

The poetry allows presenting various experiences, also the difficult experiences of the participants of war events. For these persons the feeling of being endangered is bound to vigilant listening of the haunting war noise combined with sinister silence.

The term “thanatosonics” formulated by Martin J. Daughtry renders this unity of war sounds and experiencing the violence. Thus the thanatosonics in Polish poetry from 1939–1945 identifies the poetical aspect, which is connected with staging the sounds together with interrelated psychological, emotional and somatic responses of the listeners. This approach exceeds studying objective qualities of war soundscapes on the basis of literary descriptions. The scientific project is intended to classify diverse models and conventions of thanatosonic poetry by means of comparative analysing the wide source material.

This venture has mainly theoretical value but it also enriches the historical knowledge about war poetry written in Polish. The project refers both to eminent output and to anonymous occasional poetry, martial songs or satires. The list of authors includes among the other K.K. Baczyński, T. Gajcy, W. Bojarski, A. Trzebiński, Z. Stroiński, T. Borowski, J.K. Weintraub, T. Różewicz, Cz. Miłosz, W. Szlengel, J. Przyboś, J. Zagórski, Z. Ginczanka, A. Świrszczyńska, T. Bogusławska, M. Ubysz and J. Szczepański.

The war experience that became poetically expressed was related to various roles: a potential civilian victim, a prisoner, also a camp prisoner or Jewish inhabitant of ghetto, a person trying to avoid arrestment, Polish soldier fighting in regular army, an underground soldier, a partisan, an insurgent in Warsaw Uprising. Moreover, analysed poems were written in diverse political and historical circumstances and in different locations, often very far from each other. Despite it the project explains the way Polish poetry from the time of World War II reveals the community of earwitnesses exposed to the auditory regime of war. Theoretical conclusions of the analysis may serve as the ground for studies on a different source material.