

Worlds Made of Stories

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Abstract

*Leslie Marmon Silko and Alexis Wright are well-known authors who represent two contrasting indigenous cultures from Australia and North America. Their works *Ceremony* (1977) and *Carpentaria* (2006) offer stories presenting traces of cultural heritage, memories and traumas that are common for many indigenous communities from their countries. These works, thoughtfully enriched with an essence of the mythical as well as reality, blend traditional stories with the boundless imagination of contemporary authors. Traditional stories have become a bridge overcoming the distance between the past and the present, and situated into the new context, they provide a different view of individuals and their indigenous communities in the contemporary world. This study is based on a comparative approach, as it is focused on the use of traditional stories and their forms in the chosen novels. It is found that both novels manifest similarities in the content of the traditional stories and their use within the context of the novels; however, there are evident contrasts in the style that the authors employ. Moreover, due to their conversive approach, the authors of these novels have introduced a transformative power that influences not only listener-readers of indigenous and non-indigenous origin (their main targets), but also the writers themselves.*

Keywords: Leslie Marmon Silko, Alexis Wright, indigenous cultures, conversive approach, storytelling