



## La lengua del ahorcado: anatomía de la burla en Historia de un idiota contada por él mismo [

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text (article)

Analítica

Published in 1986, just after Manuel Vázquez Montalbán captured the ironies of the Spanish people's disenchantment with the PSOE in his famous adage "Against Franco we lived better", and at the same time of the collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of several revolutions in Latin America, *Historia de un idiota* is, in the face of the mourning and celebration in half the world for so many disasters of the left, a provocation. A philosophical mockery of the double specter that haunts the West as the end of the century approaches: the specter of narcissism and melancholy. In order to explain this mockery, this sort of boutade or extravagant way out of the 'disaster of 1968', and to abound in the irony that socialism, still scientific and utopian in that year, by 1986 has become a sentimental and melancholic form of narcissism, this essay offers a critique of both the modern notion of cynicism and the figure most akin to the cynical movement, that of the trickster, all through an analysis of this self-inflicted farce by Félix de Azúa; for, as will be seen, his novel of a failed idiot who after multiple misfortunes attempts suicide is also his autobiography, from the time he was born in Barcelona in 1944 until he writes it in circumstances in which the ideals of 1968 have failed and in their place lurks the left-wing melancholy

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