

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on the comparison of selected motifs of Czech and Japanese demonological tales. The goal is to point out the similarities of two geographically and culturally distant countries within their rich folklore tradition.

The theoretical part defines the basic characteristics of the genre of legends and demonological legends. It also describes the historical context of the development of Czech and Japanese legends, including the influence of religious ideas on the shaping of demonological creatures.

The practical, comparative part focuses on the parallels of selected characters – the waterman and the kappa, the wild woman and the yamauba, the devil and the oni. For each pair, the characteristic features of the figures are discussed, as well as selected legends and motifs from catalogues that link these figures. The analysis reveals numerous commonalities in physical description, behavior, and the role of these creatures in the stories.

Thus, the thesis shows that despite the geographical and cultural distance between the Czech Republic and Japan, substantial parallels can be found in folklore, suggesting the occurrence of similar motifs and patterns within the demonological story circuits of both countries.