

The topic of this project is the Haitian contemporary post-earthquake writing. It will concern the literary works, published in Haiti and in the Haitian diaspora, entirely or largely dealing with the disaster that ravaged the Republic of Haiti on January 12, 2010. The main purpose of my project is to study the literary representations of this natural disaster in Haitian Literature of French expression (novels, short stories, quasi-documentary texts). On the one hand, I would like to draw attention to the aesthetic dimension of the selected works; on the other hand, I would adopt a broader perspective to observe and describe the writing of natural disasters. Therefore, my aim will be to conduct a comparative analysis of natural disasters also in the Francophone literature of the Lesser Antilles (Martinique and Guadeloupe), and in various works of the Western world, that have contributed to the creation of the canon of "literature about natural disasters".

First of all, I will focus on the presentation and critical discussion around the ways of interpreting the catastrophic events in anthropological and cultural studies, considering also the terminology connected to the concept of "natural disaster". Then, I intend to explore the depiction of cataclysms in the Francophone literature of Martinique and Guadeloupe. The third and most extensive part of my research will be entirely devoted to the narrative prose in Haiti and in the Haitian diaspora (France and Canada).

The analysis of post-earthquake texts will take into account the first works published in the aftermath of the disaster, that show the relevance of bearing witness, but also works of a more meditative nature, that retain a certain distance from the apocalyptic event. Moreover, I will consider the novels in which the earthquake has an impact on the plot and seems to have a therapeutic role and, finally, those in which the disaster has an influence on the narrative level (fragmented narratives, language spoken by the character, temporal and spatial structures, perturbations at a lexical and linguistic level).

According to my knowledge and the opinion of my scientific supervisor, the proposed research hypotheses have not been investigated yet by the Academics, in Poland and abroad, specialized in Francophone and Postcolonial Studies. Thus, it would contribute to the development of the academic research on "minor" literature in the context of Francophone writing in the Caribbean.

I also believe that, by exploring the literary ways of "experiencing" natural disasters in a context characterized by many cultural references (Caribbean, Canadian, European), I will contribute to a better understanding of Francophone literature in Poland and abroad as a literature beyond borders, open to intercultural values.