

The thesis describes Bengali idioms in which the main component is a name of an animal. It concentrates on the roles and characters of the particular animals in Bengali idioms and consequently compares them with the animal characters which come from Indian cultural tradition. The material for this comparison consists primarily of Indian fables and their symbolic meanings and secondly the Hindu mythology. The third aspect the thesis looks at is comparison with animal characters arising from Czech idioms. Numerous examples of idioms for every animal are included to illustrate their individual characters.