

How Telenovelas Function In the Latino Community

YARITZA MARQUEZ CAMACHO
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Telenovelas are very popular throughout the Latino community. Most importantly, they play an important role in communicating most Latin issues. Viewers watch and engage with this popular melodramatic medium on a daily basis. As a result, the telenovelas are valuable for the latinos. Telenovelas affect how societies view themselves. Moreover, they expose viewers to social and political issues with the intention of public discourse. My research explores a new member of the discourse community and engagement with Mexican telenovelas, which focuses mostly on their views of economic disparity representation, and how representations impact society and understanding of self.

There are various ways in which the telenovelas have been used for the exact purpose of language and writing. Often the telenovelas have helped and encouraged writers to start their writing journey to pursue their career. Delise Torres, a former writer states throughout her novel, *Why Telenovelas Inspire My Writing*, that she can relate her personal life with the telenovelas airing today. She begins to state in her novel, “As I’ve

started writing and creating stories of my own, I've found that my ideas are similar to telenovelas. They're romantic but also include a cast of characters and various subplots that cover the professional and familial, the friends and villains, the comedy and the tragedy." Torres uses the strategy used in telenovelas, such as drama and romance, to continue writing her articles and books. Not only did the telenovelas encourage Delise Torres from pursuing her writing career but it also served as the backdrop of her childhood with her close relatives. She writes about the relationship between the telenovelas and her personal life. When she was growing up, she would often watch telenovelas with her grandma and the telenovelas would always get them to bond with each other. Once she got older, she continued watching the telenovelas because it made her in a way keep in touch with her grandma.

When writing, writers often have the mindset of planning a phase of the writing process. Such as when they brainstorm they have to research, gather and outline ideas, and often use diagrams for planning their thoughts. They have to lay out a storyline in which sometimes it contains dialogue throughout their writing. Similar to telenovelas, they have to gather and outline their storylines before they start their set up. Most importantly, to have a telenovela it needs to include dialogue to keep the audience entertained. Also, It drives the action and propels the plot forward much faster than description. On the other hand, for writers, it's important to include dialogue because it reveals the character's traits. By doing so, the dialogue helps to reveal each person's real personality and voice to give the story realism.

People may say that telenovelas embrace their genre, and it has impacted

how people function. Telenovelas seem to allow the latino community to have a relationship with their loved ones. Olga Segura, a former writer states in her article, “Why telenovelas are a powerful and problematic part of Latino culture,” that the telenovelas have impacted her parents. She states, “For immigrants like my parents, who arrived in the United States with nothing, telenovelas allowed them to feel connected to the countries and cultures they had left behind.” The stories and narration allow latinos to escape and see that even if the telenovelas are streamed on the screen, they can feel that strong connection from the dialogue and storyline being used. The telenovelas are often a way to keep in touch with friends and family and especially for those family members that have emigrated. As it proceeds to be one of the most successful forms of entertainment, telenovelas continue to be a “therapy” for immigrants and their family members as it brings them back memories from their hometown and childhood.

According to studies, not only can telenovelas have family members feel a connection to their hometown but health issues have improved. According to the article, “Evaluation of a telenovela designed to improve knowledge and behavioral intentions among Hispanic patients with end-stage renal disease in Southern California” by PubMed it states, “334 ESRD patients and 94 family members and caregivers were assigned to watch a telenovela ('Fixing Paco,' a bilingual health education film) or receive standard of care at a transplant center or at a dialysis clinic...The telenovela group also had greater improvements in behavioral intention scores compared to the standard of care groups. Family members assigned to the telenovela group had significant

improvements in knowledge scores as compared to the standard of care groups.” Based on research, they’ve come to the conclusion that when watching a telenovela series about ESRD, the sooner they get their kidney disease, postoperative care, and proactive health practices improved.

In conclusion, Telenovelas have embraced tried-and-true plots, character tropes and tidy resolutions all lend themselves well to text generation. The fixed nature makes it that much easier to recognize successful outputs. Not only have telenovelas inspired writers to continue to write their articles and novels, but they also bring family members closer together that relate to the real life scenarios. The latino community and telenovelas have always had a strong connection due to real life experiences within the telenovelas. Such as real life events some examples include: teen pregnancy, romance, family issues, drugs and alcohol, etc. Telenovelas seem to bring the family together and hold a strong bond due to their similar experiences. Moreover, the latino novelas use language and writing to help the audience better understand the dialogue that’s often used to comprehend the language within the latino community.

Works Cited

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Author Bio

Yaritza Marquez will be beginning her sophomore year in the fall at Western Oregon University. She is currently majoring in Psychology and hopefully graduate with her Bachelors degree in Psychology. Yaritza plans to work at Kaiser Permanente after completing her undergraduate studies, and she aspires to be a Clinical Psychologist.