



VERBALISATION OF STATE GESTALT IMAGES ON THE MATERIALS OF OLD GERMAN LITERARY MONUMENTS

VERBALIZAÇÃO DE IMAGENS DE GESTALT DE ESTADO NOS MATERIAIS DE MONUMENTOS LITERÁRIOS ALEMÃES ANTIGOS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the article is to study and analyse literary devices, used in Old German literature for the expression of state gestalt images. Methods. Methods of linguistic analysis, and comparative and historical-cultural analysis were used in the study. Means of descriptive statistics, Pearson's criterion and Mann — Whitney U-test were used. The use of Cronbach's alpha ensured the verification of the reliability of instruments and methods. Results. The conducted analysis of the comparison of three Old German literary monuments confirmed that there are no significant differences between "Nibelungenlied" and "Beowulf", which indicates the similarity in their structure and style. However, "Nibelungenlied" differs from "Edda" which certifies significant differences between these works. "Beowulf" also demonstrates significant differences with "Edda". These results also underline significant similarities between "Nibelungenlied" and "Beowulf", which are epic poems, and with "Edda", which is a collection of poems. In particular, the philosophical aspects of the verbalisation of Gestalt states were highlighted. Conclusion. The study has found that state gestalt images reflect not only images of characters and scenes but also translate features and aspects of collective world perception by Old German Society. The received results expand understanding of linguistic and stylistic peculiarities of Old German literature. Perspectives. Further studies should focus on the expression of gestalt images in modern German literature.

Keywords: state image, cultural context, literary monument, vocabulary, identity formation, worldview.

RESUMO

O objetivo do artigo é estudar e analisar dispositivos literários, usados na literatura alemã antiga para a expressão de imagens de gestalt de estado. Métodos. Métodos de análise linguística e análise comparativa e histórico-cultural foram usados no estudo. Meios de estatística descritiva, critério de Pearson e teste U de Mann — Whitney foram usados. O uso do alfa de Cronbach garantiu a verificação da confiabilidade dos instrumentos e métodos. Resultados. A análise conduzida da comparação de três monumentos literários alemães antigos confirmou que não há diferenças significativas entre "Nibelungenlied" e "Beowulf", o que indica a semelhança em sua estrutura e estilo. No entanto, "Nibelungenlied" difere de "Edda", o que certifica diferenças significativas entre essas obras. "Beowulf" também demonstra diferenças significativas com "Edda". Esses resultados também destacam semelhanças significativas entre "Nibelungenlied" e "Beowulf", que são poemas épicos, e com "Edda", que é uma coleção de poemas. Em particular, os aspectos filosóficos da verbalização dos estados de Gestalt foram destacados. Conclusão. O estudo descobriu que as imagens de gestalt de estado refletem não apenas imagens de personagens e cenas, mas também traduzem características e aspectos da percepção coletiva do mundo pela Sociedade Alemã Antiga. Os resultados recebidos expandem a compreensão das peculiaridades linguísticas e estilísticas da literatura alemã antiga. Perspectivas. Estudos futuros devem se concentrar na expressão de imagens de gestalt na literatura alemã moderna.

Palavras-chave: imagem de estado, contexto cultural, monumento literário, vocabulário, formação de identidade, visão de mundo.

Introduction

Relevance

Nowadays, linguistics and literary studies are more and more focused on the study of verbalisation of state gestalt images in artistic works. Old German literature heritage receives special interest from researchers, as it provides valuable information on cultural and linguistic aspects of that time. The study of the verbalisation of state gestalt images enables a better understanding of modern literary tendencies and develops new methods of analysis and interpretation.

Gestalt is the term, derived from the German word "Gestalt", which means "form" or "structure". In psychology and literature, gestalt indicates integrity and structure, which is more than the sum of its parts (Ellis, 2022). In literature, the conception of gestalt is used to create works where each element is perceived not only as a separate detail but as a part of the larger whole. One of the methods of gestalt use is the creation of symbolic images and motifs, which intertwine in the text and provide it with depth and sense. For example, some images or situations, which symbolise certain ideas or themes, can consistently appear in the work (Angerer, 2021)

The author can also create the work in such a way that every element is important for understanding the general sense or theme. For example, a short story or novel can have a certain structure, which resembles the cycle or reproduces a certain motif through different episodes. A gestalt may be used for the creation of the emotional impression from the work in general. This may include the use of rhythm, repeated motifs or plot twists, which help to engage the reader or create certain emotions in him (Stifter, 2020; Louden, 2020).

