

SYMBOLS OF THE ANIMAL WORLD IN THE ADYGHE HISTORICAL AND HEROIC EPIC

L.S. KHAGOZHEEVA

Institute of Humanitarian Researches –
branch of Kabardino-Balkarian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences
360000, Russia, Nalchik, 18 Pushkin street

Abstract. The article examines the functional role of the animal world in the poetics of the historical and heroic epic. The symbolism of animal images in the epic makes it possible to reconstruct ancient ideas and ethical and aesthetic preferences of the bearers of folklore consciousness. This is the relevance of the chosen topic.

The most common animal symbols involved in the differentiation of epic images are considered. Its connection with color designations is noted. The study is carried out in connection with its belonging to one of the worlds, upper or lower. Determination of these positions and the form of its artistic reflection is the task of our research.

For the analysis, the texts of archaic Nart legends and the historical and heroic epic that followed it in stages were involved. The work is carried out using the structural-comparative method.

As a result of the undertaken research, it was revealed that the symbols of the animal world objectify the worldview inherent in the Adyghe ethnic tradition. In the epic they are understood as means of artistic expression.

Keywords: historical and heroic epic, artistic means, symbols, animal world, color designations

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Information about the author

Khagozheeva Liana Slavovna, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Junior Researcher of the sector of Adyghe folklore, Institute of Humanitarian Researches – branch of Kabardino-Balkarian Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
360000, Russia, Nalchik, 18 Pushkin street;
liana1771@mail.ru, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1811-5183>