

Summary of a Ph.D. dissertation *The Linguistic Picture of the Key Notions of the Polish Metal Song Lyrics in the 1980s*

The aim of this dissertation is to reconstruct the linguistic picture of key notions of Polish-language metal song lyrics in the ninth decade of previous century. The research material provides almost 300 lyrics that represent various genres of metal music, including i.a. heavy metal and thrash metal. Lyrics come from various sources. They were mainly gathered from web pages, the members of metal bands and their fans. This collection obviously is not closed, however the gathering of research material was based on quantitative criterion. Another aim of this work is to fill the research gap in the area of the language of youth subcultures.

The frequency studies prove that DEATH, SATAN, NIGHT, EVIL and FEAR can be placed among the most important notions in metal lyrics. Their high frequency is a result of a fascination with death, Satan, forces of darkness, magic and fantasy. It is a phenomenon typical for metal subculture which manifests itself not only in the area of language, but also in the iconography of records and in the manner in which the members of movement are dressed up. The reconstruction of eponymous notions was conducted according to the cognitive methodology used in the *Dictionary of folk stereotypes and symbols* edited by Jerzy Bartmiński. This dictionary is built by the facet system of the discussed entries. They mainly consist of NAME, APPEARANCE, PROPERTIES, ORIGIN, ACTIONS, PROCESSES, STATES executed by the object of entry (which it is subjected to, in which it is), CAUSATIVE OPERATIONS and OBJECT, i.e. the object of entry as an object of influence.

First two chapters are an exposition of methodology used in the dissertation. In the first one, the definitions of „linguistic picture of the world” were discussed both in Polish and foreign studies, along with other notions concerning the reconstruction of that picture, such as i.a. profile, profiling, facet, stereotype, prototype, evaluating. Because of the specificity of research material, which consists of poetic and quasi-poetic texts, the second chapter introduces an overview of research concerning the reconstruction of linguistic picture of the world in the area of poetry. The last theoretical chapter concerns several issues. It explains the meaning of the term „subculture”, mainly in the linguistic approach. It also discusses the history of rock music in Poland and abroad. A peculiar emphasis was laid on the description of the metal subculture. The attention was drawn also to the rock lyrics, which includes also

previous reflection on the metal creation. The last part of third chapter discusses the state of linguistic research on subcultures.

The principal part of dissertation consist in the chapters from IV to VIII, which describe the picture of key notions in analysed lyrics. First important notion is DEATH. Metal lyrics speak of DEATH very often, in an affirmative manner, expressing fascination with it. However, there is no shortage of quotations, which indicate marking this notion with an axiological minus. An important role in in the linguistic picture of DEATH is played by lexemes such as CEMETARY, EXECUTIONER, HADES, which pertain to DEATH mainly from the cultural point of view. They create a vibe distinctive for metal songs and build a landscape derived from horror novels. SATAN takes very important place in metal. As a being closely attached to Christianity and often confronted to God, in the common language he generally has only negative connotations. Meanwhile, in the analysed collection of lyrics, SATAN occurs very often and much of exemplifications confirm his definitely positive evaluation as a mighty, rebellious FALLEN ANGEL. The status of next key notion – NIGHT – in the area of language as well as culture and literature, is not univocal. It is worth remembering that the day is much more often positively evaluated, while NIGHT is sometimes attributed with negative properties concerning its darkness and mystery. However, these two properties are constitutive for the collected lyrics and define the specificity of the picture of this time. It is worth mentioning that this time is also preferred by SATAN and other entities of an infernal origin. An EVIL, a main anti-value and one of the key notions of Polish metal, in the common language is usually estimated negatively. In spite of that, in the metal lyrics it is sometimes an attractive and fascinating category. FEAR, which is a last important notion, usually belongs to the realm of negative emotions. Even though, on the basis of gathered lyrics we can affirm the advantage of such negative evaluation, undoubtedly the presence of FEAR in them is not accidental. It is subjected to the aesthetics dominating in the area of these lyrics, which illustrate apotheosis of the poetics of horror. As a result, we can notice that the authors of metal song lyrics evaluate selected notions in the manner opposite to judgements established in language and culture. However, the reconstructed pictures of the notions discussed have very much in common with those concerning folk and colloquial concepts.