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Review of *Japanese-American Literature through the Prism of Acculturation* by Małgorzata Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska, Routledge, 2023, 294 pp. ISBN: 9781032379203

Małgorzata Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska's *Japanese-American Literature through the Prism of Acculturation*, published by Routledge in 2023, is an impressive, engaging, erudite study of acculturation in Japanese American literature of the second half of the twentieth century. While the target reader of the monograph seems to be a scholar specializing in Asian American or American ethnic studies, the book should also be accessible to a layperson in the field. Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska inscribes herself in the studies of Japanese American literature and culture pursued among others by such scholars as Henry Yu, Jinqi Ling, Traise Yamamoto, Gary Okihiro, King-Kok Cheung, Dominika Ferens, Stan Yogi, Russell Leong, all of whom shed light on slightly different aspects, participating in the discourse, yet in no way undermining or diminishing Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska's unique contribution to the field.

Japanese-American Literature through the Prism of Acculturation opens with an extensive exploration of acculturation theories and the genesis of culture studies, in which Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska cites such authors as Lawrence Grossberg, Colin Sparks, John Hartley, David Sam, Donald Goellnicht and Stephen Sumida. Special attention is devoted to the definition of culture and acculturation strategies developed by John Widdup Berry (42-54). In the rich theoretical overview of acculturation strategies, Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska places Japanese American acculturation in the broader context of Asian American

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acculturation. To her credit, in the section devoted to the history of Asian American literature, Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska cites the 1972 anthology by Kai-yu Hsu and Helen Palubinskas, often overlooked as the first anthology of Asian American literature. Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska very effectively underscores the internal heterogeneity within the Japanese American community, distinguishing between the first generation (the Issei), the second generation (the Nisei), the third generation (the Sansei), the fourth generation (the Yonsei) and the fifth generation (the Gonsei), but still placing the Issei and the Nisei in the center of the book.

In the section dedicated to the analysis of acculturation in selected works of the second half of the twentieth-century Japanese American literature, Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska examines respective acculturation strategies, for example, marginalization, adaptation to the new environment, education, intergenerational communication, and communication outside one's immediate environment, the tension between individualism and collectivism, gender relations as well as patriarchy. The analytic part of the study shows that the author cogently applies earlier expounded theories to the explored works. As a New Historicist scholar, she also consistently attaches great importance to the socio-historical background. Małgorzata Jarmołowicz-Dziekońska's *Japanese-American Literature through the Prism of Acculturation* proposes a thorough, penetrating inquiry into acculturation strategies in selected works of Japanese American prose of the second half of the twentieth century, in particular in Yoshiko Uchida's *Picture Bride*, John Okada's *No-No Boy*, Yoshiko Uchida's *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family*, Monica Sone's *Nisei Daughter*, Daniel Okimoto's *American in Disguise*, Bill Hosokawa's *Out of the Frying Pan: Reflections of a Japanese American*, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, and James Houston's *Farewell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience during and after the World War II Internment* and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's *Beyond Manzanar: Views of Asian-American Womanhood*.

Klara Szmańko is Associate Professor at the University of Opole, Poland. She specializes in American literature, in particular American ethnic literature: Asian American and African American literature, also Anglo-American literature as well as American Studies. The recurring tropes of her publications are whiteness, invisibility, visibility, visual dynamics, power dynamics, autobiography, transformational identity politics, multiculturalism, representation of space, mimicry, nationalism, and gender relations. She is the author of two books published in the U.S.: *Invisibility in African American and Asian American Literature: A Comparative Study* (McFarland 2008) and *Visions of Whiteness in Selected Works of Asian American Literature* (McFarland 2015). Klara Szmańko was the chief organizer of the Polish Association for American Studies Annual Conference in 2019:

The Sound of Silence in American Literature, Culture, and Politics at the University of Opole. After the conference she co-edited the post-conference volume entitled *Rhetoric of Silence in American Studies*, published by the *Res Rhetorica* journal. Klara Szmańko did her M.A. in 2002 and Ph.D. in 2005 at the University of Wrocław, habilitation at the University of Łódź in 2016. Professor Szmańko is a scholarship holder of the University of North Carolina, DAAD, and John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies.