters, while mainly about the consequences of the flu in the novels and poems. The most important Spanish writers in this period and the Spanish flu are Josep Plá, Rosa Chacel and Miguel Delibes

The first group: authors who were alive at the time ("experienced")

a) Ramón de Valle- Inclán, an Spanish playwright, poet and novelist, *Letters*: "Letter to Don Julio Romero de Torres (a famous Spanish painter):

... I beg your pardon that I did not write to you before thanking you. The cause has been not having Josefina, in all this time, with a health day. All this as a result of a "flu" that left her very delicate" [39].

b) Josep Plá, *The Gray Notebook*. Josep Plá's diary wrote between March 1918 and November 1919. Plá caught the flu that year. Spanish flu caused the faculties to close and Plá returns to his town, Palafrugell, to the family home: "Since there is so much flu they have had to close the College... The flu continues to relentlessly kill people. In these last days I have had to attend various burials".

There are extensive references in the text.

c) Juan Pérez Zúñiga, *The fashionable illness* (Poem). He was a writer, journalist and humorist. He wrote this po-

Table 5 Spanish and Latin Americans authors and their works (in chronological order) about the influenza

Title of book in English (original tittle) and Spanish (year)	Author (dates) (country)
The search (1904). Not translated La Busca (1904). Ed. Cátedra, 2010. Other books (Not translated): Weed (1904)- Mala hierba (1904). The cape of the storms (1932) - El Cabo de las tormentas. The resources of cunning (1915) - Los recursos de la astucia. The Buen Retiro's nights (1934)- Las noches del Buen Retiro. The Monleón's priest(1936)- El cura de Monleón. Carnival's follies (1937) -Locuras de carnaval (1937). Family, childhood and youth (1944)- Familia, infancia y juventud	Pío Baroja (1872- 1956) (Spain)
Letters (1908) Cartas	Ramón María del Valle- Inclán (1866-1936) (Spain)
The Gray Notebook. Trad. Peter Bush. NYRB Classics, 2014 El cuaderno gris (El quadern gris). Trad. Dionisio Ridruejo y Gloria de Ros. Ed Destino 1996 (It was written in 1918 and 1919 but the first edition was in 1966)	Josep Plá (1897-1981) (Spain)
My Last sigh (2003). Trad. Abigail Israel. Ed. University of Minnesota Press Mi último suspiro. Ed. Taurus, 2018	Luis Buñuel (1900-1983) (Spanish film director)
The fashionable illness (poem) (1918). No translated El mal de moda. In: Cosquillas. Heraldo de Madrid (newspaper), May 27, 1918.	Juan Pérez Zúñiga (1860-1938) (Spain)
The flu (comic play in three acts) (1918). Not translated El trancazo. Ed. R. Velasco, 1918 Double pneumonia (comic play in one act) (1919). Not translated Pulmonía doble. Ed. Correspondencia Militar, 1922 (third edition)	Ramón López-Montenegro (1877-1936) and Ramón Peña (Spain)
Letter of Encarna (Elena Fortún) to Mercedes, since Santander, 8th November 1918) Carta de Encarna a Mercedes, desde Santander. 8 de noviembre de 1918) In: Los mil sueños de Elena Fortún by Marisol Dorao	Elena Fortún (1886- 1952) (Spain)
Against the epidemics: People beg for the veil! (a journalistic column in El sol Newspaper, October 24, 1918) Contra la epidemia ¡Se suplica el velo!.	Mariano de Cavia y Lac (1855-1920)
Select Greguerías (1919) (Not translated)- Greguerías selectas Other works (not translated): Social gatherings in the café Pombo (1918)- Tertulias en el café Pombo. The holy crypt of the Pombo (1924)- La sagrada cripta del Pombo. The bullfighter Caracho (1926)- El torero Caracho	Ramón Gómez de la Serna (1888-1963) (Spain)
The caciques (1920) La señorita de Trevezlez; y Los caciques. De. Castalia, 1997.	Carlos Arniches (1866-1943) (Spain)
The spaces of memory (The literary work of María Teresa León). Not translated Los espacios de la memoria (La obra literaria de María Teresa León). Ed. De la Torre, 1996	Gregorio Torres Nebrera (Spain)
Epistolary Perez de Ayala and Jesús Pabón (1936-1941). Not translated Epistolario (July 5, 1941)	Ramón Pérez de Ayala (1880-1962)
My idolized son Sisi. Not translated Mi idolatrado hijo Sisi (1953). Ed. Destino, 2003.	Miguel Delibes (1920-2010) (Spain)
Epistolary (years 1957, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1968) Epistolario. http://www.ffayala.es/epistolario/	Francisco Ayala García-Duarte (1906-2009) (Spain)
Letters. Not translated Cartas 1955-1964. Tomo 2 (Biblioteca Cortázar). Ed. Alfaguara, 2012 Hopscotch. In: Blow-Up, We Love Glenda So Much. Everymans LIB (2014) Rayuela (1963). Ed. Debolsillo, 2016 The pursuer (1959) (short story). In: End of the Game and Other Stories. PANTHEON PBK (1992) El perseguidor y otros relatos. Ed Bruguera 1980	Julio Cortázar (1914-1984) (Argentina)
How the tailor Bieito returned to hell (short story). Not translated De cómo el sastre Bieito volvió al infierno (1973), En: Antología de literatura fantástica. Ed. Valdemar, 1992.	Anxel Fole (1902-1986) (Spain)

