

Marta Blaszkowska

The Orders of Unreality. Coherence in the Worlds of Polish Contemporary Fantasy Literature

Summary

The thesis aims to analyze fictional worlds presented in Polish fantasy novels in the context of the theory of Jacques Lacan, especially his concept of three orders/registers of human experience and psyche: the Imaginary, the Symbolic and the Real.

Referring to this theory, the author tries to find similarities between imaginary worlds and our reality. The first chapter presents the current state of research on the fantasy literature and outlines the methodology, using the category of coherence.

The second chapter revolves around the Imaginary order, giving particular attention to the mirror stage. This description of Imaginary order provides focus on categories such as “self” and “otherness”.

The chapter about the Symbolic order is focused on subject’s alienation in a world full of laws, rules and norms. Other important issues related to the Symbolic are the language insufficiency and the special role of this order. According to Lacan, the Symbolic is a mask: all of norms and structures strive to cover frightening, intimidating Real order. Consequently, the next part of the thesis revolves around the trauma caused by the contact with the Real order, represented, among other things, by death and so called “nuclear apocalypse”.

In the last part the author returns to the linguistic issues, this time to present situations in which the language cannot win with the Real.