

## Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to analyse four novels by the contemporary Swedish writer Torgny Lindgren in terms of the concept of “literary myth”. Novel *Ljuset* (1987, Light, English 1992) is studied most thoroughly as it shows to be the clearest example of the given concept. Further, analyses of Lindgren’s three later novels follow: *Hummelhonung* (1995, Sweetness, English 2000), *Pölsan* (2002, Hash, English 2005) and *Dorés bibel* (2005, Dore’s Bible). These three novels were afterwards published together in one volume titled *Nåden har ingen lag* (2008, Grace Knows No Law). In each of these novels and in the collection as a whole only one aspect of literary myth is studied in detail: the question of determinism and free will, the semantic opposites, the orality and the compact mythic structure.

The paper consists of two parts. In the first, theoretical part, the concept of myth, its types, attributes and functions in the archaic society are set out, as well as the relation of myth and literature. Also, the concepts of “literary myth” and “mythological novel” are clarified here. In the second, analytical part of the paper, the above mentioned Lindgren’s novels are analysed in terms of literary myth.