

DOROTA STASZEWSKA

THE EXPERIENCE OF SUFFERING AND ITS POETIC NOTATION IN THE WORKS OF
HALINA POŚWIATOWSKA. AN ATTEMPT AT OUTLINING EXISTENTIAL POETICS

Doctoral Dissertations Abstract

The subject of this doctoral dissertation is the experiencing of pain and suffering in a wide philosophical, literary, and anthropological context. It attempts to present how these aspects are apparent in the works of Halina Poświatowska; what tropes, symbols, and conceptualisations are employed by the poet to express these inexplicable, to a degree, experiences. The dissertation makes use of borderline situations, the category of experience, the doctrine of affections, and various themes of existential philosophy. It analyses the construction of the speaker and of the space, i.e. in reference to the hypotheses of Viktor Frankl, the author of the logotherapeutic theory of life, as well as the noo-dynamics of Kazimierz Popielski, who wrote of the active search for values, of negotiating the perception of the world with a one's expectations, as well as of "the will to meaning". The dissertation also makes reference to certain psychoanalytical tropes, both classical and Freudian, as well as the thematic criticism of Gaston Bachelard. The key themes of Poświatowska's poetry are analysed in the dissertation: home and homelessness, light and darkness, solitude and community, hope and despair, speech and silence. They determine the division of the dissertation into six topical chapters and an introduction presenting the current state of the research into Poświatowska's oeuvre, as well as the conclusion and bibliography. A vital subject of the analyses is the function of language; the limits of expressibility and the assimilative and compensative potential of speech. The author studies the sphere of "musicality", expressed by particular linguistic devices, harmonies, parallelisms and contrasts, placed against the backdrop of somaesthetics and "writing with the body". The dissertation aims to establish the essential role of transcending and overcoming negative experiences through various forms of activity, including, or perhaps primarily through, creative work, writing, and poetry.