

## **Summary of the doctoral dissertation**

### **Title: „My writing really came from longing and regret” – The novels of Wiesław Jaźdzyński**

The dissertation consists of an introduction, seven chapters and a conclusion.

This dissertation focuses on discussing the novels of Wiesław Jaźdzyński - a writer whose output belongs to the period of Polish contemporary literature. The author made his debut as a prose writer in 1960 with the novel *Okolica starszego kolegi*. From that moment on, he wrote continuously until 1995, when his last work, *Laurowo i ciemno*, was released.

The first chapter presents the author's profile in biographical method. Wiesław Jaźdzyński is an artist inextricably related with the Kielce region, because Kielce is a city where he was born and raised until he came of age. The writer's childhood is also closely connected with his upbringing in the spirit of military traditions, and his youth is marked by the strong influence of Stefan Żeromski's ideas.

A detailed description of the author's output is in the second chapter, in which the issues of the novel are discussed. In his writings, Wiesław Jaźdzyński always focused on an individual, not a collective, point of view. Due to the long period of creative activity (it was 35 years), his novels reflect the most important historical and social goings-on of the years of the Polish People's Republic and the Third Republic (albeit to a much lesser extent). The discussion of the subject of the author's novel is also correlated with the character's creation, specific for the writer. The protagonist of Wiesław Jaźdzyński's novel is almost exclusively a middle-aged intellectual, a man at the beginning of his career, who comes to summation with his own life, both private experiences and achievements in the professional area.

The next chapter of this work is a discussion of war reminiscences in the author's novels. The theme of war as an experience that determines the further fate of man is an important area of issues that binds the vast majority of the author's novels, which is also related to the personal experiences of Wiesław Jaźdzyński - a partisan and a teacher in a secret occupation school. The intricacies of the construction of the world presented in such novels as *Sprawa*, *Pojednanie* or *Gdy pęka nić* were examined in terms of reminiscences of World War II in the memory of the heroes, witnesses of these events.

A separate place in the work is focused on the analysis of the writer's three novels (strongly containing autobiography), which are collectively referred to as the so-called świętokrzyskie trilogy includes the following works: *Okolica starszego kolegi*, *Nie ma powrotu*

and the *Świętokrzyski polonez*. The first of the above-mentioned texts is directly called by researchers "a novel with a key". What's more, the author himself exposed the presence in the novel of motifs and threads from his own life and that of his classmates.

The fifth chapter of this work is an analysis of the novel published in 1985 – „*Adara*” *nie odpowiada*. The author decided to note the above work and discuss it in a separate part of the dissertation due to the special, unusual form of Wiesław Jaźdzyński's writing - a *science fiction* novel. „*Adara nie odpowiada*” is the only text that fits into the canon of *science fiction* literature in the entire creative output of the writer. As in the case of the previous items, here too the discussion of the work's issues is correlated with setting it in a broader historical and theoretical-literary context. What's more, it is a text in which a turn is made towards a young reader, instead of only an adult one.

The penultimate part of the dissertation was entitled: *Adventure, mystery and humor in young adult novels by Wiesław Jaźdzyński*. It characterizes two works by the writer – *Czuwajcie w letnie noce* and *Ściśle tajne*, which are connected both by the issues raised in them, as well as the specific group of recipients to whom these texts are addressed. Indicated fragment of the dissertation exposes references between the discussed texts and other items from the base of children's and youth literature (an analogy was found to the works of such writers as: Zbigniew Nienacki, Adam Bahdaj or Wiktor Woroszylski).

The last chapter of the dissertation is an attempt to description the writer's novels according to the presence in them of elements accepted as determinants of high-art and popular literature, which, however, were preceded by assumption that the distinction between these two types of literary work is conventional. The analysis of the writer's achievements allows us to conclude that the discussed novels contain elements characteristic of high literature (the presence of motifs and toposes originating from ancient culture, an in-depth analysis of the characters' personalities, the creation of complex character types, numerous allusions and quotes referring to works classified as classics of literature). The elements that bring Jaźdzyński's writing closer to popular literature are, in turn, frequent use of the happy ending procedure in his novels, references to the criminal-sensational convention, and the presence of a clear dichotomy of good and evil in the plot of the texts.

The analysis of Wiesław Jaźdzyński's individual novels was supported by the findings of professor Tadeusz Błażejewski, whose works were extremely helpful in discussing the issues of the writer's novel. In biographical matters, articles and interviews by Stanisław Rogala, Stanisław Nyczaj and Tadeusz Wiącek also turned out to be particularly valuable.