Summary

International relationships during the cold war in Polish caricatures published in satirical magazines “Mucha”, “Karuzela”, “Szpilki”

The aim of the PhD thesis was presentation of a vision of international relationships during the cold war created by Polish caricatures published in satirical magazines “Mucha”, “Karuzela”, “Szpilki”. The author had no intention of describing the objective course of events but she was going to reproduce their images and interpretations supplied to recipients by Polish satirical press in the form of a drawing. The objects of the research were as follows: to discover propaganda meaning of caricatures, to establish how events and politicians were graphically presented, to observe the evolution of convention in caricatures and their subjects in connection with current international situation.

Basic source was about 1950 caricatures which was published in “Mucha”, “Karuzela”, ”Szpilki” from 1945 to 1987 – i.e. form the renewed “Szpilki” after World War II to publication of last caricatures in the above magazines. The author used quantitative analysis which allowed the demonstration of the artists’ range of interests and to catch plots. The inductive method and the methods which are used in art history and press studies, for instance Lasswell’s formula and E. Panofsy’s method of examination work of art were useful as well.

The thesis is composed of four parts. The first chapter, entitled Characterization of international relationships participants during the cold war is an introduction to the other parts of the work. It contains two subsections. The first is devoted to the description of the way the USA and their allies in West Europe were depicted and the second one concerns the vision of the Soviet Union and the members of the socialist bloc countries.

The second chapter tells about the caricatured vision of the cold war beginning and the events which are thought to start the conflict. The first subsection was devoted to the ending of World War II, W. Churchill’s speech about the iron curtain, the dispute about the Dardanelles and the subsequent meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers. The second subsection is concerned with the civil war in Greece and Truman’s doctrine. The third subsection tells about European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan).

The third chapter under the title of Germany Problem is composed of three subsections which contain the analysis of particular caricatures about: problem of Germany form the World War II ending to Germany division into two countries in 1949, problem of
Germany in superpowers policy after 1949 and West Germany relationships with their allies i.e. the USA, France, the UK and Italy.

The fourth chapter – *Selected problems of policy and diplomacy during the cold war* – contains two parts. The first of them is devoted to the caricatured image of rivalry between the USA and the USSR and their diverse aspects such as the arms race, the space race and another international issues, for instance Cuban crisis, N. Khrushchev visit in the USA and the scandal over U-2 spy plane. The second part concerns the analysis of caricatures about some aspects of relationships in Western bloc countries: European integration and NATO.

The author tried to prove the thesis that caricature tradition was the result of the fact that Poland, where caricatures were published, was a member of the socialist countries bloc. The caricatures were used to strengthen the negative image of the USA and Western European countries. The image of international relationships in the cold war period in caricatures sometimes appeared to be the battle between good and evil where good was represented by the USSR and its allies and evil by the USA and West European countries.