

**Summary of the doctoral dissertation**  
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Dissertation title: *Literary case versus clinical case. Attempt at integrative diagnosis of Maria Komornicka's works.*

In my dissertation, I put forward a thesis about the possibility of and need for a new method of interpreting a literary text - an integrative diagnosis of the text, bearing in mind two things: a contemporary place of biographies in literature studies and a specific character of "literature of madness". The transfer of the existing method of integration in the field of social sciences into a literary field is possible thanks to such tools as depth psychology, psychodynamics, systemic, dialogue or narrative theories. I introduce the term "narrative of trauma" in order to differentiate the work of people affected by the traumatisation of experience from the work of writers suffering from mental disorders. Such understood "narrative of trauma" I interpret using the tools for human personality diagnosis. I treat the literary work as a cultural text independent of the author only to compare it with the writer and their biography at the explication stage, which gives rise to new understandings and use of a new cognitive method. Until now, the tools of contemporary integrative psychotherapy have not been used in the process of interpreting literary texts, hence the awareness that when it comes to the practical test of the method, it constitutes a new approach to the analysis of literary texts in general.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, five chapters and conclusion.

In Chapter I, I elaborate on the biography of Maria Komornicka, her difficult life and key moments of experiencing and creating. Looking at the transformation of not only the personality, but also the work of Maria/Piotr, I consider where the borderlines of narrative lie today and how the narrator's status shapes itself in the modern understanding. Treating Komornicka's life and literature as the same phenomenon - psychodrama of modernity - I consider the place of integrative psychotherapy tools in literature studies.

Chapter II contains a psychoanalytic interpretation of stories *Z życia nędzarza* and *Staszka*, referring to phenomena such as explicit and implicit language of narrative obsessive thoughts, or Freud's repetition compulsion. Based on the Lacanian understanding of the act of speech, I reach the unity of Komornicka's linguistic layers, finding a twin-like relationship between the two stories under analysis. The works *Przejęciowi* and *Dlaczego* allow to reflect on the phenomena of Antonovsky's coherence and moral masochism. I consider how the

incomplete presence of transitional forms, outlined by Komornicka, becomes expression of suffering or cultural neuroticism and, at the same time, a tool for social and personal manipulation.

In Chapter III, I have included a psychodynamic interpretation of *Baśń. Psalmodia*. I put the short story *O ojcu i córce* in the light of Melanie Klein's object relations theory, recognising the presence of schizoid fantasies or primitive idealisation in the narrative. I read *Andronice* as a projection of Jungian archetypes, such as Anima and Animus, Great Mother, Shadow and Self. Based on the shape of the narrative, I explain the process of individualisation of the characters' personalities as well as the phenomenon of too strong identification of the characters' *ego* with a particular archetype. In the last part of the chapter, I devote my attention to the novel *Halszka*, interpreting it in the perspective of Adler's individual psychology.

In Chapter IV of the dissertation, I have included an integral interpretation of the work *Biesy* with particular emphasis put on the contemporary understanding of the narrative psychology. Confronting the current tradition of understandings of Komornicka's novels with new possibilities of integrating the understanding of cultural texts, with narratives treated as a diagnostic tool or a mental phenomenon, I find the possibilities of reinterpreting unjust conclusions about life and health of Maria Komornicka. A new approach to *Biesy* is enabled by a method of thematic analysis of narrative, which determines the position of the narrator of work or the levels of pre-narrative. An interpretative category not used until now prove to be the etiological approach to eating disorders or the phenomenon of control in the cognitive and behavioural sense.

The last chapter of the work integrates the previous interpretations of Maria Komornicka's works with her difficult life and traumatic experiences. Based on the work *Listy* by Maria/Piotr, I consider the place of trauma and the narrative of trauma in literature studies. The transformation of Maria into Piotr Odmieniec Włast combines the life and work of the male/female into the unity of the performativity of experiencing, naming and describing. The prospect of Steiner's mental asylum raises new interpretative possibilities based on such phenomena as pathological personality organisation, projected *self* or bond of mourning. The chapter ends with an interview with Zofia Dernałowicz conducted in June 2017 at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

The history of Komornicka shows how great a challenge awaits the reader-researcher, shaping the contemporary understanding of interpretation methods. I see broad possibilities in the emerging methods of literature studies, combining the richness of numerous, evolving

humanities, not yet associated with the possibilities of interpretation of literary texts. As I declare in my work, Komornicka has not denied her own existence, but our understanding of the world.