

## PhD THESIS SUMMARY

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**Topic:** "Linguistic mechanisms of a postulated world creating - analysis of the Polish-language Nazi press (1939–1945) from museum collections in Rzeszów and Przemyśl"

The aim of the dissertation is an attempt to reconstruct and describe the linguistic mechanisms of creating the world in the German propaganda press addressed to the Polish reader during the Second World War. The research material was excerpted from the issues of three press titles published in the General Government: "Gazeta Lwowska", "Goniec Krakowski" and "Ilustrowany Kurjer Polski". The time period 1939–1945 is considered as a separate chapter in the history of periodicals in Poland, delimited by the framework of the Second World War. During this period, in some part of the Polish lands occupied by Germany, there were two main sections of the press: open press, imposed by the occupant and being under its influence, and a secret press operating simultaneously, that was being published and distributed by the Polish underground. Each of these journal segments had different tasks and aims.

The impulse to undertake the research was the transfer of "Ilustrowany Kurjer Polski" issues which are the basis of the research, and being extended by the collections of another native cultural unit - the Library at the National Museum of Przemyśl to the collection of the Museum of the University of Rzeszów. One of the supplementary aims of the dissertation was to disseminate knowledge about the region that is a 'small homeland', and therefore not only a geographical space, but above all a social and cultural space that preserves and disseminates historical knowledge. This is important because knowing the past allows conclusions to be drawn about the present and the future.

This dissertation consists of six chapters. The first three are the methodological and theoretical part, while the next - the research department. Each chapter ends with conclusions.

The first chapter presents the methodological background of the analysis undertaken in this dissertation. The review of the issue discussed in the doctoral dissertation was based primarily on the findings the linguistic image concept of the world, which allowed to reconstruct the ways of conceptualizing the world in the material basis. Choosing the language of the propaganda

press as the subject of research also determines the choice of research methods appropriate to linguistic pragmatics, thanks to which it is possible to study the language in use in specific communicative situations. Creativity became the key concept and it was analysed in three perspectives: in the generative model, from the perspective of pragmalinguistics, and in the cognitive model. It was assumed that language can create the world, and the main properties of the created world are possible to reconstruct. Particular attention was paid to creating the world in persuasive texts. Moreover, the meaning of the terms as persuasion and manipulation (in broad and narrow terms) and propaganda were discussed. To define 'the created world' was established the term: 'a postulated world', and then its relation to the real world was determined.

The second chapter concern the treatment and ordering of theoretical and terminological issues related to research on propaganda, which is required by the diversity of the propaganda's definitions proposed by researchers, its typology and functions. In the section entitled Historical Outline on Propaganda, the development, evolution of forms, means and channels of propaganda dissemination were presented. It was also established that propaganda activities are an integral part of a social life, especially in its political, ideological and religious dimensions. The origins of propaganda should be associated with the existence of mentioned systems, so its genesis dates back to ancient times, while the aims of propaganda remained universal regardless of time. In this part of the dissertation, moreover, attention is drawn to the fact that the extent of use of propaganda means depends, inter alia, on the propaganda policy principles and the degree of government interference in the citizens' lives. The political system in a given society determines the degree of propaganda intensity and shapes its language. An extreme case of undemocratic governance is a totalitarian system, characterised by a high degree of society enslavement and the control of social life's various areas by the language of politics.

The third chapter presents the historical and philosophical background of the central tenets of the National Socialism doctrine in Germany. Its essence goes back to the era of German Romanticism. Philosophical idealism and the romantic worldview are the two main determinants of the German mentality. The philosophy of Volkism and the use of scientific concepts related to Darwinism led to the emergence of race purity theories and racial extermination. The concept of chapter three was implemented as a description of the emergence and development causes of the National Socialist ideology, with the presentation of the internal Nazi propaganda assumptions and the occupation policy in Poland, to its determinants in the language of the 'reptilian press'. Particular attention was paid to propaganda in the General Government and the presentation of the press system in the territories occupied by Germany.

The analytical part of the dissertation consists of three chapters, corresponding to the thematic dominants distinguished within the concept of the postulated world. The distinguished worlds: the war world (chapter four), the politics world (chapter five) and the world of everyday life (chapter six) - with their semantic aspects - constitute a fragment of reality subjected to linguistic analysis, on the basis of which it is possible to indicate representative mechanisms of creating an image of the world in the propaganda press. They include: characteristic lexis and phraseology, grammatical properties of the language, syntax and structure of the text, and semantics, mainly the connotation aspect. The determinants analysis of creating a postulated world due to different linguistic aspects is combined with the presentation of their pragmatic functions in the propaganda strategy. The analysis also takes into account the assumptions of image linguistics, whose researchers aim to analyse and describe the relations that occur in the message between linguistic (text sub-ground) and graphic elements (image sub-ground).

The analysis of the exemplification material constituting the research basis for this dissertation confirmed the thesis that the image of the military, political and everyday reality presented by the 'reptilian press' is a vision of the created, postulated world, remaining loosely related to the objective reality. The attempts were made to show that many elements in the linguistic aspect of the public press addressed to the Polish reader coincided with *Lingua Tertii Imperii*, i.e. the language functioning in the Third Reich. The variety of lexical, grammatical and syntactic means was observed and these means were used for propaganda purposes. Based on the analysis of the material used as the basis for the exemplification of the dissertation, a fragmentary image of a specific fragment of reality, in which the assumptions of the propaganda of the Third Reich were clearly implemented, was obtained.

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