

SUMMARY

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Title of the dissertation: *Moving the Map. Space as a Category of Travel Experience in Contemporary Polish and Italian Literature*

The main focus of the research presented in the dissertation is contemporary Polish and Italian literary texts dedicated to journeys to Italy, as well as how space is described within them.

The dissertation is organized into two parts, preceded by an extensive introductory essay titled *On the Traveler's Path: On the 'War Path'*. This essay provides a theoretical foundation for the subsequent analysis of literary texts. It discusses topics related to the role of space in the humanities (particularly in contemporary literary studies). The essay also explores fundamental theories of the sociology of travel, the history and manifestations of the 'Italian journey', and the most significant examples of Italian myths present in literature. Furthermore, the author addresses the issue of maps and their relationship with both space and literature.

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The first part of the dissertation is titled *The Italian Journey – an 'External' Perspective* and focuses on texts written by Polish authors. In one chapter of this part are analyzed three essay collections by Marek Zagańczyk: ("*Experiencing Similar Views*" – a brief overview of Marek Zagańczyk's Italogy). Additionally, the study examines Dariusz Czaja's essay collection dedicated to Southern Italy (*How to be Enchanted by Italy Again? Dariusz Czaja's Italian Peregrinations*), and Jarosław Mikołajewski's literary reportage titled *Terremoto (Italy – the 'Evil Home'. Around Jarosław Mikołajewski's "Terremoto")*. The first part of the dissertation concludes with a chapter dedicated to the role of culinary descriptions in the context of the Italian journey. This chapter, titled *From the kitchen: Culinary themes in contemporary Polish literary travels (to Italy)*, highlights the various functions served by descriptions of meals in those texts.

The second part of the doctoral thesis, entitled *Italian Journey – “internal” optics*, is devoted to the implementation of the title theme in works created by Italian authors. This section opens with a text dedicated to a reportage, *La lunga strada di sabbia* by Pier Paolo Pasolini, (that is still untranslated into the Polish language). This book simultaneously reveals characteristic features of this artist’s later works as well as elements completely atypical for him.

Then the author of the research proposes two chapters devoted to feminist literature. One of them is entitled *To be different, to be yourself. About the liberating (?) experience of otherness in contemporary women’s prose on the example of Dacia Maraini’s “The Long Life of Marianna Ucrìa” and novel “The Pain of Stones” by Milena Agus*. Through these novels as examples – for one novel from both Italian islands (Sicily and Sardinia) – the author analyzes how the heroines’ disability contributes to building their identity and independence, as well as the significance of the spaces they inhabit. The next chapter, titled *Between South and North: Maria Annita Baffa’s “La sposa della neve” and escape as a form of self-discovery* examines how another female protagonist becomes self-determined by embarking on a journey.

The fourth chapter of the dissertation is titled *The Map and the Mafia: “National Route 106. On the Secret Trails of the Calabrian Mafia” by Antonio Talia*. It explores a reportage journey through Calabria region in search of traces of a local criminal organization. The final chapter of the thesis is titled *Blooming or faded? A Portrait of a Tuscan town in “My Florence” by Roberto Salvadori*. In this chapter, the author explores the non-obvious image of Florence, drawing on an essay by Roberto Salvadori and relating it to the concept of non-places proposed by Marc Augé.

Keywords: travel, Italy, reportage, map, space, Zagańczyk, Czaja, Mikołajewski, Baffa, Maraini, Agus, Pasolini, Talia, Salvadori.

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