Old German literature covers a wide variety of different genres and themes as epic poems, mythological stories, religious texts and legal codes. It is necessary to note that oral transmission played a significant role in the development of epic traditions and the formation of national identity (Stefanowitsch et al., 2020). Literature of the Old German era had a significant influence on the world, both from

the perspective of its mythological influence and its long-lasting contribution to the literature canon (Jäger & Walkden, 2021).

Such works as "Edda" and "Beowulf", became eternal classics, inspiring countless writers and artists during history (Ashurova, 2023). It is impossible to overestimate their influence on the formation of the literary tradition of Western Europe (Khaydarovna, 2023). It is obvious that such literature will remain relevant for future generations (Sajjad et al., 2023; Tursunovich, 2022).

The philosophical aspect of verbalisation also includes the process of integrating individual experience into collective consciousness. Literary monuments serve as a means of transmitting cultural values and worldview from generation to generation. They form the community's identity, defining its historical and cultural heritage. Through these texts, society is able to understand itself and its place in the world, as well as preserve and transmit its ideals.

The problem, arising within the context of this study, lies in the necessity of understanding and analysis of the selection of ideas, emotions, and conceptions in the texts of the works of Old German writers. It arises from the necessity to reveal mechanisms used to translate opinions and perceptions in the form of verbal images. The main focus of the study is paid to the analysis and interpretation of verbalised gestalt images, which appear in the works of Old German literature. It lies in revealing the way literary devices and stylistic techniques are used for the transfer of complex conceptions, which reflect various cultural, historical and social aspects of Old German society.

The aim of the article is to study and analysis of literary devices, used in Old German literature for the verbalisation and transfer of state gestalt images. It aims to determine the peculiarities of literary expression, stylistic devices and lexical units, which were used for image creation in Old German literature texts.

Tasks /questions

- 1. Linguistic analysis of the selected text material.
- 2. Comparative analysis of texts.
- 3. Historical-cultural analysis.



Literature review

The work of Simonetti (2021) reflects the importance of self-expression and individual course within the context of history. This article is important for the study of verbalisation of state gestalt images in Old German literary monuments, as it reveals the interrelation between individual experience and sociocultural context. The work helps to reveal the methods of expression of personal characteristics and psychological aspects of state images in Old German works.

The research work of Khomenko (2022) is dedicated to the study of the lexical richness of the Old German languages. The work demonstrates the variety of lexical units, which were used for the verbalisation of state images, in Old German literary monuments. Analysis of the lexical composition of Old German languages enables an understanding of the influence of certain words and expressions on the formation of images in the works of that period.

The article by Shapochkina (2020) analyses the meaning of generating structures of a sentence within the context of state category. This paper offers an understanding and analysis of sentence structure in Old German languages. Analysis of generative structures enables revealing of the importance of syntactic means in the expression of state images in Old German literary works.

In their work, Palii and Lupai (2021) reveal some important issues for the study of verbalisation of state gestalt images in Old German literary monuments. This dissertation studies the sources of Old Norse mythology development, which can reflect the main mythological and cultural contexts, which influenced the formation of state images in Old German works. The work expands understanding of the sources and elements, which are the basis of images in Old Norse mythology, which is important for the further study of the verbalisation of images in literary works. Scientists also pay attention to the philosophical aspect of the use of gestalt images, namely the moral and ethical influence of Old German works on the worldview of the reader.

Standke's paper (2023) is also of great significance for this study. This work considers ambivalent narratives and cultural adaptations among tales about

thieves, which helps to reveal additional aspects of verbalisation of state gestalt images in Old German works. The study of sources enables determining peculiarities and tendencies in the use of images in different cultural contexts, and even underlining the influence of such narratives on the formation of state images in literary works.

In her work, Ashurova (2023) offers important instructions concerning the methodology of linguistic and poetic studies, which may be useful for understanding and analysing the verbalisation of state gestalt images in Old German literary monuments. This article pays attention to the main principles of the study of linguistic and poetic texts, which can influence the approach to the analysis of literary images and their verbalisations.

