

## ***COMMUNITY OF FATE. ANIMALS AND HUMANS***

Eliza Orzeszkowa is a famous Polish writer of the nineteenth century. In her novels, novellas, and short stories there are elaborate descriptions (useful for the reader who wants to imagine the story background better). Orzeszkowa portrays the world in detail; and she is focused on humans, animals, and plants. They, mentioned repeatedly in the stories, can be thought of as essential parts of the created world – not only as nature's elements but also as individual characters.

In Orzeszkowa's works, many animal heroes can be found. One of them is a dog – Elf from the novella *Dobra Pani*. His caretaker is Ewelina Krzycka who "ostentatiously consumes". She belongs – following Thorstein Veblen – to the representatives of the leisure class. In the novella animals perform functions similar to toys – at the beginning they are in the centre of attention, but later Krzycka rejects them. Sensibility to pain and humiliation unite and show that rejection leads to irreversible changes in the hero's life. They also increase the need for solidarity. Animal symbolism is discussed as well as the functions of *onims*.

Key words: Orzeszkowa, the community of fate, *Dobra pani*, novel, animals, Elf, Ewelina Krzycka