SUMMARY

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TITLE: Strategies for showing otherness in the journalistic and literary output of Roberto Arlt.

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Roberto Arlt went down in the history of literature as a precursor of the Argentine avant-garde. In his works, which are so different from the works of his contemporaries, the reader finds an accurate depiction of Buenos Aires society in the first decades of the 20th century. The author’s innovative view on the city and its inhabitants was strongly related to his background, which significantly influenced the path he followed to be able to concern himself with literature. This different perspective of perceiving the world around him resulted in introducing into Argentine literature topics which had been unobserved, ignored or marginalized by Argentine writers. He drew attention not only to the alienation of man in a big city but also to the problem of inequality and social injustice related to ethnic and social background. He created the poetics of urban space description and he also raised the spoken language to the rank of the national language.

When analyzing the mentioned strategies of showing otherness in Roberto Arlt's works, I have referred to cultural theory of literature. The way the writer portrayed the otherness on a narrative level and built elements of the depicted world as well as the language enable us to perceive the author's consistency in striving to question the vision of society that was dominant in Argentine literature. Thus, Arlt undermined the veracity of identity discourse led by the ruling elites in the first decades of the 20th century.