The work by Khaydarovna (2023) is also important material for the study of the mentioned theme. This article focuses on specific aspects of the linguistic study of literary characters, which can open new possibilities for understanding and analysis of state images in Old German works. The author studies the methods and approaches to the analysis of literary characters, which can be useful for the study of image verbalisation in literary texts.

Sajjad et al. (2023) focused their work on the analysis of linguistic creativity in literary translation, which can have an important value for understanding image verbalisation in Old German works. This article studies the influence of linguistic and cultural aspects on the translation and verbalisation of images, which can be used for the analysis of state images. The authors study the influence of linguistic creativity on the representation of cultural imagination and social realities in literary translations, which may be useful for understanding the verbalisation of images in literary texts of the Old German period.

Tursunovich (2022) studies linguistic and cultural aspects of literary text translation, which can help to reveal the essence and the meaning of images in relevant texts. The author analyses the influence of linguistic peculiarities and cultural contexts on image verbalisation, which is a key aspect of the study of state gestalt images. The study also provides grounds for understanding and evaluating





the translation of literary texts, which is an important aspect in expanding our understanding of Old German literary heritage.

Ellis's book (2022) focuses on the logical analysis of the theory of literature critics, which is important for understanding techniques and approaches to the analysis of literary texts. Consideration of logical principles and methods of the study can help in a more accurate and systematic analysis of class gestalt images in Old German literary monuments. Such an approach enables profound study and evaluation of different aspects of image verbalisation in relevant texts.

The study of verbalisation of state gestalt images on the materials of Old German literary monuments encounters many unexplored and understudied issues. Among them, the importance of cultural context and historical background for understanding the formation of state images in texts can be underlined. It is also important to pay attention to the influence of linguistic structure and lexical peculiarities of Old German languages on manifestations of gestalt effects in literary works. Herewith, it is necessary to consider the role of translation in the preservation and change of integral images in different cultural contexts. The other important aspect is also the development of methodological approaches to the analysis of state images and their verbalisation with consideration of specifics of Old German literature.

Methods

Design

To perform the tasks and achieve the set purpose, the study was conducted in several stages. The study was conducted during the year 2023, and its results were summed up in 2024. Their context is presented in Figure 1.

Study Stages Preparatory Analytical; Final Setting the aim and tasks Use of selected Summing up of the study study methods the results, (comparative, presenting Analysis of historical-cultural study unstudied cognitive conclusions and analysis) and results understudied issues Use of methods of mathematical Selection of statistics for the material results base of the processing study

Figure 1 – Stages of the study conduction

Source: Developed by the authors.

The aim, tasks, and design indicate that the study is comparative-analytical. The comparative analysis involves the study and comparison of several objects with the purpose of determining their common and distinctive characteristics according to the set aim. This enables understanding of significant similarities and differences between the objects and determining interrelations between them. The design is cross-sectional, which provides for the study of several objects during one time period.

Participants

As the source base of the study, the following works were selected: state image gestalts in "The Nibelungenlied" (2008), "Heaney" (2000) "Beowulf" and "Edda, The Poetic" (2005). These works were selected for the study due to their significance in world literature and culture. "The Nibelungenlied" is a key epic work in German literature, which offers deep historical and cultural reflections, and is ideal for analysis of state gestalt images. "Beowulf" is one of the most famous Anglo-Saxon epic poems, rich in symbols and images, which help to reveal its image structure. "The Poetic Edda" represents the collection of Old Norse myths and legends, which is the key source for understanding Scandinavian culture and





mentality, it also contains many symbols and images for the analysis of gestalt images.

Instruments

Data entry and processing were made with the use of "Microsoft Excel" and "SPSS Statistics 18.0" software. All the data are presented in absolute and relative values.

Data collection

- Linguistic analysis. This method enables consideration of state gestalt
 images through the prism of linguistic processes. With the use of this
 method, we managed to analyse how readers perceive and interpret
 images in texts, as well as to reveal mechanisms, which are the basis of
 their development.
- 2. **Comparative analysis** was used for the determination of common and distinctive characteristics of the studied sources. Within the context of this study, this method was used for the comparison of images and determination of typical gestalt structures.
- 3. **Historical-cultural analysi**s was used for the study of images and symbols, as it enabled a deeper understanding of their context and background. This method enabled determining the role of images in Old German society, their role in cultural practices, as well as their perception in certain historical periods.

