

## **21<sup>st</sup> century Polish- and English-language picturebooks about the Holocaust. A comparative study of verbal and visual judaica**

Compared to other world literatures, Polish literature seems to be the richest in texts on the Holocaust (Buryła 2012: 131). The topic in question is also frequently addressed in English-language writing, coinciding with the Anglo-American dominance in the academic field of Holocaust literary studies.

The topic of this project, the results of which are intended to be presented as a poster, is the literary representation of Holocaust memory and Jewish culture in contemporary Polish- and English-language picturebooks for pre-teen readers. The comparative analysis focuses on judaica (understood as references, allusions or indications of Jews and Jewishness; cf. Chlebda 2022: 66) and topoi of the Holocaust. They analyzed elements are not restricted to the verbal text only – the use of picturebooks allows for including an analysis of the visual code as well, which intertwines with the verbal layer to create meaning. In the first part of the analysis, the text from twenty English- and Polish-language picturebooks is the basis for creating a corpus, which is then studied in terms of the most frequent words potentially expressing the topoi of the Holocaust and judaica. In the second part, the pictures are examined to identify recurring visual motifs and themes. Finally, the results are compared to answer the question whether the corpus of the verbal and visual judaica is similar in Polish- and English-language picture books, which topoi are most frequently represented in each group, and what is their broader socio-cultural context.

### References:

- Buryła, S. 2012. Topika Holokaustu. Wstępne rozpoznania [The topoi of the Holocaust. Preliminary remarks]. *Świat tekstów. Rocznik Słupski* 10: 131-151.
- Chlebda, W. 2022. Pamięć o Żydach w wielkich słownikach języka polskiego. Rekonesans. Cz. II. [Memory of the Jews in the great dictionaries of the Polish language. Reconnaissance. Part II.] *LingVaria* XVII, 2 (34): 65-82.