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Między zwierzęciem a maszyną.
Utopia technologiczna Stanisława Lema.

(Summary)

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SUMMARY

BETWEEN ANIMAL AND MACHINE THE TECHNOLOGICAL UTOPIA OF STANISŁAW LEM

The philosophy of Stanisław Lem is the main subject of this work. The first part of it is devoted to one of his early works, *The Dialogues*, and contains an attempt at its analysis and interpretation. The conceptual basis for *The Dialogues* is cybernetics, a field of science very important in the decades 1950's and 1960's. The author tries to show how Lem used the terminology and methods of cybernetics to create a unique project of sociology and anthropology. Nevertheless, this project was not successful because of the insoluble contradictions between cybernetic and anthropological paradigms.

The subject of the second part is Lem's widely known essay, *Summa technologiae*, which is considered here as the great project of human autoevolution. The term "autoevolution" is a neologism and means that the humans will take control over their own biological evolution and biological form in order to improve the conditions of their being. Open, essayistic and very complicated structure of *Summa technologiae* makes its analysis, engaging the conceptual devices from the different fields of science, especially difficult. In his interpretation the author uses numerous terms taken from literary studies, philosophy of science, artificial intelligence, linguistic and biology. In this interpretation *Summa...* with its project of autoevolution is an example of liberal, rationalist utopia, based on assumption that all the human problems can be resolved by science and reason.

The third and last part of this book describes various contemporary humanistic theories, which can be linked with Lem's project of autoevolution. The most important among them is the so-called posthumanism. This is the kind of scientific, technocratic ideology, which emerged in early 1980's in California, especially in Silicon Valley and at UCLA. The posthumanists claim that in the near future human race will be replaced with intelligent machines, cyborgs and androids, based on biological human organisms, but not as imperfect and fragile as our natural bodies.

Besides there are mentioned gender studies and queer theory as the examples of similar attitude toward human identity. In author's opinion all these kinds of thinking are grounded on the hidden principle, according to which the human identity, from biological to psychological dimension, can be unlimitedly shaped and transformed by the humans themselves. Such a principle makes the posthumanism and gender studies similar to the Lem's point of view presented in his essays. Their common subject is the very deep belief, that the humans have mighty power over their own existence.