

Halina Kucyk

Student's book number: 3601

Title: *Suffering Issues in Jerzy Żuławski's Literary Output*

The aim of the thesis was an attempt to capture suffering issues in writing of Jerzy Żuławski, a writer, poet, playwright, philosopher, as well as an aesthete from the period of Young Poland, with the use of literary tools. The scrutiny of the above mentioned author's writing was based on his literary output, including dramas, essays, stories, chosen poems, and also a popular science book about Baruch Spinoza. To achieve this aim, I applied a searching method depended on analysis of the data sources, synthesis of research outcomes, completed with the comparative method.

A characteristic trait of Żuławski's writing is multilayering and problem extent. This thinker and artist understood and portrayed with exceptional insight fundamental phenomenon and dramas of humane existence – inability of subjective full recognition, the loss of a human being in the world, suffering and loneliness. Not completely understood by literary scholars remained a vast theme of suffering presented in various Żuławski's forms of writing.

In our exploratory pondering the methodical starting point was setting Żuławski's writing in the modernistic paradigm of the turn of the 19th and 20th century.

The dissertation was divided into five chapters. In the first one were described suffering issues presented in Żuławski's literary output in the generational context of the epoch. We examined what influenced the way of thinking of the writer, and why he presented his literary protagonists as suffering ones. We showed the role of young philosophers in the period of Young Poland, people who influenced the way of thinking of the representatives of this epoch and moulded the way of creation. This philosophy, which included pessimistic and decadent views, concentrated Żuławski's attention on looking for the exit of the generational crisis. We showed the influence of Arthur Schopenhauer, Fryderyk Nietzsche and Baruch Spinoza on the shaping of Żuławski's way of thinking and writing.

Next chapters which include a detailed treatment of suffering issues in the works of the author of *The Lunar Trilogy* constitute a major part of the thesis. In the second chapter we tried to show how a religious crisis influenced the despair of writers of the epoch, including Jerzy Żuławski. These authors doubted God who remained silent and became distant from a man. We also take account of the role of Satan who, considering the absence of God, relates to the process of activity and creation. We present a pursuit of individuals to achieve

great things. Because of lack of understanding in the immanent world, they will resort to metaphysical contents in order to find a formula for avoiding loneliness and suffering embodied in the temporal world.

The third chapter relates to the treatment of suffering as a consequence of scientific crisis. Literary protagonists will be looking for the escape from worldly suffering in another dimension. Moon will become such a place and creation of life there will free a man from suffering and allow him for happiness. In this chapter are analysed all three parts of *The Lunar Trilogy: On the Silver Globe, The Conqueror, The Old Earth* and a short story *The White Rat*. We have regard to the influence of the philosophy of the East on attempts to cope with suffering. We take into critical consideration plays: *The Castle City of the Sun* and *Eros and Psyche*; we refer to the second volume of the novel *Laus Feminae (Professor Butrym)*, concentrating on the question of the main protagonist's suffering from the poem *Lotos* and from the short story *Pax*. We dedicate a separate subchapter to the question of suffering in an independence context, basing mainly on the drama *The Dictator*.

In the fourth chapter we interpret protagonists' suffering resulting from their individualism. We explore in what way a creative individual, experiencing a power of the divine element, creating great works, is subjected to suffering, and how this suffering influences the creation and existence of the author. We analyse the suffering that is embodied in the motive of montane hiking and walking along urban areas.

The last fifth chapter relates to the suffering hidden in the nature. There was analysed the creative role of the nature which also determines human existence and subsistence. We payed attention to the aspect of human powerlessness against destiny. We also include the role of *femme fatale* and *Don Juan* in the life of individuals.

The ending of the thesis represents a summary of the results of the survey. In this part of the dissertation are also presented research perspectives in the context of the theme concerned. Suffering could be presented even more expansively, showing more expressly contexts, comparing with the suffering that is articulated in the works of another Young Poland writers, for example Stanisław Przybyszewski, Tadeusz Miciński, Antoni Lange. An interesting exploratory issue, till now not fully interpreted, could be the discussing about the reception of Jerzy Żuławski's dramas over the years and a closer look on his protagonists in the light of the post-romantic paradigm, which still is presented in the Polish theatre. Thereby, shedding more light on suffering.