

Abstract

In the last years placing of poems in public space has become popular in the Netherlands. The poems are to be found in the cities, mainly on the walls and in the pavements, as well as in the nature. They are specific form of poetry which was not described thoroughly so far. This thesis describes the phenomenon (for which the term wallpoems is used) from three different points of view: it is poetical object by itself, part of the city as a social space and part of literature.

(1) The wallpoem is poetical object in which the interaction is very strong between the text and the medium. The interpretation of the poem is strongly influenced by used material (bricks, stone, glas, metal), typography and location (wall, pavement, nature). The location has own social cultural context that influences the perception. Thanks to the unusual placing outside of any book the poems can be seen by another public. Very important is for the reader the surprise and unexpectedness of such a meeting with poetry.

(2) The wallpoem is part of the city space. The most poems are part of organised projects which also influences their perception. Some of them have common theme or background idea given by the initiators. These projects can represent particular aspects of the city or create an image of it. Such image is meant as well as for the tourists as for the citizens. Moreover the wallpoems are part of the social cultural life in the city. Literary evenings, concerts and guided tours are inspired by them. Some citizens place new poems by themself. This way the poetry gets even closer to the reader – active member of the literary process.

(3) The wallpoem is a new form of poetry. It has many characteristics typical for new tendencies in the literature – it is entertaining, light and fast. It raises the question of authorship and autonomy of a literary text. Thanks to placing in the public space poetry is brought into the daily life of the citizens. The wallpoem is an inspiring mediator between the literature and the readers.