

**Abstract:**

The thesis deals with the influence of the Mesoamerican indigenous cultures on the work of the Guatemalan writer Miguel Ángel Asturias. The main focus is put on the ancient Maya culture as the author had the opportunity to get very close to their cultural heritage. The studied books are *Legends of Guatemala (Leyendas de Guatemala)*, *The President (El Señor Presidente)* and *Men of Maize (Hombres de maíz)*. The first part of the thesis outlines the author's life and highlights his connection with the Maya culture. The second part of the thesis briefly presents the native cultures of Guatemala whilst the final, third part of the work is dedicated to the analysis of the influence of these cultures on Asturias' literary creation itself.

**Key words:**

Miguel Ángel Asturias, Hispanic-American literature, the Maya, cultural influence, nature