Table 5 Spanish and Latin Americans authors and their works (in chronological order) about the influenza (cont.)	
Title of book in English (original tittle) and Spanish (year)	Author (dates) (country)
Acropolis. Aims International Books Corporation, 1984 Acrópolis. Ed. Seix Barral, 1984	Rosa Chacel (1898-1994) (Spain)
The club of angels (1998) (O clube dos anjos) El club de los ángeles. Trad. Juan Carlos Gentile Vitale. Ed. Plaza y Janés 2001	Luis Fernando Verissimo (1936-) (Brazil)
The luminous novel. Not translated La novela luminosa. Ed Mondadori, 2005	Mario Levrero (1940-2004) (Uruguay)
The year of the flu and other stories. Not translated El año de la gripe y otros relatos burgaleses Ed. Burgos : Rubio Marcos, 2005	Elías Rubio Marcos (Spain)
This America of ours. Correspondence 1926-1956. Not translated Esta América nuestra. Correspondencia 1926-1956. Ed. El Cuenco de Plata 2007	Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957) and Victoria Ocampo (1890-1979) (Chile and Argentina)
Mortal flu. Not translated Gripe mortal. E. Martínez Roca 2009	Pablo Caralps (Spain)
Pandemic alert?. Not translated ¿Alerta pandémica?. Ed. Meteora, 2011	José Manuel Echevarría (Spain)
The spring epidemia. Not translated La epidemia de la primavera. Ed Suma, 2018	Empar Fernández (Spain)
Mariela. Not translated Mariela. Ed B 2019	Yolanda Guerrero (Spain)

em about the Spanish flu that makes us think about the SARS Cov-2 pandemic (different types of theories: a bacillus, causes such as works or the water, a threat coming from outside, politics, and extravagant treatments). In two different centuries the reaction to them has not changed and for this reason we include the complete poem:

