

THE EXPRESSION AND ADDRESSEE OF THE SERMON

Summary

The subject of the article comprises sermons of several genres from a number of collections, e.g. *The Sermons for Sunday and All the Annual Festivals* (*Kazania na niedziele i święta całego roku*) and *The Diet Sermons* (*Kazania sejmowe*) by Piotr Skarga, also, from postils by Mikalojus Daukša and Konstantinas Sirvydas, and from the funeral sermons by Motiejus Kazimieras Sarbievijus [Sarbievski] and Žygimantas Liauksminas [Lauxmin]. In the focus of investigation there is the interrelation of an addressee and the textual expression, and the problem of the promoted values, i.e. how, with regard to the addressee, his social status and education, the preacher chooses topics for his sermons, examples and means of expression. The scope of investigation is expanded by the theoretical chapters of works by Sarbievijus and Liauksminas, in which the problematic of the addressee is discussed; also, by the introductory addresses to the readers, preceding the sermons and supplying interesting information regarding addressees of these publications.

The analysis of the considered texts reveals clear distinction between the ordinary reader and that of the elite. In the sermons by Sarbievijus and Liauksminas, elaborate examples from various sources are presented, not only those from the Holy Writ; also, a certain concept is created there, while moralization is not so emphatic. The postils were directed primarily at clergymen, who could use these texts as standards, picking things suitable for their listeners from them. This significantly affected the stylistic expression of the texts published in postils. The addressee of the Lithuanian sermons by Daukša and Sirvydas consisted primarily of common people, who could only understand Lithuanian; nevertheless, some interesting interpretations of the Holy Writ, peculiar allegories, beautiful parallels clearly indicate that their authors also considered interests of the educated listeners. The quotations from the Holy Writ without adequate explanations in the sermons by Skarga, presenting them as an argument instead, and multiple references to the religious polemic clearly reveal that the author had an educated addressee in mind.