

Football novels and national image building in Latin America: translation and reception of Santiago Roncagliolo's *La Pena Máxima* into French and Dutch literary systems

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Since its introduction in Latin America at the end of the nineteenth century, football seems to contribute to the empowerment of different nations: good sports results may build the reputation of a country and/or mitigate the inferiority complex that Latin American societies generally have towards Europe and the United States (Wood). As in Latin America football intertwined with literature through an intellectualization process (Carrión) that was fostered by the end of the Cold War and of the “political” Boom-generation, football fictions frequently channel the dissemination of national images.

This contribution will investigate how such representations take shape in *La pena máxima* written by the Peruvian author Santiago Roncagliolo. First, we will demonstrate how this novel, which is built around the notorious match fixing of Argentina - Peru during the 1978 World Cup, globally emphasizes the risk of fanatic nationalism soccer entails. Moreover, this case will illustrate how the auto and hetero-images involved (Pageaux) link up with two different ideological views: while Argentina generally considers football as a means of national glorification, Peru adopts a more reserved position and mainly takes into account its intercultural relevance.

Secondly, we will show how these imagologic perspectives tie in with reception and translation studies (Flynn, Leersen, van Doorslaer). After having studied the reception of the novel in its source culture, we will analyze its French and Dutch versions *La peine capitale* (François Gaudry) and *Bloed aan de paal* (Peter Valkenet). As these languages respectively refer to a hegemonic and a peripheral literary system, the study of the strategies, the norms and the reception of these translations (Gentzler, Toury) will enable us to observe in diverse cultural contexts to what extent national images shift or fit in with the original concepts.

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