"There is no other way, gentlemen, / to talk a bit today too / of this evil, whose rigors / has all Madrid crazy. / The bacillus of the grip / has sneaked in everywhere, / like, with impudence, / we were talk yesterday. / But it is nonsense the number/ of causes that are blamed, / without rhyme or reason/ the evil that so bends us. / Many are not satisfied / if they don't blame the insane / bug to the works they do / for, the Metropolitan./ Another seriously say / that is in the water; divine/ pretext of many people to gorge themselves on wine!./ Someone, like Don Felipe, says (and not using your head) / that the grippe bug comes from a part of France/ and war has brought him. / But I don't know how./ They wouldn't have allowed, cross the border! / They also say with grace / that the tiny bug / is floating in the air / such as a zeppelin. / And you don't know who do you blame / the cause of evil Juan Creso! / Well, to the strike committee since he is in Congress. / And there are those who blame the bug/ of Lola Turrón's little toilet /, which, according to her boyfriend, / she is a filthy like herself / and she scare/ with soap and water / from the same day of/ his first communion. / And if regarding the origin / of evil lies so much today, / ¡The remedies that rule are/ its healing a charm! / People full of fear / say every nonsense .../ Ones, there is nothing

better / than cod with tomato./ Others take the job, / for the good of his skin, /sleeping upside down / inside an old closet, / and others heal with gum, / and others with hard asphalt./ Me, taking the evil as a joke / prevent it with bromide./ even when to sweat / I know there is nothing better / what to do verses incessantly / when you don't have humor ..."

d) Luis Buñuel, the Spanish film director, in his autobiography *My Last sigh*: "During the influenza epidemic of 1919, the terrible Spanish flu that killed so many people, we were practically alone in the Residence (Buñuel and Moreno Villa)"

e) Ramón López-Montenegro and Ramón Peña, *El trancazo (The flu)* (1918) and *Pulmonía doble (Double pneumonia)* (1919). These are two comic players in three and one act, both respectively, about the Spanish flu.

f) Elena Fortún, *Letter of Encarna (Elena Fortún) to Mercedes, since Santander, 8th November 1918*. María de la Encarnación Gertrudis Jacoba Aragoneses y de Urquijo was a Spanish author of children's literature who wrote under the pen name Elena Fortún. She became famous for Celia ("*What Celia Says*"), the first in the series of children's novels which were a collection of short stories first published in magazines in 1929. The series were both popular and successful during the time of their publications and are today considered classics of Spanish literature. "*The flu epidemic continues, and at times we are very overwhelmed and very sad and wanting to escape.*

Nothing serious happens to me, but what has been happening to me since the flu in. More and more cough, pain in

the side, more and fatigue, and, in the last week, fever and a hundred beats a minute".

"With such a terrible pain in her side, she took her to a radiologist, and to have blood tests done, and then she was seen by Dr. Ribas Sobera, with whom Asita worked, who said she had pleurisy in her right lung".

g) Gregorio Torres Nebrera, *The spaces of memory (The literary work of María Teresa León)*. Evocation by Rosa Chacel of the figure of María Teresa León in Berlin in 1932. Rafael is Rafael Alberti, the Spanish poet: "That girl who had developed so much beauty was there, in a hotel room, dressed elementally, typing hours and hours, during a long Rafael's flu"

h) Julio Cortázar, *Letter to Damián Bayón (March 18th 1956 in Paris)*: "And that's what we were doing when Glop gives up on not accepting the cold snap (16 below zero) and catches a fierce flu, complicated by liver."

i) Francisco Ayala García-Duarte, in his *Epistolary*, there are 10 letters dated between 1957 and 1968 in which he writes that he has caught the flu (years 1957, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1968)

j) Rosa Chacel, her novel *Acropolis* is a look at women and their stage of growth in a generation that lived the Spanish flu. It covers the period of the Spanish flu until the proclamation of the Second Republic ("Segunda República") in 1931: "It was not enough with the date, from 15 to 18, the years of the Spanish flu that we have just gone through ... Why Spanish? Who knows, but there's no smoke without fire... And after all, whether there's no smoke without fire or not, whether or not it is Spanish, the flu, ours, the one that we live here, in our neighborhood, in our house, was Spanish, authentic. The bug has a foreign name ..."

"... in this Madrid life, with all its bugs. Because the one with the flu is striking and he is listened to, he is treated, but Madrid life survives by force of ignorance ..."

