ABSTRACT PhD WORK

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Title: Archetypes in Dorota Terakowska’s novels

The purpose of my PhD thesis is an attempt analyse and interpret Dorota Terakowska’s novels using the archetype and myth criticism. Next, I look for connections between literature heroes, the world, events and primary pictures.

A very important aspect is that I show that archetype is the factor which decided about the value of the novels. In this context I ask if Terakowska’s novels can be called a masterpiece.

My doctoral thesis consists of: introduction, five chapters, conclusion, annex and bibliography.

The base of my PhD thesis are research which were conducted by Carl Gustaw Jung, Mircea Eliade, Carol S. Pearson, Gaston Bachelard, Northop Frye, Leslie A. Fiedler and Alicja Baluch. In my study I use archetype and myth criticism.

In the first chapter I outline Terakowska’s life. I don’t want present her biography as it has already been done. Katarzyna Nowak wrote a book: Moja mama czarownica. Opowieść o Dorocie Terakowskiej. There are two scientific monographs which were written by Anita Wolanin and Marta Bolińska. The first one is: Twórczość Doroty Terakowskiej: Spotkanie z Nieznanym and the second is: Zdarzenia niepuntualne. Biograficzny i antropologiczno – kulturowy kontekst opowieści o biegu ludzkiego życia w prozie Doroty Terakowskiej. In this chapter I want to describe the difficult personality of the author, her controversial style of being, style of dressing, participation In Cracow’s Bohemia night life and next her path to becoming a writer. I want to show Terakowska’s character through the prism of the archetype of a poet created by an American literary critic, Leslie A. Fiedler.

In the second chapter I want to show Terakowska’s work in context of developing literature for children and young people during the 80-ties and 90-ties in the XX century. I don’t want to discredit other authors from this literary branch, but I want to describe how Dorota Terakowska stands out from this group. I want confront Terakowska’a novels output, despite her late debut, with Anna Onichimowska, Beata Ostrowicka, Ewa Nowak, Tomek
Tryzna, Małgorzata Musierowicz, Krystyna Siesicka. I can see clear division in this type of writing to fantasy and realistic. Although fantasy is the type which dominates in that period, my intention was to show Terakowska’s novelty in that area.

In the next chapter I present a short review of research, concepts on archetype and myth criticism. It is crucial that the methodology and research I use, these were created by: Jung, Eliade, Pearson. Bachelard, Frye, Fiedler, Baluch, represent various fields of knowledge (psychology, religious studies, philosophy and literature), which allows to capture a broad searching context.

In the fourth part I make analysis and interpretations of Terakowska’s novels using archetype and myth criticism which I described in the previous chapter. I present the novels chronologically because I want to show the development of Terakowska’s way of writing. The novels which I analyse are as follows: Babci Brygidy szalona podróż po Krakowie, Władca Lewawu, Lustro pana Grymsa, Córka Czarownic, Samotność bogów, W Krainie Kota, Tam, gdzie spadają Anioly, Poczwarka oraz Ono. The next purpose of this chapter is describe how chosen heroes and events connect with the archetypes from the third part. I don’t analyse and interpret all variants of the archetype but I choose only the one which according to me is the strongest and the best. I pay attention to the style of writing, usage of vocabulary, the way the author presents the world in her books which leads to a conclusion about Terakowska’s unique style.

In the next part I want to answer the question if Terakowska’s novels can called a masterpiece. For that I use the definition of the term which was created by a literary critic Eugenia Basara – Lipiec, a literature theorist Stanisław Jaworski and by a researcher of literature for children and young people, Jolanta Ługońska. It is worth mentioning that it is the archetype which determines the value of literary works the most. In this chapter I also focus on Terakowska’s literary path, quote by Anna Baluch, “from simple forms to masterpiece”. I describe how she explored fairy tale and myth stories and next created her new modern variants. I also quote researchers’ and literary critic’s opinions that her works include the archetype.

Annex is the last but one part of my thesis and includes a few photos. There are photos which show places of memory connected with Dorota Terakowska. There are places where she lived, ex. Tenement house in Starowiślna 8 Street, block in Kapelanka 5 Street, Piwnica Pod Baranami and headquarters of “Gazeta Krakowska” in Wielopole 1 Street. There are also places which appeared after her death in 2004, e.x.: Maciek and Dorota’s Park or a bench in Planty. These are the factors which show that memory about Terakowska is still alive.
The conclusion is that her novels created a story about a human who is on his way and who is continuously looking for his own self. Her heroes are multi-dimensional and presented in difficult situations. Archetypes manifest in borderline situations such as fear, death, birth, spiritual sphere. Terakowska confronts her heroes with these situations, problems. Therefore, according to me, archetype and myth criticism is the best method of analysis and interpretation of Terakowska’s novels. Additionally it is the archetypes which make it possible to present the value of her work. Another important aspect is a unique way of constructing the reality in the book and the heroes. Terakowska’s prose is a literature with the highest artistic values. It allows to place the author and her novels on the same position as her most valued authors that is: Tolkien or Ursula Le Guin. This is the highest kind of ennoblement and proves that her novels are a masterpiece.