

Abstracts

Marek Miller, Piotr Wojciechowski

Reportage Laboratory: An Outline of Research Issues

The paper aims to present the outline of the research conducted by Reportage Laboratory. The Laboratory represents a place of journalistic experimentation and investigations. The experimentations are generated by team work upon texts, the multimedia narration, the inquiry of the field situated among journalism and literature. The research is directed towards scientific and artistic knowledge. The paper portrays both the history and the achievements of Reportage Laboratory and the method it employs.

Keywords: Reportage, Documentary Novel, Polyphony, Multimedia, Oral History

Marek Miller

The Polyphonic Documentary Novel

The goal of the paper is to present the polyphonic documentary novel. This concept has been elaborated by the Reportage Laboratory. The Laboratory is a place for journalist experiments and quests, where teams of journalists work on a text, tell stories using multimedia means, penetrate the sphere in between journalism and literature, journalism and playwriting, and journalism and screenplay writing. When combining novel and reportage writing, polyphony, being focused on novel's objectivity, directness and socio-community philosophy, becomes the pivotal concept. The text deals with the issue of the polyphonic reportage novel's relation with history, drama, and film screenplay, as well as other with issues stemming from Reportage Laboratory practice.

Keywords: Reportage, Documentary Novel, Polyphony, Multimedia, Oral History

Zygmunt Ziątek

Reportage as Literature: Genealogy and Place of Marek Miller's Reportage Laboratory

The present essay aims at answering a question regarding the place of the Polish reportage in new historical and communicational situation (the one after 1989) dominated by electronic mass media. The entire genre is shifting towards literature. This is not a specifically Polish phenomenon, but here it coincided with a great generational change. The genre development was partially blocked by martial law and its consequences, but it was also characterized by a very strong status of its more literary type worked out by the previous generation, whose representatives regarded it as a testimony formula: the most popular kind of Polish storytelling in the 20th century. All this has influenced the formation of three schools of reportage writing that have been operative in the last 20 years. They seem to have been inspired by three masters of the previous generation: Hanna Krall, Krzysztof Kąkolewski and Ryszard Kapuściński. Their presence is a proof of an important role the tradition plays in situating the contemporary genre within the history of Polish literature.

Keywords: Reportage, Reportage Laboratory, Marek Miller, Literature, Polyphony

Anna Jakubas

Assembled History

The paper undertakes a comparatist analysis of Katarzyna Madoń-Mitzner's book *Redeemed from Mauthausen. The Reports of Polish Prisoners of Nazi Lagers Mauthausen-Gusen* and of Marek Miller's *Europe according to Auschwitz. Litzmannstadt Ghetto*. By attempting to individuate in these publications the elements of the represented world, such as fictional character, the rationale and the event, the author discovers the common narrative montage techniques. The method employed by Marek Miller and Reportage Laboratory, while intensively exploiting the narrative theory, appears able to create a new type of polyphonic documentary narration in which – by means of montage of events – the documentary plot is outlined and in which documentary characters are present. On the other hand, the montage method used by the publisher of *Redeemed from Mauthausen* (KARTA) aims to account for events with special interest in chronology and thematic connections, a choice that in the end determines a different perception of narrative totality.

Keywords: Montage, Oral History, Reportage Laboratory, Marek Miller, KARTA

Paulina Orłowska

Reportage and Utopia: Dialogic Relation to Other's Word in Polyphonic Witnesses' Report

The paper introduces to oral history methodology, that Reportage Laboratory regards as canvas of its journalistic-artistic practices. After having explicated the very notion of oral history, we shall turn to considering the problem of report montage in relation with Bakhtin's polyphony. We shall contend the validity of the appellation "polyphonic reportage novel" by examining three basic conditions characterizing the polyphonic discourse: character's self-consciousness, its superiority with respect to reportage's topic, and the question of author's position with respect to characters and the topic. We shall also argue with the conviction that reportage as genre can coexist with the notion of polyphony. At the same time, we shall suggest considering the polyphony as ideal model upon which the author should ponder when aiming to create the text that does not objectify the characters.

