



Введение в английский фольклор

На вводном занятии (19.10)

- Термин «фольклор» / folklore
- История термина
- Истоки фольклористики как науки; механистическая / органическая картина мира
- Lore: значение и классификация
- Некоторые календарные традиции Англии

Занятия 2 (26.10), 3 (02.11)

- Что изучает фольклористика?
(продолжение)
- Folktale
- Fairytale: классификация (-и)
- Практика: Reading a fairytale from Somerset
- Анализ фольклорного текста: понятия type, motif; ATU Index, Thompson's Motif Index



I. Folktale - Theory

Alan Dundes – Definition of folklore (1)

Folklore includes myths, legends, folktales, jokes, proverbs, riddles, chants, charms, blessings, curses, oaths, insults, retorts, taunts, teases, toasts, tongue-twisters, and greeting and leave-taking formulas (e.g., See you later, alligator). It also includes folk costume, folk dance, folk drama (and mime), folk art, folk belief (or superstition), folk medicine, folk instrumental music (e.g., fiddle tunes), folksongs (e.g., lullabies, ballads), folk speech (e.g., slang), folk similes (e.g., blind as a bat), folk metaphors (e.g., to paint the town red), and names (e.g., nicknames and place names). Folk poetry ranges from oral epics to autograph-book verse, epitaphs, latrinalia (writings on the walls of public bathrooms), limericks, ball-bouncing rhymes, jump-rope rhymes, finger and toe rhymes, dandling rhymes (to bounce children on the knee), counting-out rhymes (to determine who will be “it” in games), and nursery rhymes...

Alan Dundes – Definition of folklore (2)

... (*continuing*) The list of folklore forms also contains games; gestures; symbols; prayers (e.g., graces); practical jokes; folk etymologies; food recipes; quilt and embroidery designs; house, barn, and fence types; street vendor's cries; and even the traditional conventional sounds used to summon animals or give them commands. There are such minor forms as mnemonic devices (e.g, the name "Roy G. Biv" to remember the colors of the spectrum in order), envelope sealers (e.g., "SWAK"—Sealed With A Kiss), and the traditional comments made after body emissions (e.g., after burps or sneezes). There are such major forms as festivals and special day (or holiday) customs (e.g., Christmas, Halloween, and birthday).

This list provides a sampling of the forms of folklore. It does not include all the forms. (1965)



Folklore includes myths, legends,
folktales...



What is a folktale?

Folktale: definition

- Broad sense: all traditional narratives in prose (legends, anecdotes...)
- Narrow sense: only fictional narratives

Types of the folktale (broad sense)

- Fairytale (wonder tale, magic tale)
- Legend – a short traditional oral narrative about people, objects and places that exist(ed) in real life
 1. Historical – about historical figures (heroes/kings/saints)
 2. Local – about landmarks/buildings in a certain area
 3. Migratory – found repeatedly at different places; same plot but different place names
 4. Contemporary – urban legends
- Fable – short comic tales making a moral point about human nature
- Memorate - about a personal experience (“I saw a ghost”)
- Tall tale – about astonishing adventures, unrealistically big animals and objects; presented as (not meant to be!) truth

Approaches to explaining parallelism in folklore

Monogenesis

- A story/song/ritual has a single origin
- It is reproduced by people > multiple versions appear
- Further versions are based on these versions, but may still resemble the original
- This hypothesis is more popular in folklore studies

Polygenesis

- A story/song/ritual was created many times, at different times and places, by different human beings
- They are similar because:
 - societies develop in the same way
 - our psychological processes are the same
 - we symbolize similar experiences in similar ways

How can folktales be classified?

- Catalogue (classification system): created by Finnish folklorist Antti Aarne (1867 – 1925). Still in use, almost universally accepted by folklorists.
- Index of Folktale Types (1910) – Указатель сказочных ТИПОВ; first published in German, *Verzeichnis der Märchentypen*
- Revised and expanded by the American folktale scholar Stith Thompson: 1928, 1961 – the **Aarne-Thompson** system (**AT**)
- Further improved in 2004 by Hans-Jörg Uther: *The Types of International Folktales: A Classification and Bibliography* – the **Aarne-Thompson-Uther** system (**ATU**)

Key terms used in folktale research

Type

- An established and recognisable **plot** (“tale-type”)
- >> **Type set**: a group of **variants** of one and the same tale, based on the same plot
- **Example**: ATU* 510A – Cinderella (=Persecuted Heroine)

*Aarne-Thompson-Uther

Motif

- A recurrent **element** of a story (= an event, character, object or action)
- **Not** the entire **story** – just an important **part** of it!
- **Example**: Part of Cinderella as a complete tale – Motif N 711.6 “Prince sees heroine at ball and is enamoured (=falls in love)”

Classification of motifs

Motif-index of folk-literature

- Stith Thompson, 1955-1958
- A motif can be found in many tale types at the same time

Example: Motif Index - Structure

- A. Mythological Motifs
- B. Animal Motifs
- C. Motifs of Tabu
 1. †C400--†C499. **Speaking tabu.**
 - †C420. **Tabu: uttering secrets.**
 - †C420.2. *Tabu: not to speak about a certain happening.*

Motif C420.2 in an English legend: “The Old Man at the White House”

THERE WAS ONCE a man who lived in a white house in a certain village, and he knew everything about everybody who lived in the place.

