Abstract

As a hybrid genre, reportage stretches between literature and journalism. It reacts to real-life phenomena in an in-depth way, often using extended literary tools. As such, it is not only a historical source, it also fulfils a sensitising role, strengthening civil society. The Polish school of reportage, which grew out of the communist experience, developed particular ways of speaking in the text. The caesura of the political transformation of 1989 marked new appearances in the depiction of the labour market in reportage. Firstly, it pointed to the loneliness of the abandoned employees of state-owned enterprises. Secondly, it was seeking coping strategies in an unrecognised reality. In the following period, a landmark moment for the subjects in the reporter's work was 2004: the opening up of foreign labour markets to Polish workers, but also of the Polish market to foreign companies. Capitalism, now somewhat established, resulted in flexible, though unstable, forms of employment and the expansion of corporate culture. There has also been a clear migration turn, which is reflected in the texts. Structured systems are also part of the labour market – the Catholic Church and the health care system remain well described in the reportage. The analysis of reportages produced after 1989 allows us to systematise the image of the professional issues accompanying Poles in the respective periods.