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Polish Mediterranean discourse indicators in diachronic perspective (on the example of texts on Italy)

SUMMARY

This doctoral thesis aims to present a comprehensive linguistic analysis of the Italo-centric part of the Mediterranean discourse conducted with a use of digital methods and tools (text corpus). In the analysis, the author applied a diachronic perspective, and focused on the analysed discourse's lexical, proprial (onymic), and textual indicators. It was assumed that the thematic discourse, an example of which is the Mediterranean discourse, can be considered, among others, as the family of different genres connected by a common theme. Accordingly, the research material includes here various genres of travel writing on Italy, written in a wide period from the sixteenth century to the present day, and collected in the form of an electronic and searchable corpus. The *Corpus of Polish Mediterranean discourse (16th–21st centuries)* has over a million segments and consists of forty-five texts written in three historical periods: 1. from the 16th century to the 18th century, 2. 19th century, and 3. from the 20th century to the 21st century. This time frame was used as a starting point for later comparative analysis of the phenomena, and the period they occur in, observed in the discourse. This research, representing a linguistic point of view, is part of numerous studies on the importance of the Italian space in areas such as literature, history, art, culture, etc.

This doctoral thesis contains two main parts and includes a total of seven chapters. The first part, which consists of two chapters and presents theoretical and methodological remarks, reviews the linguistic literature and describes the most important terminology for the research. The closest theoretical and methodological context was the application of textology, linguistic and onomastic discourse analysis as well as cultural linguistics, supported by computer analyses. Another fundamental issue raised in this part of the work was the detailed description of the text material collected in a form of a corpus. To this end, the most important program findings and the conceptual framework of corpus linguistics were recalled, and the process of preparing the corpus, the criteria for selecting texts and their typology was established.

The second part, analytical, consists of five chapters presenting the results followed by observations on various categories creating this discourse. First, the rank lists were analysed in terms of the lexis most frequently repeated in texts and its involvement in shaping the linguistic and discursive image of Italy and the Italian journey over several centuries. Attention was also paid to keywords and the proprial (onymic) layer of the discourse, which includes various structural proper names' variants, their equivalents in the text and discourse as well as their functions. In addition, the author concentrates on the description of textological categories, such as: text/discourse entities, points

of view, discursive practices of profiling Italian urban space and communication strategies. Observations of these various areas of the emergence of the examined discourse over several centuries lead to the conclusion that a significant number of phenomena discussed in the thesis are permanent and continued in subsequent historical periods, which proves the relative coherence of these discourse's fragments, their intertextuality and, more clearly, durability despite social and civilization changes.

Keywords: discourse, discursive image of the world, corpus, onomastic discourse analysis, travel writing, Mediterranean, Italy

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