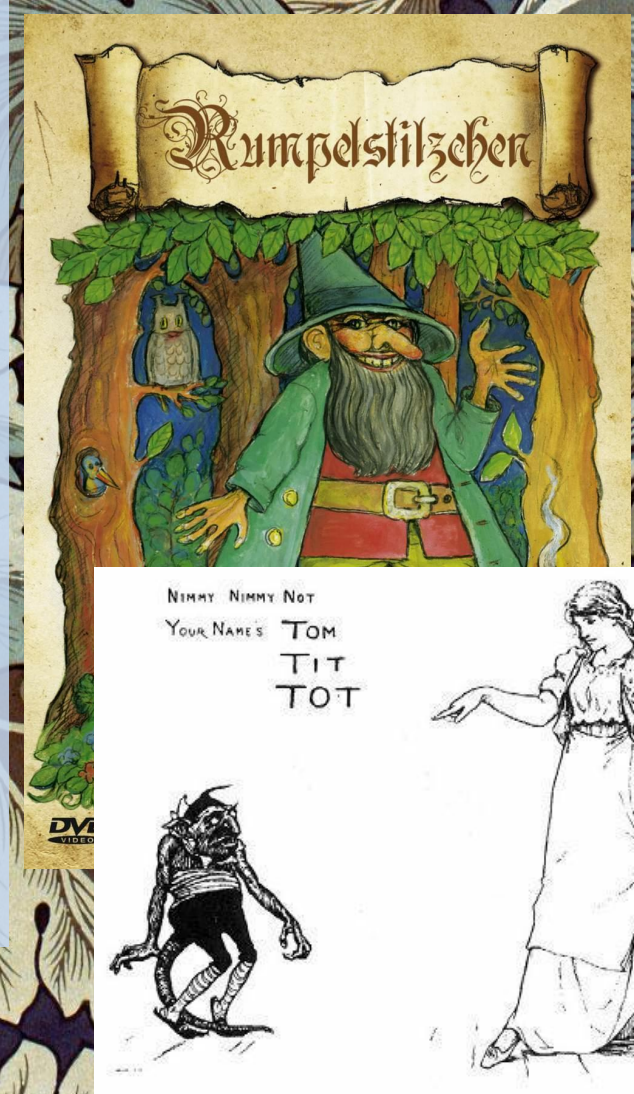
In the same village there lived a woman who had a daughter called Sally, and one day she gave Sally a pair of yellow gloves and threatened to kill her if she lost them.

Now Sally was very proud of her gloves, but she was careless enough to lose one of them. After she had lost it she went to a row of houses in the village and inquired at every door if they had seen her glove. But everybody said “No,” and she was told to go and ask the old man that lived in the white house.

So Sally went to the white house and asked the old man if he had seen her glove. The old man said, **“I have thy glove, and I will give it thee if thou wilt promise me to tell nobody where thou hast found it. And remember, if thou tells anybody I shall fetch thee out of bed when the clock strikes twelve at night.”**

Types and Motifs: Main sources

- 1) <http://www.mftd.org/index.php?action=atu> - ATU
- 2) <http://www.ruthenia.ru/folklore/thompson/> - Motifs
- 3) books.google.ru/books?id=uk-W8g_68b8C&printsec=frontcover&hl=de#v=onepage&q=1090&f=false – Baughman (a catalogue for the English-speaking world)
- 4) <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html> - Prof. Ashliman, Folklore and Mythology Electronic Texts

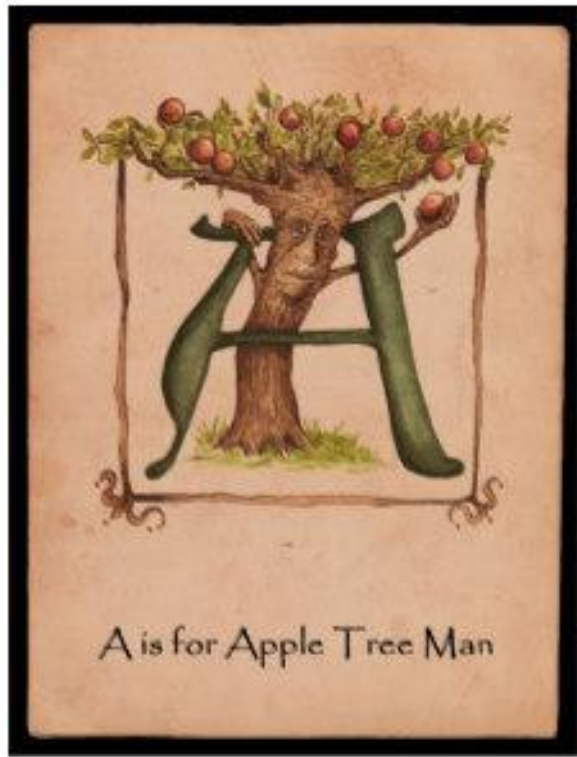




II. Folktale - Practice

The Apple Tree Man

Motifs



- B251.1.2, “Animals speak to one another at Christmas”
- N541.1, “Treasure reveals itself only on Christmas at midnight (or Christmas Eve)”
- N511.1.9, “Treasure buried under tree”
- N471, “Foolish attempt of second man to overhear secrets.”

Little Rosy

Type

ATU 720, My Mother Slew Me; My Father Ate Me, The Juniper Tree

Motifs

- E613.0.1, “Reincarnation of murdered child as bird”
- G61, Relative’s flesh eaten unwittingly”
- N271, “Murder will out”
- S31, Cruel stepmother”





Thank you!

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