

Patriotic work of Władysław Grodecki

Cultural-linguistic aspects

Summary

The aim of this dissertation is to carry out a cultural and linguistic analysis of the texts written and published by the Polish traveler and journalist Władysław Grodecki (1942-2018). The analysis of the material is made with the use of the tools of linguistics, including axiolinguistics as well as pragmalinguistics and the theory of speech acts. The task undertaken by the present author is to investigate the means of valuating political views, human achievements and behavior through language in Grodecki's journalism. Particular attention is paid to the pragmatic analysis of language, including the theory of speech acts for approval and disapproval, praise and self-praise, thanksgiving, condolences, advice, suggestion and requests. The work examines also vocabulary expressing positive and negative emotions as well as a number of rhetorical devices. Most used figures of speech are similes, repetitions, synecdoches, hyperboles, rhetorical questions and literary references. Moreover, particular attention is paid to the great number and diversity of metaphors. Grodecki used a great range of conventional metaphors, but also created a lot by himself using ideas from the fields of geography, history, and arts. He also used symbols causing strong emotions such as blood, tears, heart, etc. Characteristic to his work are the means of conveying feelings and subjective impression to the dimension of time and space. In this context his metaphor of the *map of life* is particularly significant. It refers not only to over a hundred travels undertaken by one of the greatest Polish travelers abroad but also to happy and well as painful experience which could be metaphorically represented by seas of tears, valleys of sadness, hills of joy or peaks of happiness. The analysis covers over two hundred and fifty representative texts of the Polish traveler, published in 1994-2018 as well as a selection of archive materials such as travel journals and correspondence.

The analysis of the material leads us to the conclusion that one of the most important values for Grodecki was patriotism. Being born in a small village in Southeastern Poland while thousands of firstly Jewish, then Soviet and Polish captives were annihilated in the neighboring concentration camp of Pustków, and having experienced some episodes of the Second World War himself, Grodecki very early in his life was taught to feel a strong ethnic identity. His parents were peasants who raised their four children to love their fatherland and to be proud of Polish history and heritage. So every aspect of Grodecki's life was influenced by his love of everything that was Polish, until eventually it led him to his mission of traveling around the world in order to find Polish immigrants

and their descendants and collect their, mostly tragic, accounts. Many of themes he wrote about in the mid-1990s were unknown in Poland due to communist censorship. Thus, Grodecki contributed greatly to the popularization of the knowledge about thousands of Polish war orphans who left Soviet Union with Anders' Army in 1941-42 to find refuge first in Iranian, than Indian, New Zealand, African and Mexican camps.

The analysis demonstrates that Grodecki wrote a number of newspaper articles about Polish locations and it's relics of the past such as monuments, historical treasures and listed buildings, about Polish history and historical figures as well as about his travels. Polish patriotism is strongly connected to the Roman Catholic faith and so most of his work has a religious dimension, too. Grodecki visited Polish missionaries around the world and testified in his writing what he had witnessed. The majority of his texts deals with his travels and highlights the history of the Polish diaspora which makes out about one third of all people who identify themselves as being of Polish nationality. Beside of the love to fatherland, Grodecki's work also deals with other universal values and human feelings such as sadness, sympathy, gratitude, happiness and longing. The analysis demonstrates that approving speech acts as well as positive vocabulary play a significant role in the examined texts. Grodecki rather highlighted positive phenomena and portrayed praiseworthy role models than criticized the negative ones. The material consists of many texts thematizing noble deeds of great Poles, the beauty of Godly creation and human works. A significant attention is paid to the figure of the Polish pope, John Paul II. The consisting interest of Grodecki's life and work shows that the topics of his writings have been still up-to-date even today. Let us hope that this monograph will open the way to further research on the journalistic work of Władysław Grodecki.

Przedmiotem analizy jest kilkaset artykułów prasowych Podróżnika, publikowanych na przestrzeni ćwierćwiecza na łamach różnych dzienników, magazynów branżowych, religijnych oraz o charakterze patriotycznym. Zamierzam w niej zbadać, czym był patriotyzm dla Władysława Grodeckiego oraz w jaki sposób kreował on pozytywny obraz Polaków na przestrzeni wieków, zarówno tych mieszkających w Ojczyźnie jak i poza jej granicami.

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