

## SUMMARY

The Italian geographical and cultural space is one of the most unique in all of Europe. It has inspired writers and poets for centuries. The Italian space, to which various cultural texts are dedicated, generates the interest of researchers from different scientific disciplines. The dissertation analyses the works of selected Polish writers who take up the themes of the culture of Italian province. The basic issue of terminology was clarified in the first chapter. The subject of the considerations is the province in the Polish and Italian context and its positive and negative features.

The word "province" is associated with a backward, forgotten and primitive space that is distant from the centre. According to the stereotype, people from the provinces are simple, backward, primitive. However, for the inhabitants of the province, its space is a safe one. Admittedly, people from the provinces often left their land to look for better living and working conditions. Despite this, the bond with their own land is very strong and often the inhabitants who have emigrated come back to it. It can therefore be argued that the province is also a nostalgic place. In the analysed texts the province is interpreted through several cultural categories: space, time, cultural distance and the religiosity of its inhabitants.

Currently, the literature on the provinces is not yet extensive enough. Anyway, nowadays the interest in this topic is definitely growing among anthropologists and sociologists, as well as researchers from the fields of cultural and literary studies in Poland, and in Italy too (although less frequently). In Polish literature the category of "province" has not yet been used as a perspective for reading and interpreting the so-called "Italian text". The work tries to fill this gap. The main goal of the dissertation is to present descriptions of Italian spaces considered by Poles as provincial and often perceived as less important than central one (especially the urban spaces of Apulia, as well as Calabria and Sicily).

Selected texts from Polish and Italian literature from the 20th centuries were used for the analysis. The map of the Italian image of the Italian province was compared with the Polish one. In the dissertation was presented the description of the Italian province (its traditions, everyday life) – the Apulian one – from different research perspectives, in the texts by: Dariusz Czaja, Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Kazimiera Alberti and the Italian art critic Cesare Brandi.