

Abstract

This paper focuses on universality of folk tales from different parts of the world, such as Czech and Japan, due to sharing many common components.

The evolution of Japanese philosophy and religion is scrutinized up to the Tokugawa era, and is compared to the process of Christianization in our region.

The evolution of tales follows from their mythical roots up to their expansion into literature. A section about folkloristic research of tales and the work of V. J. Propp ensues. The evolution of Czech folk tales is focused on the Czech National Revival and the works of K. J. Erben and B. Němcová. Then the evolution of Japanese tales is defined by the evolution of Japanese writing system up to 19th century folkloristics.

The comparison itself deals with particular components common to both groups of tales, Czech and Japanese, while it focuses on how these components are dealt with differently in each society.

In conclusion, tendencies in the perception of tales in the 20th and 21st century are indicated, and its significance for early development of human beings despite the recent trend in society of deviating away from our own roots.

Key Words

Tales, religion, folklore, literature, Japan.