

**Abstract:**

The master thesis focuses on the roles of selected animals in Japanese folktales. The main objective is to examine whether the roles of animals coincide with their species or if they differ depending on the structure of the folktale or other factors. It also marginally compares animals with their world counterparts. The analysis uses the means of analytical psychology of Carl Gustav Jung and the findings from the study *Morphology of the Tale* by Vladimir Yakovlevich Propp.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. Each of them chooses one central folktale with an animal or animals as the main character, and is subsequently associated with other folktales with the same animals. A special emphasis is placed on the analysis of the animal characteristics and the folktale structure.

**Keywords:** folktale, Japan, animals