

Summary

The topic of the dissertation is "Characteristic problems of «female prose» after 1989". The aim undertaken in the paper is to point out and describe selected problems realized by the Polish "feminine prose" and place them in the context of the female discourse. The criterion according to which the texts have been selected is the conviction that the issue of female identity and subjectivity is a particularly important topic within this type of writing. The caesura of 1989 is a breakthrough time of political and social changes whose echoes clearly influenced the shape and problem of literature.

The text contains five chapters. The first of these is crucial for understanding the processes existing in the discussed prose type and into the reflection on specific literary examples. It is an attempt to discuss the basic issues of "women's literature" seen from a sociological and historical perspective, as well as feminist research and criticism of "women's literature", as well as to indicate styles of women's reading and writing. The considerations contained in the first chapter on the methodological nature lead to the conclusion that the most appropriate research approach to the analysis of prose written by Polish authors is, in this case, the concept of women's literature proposed by Ewa Kraskowska, defining femininity in literature as a convention - a permanent set of features of a literary work that constitutes the basis of the contract concluded between the participants of literary communication, concerning the preferences of a particular subject, the way of its formulation and the choice of the art form of the work.

In the second chapter, I write about the historical and cultural trauma strongly present in the work of contemporary Polish authors. The prose analysis opens with a reflection of Marta Masada's *Święto trąbek*, which describes the burden of the history of ancestors, determining the presence of subsequent women's generations. The remainder of the chapter refers to the issue of trauma, which is caused by cultural alienation and the associated sense of Otherness and Obsessiveness (Grażyna Plebanek *Pani Furia*). Novel *Nieważkość* of Julia Fiedorczuk also discusses this problem, but in a different way - the traumatic factor determining the life of the protagonists of this prose is cultural stereotypes based on a patriarchal, oppressive upbringing that positions a woman in a man-dominated role. On the other hand, in the novel by Marta Syrwid titled *Bogactwo*, shows that the source of trauma is the tragic past of the main character who was sexually abused during childhood.

The third chapter is reflections on the issue of stereotypes conditioning the fate of women. I analyze literary views of the image of the Polish Mother and the changes that have taken place

in it over the centuries. On the occasion of this topic, I took up the issue of motherhood, the perception of a woman as a mother, her role and commitment to life and raising her children. In this chapter, I analyze the image of the feminist mother presented by Sylwia Chutnik in *Dzidzia*. The problem of "being a mother" is taken up in a different literary version by Grażyna Plebanek in *Pudełko ze szpilkami*. In a different way, this issue is present in the novel *Ślad po mamie* by Marta Dzido's. The issues raised in this part of the work are evidence of overcoming taboo topics related to the stereotype of the Polish Mother.

The next part of the dissertation is connected with reflections on the subject of female heroine experiencing alienation, being Other. Issues concerning the issue of identity, rootlessness, lack of a sense of belonging and acceptance in a patriarchal, multicultural society are expressed in the appearance of a woman as a foreign (Other) in literature. I deal with these issues in relation to two variants of the literary description of the Other - *Przystupa* by Grażyna Plebanek and *Kieszonkowy atlas kobiet* by Sylwia Chutnik. About the stigma of the Other, they also treat stories that were included in the anthology entitled *Zachcianki*. On the occasion of these considerations, I am quoting findings regarding the category of exclusion. In this context, I consider the indicated types of heroines.

The last, fifth chapter discusses the subject of corporeality in a wide sense - from the problems of not adapting to contemporary patterns of beauty through naturalistic descriptions of female physiology, to depression - a disease attributed to women. I deliberately reach for works by older generations writers such as Maria Nurowska and Wanda Lachowicz. The analyzed novels discuss extremely current social problems that are entering the field of engaged literature. The heroine from Marta Syrwid's novel blindly follows the ideals of contemporary fashion, a kind of "need" for a slim body, does not pay attention to anorexia, which begins to develop at a rapid pace. The heroine of prose by Dominika Dymińska in the novel about the naturalistic title *Mięso* (The Meat) also fights with eating disorders and the real perception of her body. The final part of the chapter is an analysis of the novel by Sylwia Chutnik *Jolanta*, in which the author gives a suggestive description of the often-neglected disease that depresses women. The described problems accompany the everyday existence of the "weaker" sex, although, in the era of progress and the increase of social awareness, these subjects should be the only history.

The issues raised by me are important problems that contemporary Polish female writers decided to tell about. The reflection on various approaches and literary realizations of the "women's" problems up to now by the Polish "female prose", not existing or intentionally unspoken, is intended to give an opportunity to look at this literature from a new perspective.

Selected examples do not exhaust the subject, which is extensive and difficult to comprehend in one dissertation. They are, however, in my opinion, a representative and complementary picture of the issues of "women's literature" raised by contemporary Polish writers.