

Anthony Trollope – the Other behind the veil of Englishness

My dissertation is devoted to the issue of Otherness in the works of English novelist, Anthony Trollope. The prolific Victorian author is well known for his defining of the concept of 'Englishness' and 'British spirit'. He is also, mainly because of his travelogues, associated with some jingoistic thoughts and his support for the British Empire and colonialism. This is the image I will try to rebuke in my work.

My dissertation consists of three chapters. In the first one I present the biography of the author, who remains relatively unknown in Poland. This chapter features Trollope's life, his work in the General Post Office and his literary career. I prove that as a child and young man – hobbledehoy – Trollope was regarded as a Pariah – this exotic foreign term denotes the state of being excluded. Anthony Trollope felt that way, as he states in autobiography. Moreover, based on biographical data I confirm that this feeling was predominant in the beginnings of both his postal and literary career. In the later years this sentiment was somewhat marred by the successes author achieved. This chapter presents also brief recuperation of criticism on Trollope as well as introduces the reader to the subject of both international and Polish reception of the author's works.

The second chapter is dedicated to the issue of 'Other' as presented in Trollope's letters. This particular chapter will be divided into sub-chapters, providing materials from private and official correspondence as well as Trollope's literary letters. In particular I analyze two series of the author's literary letters – *Irish Famine. Six Letters to Examiner* and *The Tireless Traveller. 20. Letters to Liverpool Mercury*. The first series is unapologetic towards the victims of the Gorta Mór – Trollope defends both Robert Peel's and Lord Russell's governments. Trollope puts a blame on Irish tenants, absentee landlords and, especially, greedy administrators. This works introduces the stereotype of avaricious Irishman.

The Tireless Traveller. 20. Letters to Liverpool Mercury describes Anthony Trollope's second journey to Australia and New Zealand. I analyze the image of the Other in this work, highlighting the fact that in some parts of the text Trollope tried to subvert the colonial narration and wanted to unmask the official propaganda. Nevertheless, it was impossible for him to transgress Anglocentric point of view. The last part of the chapter revokes the theories of Catherine Hall, who introduced into the Trollope's studies two significant terms – *going a-Trolloping* and *cartography of the peoples*. I examine, how the Victorian author use these practices in both series of literary letters.

In the third chapter I devise a new method of resolving a problem of Otherness in three of the Trollope's most recognized novels – *The Way We Live Now*, *The Prime Minister* and *Barchester Towers*. The chapter features the model of four types of the Other – *alia* – *alius* and *alter* – *altera*, based on the concept of Otherness created by Jean Marc Moura and implemented in Polish literature studies by Małgorzata Świdorska.

In my dissertation I decided to use comparative and hermeneutic approach, which I personally find the most adjustable methods, which I want to combine with the post-colonialism. Relevant to the topic is also the concept of Imagology as it is featured in the work of Manfred Beller and Joseph Leerssen. The subject of this relatively new approach is the image of the Others i.e. representatives of different nations, races, cultures and religions. I also want to transgress the semantics of this category and denote Otherness as the state of being different.