

## **Abstract**

Legends with the theme of a visit to the dragon palace rank among the most viable narratives across the history of Japanese literature. In this thesis, a small selection of such narratives is analyzed, drawing on sources ranging from the oldest extant works from the eight century to the medieval chronicle *Taiheiki*. The primary purpose of this study is to identify the similarities and differences between these narratives. After their narrative structures have been compared, the narratives are analyzed with respect to the categories of characters, magical objects, and setting. The thesis also discusses the role of focalization and other narrative strategies used for depiction of the supernatural. The final section is concerned with a specific instance of this narrative, as found in the twelfth-century anthology of legends *Kon'jaku monogatarishū*, in which the character of the dragon king is interpreted as an incarnation of the bōdhisattva Kannon. It is argued that this interpretation was made possible through the modification of the structure of the legend and the use of textual cues associating both dragon and Kannon. The methodological framework of this thesis is grounded in cognitive narratology, specifically as formulated by David Herman (2013).