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Conflicts and Contests: A History of the Filipino Novel in English

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Abstract

Since its first appearance in 1921, the Filipino novel in English has always existed at a disadvantage, having to struggle with the reading public's preference for writings in the vernacular languages, a small and not entirely receptive market, and stiff competition from imported English-language novels. What made Filipino authors produce novels in English, then? And why did they continue to do so in increasing numbers throughout the years? This essay seeks to address these questions by exploring the publishing history of Filipino novels in English during the twentieth century and by determining what forces drove the production of English-language novels in the Philippines.

Keywords





bibliography; book history; literary publishing; Philippine literature; quantitative analysis; twentieth century

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The literary genres the filipino novel and short story. A Brief History The novel in the Philippines was modeled after Western prototypes, but its roots lie deep in native soil. There is a tradition of local narratives—oral epics, ballads, tales, and other folk materials—to which were later added other narrative types introduced by the Spaniards, including metrical romances (corridos), saints' lives, fables, parables, and folk epics (pasyon). but enters into the motivation of the characters. their conflicts are engendered by political events.The Contemporary Novel Most contemporary Philippine novels are historical novels. In these. and the real conflict is the country's desperate struggle for survival. . A Short History of the Philippines. What we call "The Philippines" is a large archipelago comprising over 7,000 islands and 100,000 square miles. Although the national language is Filipino, there are dozens of other dialects belonging to the wide assortment of tribes and nationalities that dwell on the tropical, mountainous, forest rich Philippine Archipelago. For the next three centuries the Philippines were Christianized by an assortment of Jesuits, Franciscans, Augustinians, and Dominicans, who occasionally clashed with Spanish colonial rules on behalf of the natives. Yet aside from external invasion attempts by the Japanese, Dutch, and English, the three hundred year colonization effort was on the whole remarkably peaceful.