

From Drohobycz to Australia...Andrzej Chciuk's Relocations

Summary

The subject of the doctoral dissertation: *From Drohobycz to Australia...Andrzej Chciuk's Relocations* confirm the growing interest in expanse in literary research. This category is related to the research methodology that I used during the study. The scientific achievements of Elżbieta Rybicka turned out to be particularly useful, as she proves that not only time can be read in expanse, but also human fate. The aforementioned concept is complemented by the theory of "autobiographical places" incorporated into the framework of geopoetics by Małgorzata Czermińska, which methodologically was also useful in this dissertation. According to the researcher, the categories of time and space that the subject fills with its individual experiences become the key to distinguish an autobiographical space. The research category helpful in creating a biography-map of the protagonist's directions as well as his writing, emotional and intellectual paths turned out to be relocations. In Andrzej Chciuk's case those relocations concerned the abandonment of settled life in a city in the borderlands of the former Polish Republic and the choice of emigration to Australia. The constant movement and the author's travels also made it possible to verify the current opposition between the periphery and the center. They were also the result of his experience of migration, growing into a new continent, and influenced the "reading" displacements that conditioned the dynamics and flexibility of the reception of the author's works.

The analysis of critical works devoted to the writer's work shows that this Australian stage in the author's life is an insufficiently described part of Polish literary life. Except that, the author did not get a strictly literary approach to his work, as well as a critical evaluation of journalism - dispersed and partially unpublished. Another reason why I recalled his works results from the special treatment of the language of his childhood as a medium between the unchanging, secure past and the dynamic and unstable "here and now". The Lviv dialect, known as balak, so willingly used in the writings of the author of Atlantis, is an extremely original phenomenon on the linguistic map of the antipodes. The above theses contain the aims of my research, in which I used fiction and journalistic works and the writer's letters.

The present dissertation consists of three chapters. In the first one, entitled *From Andrzej Chciuk to Andrew Soddell - an adventurous biography of an emigrant*, I presented the artist's profile from the perspective of his work. Although the author has a biography written by

Bogumiła Żongołłowicz, this work is of a popularizing nature. In this chapter, I drew attention to the breakthrough moments in the writer's biography that determined his complicated fate, and I particularly emphasized the change of the author's name of *Atlantis*, which was a symbolic turning point between the various stages of his life. The title of the second chapter of "*City and a half*" - Drohobych as a phenomenon of a cultural borderland, contains Marian Hemar's opinion on the multiethnic nature of this place, therefore, analyzing Chciuk's texts, I showed the mechanism of building the separateness between the Polish, Jewish and Ukrainian community of the city, which in the author's memoirs constitute an inseparable whole. In order to compare different visions of the Borderlands, I also examined the notes from the journeys of other foreign writers around this part of the Republic of Poland.

I have also shown that Chciuk idealizes his "little homeland" on several levels - by perpetuating national myths, the way of depicting or using the Lviv dialect for this purpose. In the last chapter, entitled *Andrzej Chciuk's Polish Australia*, I discussed various concepts of emigration and the status of an emigration writer, I also described Polish literary life in the antipodes. By analyzing the novels devoted to the environment of compatriots in the Antipodes, maritime novels and Chciuk's journalism, I showed to what extent the experience of the borderland city influenced the perception of people and the world in the new reality. In this part of the work, I also referred to the writer's travels around Europe, Israel and his journeys around Australia. In the writer's self-creation, I found autobiographical threads and traces of a nomadic subject that show his evolution. I put a lot of emphasis on the image of two Australias - the foreign one, displaced from the author's memory, and the other, which becomes the material of the myth of "Polish Australia". My considerations led me to the conclusion that Chciuk's relocations are apparent, because the author has never left Drohobycz mentally, becoming a prisoner of his "Atlantis".