Keywords: Polyphony, Mikhail Bakhtin, Dialog, Testimony, Reportage

Krzysztof Muszyński

The Space of the Community in The Reportage Laboratory Projects

The author undertakes a reflection upon the community by analysing three books inspired by Reportage Laboratory: Karolina Apiecionek's *Mundial '74. Extra time*, Jakub Kulawczuk's *Suspended time* and Kinga Grafa, Marta Mazuś, Władysław Rybiński and Marta Wójcik's *Montrésor Island*. The author points at formal similarities of analysed works and, through the close reading of the texts, defines the spots around which the community gathers and splits. In the first place, the topics of above mentioned books will be exposed along with the modalities of narrative construction, dramaturgy and language differentiation taking place in all three polyphonic reportages. The reflection, which is to be located on the borderline between literature studies, sociology, and geography – just as Reportage Laboratory methodologies are borderline – is inspired by Bakhtin's theory and, primarily, by Elżbieta Rybicka's *Geopoetics*.

Keywords: The Reportage Laboratory, Community, Geopoetics, Polyphony, Mikhail Bakhtin

Leszek Nurzyński

The Last Grenada: The Różycki Bazaar Myth in the Polyphonic Reportage Novel *History of Różycki Bazaar*

The author analyses the relation between the mythical narration and the polyphonic reportage novel, which in turn is grounded in oral history documents. The main object of the paper is represented by the outline of the history of Różycki Bazaar upon which Reportage Laboratory – operating at the Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw – has been working. The voices of hundreds of testimonies, constituting the narrative, are seen to be not only bringers of a myth. These voices appear to found a mythical narrative by themselves. In order to corroborate such a thesis, it is necessary to answer the question whether documentary form of the narrative, meant to reach the uttermost level of objectivity, merely accounts for a myth, and whether its mythopoetic function does not conflict with the necessity for a truthful account of events? Finally, can the narrative grounded in these basics represent the common element for a community, being true that its main objective is to register the state of group self-consciousness? Principal theories the paper is grounded in are Northrop Frye's conception of myth and Hayden White's narrative schemes.

Keywords: Myth, Narration, Polyphonic Reportage Novel, The Reportage Laboratory, *History of Różycki Bazaar*

Piotr Wojciechowski

School – Community – An Island of Ethos (Reflections of a Teacher about The Reportage Laboratory)

The text presented here is a literary essay rather than a scientific paper. The author shows how fruitful was to use the metaphor and the wisdom of myths when working with Reportage Laboratory students. He points to the fact that myths are not merely a part of social group identity, but that they can also be used as artificially created tools able to manipulate the identities. Beside classical myths developing naturally and making lasting contribution to the culture and spirituality, there are myths constructed currently. The myths of our civilization are being build and spread with conscious purpose of manipulating politics and markets. Reportage Laboratory refers to such an activity as “mythotronics” – the purposeful influencing the individuals and social groups by using the artificially constructed mythology. When we deal with the idea of polyphonic documentary novel, we conform with two parallel goals: reporting objective facts, and showing the events as the revelation of a myth. The “hidden narrator” – the one who

edits the polyphonic reportage novel – always works under the “mythosphere” influence. Thus, we could call his work “a mythotronic action”. Moreover, the text includes the discussion relative to the nature of facts populating and creating the world of media. The author underlines the importance of media ecology meant as critical evaluation of economy, politics and cultural environment determining the media content.

Keywords: Media, Reportage, Myth, Mythotronics, Media Ecology

Jacek Wasilewski

The Criticism of Polyphonic Methodology: A Theology of Journalism

The paper aims to analyse the polyphonic novel as a process and a genre from three perspectives. In the first place, by problematizing the function of the narrator of journalistic reports – such a critical analysis enables us to note different narrative levels. The narrator does not present a single story, but rather observes the phenomenon for a longer stretch of time. He is not a columnist for whom the story represents the argument to be used in public discourse. He is not a historian as well, whose description refers to abstract beings. All this influences the results of journalistic work. The journalist points at common experience of human groups by conserving his individual perspective. In the second place, the polyphony allows us to note the specific value of the individual voice – timbre, style, perspective. Moreover, all this leads us to the third perspective – the elaboration of a common history, which shall be considered as in accordance with the truth of our conscience.

Keywords: Reportage Laboratory, Polyphonic Novel, Narration, Marek Miller, Metahistory