

Summary

This dissertation analyzes and interprets the folk novels of Jozef Ignacy Kraszewski using selected tools of geopoetics and elements of regionalism. The starting point is the delineation of research perspectives and the geohistorical landscape of the Borderlands, along with the concept of the borderland myth. *Wspomnienia Wołynia, Polesia i Litwy*, as attempts to describe a literary voyage, are the direct genesis of the cycle of works analyzed, which can be described as ethnographic novels. The research also focuses on the characters of the people and the Polish-Lithuanian-Belarusian borderland, which was extremely close to the writer. The dissertation deals with the theme of a small homeland in the literary tradition and indicates its place in Kraszewski's life and works.

The folk novels are an example of works in which the relation of the small homeland and the bond between man and land are extremely important for the understanding of the identity of literary characters. The dissertation oscillates around the theme of region, locality, the topos of place and space. Imaginary geography as an element of the poetics of space, which appears in folk novels, is presented on the example of such figures as the cottage, cemetery, inn and manor. The last issue discussed is that of center-periphery. In the space presented in the cycle of novels, Kraszewski placed literary heroes experiencing difficulties arising from their problematic identity status. Noteworthy are the characters of the Others, who do not fit into the space and socio-cultural norms, of which Jews, Gypsies, and Mazurians are the best examples; this supplements the ideological dimension of the novel, showing the extraordinary importance of identity.

The presented interpretations of folk novels in the perspective of research practice, which is geopoetics within the framework of spatial turn, and chosen instruments which it has at its disposal, as well as the elements of regionalism, can be a starting point for further research on works in which the theme of peasant injustice and the problem of strong relation between man and nature appears. At the same time, it allows us to perceive a number of new meanings important for the interpretation of these novels.