

Slavic identity in the prose of the latest Polish historical-fantasy fiction

Abstract

The doctoral dissertation *Slavic identity in the prose of the latest Polish historical-fantasy fiction* is a result of research lasting several years and inquiries directly into the origin of the Slavs. A reflection of this scientific search is contemporary Polish prose, combining two literary genres: historical and fantasy. The imagination of writers entails, therefore, the discovery of more or less likely events, which may have an impact on decoding the historical past.

The dissertation consists of three key elements. The first one relates to general and theoretical assumptions, which bring the theme of the thesis closer. This part refers to the state of the art related to the research into contextual and interdisciplinary nature. It also contains explanations of concepts which are in line with different culture sciences: sociology of culture, history and religious studies. These scientific publications refer to the beginnings of the Polish state and to the impact of the baptism of Poland, both on society and on the further history of the country. The presented research proposals also include works centred around Slavic mythology/religion and speculations related to the beginnings of the beliefs of the ancient Slavs. Sources most often invoked in the first part of the dissertation include the research of Zorian Dołęga-Chodakowski, Kazimierz Moszyński, Aleksander Gieysztor, Aleksander Brückner, Andrzej Szyjewski, Henryk Łowmiański, Maria Janion, Maria Bobrownicka and Antonina Kłoskowska.

The second element consists of considerations in the context of the latest historical-fantasy novels, in which the noticeable motif of Slavic identity was built on the original religion, the ethnogenesis of ancestors and the influences of Christianity. The analytical part discusses the novels of the following authors: Elżbieta Cherezińska, Rafał Dębski, Tomasz Duszyński, Zenon Gołaszewski, Witold Jabłoński, Marta Krajewska, Michał Krupa, Magdalena Kubasiewicz, Paweł Kulpiński, Pati Maczyńska, Marcin Marchwiński and Małgorzata Sarmonowicz. Their works clearly recreate the past and demonstrate the influences of fiction. The conclusion includes films presenting Slavic legends created by the Allegro group, placing emphasis on

a new dimension of the Slavic nature presented by this anthology. The abovementioned mini films recall national roots, which constitute a summary of the undertaken scientific deliberations.

The last part of the dissertation contains references composed of source texts and over 200 Polish and English publications. These publications gave valuable advice related to the presented considerations. Works in the field of intertextuality were found particularly helpful, as they allowed the plots to confront contemporary interpretations and to overview Slavic thoughts by putting them into perspective.

Keywords: identity, the Slavs, Slavic mythology, fantasy.

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