

Summary

This dissertation is an attempt to analyze and define the phenomenon of Otherness and related categories like „the gaze of the Other” in context of the biography and works of Stanisław Lem.

Divided into two chapters, Part I opens with a subchapter that refers to Stanisław Lem's early story *The Man from Hiroshima* and reflects on the presence of Otherness and Others in the biography and works of the Lem. The second subchapter describes the crisis of the humanities and their role in the development of the category of Otherness in the 20th century. The next subchapter is an attempt to identify the sources of Otherness in the history of philosophy and its relationship to the concepts of Unity and Multiplicity. There are cited examples of the categorization of Otherness and a proposed definition of the phenomenon of Otherness, along with a whole system of categories that help to clarify the phenomenon of Otherness and emphasize its open nature. The final subchapter is a synthetic presentation of selected contemporary literary theories that provide an important methodological context for further analysis. The second chapter of this part of the dissertation examines the extent to which Stanisław Lem described existentialist thought, postmodernism, and Otherness in his essays and discursive works.

Part II begins with a chapter dedicated to the history of Jewish Otherness and a reflection on the deep connection between the image of the Other and cultural representations of the Jew (the Jew as the eponym of the Other). A number of defined terms appear that recur in later sections, such as: stereotype, identity, Marranism, self-hatred, anti-Semitism, wandering. The next chapter confronts the phenomenon of Jewish Otherness with Stanisław Lem's chronologically ordered biography – the observations from this chapter recur during analysis and interpretation of Lem works. The second half of this chapter is an analysis of Lem's linguistics and style – a search of traces of Otherness in an author's idiolect.

Part III is a collection of chapters dedicated to different categories of Otherness found in the works of Stanisław Lem. There are seven subsequent chapters and in them various named categories of Otherness. In following order is described the Otherness: 1) of the stateless person or migrant; 2) of the antihero; 3) of the scientist, the monster and the body; 4) the atheist, agnostic and believer; 5) the sick and the healthy; 6) the non-human, i.e., nature (animals, plants, environment, ecosystem); 7) the traveler (restless man, tourist, colonizer, explorer).