

CHILDREN AND THE WORLD IN POLISH LITERATURE OF THE XIXTH CENTURY

Through the poetics of works by M. Konopnytska, E. Ozheshko, H. Senkevich and B. Prus the article reveals the problem of children's relationship with the world in Polish literature of the XIXth century, analyses the artistic means of revealing the inner world of a child and the influence of external circumstances on his/her mind, considers typological features and individual approaches of each writer to the theme. The theme of childhood was and has been of concern to artists in words of different nations and generations. Polish writers of the positivism epoch – M. Konopnytska, E. Ozheshko, H. Senkevich, B. Prus and others – did not stay away from the problem. Polish literary studies, in particular, H. Markevych, A. Brodzka, M. Knotge, L. Kruchkovskiyi, M. Plakhetskiyi, Z. Shveikovskiyi, gave all round analysis of ways of those writers' revealing of children's characters and destinies.

The researchers were primary interested in genetic ties, on the one hand, of B. Prus with H. Senkevich, on the other hand – of M. Konopnytska with E. Ozheshko and B. Prus, typological coincidences in their works, and also the problem of inheritance of motifs, in particular, when a child's relationship with the world was described, which was determined by Z. Shveikovskiyi. Z. Shveikovskiyi's emphasis on *tematyce ludowej* signified that B. Prus's admiration for H. Senkevich was not based only on the artistry of the latter, but also on their common democratic principles.

In contrast to Z. Shveikovskiyi, A. Brodzka did not concentrate on influences, but on the genre peculiarities of stories about childhood, taking them into the context of M. Konopnytska's legacy. A detailed analysis of works on the theme of childhood in M. Konopnytska's, E. Ozheshko's, H. Senkevich's and B. Prus's creative activity is beyond the scope of this article. But we will make a point that the achievements of Polish literary studies enable further steps in researching into the problem of childhood in Polish literature, in particular, showing through the poetics the way M. Konopnytska, E. Ozheshko, H. Senkevich and B. Prus depicted children's relationship with the world and its influence on their state of mind, which is the aim of the article.

It has been established that coincidences in H. Senkevich's, E. Ozheshko's, B. Prus's and M. Konopnytska's works are brought about by the situation of the children, whose destinies are determined by external circumstances, first of all, by social conditions. Such depiction of a child's mutual relations with the world was typical of the positivism epoch and reflected in the poetics of its representatives. The differences in stories about children depend on the goal set by the writers. Despite the resemblance of views on the problem of a child's relations with the world, they differ in their tasks already formulated in the titles of their works. Comparing these writers' works gives a broad picture of deprived childhood with a poor peasant background, which is in its essence a protest against social injustice.