

Abstract

This work takes up the issue of the representation of masculinities in the writings of Tadeusz Różewicz. At the outset, the author of the dissertation rejects the transparency of male experience resulting from patriarchal claims to universality, reading practically the entire artistic output, supported by the poet's biography, interviews and extensive correspondence, through the prism of masculinities studies. He includes psychoanalysis and the aftermath of the biological turn in the faculty of arts into the research apparatus, incl. biopolitics, somatic criticism, anal criticism or maladic discourse.

Thus, the author reconstructs a specific "BIOgraphy" of the coherent subject of Różewicz's work, "everyMAN" of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, immersed in the corporeality, phenomenological, tangible experience of the "flesh of the world" from birth and the sonship, through youth spent in guerrilla warfare, the everlasting echoes of war in adult life, marriage, fatherhood, male friendship and finally – male old age (rarely described by researchers, especially in Poland), up to the death of the poet himself, crowning his "work-in-(constant)-progress".

As a representative of his generation, Różewicz shows that masculinity in the twentieth century turns out to be an impossible project, a treacherous trap of conventions and centuries-old clichés, set by ancestors unprepared for everything that history has prepared for a man. The observation of the changes in masculinity taking place in the following decades and the simultaneous following changes in the life of the poet himself from childhood to the end of his life, made it possible to notice the alleged "crisis" of "traditional" masculinity.

In conclusion, the author considers whether the attempt to save manhood can be successful. Undoubtedly, success is guaranteed by the recognition of its fluidity, changeability and diversity, which is far from a rigid paradigm, but most of all – by coming to terms with the exhaustion of the previous forms (constituted by the patriarchy), the functionality of which has been revised by the civilization changes of the 20th and 21st centuries, and by starting the building of male identity from scratch.