

Abstract:

This bachelor thesis deals with the figures of Mother Hulda (Frau Holle) and Rübezahl, who appear in numerous stories and who are commonly associated with certain natural phenomena. The connection of the two creatures with nature is explored based on legends and fairy tales. The depiction of various character traits and features primarily serves to pursue the question of the figuration of nature by the two beings. To this end, two specific texts – the Frau Holle fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm and Benedikte Naubert's Rübezahl story – are subjected to closer scrutiny, which leads to the comparison of the two characters, with the emphasis on the description and perception of both figures. The ambivalence of the two creatures is also focused on in this context. Furthermore, theories on their origins are outlined with regard to the 19th century interpretations about the mythological background of the characters and their development from negatively to positively perceived figures.