"Timothy told me something that had happened in the months of his flu... He had suffered one flu after another during the previous year and the persistence of the feverish state and other symptoms had made him fear that it was a serious lung condition".

In the second group ("registered rather than experienced")

a) Federico García Lorca went to the Student Residence in Madrid in November 1919 but occupies it in February 1920, the delay could be due to the flu in 1919.

(https://www.granadahoy.com/ocio/Ano-Lorca-Federico-Residencia-Estudiantes-Madrid_0_1358564641.html).

b) Pio Baroja, with several books: *Weed, The resources of cunning, The nights of the Buen Retiro, The priest of Monleón, Follies of carnival, and Family, childhood and youth*. In *The Search*: "Manuel, the protagonist, I do not know if because of the flu or what he fell ill with and "he was close to two weeks with a very high fever, delusional."

The Cape of Storms: Juanito Vélez, a character linked to

the plots and union agitations in Catalonia, he died, far from Barcelona in Tuy: "There he caught the flu and soon after, tuberculosis manifested itself with very high fevers and vomiting of blood and in a short time died."

c) Mariano de Cavia y Lac, Spanish journalist that in your journalistic column entitled: *Against the epidemics: People beg for the veil!*, in *El Sol* ("The Sun") newspaper (October 24, 1918), he echoes the song of the "zarzuela" of Barbieri "Gloria and Wig" (*Gloria y Peluca*): "Do not cover your face/ pretty girl,/ that whoever hides the good/ God takes it away" and he changed it: "If you cover your face,/ pretty girl/ you will get rid of flu/ and scarlet fever". He was following Professor Marchoux's advice, in the Pasteur Institute, advocated wearing mask for the flu [19].

d) Ramón Gómez de la Serna, a Spanish writer, dramatist and avant-garde agitator especially known for "Greguerías" (a short form of poetry that roughly corresponds to the one-liner in comedy): "The flu is the fog of death, that little smoke that she also throws on the harsh days of winter"

"Some guys on the fringes of life, who seem to go down unspecified sidewalks, are household disinfectants. They pass with their big appliances on their backs talking about indifferent things to avoid the contagion of the epidemics that have just died out. They know that their path had to be secret so as not to startle the life of the street, which is neglected of all the problems and on which they are cast as shadows. They leave a wake of fallen microbes, but they are looked upon with benevolence, since they are heroic soldiers who enter the house where there has been a flu, and close the doors of the fateful rooms, and are inexorable executioners of evil in the hermetic rooms".

In *The bullfighter Caracho* (1926): "The sensible man maintained that if those misfortunes were exorbitant it is because he had been focused with a telescope in agony and that of a tuberculosis patient or that of a carpentry officer who dies of the flu calling his mother cannot be focused in this way").

In *Social gatherings in the café (Pombo)*: "Salvador sometimes has long absences. Pombo misses the little Satan who sniffs everything and is distracted from ideas by sniffing things, sensual and dissolute. It is that Salvador always has the flu, his grip is temporary, so Bartolozzi and Flu are also savior".

"Crespo: "If I had not said that the great Savior is Lucifer, I would say that this man is Mephistopheles, although of course Salvador is that in a very serious way with a black coat".

He also alludes to his chronic flu in one of his characteristic humorous notes (in *The Pombo's holy crypt*).

e) Carlos Arniches, a Spanish playwright. His prolific work, drawing on the traditions of the "género chico", the zarzuela and the grotesque, came to dominate the Spanish comic theatre in the early twentieth century. In this theater comedy, *The caciques*, released in Madrid on February 13, 1920, he alludes to the high mortality in old people: "MORRONES. – There is no

