

Summary

The interest in the female figure as a multifaceted research issue has not diminished over the years, and it is still being put into new contexts in modern times. The doctoral dissertation is titled: *Woman in light of somatic experience - an analysis of the problem based on selected Polish contemporary prose taking into account the media-cultural discourse*. Its main goal is to take a closer look at the image of a contemporary woman in Poland through the prism of selected and considered to be crucial somatic experiences that characterise her. In turn, the research theses of the dissertation are: How do key somatic experiences affect a woman's psyche?; How much do perceptions of appearance and personality change for female individuals of different ages and stages of life?; Are interpersonal relationships, especially the bond with the mother, and gender able to influence the development of a woman's identity?; How can a woman perceive her corporeality and sexuality in the context of the somatic experiences she endures?; What role do mass media, society and patriarchy play in relation to the image of the contemporary woman? Apart from an introduction (related to the research methodology), a conclusion and a bibliography, the dissertation contains four chapters. As a whole, it shows the woman's life journey presented chronologically. The first chapter deals with aspects related to her childhood and adolescence stages. The second refers to adulthood related to the functioning of the woman in somatic society. The third chapter deals with the different types of relationship between mother and child, showing both the significance of maternal closeness and the possibility of a lack of emotional bond between them. The fourth, on the other hand, deals with selected aspects related to the experience of old age of the female individual. The research methods used in the thesis are feminist-gender and analysis of the literary work. The subject literature in the thesis consists of contemporary prose works written mainly by women. Meanwhile, the literature of the subject, due to the interdisciplinary nature of the dissertation, includes publications and online sources from both literary studies, social sciences and media-cultural discourse. They are mainly more recent texts produced in the 20th and 21st centuries with an emphasis on the latter. However, the dissertation also mentions works belonging to the feminist classics constituting, somewhat, the genesis of the movement. The issues referred to in the dissertation are the figures of women, the categories of gender, femininity and type, beauty and pseudo-beauty, the patriarchal context concerning male oppression of female individuals, the body, and bodily issues. On the other hand, related emotional states include: loneliness, friendship, love, hatred, pressure, or rejection. According to the analyses carried out, cited references and internet sources, the image of the contemporary woman is developing as dynamically as the reality in which she finds herself. The somatic experiences that describe her create an accurate image of her, allowing for further interpretations in terms of both the image and invariable existential issues. The analyses in the dissertation provide a new perspective on contemporary femininity, but at the same time offer the possibility of comparing the essence of the concept with past periods.