

PhD THESIS SUMMARY

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Topic: **Songs from Rzeszów Region from Jan Robak's collection in ethnolinguistic and ethnomusicological perspective.**

The subject of this thesis is the analysis of the picture of the lingual world shown in folk songs of Rzeszów region. The main purpose of the treatise was to show and describe the most important aspects of understanding reality by the community of the region - mainly people living in Rzeszów and nearby villages.

The resource base for the analysis are folk songs that can be found in the archives of Ethnographic Museum in Rzeszów. They were written down and classified by Jan Robak, a musician and amateur ethnographer from Rzeszów region, between 1917 and 1977. The collector inventoried and systematized the songs—~~the method was not changed during the work.~~ The compilation consists of about four thousand songs. Due to the size of this documentation, for this thesis two and a half thousand were studied. It is a great source of information about life, values, everyday situations and reality of residents of the region. During the analysis of the compiled material, the author noticed four main themes in the songs: a picture of a woman, a picture of a man, a picture of love and a picture of nature and living in the country. The richness of songs did not allow every subject to be expanded upon, which is why the main motifs, which are usually repeated and which create the fundamental base for the characterization and detailing of semantic details and connotations, are shown and described in the thesis.

The thesis was divided into eight chapter. To allow a strong identification with the Rzeszów region, first two chapters describe the history, topography and the resulting societal development. First part of the dissertation describes the folklore of Rzeszów. It is a detailed overview of folklore's linguistic and aesthetic definition, as well as previous scientific publications concerning ethnolinguistic and ethnomusicology with the particular emphasis on the Rzeszów region. Periodization of polish folklore, discussion about the subject with a scientific approach, and showing the current state of research, which are presented in this

thesis, are supposed to describe the current scientific developments concerning this subject as well as show the connection between the society's image of the world and the history.

A deeper description of Rzeszów region may be found in chapter two. This part of the dissertation concerns the creation of ethnic groups and a separate community called "Rzeszowiacy". Characterization of the dialect, clothing, manners, and beliefs of the described group - very important for next chapters - is shown here. The chapter closes with a biography and folklore activity, deserving of much respect, of Jan Robak.

In third chapter data concerning the collection of songs is presented. Research material was meticulously described and characterized. It was divided according to the collector's categorization and classification on: wedding songs, ceremonial songs, love songs, joke songs, dirty song and random.

Methodological topics of the research are shown in chapter four. Cognitive methodology is described, with particular emphasis on Lublin ethnolinguistic and the picture of the lingual world theory, which were the basis of the research.

An important aspect of the folk archive is classifying the songs into cultural texts, which is presented in chapter five. A concept of cultural text is discussed and the reason for including the researched documents into this definition is demonstrated.

Sixth chapter concerns the word of mouth of folklore. It is a distinctive material passed down from generation to generation via speech and kept in memory. The word of mouth aspect is a substantive feature, which discerns type determinants of oral songs from written word. Due to that it was decided to present this subject in the thesis in cultural, axiological and linguistic categories.

Seventh chapter is a practical part of the thesis. The research objects were structural and linguistic determinants of folk songs from the Rzeszów region. Delimitators of the beginnings and the ends of songs were described, as well as the lexical, phonetical, morphological, melic and prosodic measures that appear in phonetical notation in museum's documentation.

The main point of this thesis in chapter eight. In there, picture of the lingual world is described, where the author separated out five general semantic areas. Research showed quite typical perception of reality by the folk community - a belief in God, a male mission, a woman's purpose, nature's role and rural everyday life.

The first group is a linguistic picture of faith. It shows people's attitude towards God and the reflection of these beliefs in rural life. The faith was the foundation of human life - it was believed to be wholly dependent on Him. He sent blessings and punishments, for example

rains and winds destroying a good harvest. Next to the faith, while looking for explanations for unfamiliar phenomena or the defense against what seemed inevitable, people invented answers, which lead to creation of mystical beliefs and figures that were not part of the faith. It also affected the formation of an approach related to the inept participation in the teachings of the Church - there was a sense of duty to take part in a Holy Mass, but there was no understanding what it exactly symbolizes.

Second picture was about a woman's profile. It has accumulated multiple examples showing the meaning and the purpose of a woman's life. Most resources showed male superiority over women. Many acts considered morally wrong performed by men were forgiven, but a woman doing the same was given a bad name and was stigmatized by the public opinion. A woman was a subordinate of a man and of her parents. She had defined responsibilities. Her purpose was to get married and birth children. As in every case, there were deviations from the norm - daughters not listening to their parents, woman liking fun and men's company, seductresses abandoning men and wives that controlled their husbands.

Third category is a stereotypical picture of a man. His main feature was strength, and to that the most important responsibility was connected - working in the field and on the farm. Tenderness was allowed in men's life, which is showed in songs describing men in love, good and waiting for a wedding. That was however a minority - most men wanted to be free, independent, not bound to one woman. A repeated picture in the songs is a man looking for a woman for a one night stand, just to leave her and look for a new partner in the morning. In this picture female helplessness is shown, as well as strength to face the consequences - for example raising the child alone.

Songs were also full of love, which deserves a separate category. This picture is connected to the image of woman and man, but it emphasizes the subject of a feeling growing between lovers. Those songs describe a happy love, a real feeling ending in a great marriage, but also love that was unhappy, used, lied to, forced, physical - one that despite its' commonality was a huge taboo.

Last picture is created by songs that concern an everyday living and nature. Shown here are work and attachment to the ground, diligence, division between male and female labor, connection between labor and God, parties and connected to those music and singing, which were a fundamental part of rural life. Nature thread shows the belief in its' power, paranormal phenomena, as well as mystical figures connected to that. To that picture some vices occurring in the society are added.

Subject showed in this thesis describes the folklore from Rzeszów and its' surroundings. The treatise was created in order to save the old, rural reality as well as the old world of spiritual and material culture from oblivion.

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