

TITLE

Motifs of Sorbian Lusatia in contemporary literature focusing on the genre of modern fairy-tale

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ABSTRACT

This master thesis deals with the motifs of Sorbian Lusatia in the selected modern fairy-tales in contemporary children's and young adult literature. The problem is explained on the basis of fifteen books by eight Sorbian writers and one German writer. The motifs of Sorbian Lusatia are sought in the Sorbian cultural history, mythology and folklore. This master thesis wants to prove, if motifs of Sorbian Lusatia are used in contemporary children's and young adult literature of the selected authors in the genre of modern fairy-tale. It demonstrates that the issues associated with the culture of this West Slavic minority are in contemporary, especially in Sorbian, but also German literature, a popular source of multicultural enrichment in Europe, which is threatened by monoculture. The methods include especially motif analysis, verification or falsification of the hypothesis, then interpretation and comparison. The work is constructed deductively and it focuses on the description of the issue. It was found that in the selected modern fairy-tales these following motifs occur: history of the Sorbian minority in Germany, symbols and key organizations of the Sorbian people, Sorbian language, settlement area, current problems and nature of Sorbian Lusatia, as well as mythological figures Krabat, Lutki, Pintlaš, Pumpot or Zmij, and folklore customs such as Easter singing, Easter water, bird wedding, Kirmes, folk music instruments and folk costumes. As a source with the highest number of Sorbian motifs the modern fairy-tale "Krabat" by Otfried Preußler was evaluated.

KEYWORDS

Contemporary children's and young adult literature, modern fairy-tale, Upper and Lower Sorbian Lusatia, Sorbian cultural history, mythology and folklore, Otfried Preußler, Jurij Brězan.