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***Playing With Multiple Voices. Polyphony and Collage in the Works of Leopold Buczkowski.  
Towards a Poetics of Multiculturalism***

**Summary**

The proposed dissertation presents a study of Leopold Buczkowski's early prose, mainly his first three novels: *Wertepy*, *Black Torrent* and *Dorycki krużganek*, focusing on the issues of collage, polyphony and the poetics of multiculturalism. The main thesis of the work is that the phenomena recognized in the literary discourse as: intertextuality, collage, polyphony and dialogism are the manifestation of text heterogeneity, activated or neutralized in the process of semiosis. Leopold Buczkowski uses this property of semiotic mechanism of production of meaning to play a textual game with the praxis of the interpretive community, the aim of which is to reevaluate it. The writer assumes the role of a trickster, revealing the act of objectification underlying interpretive practices. Other research problems explored in the dissertation are the issues of nesting of the text and representation of cultural phenomena in literature. The contestation of literary conventions is accompanied by a parallel critique of readings of cultural phenomena, in which the categories of cultural perception of the World War II, as well as the representation of national and cultural identity, are undermined. Buczkowski's prose reconstructs Galicia as a coherent, multi-ethnic cultural formation with its textual universe, a specific frame of reference, while simultaneously describing and re-creating the process of its destruction. In addition to a detailed discussion of the researched issues, the main conclusion of the work is the argument that early prose of Leopold Buczkowski effectively reevaluates the praxis of the interpretive community. The writer's works lead to contradictions in interpretation and break the hegemony of natural reading.

The dissertation begins with a short description of the reception of Buczkowski's work, preceded by a biographical note and a proposal for a chronological division of his work, which justifies the scope of the analysis. It is followed by an outline of the content of the three novels which form the core of the subject of study and a discussion of the most important questions raised in the discourse concerning them. The next chapter presents the theory constituting the basis of the analyzes carried out in the dissertation. Its main axes are semiotics and pragmatism, with additional influences of formalism and post-structuralism, and the most important concepts concern the question of the inferential nature of the semiotic process (the Peircean

abduction as its basis), problems of interpretive communities (creating texts through readings) and its praxis, the praxis of reading, composed of various interpretive strategies (not limited to the traditionally understood literary convention ) including the so-called 'natural reading'. In addition, the theoretical part of the work presents and discusses the main interpretative problems faced by the discourse in the analyzes of Leopold Buczkowski's work. This section ends with the presentation of the main thesis of the dissertation.

The next part of the work is devoted to the study of the poetics of early prose divided into four issues that correspond to the functional treatment of text heterogeneity in the praxis of reading: intertextuality, collage, polyphony and dialogism. In addition, an analysis of the subject of metaphor in the context of these problems is presented in parallel. The first chapter of this part deals with intertextuality and discusses Buczkowski's textual practices of combining text from quotations from various other works. The next chapter is devoted to the collage understood as textual tension introduced by the phenomenon of heterogeneity. The next parts of the analysis concern polyphony and dialogism and focus on the problem of nesting of text. In addition, the figure of a mythological trickster is proposed in the work as an interpretative strategy in reading Buczkowski's prose. The author himself appears as a trickster, playing a kind of game with the praxis of interpretive community.

The third part of the work, devoted to the representation of cultural phenomena in Buczkowski's prose, opens with an analysis of the so-called substitution device (*ostranenie*, defamiliarization or estrangement) in *Pierwsza świętość*. The novel opens a new stage in the writer's oeuvre and, through its analysis, the basic differences as well as similarities between periods in Buczkowski's textual practice are outlined, focusing on the question of contesting the praxis of reading. However, it is not the literary praxis, which is the main focus here, but forms of reading cultural phenomena by interpretive community. The device employed in the novel serves primarily to re-evaluate the interpretive strategy concerning the category of The Second World War within discourse. The last chapter of the dissertation discusses the poetics of multiculturalism, i.e., the way in which Buczkowski re-creates multicultural Galicia in his prose. The main thesis is, that the essential element of this poetics is, on the one hand, the contestation of the existing representational hegemony, and on the other hand, the construction of a specific universe of Galicia and the documentation of the process of the destruction of this culture.