

Joanna Smereka

*Research in the field of text linguistics of German wills of Cracow burghers from the end of the 14th century to the second half of the 16th century*

Testament, giving in reason of daeth, Kraków, text, city book, textological research

My dissertation is one of few studies that deal with a historical type of text. I draw methodologically from both the German classics of textological research (such as Klaus Briner, Barbara Sandig or even Wolfgang Heinemann), as well as from Polish textology. In addition, I reach for newer tools of research subject description such as text grammar (Albrecht Greule). The specificity of the preserved research material in Kraków (no original testamentary documents) provokes additional questions that I face in an extensive theoretical chapter, referring to the ancestors of textological research on historical texts (*Libuše Spáčilová* and Józef Wiktorowicz). After determining what conditions must be met by the text to be considered as a testament, I proceed to the descriptive analysis of this type of text and describe it on three levels: pragmatic, structural and lexical-stylistic. The precise approach to the subject of the study enabled me to capture individual (deviating from the canon) implementation of the text pattern, as well as to undertake a discourse with the observations of historians who are trying in their works to particularly fill the existing research gap in the field of linguistics of historical text (Jakub Wysmulek). In my work, I also devote a relatively large amount of space (often overlooked in research cycles) to the distinction between two types of historical texts: testaments and givings in reason of daeth (also raising the issue of adequate use of indicators) as well as the issue of the development of a will as a comprehensive type of text. Structural and lexical-stylistic analyzes carried out in detail allow to distinguish particular speech acts within the comprehensive text, including those that perform records in the event of death. An additional research effect of my precise query and analysis is the list of all testaments and givings in reason of daeth, which were entered into the city books of Kraków in the examined period.