

Abstract

The origin of fantasy motives dates back to the prescriptive era. Although literature itself is constantly developing, its basic motives such as heroes or the text composition holds on to the classical archetypes, which helps the reader to stay oriented. Fantasy elements are a good representation of these archetypes. It is no secret that the authors of the modern and post-modern fantasy literature are often inspired by ancient mythical literature. On the contrary, these myths and archetypes research these texts and are, consequently, used in new variations. In this thesis, I try to analyze some of these motives such as the hero's journey, or the representation of the mythical characters and demonstrate their transformation from the simple folk archetypes to the complex elements used in modern literature. Apart from modern and postmodern literature, I also focus on the literature of the 19th century, due to the fact that it is the romanticism and the Young Poland era, where I found the first signs of the fantasy works in polish literature.