

Abstract

The thesis focuses on *Velns* as a character of the Latvian folklore not omitting the origin of *Velns* related to cognate mythological frameworks as well as providing an outline of *Velns*' active role in the literature. The plots where *Velns* appears are specified using the Aarne-Thompson's tale type index and, according to the place of its occurrence, the examined character is classified into types. After addition of other attributes, *Velns* is situated into Balto-Slavic context and the appropriate equivalents of each discussed environment are selected. On the basis of these equivalents, a complete image is created and possible similarities are examined within the Czech environment, where two potential equivalents are found – the first one being the Czech *čert* (devil) and the second one, appearing less often, *vodník* (water goblin).