Table 6 The Spanish flu topics in the books and authors

Spanish flu topics in the books	Authors
Origin of the name	Rosa Chacel, Luis Fernando Verissimo
Superstitions	William K. Maxwell, Sforim, Juan Pérez Zuñiga
Epidemiology:	
-Crowds	John O'Hara
-Contagion (health professionals)	William Carlos Williams
-Quarantine	Thomas Mullen, Josep Plá, Miguel Delibes
Symptoms:	
-In general	Several authors: William K. Maxwell, Graig Dilouie, Thomas Mullen, Myla Goldberg, Ernest Hemingway, Géza Csáth, Orhan Pamuk, Josep Plá, Elena Fortún, Rosa Chacel, Pio Baroja
-Duration of the symptoms	Mario Levrero
-Mental effects	Virginia Wolff, Agatha Christie
Mortality	Mainly: Anthony Burgess, Ellen Bryant Voight, Stefan Zweig, Josep Plá, Carlos Arniches
Recovery	K. Anne Porter
Desinfection	Ramón Gómez de la Serna
Face mask	Mariano de Cavia
Hand washing	Géza Csáth

abundance of the elderly with the flu; but "ou" will see later the best I have found. And the boys are picking them up for me, my wife. I have told him to pay them six pesetas for half a dozen ... I was already nine when I came; but the nine of both sexes, as "ou" wanted".

f) Ramón Pérez de Ayala, in his *Epistolary* between Pérez de Ayala and Jesús Pabón: "I did not answer immediately because a whole month I suffered from the flu, which had me perfectly asthenic. The South American flus are very impertinent. I have not recovered yet, but I am improving".

g) Miguel Delibes, *My idolized son Sisi*. The novel recreates the situation experienced in a province by the flu and the quarantine. The novel in three parts (the first one between 1917-1920):

"-Oh, the flu! Said Cecilio Rubes. Since when is the flu a major disease?

Valentine said:

- This one right now is not a joke, Mr. Rubes. It is a flu that does not go away with two days of bed and an aspirin seal".

h) Julio Cortázar, *Hopscotch (Rayuela)*: "I will explode from an intestinal occlusion, the Asian flu, or a Peugeot 403..."

Julio Cortázar, *The pursuer (El perseguidor)* (short story): "You had the flu. Your better now?

It wasn't flu. The doc arrived and right away began telling me he liked jazz..."

i) Anxel Fole, *How the tailor Bieito returned to hell* (short

story):

"the gravedigger, seeing that the tailor apparently dead of the flu, rises, exhorts him to return to hell:

-Don't you see that I'm alive?

-Alive? You died of the flu complicated with pneumonia. Or do you want to know more than the doctor who issued you the death certificate?"

j) Luis Fernando Verissimo, *The club of angels*. Spanish flu or bird flu:

"When someone asked about Samuel's parents, he replied that they had died of the Spanish flu. And if someone remembered that it was impossible, since the Spanish flu epidemic had reached Brazil at the beginning of the century, he said: "Then it was Asian flu, I did not ask for documentation".

k) Mario Levrero, *The luminous novel*: "Many years ago, a relative dentist expressed in my presence the theory of that flu lasting three, seven or twenty-one days. The numbers are too cabalistic to trust them too much".

l) Elías Rubio Marcos, *The year of the flu and other stories*. Book about the causes that motivated the depopulation in Ochate (Treviño County, Spain), during the Spanish Flu.

m) Gabriela Mistral and Victoria Ocampo, *This America of ours. Correspondence 1926-1956*. Correspondence, where the flu contagion is counted

"I stay in bed with my second flu.."

n) Others:

- Pablo Caralps, *Mortal flu*. Use of a Spanish influenza strain, its spread and create one vaccine and two influenza drugs

- José Manuel Echevarria, *Pandemic alert?. A new flu virus in a pandemic in Guatemala*.

- Empar Fernández, *The spring epidemia*. The Spanish flu

- Yolanda Guerrero, *Mariela*. Spanish nurse in Paris, in 1918

Finally, in table 6 we correlate the Spanish flu topics and the authors.

In conclusion, we show the different literary works about the Spanish flu and an extensive list of them. All these works show the wrong idea of Virginia Woolf complained about the lack of novels devoted to influenza and we have contextualized the works with the historical situation of the Spanish flu.

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