

Linguistic and cultural stereotypes in books for preschool children. Semantics and pragmatics

The aim of the study was to confront the well-known stereotypes of mother and father with their literary and linguistic realisations in a series of books for pre-school children. The series 'about Basia' by Zofia Stanecka and Marianna Oklejak, which presents the fate of the child heroine Basia and her family, was analysed. The series fits into the model of literature reflecting reality, showing the problems of a modern family, thus not shying away from the stereotypical portrayal of its members. Hence the research hypothesis: in the series 'about Basia' there is a stereotypical image of the family, especially mum and dad.

Linguistic representations of stereotypicality became verbs of speech - *verba dicendi*, speech acts and addressable phrases addressed to children by parents, which were subjected to pragmatic and semantic analysis. The confrontational description was complemented by the narrator's comments confirming the parents characteristic behaviours, actions and attributes.

In the first part, which provides the theoretical foundation for the analysis, the process of the child's identity formation was described, as well as the mechanisms of socialisation with which it is coupled. From the point of view of the work, it has become important to see that there are various institutions responsible for socialisation on which the socialisation of the child depends. The formation of a person's identity also takes place through the process of upbringing and enculturation, i.e. familiarisation with the culture in which the individual lives.

The remainder of the paper is devoted to children's literature. Its peculiarities and characteristics are described, above all: age-appropriate language for children, content that responds to the interests of a young audience, themes that take into account the problems faced by children and the childlike vision of the world presented in books for younger children.

The second part discusses the process of stereotyping with the overarching notion of the stereotype as a linguistic and cultural category that is part of the Linguistic World Picture and thus influences the perception of reality through the prism of different filters. An attempt to order the world is made, for example, by creating different profiles of the same concept. This process is part of the phenomenon of categorisation, which influences a differentiated vision of the world. The following chapters describe the cultural category of childhood, as well as the related concepts of family, family home, father and mother.

The third part is devoted to the methodological basis of the study; it describes the research objectives as well as the material analysed. The main core of the study is the analysis of the linguistic components of reference, such as *verba dicendi*, addressative phrases and speech acts appearing in parent-child communication. The analysis of these three groups of linguistic means made it possible to bring out the linguistic markers of stereotypicality. Cultural stereotypes of the family were also recognised in the comments from the narrator.

The final part of the paper presents the conclusions from the analysis of family stereotypes, especially the image of mum and dad in the series 'about Basia'. The final conclusion is consistent with the research hypothesis - linguistic and cultural stereotypes are reproduced in children's books. A certain change in the portrayal of the role of mum and dad in terms of their typical behaviour is also apparent - mum increasingly performs stereotypically 'more masculine' duties, while dad does not shy away from 'feminine' duties.