Katarzyna Michalak, MA

**Title of the doctoral thesis:** The Phenomenon of Sound in the Process of Creating an Artistic Radio Featureand Its Role in Shaping the Unique Nature of the Genre

**Key words:** artistic radio feature, sound, listening, meeting, the other, determinism of the material, hypsometric map of emotions

The thesis was born out of the need to identify major aspects and to reconstruct key mechanisms of functioning of the sound in an artistic radio feature – a genre combining journalism and art.

In her dissertation, the author proposes a new way to look at individual stages of creating a radio feature, which she presents as a process determined by conscious use the audio raw material (she coins a term of “determinism of the raw material”). The analysis of individual stages of the process enables the author to highlight the qualities and values of a radio feature which cannot be found in press, television or cinema genres.

Chapter One is an attempt to define the genre of artistic radio feature. The problem with finding the optimum definition stems from the very nature of the genre, combining non-fiction, stage drama, film and music. As a narrative, it has a form of closed composition with distinctive aesthetic qualities. The chapter also includes an extensive discussion of the role of “conscious listening” in human life, both in terms of social interactions as well as reception and perception of audial art.

Chapter Two deals with the “cinematic nature” of a radio feature, understood by the author as the dramatic tension built with the use of various recording “sets”, which brings to mind a natural association with a movie set. Conscious use of different sets stirs up the imagination of the listeners and encourages them to actively engage in the perception of the work.

Chapter Three is devoted to the interaction between the author of the feature and its central figure(s). The starting point and the source of inspiration for the author was the “philosophy of meeting” represented (in philosophy and theology) by Prof. Józef Tischner and – in journalism – by Ryszard Kapuściński.

Chapter Four presents dramatic models or patterns found in radio features, including the author’s original concept of a “hypsometric map of emotions”, which is a graphical representation of emotions experienced by the figures presented in the feature. The pioneering concept of the map may be a useful tool in analysing a radio feature or radio drama.

Chapter Five deals with the final stage in the work on a radio feature – sound editing. It also discusses the role of music and silence, and the concept of metaphorisation of the message carried by a radio feature.

The doctoral thesis was written in the course of a third degree studies programme on Media Science, at Maria-Curie Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin, the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Department of Social Communication and Media, under the supervision of UMCS Prof. Grażyna Stachyra, PhD