

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Surname of the author: **mgr Anna Godos**

Surname of the supervisor: **prof. dr hab. Stanisław Uliasz**

Subject of the thesis: *Consideration about the horror spaces in the short stories of Stefan Grabiński.*

SUMMARY

The subject of this doctoral dissertation is *Consideration about the horror spaces in the short stories of Stefan Grabiński.*

One of the reasons to draw this subject area out was the interest in Stefan Grabiński's unconventional literature. Main purpose of the research was to evidence his diageitic world holds more than three or four dimensions. The immaterial world was divided into four cognitive areas and two which are presented in the real extent of the space; and the whole space is flexible and all-pervading. What is more, author's literature is imbued with horror and mystery. That is why the second purpose of the PhD thesis is to demonstrate them in Grabiński's creation.

This dissertation, except for the introduction and the conclusion, consists of undermentioned parts: *I. The space as a research question; II. Horror stories of Stefan Grabiński and the convention of the genre; III. The vision of the real space; IV. Unreal expanse of the „over-spatiality“; V. Anthropological dimension of the human being from the point of view of Stefan Grabiński.* The first and second one provide theoretical conception of the space and the fear research. Three different parts are focused on Grabiński's writing analysis with the aid of space theories and horror factors. The research subject was Grabiński's short stories because of the possibility of detailed studies.

Chapter I (The space as a research question) presents space issue and the wide range of its occurrence. In addition to space studies demonstration, in this part some parts of cognitive area were shown: physical and abstract space, pragmatic and mythical space, pronounced and obscure space, static and dynamic space, inanimate and animate space. And when it comes to the real extent, some types of the space were shown: the place, *the place-space, the space-place*, the „open“ and „closed“ spatiality, *over-spatiality* and the labyrinth.

In *Chapter II (Horror stories of Stefan Grabiński and the convention of the genre)* the dissertation presents differences between fear and anxiety which are the base of the horror. There are also shown examples of horror stories, especially of Edgar Allan Poe, whose writing had become the source of Grabiński's creations. There are also shown factors which create the horror in the literature, such as graduation of the tension, extrasensory events, human psychology etc.

Typical analysis of Grabiński's short stories was illustrated by *Chapter III (The vision of the rail space)*. First of all, this part presents the genesis of the omnibus *The daemon of the motion*. Then, there are shown some stories in the context of the cognitive area and the real extent of the space.

Chapter IV (Unreal expanse of the „over-spatiality“) demonstrates the area of *over-spatiality* as a supernatural world. There are shown such phenomena as: telepathy, seership and precognition. Moreover, this part presents spiritualism, clairaudients and the figures of incredible features. There are also shown differences between Grabiński's points of view when it comes to fantasy in the opposite to the modern one.

The final part of the dissertation, *Chapter V (Antropological dimension of the human being from the point of view of Stefan Grabiński)* is focused on the mystery of the human mind. The importance of this area is the result of Grabiński's opinion about its role for the creation of the fantasy. This section presents also theoretical issues connected with healthy and indisposal human psychology (phantasm, dream, personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis etc.). These problems became the base of analysis of Grabiński's literary characters. There should be also mentioned that the author had been interested in the phenomenon of the double, especially as a result of the split personality.

Having regard to limited spread of the present PhD thesis, the only omnibus which were analysed in relation to all types of the space was *The daemon of the motion*. The other stories were restricted to the most important kinds of space but should be also described in the future.


The most important issue to be researched was the space but the characters should be also taken into consideration. Very interesting point is the place the human being is located in: inside or outside the space. The matter of the lines is noteworthy as well, especially when it comes to their interfusing.

The subject area which was mentioned was the challenge because of the unconventional nature and uniqueness of Stefan Grabiński's literature. That is why his prose

was ultimate and perfect material to be searched. In present thesis, innovate delineation of space and the atmosphere of horror were described in the context of Grabiński's short stories.

Key words: Stefan Grabiński, space, horror, horror story, short story, railway, fantasy, psychopathology

26 marca 2021 r.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anna Goolop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.