

SUMMARY

Topic: *The category of insanity in the contemporary Polish novel. Contexts of ancient literature*

The main purpose of the following doctoral thesis is to discuss the category of madness in the novels of Marek Kochan and Jan Paweł Krasnodębski. My research intention is to show the presence of ancient achievements in the analyzed contemporary literature. It can be noticed that these references are broad and easily recognizable, which is a pretext to enter into a dialogue with the literary tradition. The values, themes, symbols, archetypes, heroes' creations and stylistic means present in ancient literature go beyond their epoch, forcing them to be situated in a wide time horizon, the scope of which will constantly change.

In the introduction to the presented work, the methodology of literary research is presented, which focuses on intertextuality and narratology. It also includes an attempt to capture the essence of madness in psychological-psychiatric, philosophical and religious terms. The first chapter of the dissertation contains an analysis of the figure of the lost person in the world of the mercantile hero, showing historical and cultural analogies and identity that occur between Marek Kochan *Franquize's* novel and ancient literature. In the second chapter on the *Fakir of Ipi*, the question of a hero who deliberately performs transgression in reference to motifs present in ancient literature is discussed. In the third chapter, attempts were made to indicate the ancient sources in *Narcissus* by Jan Paweł Krasnodębski, which is a modern interpretation of the myth. The fourth chapter deals with the broad formula of self-experience and autobiography in Krasnodębski's work, present in the work *Dead blues*. The chapter explicitly refers to Greek mythology.

Key words: Marek Kochan, Jan Paweł Krasnodębski, intertextuality, narratology, insanity, mercantile hero, memory, identity, space, transgression, Narcissus, transformation hero, creativity, contemporary literature, ancient literature, psychological novel.

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Justyna Michalska