

Abstract:

The theme of this thesis is the transformation of a trickster figure in the Russian children's folklore. The first part is devoted to an analysis of trickster tale and trickster heroes. This section is primarily based on classic works of prominent ethnologists, anthropologists and folklorists – they are mainly the works of Claude Lévi-Strauss, Vladimir Propp, Jeleazar Meletinskij and many others. This section is concerned mainly on the systematization and analysis of the classic characteristics of a hero trickster for subsequent analysis and comparison of the current hero of the sadistic poems – the little boy.

The second part is an introduction to the themes of the sadistic poems – it is dedicated to the history of their origin; historical, cultural and social factors that had an impact on their development; systemization of the sadistic poems by topics and trends. This part is based on the works of Russian anthropologists, folklorists and psychologists.

The third part of my work is dedicated to an independent comparative analysis of the nature of the protagonist of the sadistic poems – the boy as a trickster figure. The analysis is based on the classic ethnographic studies devoted to trickster tales and also on the works on the phenomenon of the sadistic poems. During this analysis, where I compared the typical characteristics and behavioral patterns of a classic trickster and the boy, I tried to conclude whether we can term the boy a current trickster in Russian children's folklore. The contribution of this thesis lies, in my opinion, in the opportunity to acquaint the Czech environment with the sadistic poems and their main hero – the little boy, once known to the children throughout the Soviet Union, although the verses about his adventures are still circulating not only in Russia but also in the other states of the former USSR. The idea of a comparative analysis of a classic trickster character and the boy is also innovative.