

Grzegorz Piotrowski. Summary

In the dissertation "Polish experience of modernity. The railway in the literature of the interwar period" I show that the railway is one of the most important topics of Polish interwar literature. Writers in 1918-1939 used railway themes to illustrate many aspects of the cultural changes that were taking place at that time. This area of literature of the twentieth century is still poorly recognized.

In the dissertation I will use the term "railway literature". I understand the subject of research as a set of texts created in 1918-1939, in which there are elements associated with trains, stations and rail travels. I am interested in the anthropological dimension of experiences recorded in the poetry and prose of the interwar period.

The most inspiring for me was the theory of cultural poetics with its directive describing the formation of beliefs and collective experiences. In the dissertation, I examine the effects of things (trains, carriages) and technical matter (stations, tracks, poles, semaphores) on the perception of the world.

The railway appeared in the twenty years as a material of metaphor and allows modern poetry to speak in two ways. The first way I called "speaking by rail", because poetry speaks the language of modern technology about modernization processes.

The second way I called "talking about railways". It involves the use of biological metaphors ("train like a snake", "blood circulation of the railway", "locomotive body" etc.). A novelty in this way of literary speaking is a technical topic, but subjected to taming by organic imagery. The railway is in this case the object of modeling. This solution will be conducive to discussing human mental states in contact with the modern world.

The pieces presented in the dissertation will be used as part of problem chapters. In the first two, I reach for the classic antinomy "Zwrotnica" - "Skamander" in historical and literary studies. Chapters Why "Crossover"? and Why "Skamander"? they were used to show me two models of using vocabulary referring to railways. I call these two variants "speaking by rail" and "speaking by rail".

Chapters 3-6 are initiated by the text Railways of the Revolution. Stefan Żeromski station. This part of the dissertation is devoted to train travel, which is influenced by historical events, political and moral changes. According to the title of this part, I focus on the writing of Stefan Żeromski (I analyze entries from his diaries, selected novels from the late nineteenth century, the novel Evacuation of Krakow and Przedwiośnie), and in the subject matter - on the

subject of the Bolshevik revolution. As part of this chapter, I also included references to the work of Aleksander Wat and Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz.

In the next part of the work (chapters 7-9), starting with the fragment *Energy of modernity*. The Julian Przyboś station, I examine to what extent the idea of progress became more concrete in the poetic matter of this trend of the Krakow Avant-Garde, which Przyboś patronizes. His texts were used to define "speaking by rail".

Chapters 10-15 resemble two products of mass culture of the early twentieth century: cinema and mass tourism. The first part, in which I present the visual and entertaining nature of pioneering cinematographic shows, focuses on the poetry of Jan Brzękowski and on two novels by Karol Irzykowski. In the second part of this chapter ("Stacja Kazimierz Wierzyński") the most important role is played by the lyrics of this skamander. I would like to draw attention to the experiences in Wierzyński's poems related to contact with the modernized space and the lifestyle of a modern traveler created under its influence.

The starting point for the last three chapters ("Women in the railway compartment", "Maria Dąbrowska's Section" and "Maria Brzeska's Section") is the issue of "women's mobilization". I am mainly interested in how the modernization changes were recorded in the railway work of eminent writers. Looking at the book of poetry by Wanda Brzeska and fragments of Maria Dąbrowska's novel „Noce i dnie”, I find in them the characteristics of a modern experience of time and space. In Brzeska's case, I also see how politics (ideology) could influence her "egoistic journey". However, in Maria Dąbrowska's novel I find a record of a phenomenon whose name (defamiliation of travel) and extensive characteristics can be found primarily in the work of Małgorzata Nitka.