

Abstract

The presented diploma thesis describes the dominant figures of Hungarian pagan mythology, who have organically transformed over time into protagonists of the genres of folk epics, in this case folk tales and fairy tales. The first part of the thesis is devoted to supernatural beings whose origins are to be sought in the imaginations and superstitions of the simple village folk. These were mainly concerned with rudimentary explanations of natural, meteorological and astronomical phenomena or diseases and problems, which were accompanied in the minds of the people by fear of the unknown or the unusual, and which they could not reasonably understand with their then knowledge of the processes of the world. For each of the supernatural figures, a characterization is made on the basis of the ethnographic literature and then their specific occurrence is illustrated with examples from folk tales and fairy tales. The second part deals with historical figures of the pre-Christian period of Hungarian history, around whom a rich narrative tradition has also developed. The additional part of the work consists in creating the likeness of these characters by means of an artificial intelligence-based image generator, since their depictions have not survived due to the absence of written sources and suitable technologies for graphic reconstruction have not yet been available to the general public.