

Streszczenie rozprawy doktorskiej

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Hybrid Genres in Modern Japanese Literature: Science Fiction, Fantasy and Dystopia

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Abstract

This thesis, titled “Hybrid Genres in Modern Japanese Literature: Science Fiction, Fantasy and Dystopia”, focuses on how such genres as science fiction, fantasy, and dystopia mix with one other and with other genres in the case of modern Japanese literature, as well as how such hybrids may influence the process of text reception and interpretation. From the perspective of methodologies used, this thesis combines genre studies, literary pragmatics, sociology of literature, as well as, to a lesser extent, marketing perspectives. Its aim is to explore how science fiction, fantasy, and dystopia interact with each other and other genres in contemporary Japanese literature. It focuses on how these hybrid genres influence text interpretation and readers’ genre awareness.

The thesis is divided into four main parts, each exploring different aspects of genre theory and its application to modern Japanese literature.

Part I begins with an exploration of the development of genre theory from Antiquity to the 18th century, presented in Chapter 1. It discusses the contributions of major literary figures from ancient Greece and Rome, such as Aristotle and Horace, and it traces the evolution of genres through the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Chapter 2. focuses on Romantic approaches to genres, highlighting the philosophical perspectives of German thinkers like Herder, Goethe, and Schiller. It discusses how these thinkers shifted the focus from prescriptive/descriptive to phenomenological approaches to genre. Chapter 3. covers major approaches to genres and the theory of the novel in the 19th century, while Chapter 4. discusses modern approaches to genres and the theory of the novel from the 20th century onwards. The final chapter of this part provides an overview of genre theory in Japan, emphasizing the unique development and characteristics of Japanese genre studies.

Part II focuses on the specific genres present in the two analysed novels, i.e. *Shinsekai yori* by Yūsuke Kishi and *Daiyon Kampyōki* by Kōbō Abe. Chapter 1. introduces non-mimetic fiction, discussing its relation to mimetic fiction and characteristic features, with particular emphasis on the distinction between the fantastic, antimimetic, and exomimetic types of fiction. Chapter 2. focuses on science fiction, discussing its development, characteristic features, and its role in Japanese literature and culture. Analogously, Chapter 3.

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examines fantasy, Chapter 4. explores dystopia, Chapter 5. discusses hard-boiled detective fiction, and Chapter 6. covers post-apocalyptic fiction.

Part III provides a detailed analysis of how the genres discussed in the previous part are mixed in *Shinsekai yori* and *Daiyon Kampyōki*. Chapter 1. presents the analysis of *Shinsekai yori*, focusing on its features characteristic of science fiction, fantasy, dystopia, and post-apocalyptic fiction. It also includes an interpretation of the novel from the perspective of genre hybridity, highlighting how these genres interact with one another and influence the narrative. Chapter 2. Presents the analysis of *Daiyon Kampyōki*, focusing on its features characteristic of science fiction, hard-boiled detective fiction, and post-apocalyptic fiction. Similarly to the previous chapter, it also includes an interpretation of the text from the genre hybridity perspective, examining how these genres are mixed to create a complex, multifaceted narrative.

Conclusions highlight the benefits of genre hybridity in creating multifaceted narratives, as well as potential challenges posed by marketing strategies and their influence on readers' genre awareness.

The last part, Part IV, contains the analysed literary material, i.e. summaries of the novels and excerpts which served as the basis for analysis. As such, it enables the reader to view the linguistic substance of both novels.