

SUMMARY

Title: Aniela Gruszecka's literary and critical work

Focus on the works of Aniela Gruszecka and the growing interest in women's literature, its vividness and multidirectional character. Aniela Gruszecka – a scientifically-minded personality with exceptional sensitivity to words and emotions – is a perfect representative of the diversity of women's literature. It is worth noting that the interwar period is the time of her greatest literary activity. The writer's works concern many aspects of life and are always aptly set in the context of the current political, intellectual and cultural events which the author was following attentively. Therefore, among them, we can find some fiction characteristic of the era of the Partitions of Poland, as well as novels infused with the spirit of new literary movements of the interwar period, and a novel about the Second World War, as well as educational, historical and biographical prose. Another important part of Gruszecka's literary oeuvre are literary studies and her activity as a reviewer. The common aspect of Aniela Gruszecka's literary genres is a strong aspiration to preserve the Polish language, tradition and culture in their purest form – this attention to the national legacy was acquired by the writer in her childhood home, and under the influence of the work of her husband, linguist Kazimierz Nitsch, she had the opportunity to closely observe the changes occurring in those fields.

Aniela Gruszecka's fiction is akin to a colourful mosaic – comprised of many seemingly different elements, but comprehensible when viewed from a broader perspective. Only then can we see its comprehensive form and character, and only then can we judge its artistic value. The main aim of the thesis titled “The Literary and Critical Works of Aniela Gruszecka” is the presentation and scholarly analysis, as well as historical and literary evaluation of the most important elements of the literary oeuvre of the author of “Przygoda w nieznanym kraju” [An Adventure in an Unfamiliar Land] in the context of their relation to its time period, and consequently, an attempt at marking those achievements on the map of Polish 20th-century literature. The adopted formula of the study means that its discussion includes her psychological, biographical and historical prose, as well as novels for teenagers and critical works on the literature for young readers. Therefore, this thesis aims to outline the most important aspects of Gruszecka's works as completely as possible, in order to reveal the main features of the writer's artistic consciousness all the more distinctly, for I believe that the individual nature of Aniela Gruszecka's works is evidenced not only by their own set of themes and peculiar writing method, but also by her belief in the cognitive, ethical and educational functions of the literature serving either the cause of women's social liberation or the education of

the young generation, that is contained in their intellectual and contemplative implications. In my study, I analyse those elements of Aniela Gruszecka's works that are the most characteristic of her and representative of her world view.

Aniela Gruszecka's literary oeuvre is vast and diverse. In this study, I focus on several selected works which I believe to be representative and also her most significant literary achievements. These are: *W grodzie żaków* [In the City of Students] (1913), *Nad jeziorem. Sielanka wielkopolska z XIII wieku* [By the Lake. A 13th-Century Greater Poland Idyll] (1921), *Przygoda w nieznanym kraju* [An Adventure in an Unfamiliar Land] (1933), *Od Karpat nad Bałtyk* [From the Carpathians to the Baltic Sea] (1946), *Powieść o kronice Galla* [A Novel on Gesta principum Polonorum] (1962–1970), *Całe życie nad przyrodą mowy polskiej* [An Entire Life Spent on the Ecosystem of the Polish Language] (1977), as well as articles from the periodicals “Przegląd Warszawski” [Warsaw Review] (1922–1924) and “Przegląd Współczesny” [Modern Review] (1925–1932). Those texts are set apart by the multitude of themes contained in them, and provide the appropriate material for comparisons, analyses and interpretations. Therefore, this study is meant to be an outline of the themes of the prose and critical works of a slightly forgotten author.

From yet another perspective, this study is an introduction to broader research on the life and works of Aniela Gruszecka. Topics which were not included in the previously mentioned publications have been discussed here. Furthermore, I hope that this monographic outline also demonstrates that Gruszecka is a writer of many themes and her literary output should not be limited to just a single novel.

Keywords: writer, artist, novels, critical reviews, history, child, language.

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