

Abstract

The thesis is focused on analysis of the depiction of female deities in Latvian folklore and mythology. The main attention is given to the central goddess of Fate, Laima, and two other goddesses connected with human fate, Dēkla and Kārta. The thesis further investigates special goddesses frequently appearing in Latvian folklore – the so-called Mothers (Mātes). The deities are considered mainly from the functional point of view, based on both folklore material (Latvian folk songs called dainas, national fairy tales, legends and superstitions) and the previous Latvian research in folklore and mythology.