

PhD THESIS SUMMARY

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Topic: *A medialinguistic analysis of the values included in Polish feature films based on facts*

The issue of values is a fundamental matter in the lives of both the individual and the society as a whole. After all, the codes of values are the basis for the development of the core social units, community-based and local groups, as well as the entire nation. However, the nature of modern life leads to the relativization of the seemingly unquestionable axiological foundations, i.e. the transcendental values. Their place is now often occupied by hedonistic and prestigious values, which contributes to shifts in their hierarchy.

The aim of this doctoral dissertation is to analyze the values promoted in a series of Polish feature films that are based on true stories. The material for the analysis is provided by the following films – "Nad życie", "Mój biegun", "Bokser", "Cisza", "Krzysztof", "Laura", all of which were broadcast in the years 2010-2013 as a series entitled "Prawdziwe historie" (i.e. "True Stories") on TVN channel. The research material was subjected to the examination and description by means of the techniques used in medialinguistic and film studies analyses. All findings were related to axiology.

The impulse to undertake the research was provided by the film series "Prawdziwe historie", as well as by the results of numerous explorations and surveys conducted by scholars, including Krystyna Żuchelkowska, Stanisław Marczuk, Agnieszka Sobolewska-Popko, Mirosława Czerniawska or Agata Cudowska, who emphasised the importance of health, family, love or faith to the Polish people. The analysis of the source material allows us to observe that not all of the values discussed in this dissertation sit at the top of the commonly accepted axiological hierarchy. This applies mainly to such values as life and health, which are most often appreciated only when people face death or serious illness.

The following dissertation consists of six chapters. The first three form the methodological and theoretical background, while the next three constitute the research section. Each chapter ends with conclusions.

The first chapter *Theoretical background of medialinguistics* describes the key premises – interdisciplinarity, polymethodology and multiple variants of approaches, the correlation of the verbal layer with contexts (cultural, media-based, situational), the integration of the worldview of a given medium, and the research shifts of the relatively young scientific discipline of medialinguistics. It also discusses its pragmalinguistic and sociolinguistic background. The chapter addresses the issue of comprehending notions such as media, mediatization, media image of the world or the medium. The chapter also focuses on the importance of the holistic perception of film works, as it is necessary for the proper interpretation of the sense and meaning of a given message. The role of contexts influencing the reception of a given message is also highlighted. Moreover, the relations between the text and the image are described. This part of the dissertation also attempts to characterize the cinematic media variety, which is often neglected by media scholars.

The second chapter *Characteristics of a film work* is devoted to the problem of understanding film and its role in disseminating certain attitudes, models or behaviours. It also focuses on the description of selected assumptions of film analysis, thus emphasizing the lack of a universal method, since film works can be read differently depending on the chosen aim or research path. The chapter also includes the description of the properties of a cinematic work with particular reference to its code – image, sound, dialogue, music. All these elements play an important role in the reception of a given production, which is discussed in one of the subchapters that focuses on the influence of the said media message on the viewer. Special attention is also given to the description of television, enumerating, among other things, its distinctive features (public character of the message, mass reception, unidirectionality, realization of specific goals, etc.).

The third chapter *Axiology – the essential assumptions and classifications. The relationship between the theoretical considerations and the research material of the study* touches upon axiology and, above all, the diverse understanding of the word *value* and heterogeneous hierarchies depending both on the culture in which a person grows up, the family environment, and individual personality traits. The position of a human being in relation to the world of values and culture is also described, stressing the impossibility of functioning in an axiologically empty reality. Among others, individuals and factors influencing a person's system of values have been mentioned. Consideration was also given to the media, with regard to the popularization of attitudes, paradigms or values considered important in a given society.

The analytical part of the dissertation consists of three chapters, devoted respectively to the values such as love (chapter four), family (chapter five), life and health (chapter six). Each of the chapters contains a description and analysis of selected films, their main components – image, word, gesture or music – which influence the identification of particular axiological issues. The films subjected to observation have, by definition (as mentioned by the producer of the series), a universal message aimed at showing human life from a broader perspective. Dealing with the subject of death has a significant impact on the perception of human life by appealing to the feelings and emotions of the viewer, making them aware of the transience of earthly existence. Emphasizing the importance of family for the human individual, as well as love or faith, highlights those values that can be considered the foundation of human life or society.

The axiological issues discussed in this dissertation allow us to stress the significance of the following values: life, health, faith, family, love, the well-being of others, friendship and truth, i.e. transcendental, vital, social, moral and cognitive values. On the other hand, career, fame, money, work, i.e. prestige and social values, possess a negative overtone in view of the analyzed data, despite the fact that they are considered to be positive by the researchers referred to in this study. The reason for their negative connotation, as evidenced by the selected films, is primarily the lack of balance between the values mentioned as positive and those that have acquired a negative stigma.

The analysis of the material, which constitutes the research basis of this dissertation, confirmed the hypothesis that the code of values is individual in nature. Moreover, a partial correlation between the recognized hierarchy and a person's current wealth status, social status and general life success was demonstrated. The dissertation also established that the values constituting the main theme of the specific research chapters of the dissertation represent the axiological foundation of a given individual, which is revealed especially when one suffers a personal tragedy.

11.02.2022 r.

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