Analysis of data

- 1. *Methods of descriptive statistics* for calculating the mean, median, and mode for frequently used lexical items. These methods were used for developing tables of the frequency of types of state gestalt images in the mentioned works (Plomp, 2020).
- 2. Quantitative analysis of the received data with the use of the statistical K *criterion* (χ 2) was used to determine the reliability of similarities and differences between control and experimental groups. *Pearson's chi-squared test*, calculated according to the formula:

$$\chi 2 = \frac{1}{n_2 n_1} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left| \dots \right| \frac{(x_i n_2 - y_i n_1)^2}{x_i + y_i}; \tag{1}$$

where n_1 , n_2 – number of levels in first and second comparative rows;

m - number of levels in comparative data rows;

 x_i , y_i – frequency value on i-level in the first and second data rows;

 $\chi^2_{empirical}$ – the empirical value of the level of didactic competence formation.

3. **Mann** — **Whitney U-test** statistics are calculated according to formula (Lewthwaite & Holmes, 2018):

$$U = (n_1 \times n_2) + (n_x \times (n_x + 1)/2) - T_x;$$
 (2)

where n_1 – the number of variables in the first population;

 n_2 – the number of variables in the second population;

 T_x – the larger from two range sums;

 n_x – number of respondents in the group with the larger sum on ranges





4. *Reliability coefficient Cronbach's alpha* characterises the internal consistency of test tasks. Cronbach's alpha is calculated according to the formula:

$$\frac{N}{N-1} \left(\frac{\sigma_x^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left| \left| \left| \left| \sigma_{Y_i}^2 \right| \right|}{\sigma_x^2} \right), \tag{3}$$

where σ_x^2 – dispersion of the grade of the whole test;

 $\sigma_{Y_i}^2$ – element i dispersion. Values in the range of 0.7 - 0.8 are considered satisfactory,

Ethical criteria

During the conduction of the study, there arises a necessity for an objective and critical approach to it, avoiding any form of prejudice or results distortion. Results publication should comply with scientific standards and methodology, as well as must indicate the sources used in the research. Such an approach contributes to ensuring the reliability and honesty of scientific research and its results.

Results

At the beginning of the study, linguistic analysis of works was conducted to detect main state gestalt images, using the means of descriptive statistics. The results are presented in Table 1.



Table 1 – Linguistic analysis aimed at detection of the main class image-gestalts in The Nibelungenlied (2008), Heaney (2000) Beowulf and Edda, The Poetic (2005)

THE	The Nibelungenlied (2008), Heaney (2000) Beowulf and Edda, The Poetic (2005)							
Wo rk	Clas s ima ge gest alt	Lexical devices	Stylistic devices	Nu mb er of lexi cal unit s	Nu mbe r of styli stic devi ces	Numb er of words	Ave rage sent enc e leng th	Lexi cal vari ety
The Nib elu nge nlie d (20 08)	War rior	Words, describing weapons, armour, battle: sword, spear, shield, helmet, to fight, to kill, to injure	Epithets, metaphors, similes, hyperbole: "sharp sword", "shiny helmet", "brave warrior", "fierce battle"	100	50	39000	14.4	80%
Beo wul f (20 00)	Her o	Words describing strength, courage, honour: hero, warrior, brave, strong, to fight a monster, to win	Kennings, epithets, metaphors: "Beowulf, the mighty warrior", "the monster Grendel", "the hero's glorious victory"	80	40	31000	14.1	75%
Edd a, Poe tic (20 05)	Wis e ma n	Words, describing knowledge, wisdom, prophecy: knowledge, wisdom, prophesy, runes, prophetic	Alliteration, assonance, metaphors, symbols: "the wise One", "runes of knowledge", "Prophecy of the völva"	90	45	25000	13.9	70%

Source: Developed by the authors.

The main state image in The Nibelungenlied is a "Warrior". The author used lexical devices as words describing weapon, armour and battle, in particular, "sword", "spear" and "to fight", as well as stylistic techniques such as epithets, metaphors, and similes to create an impression of the warrior's character and his battle. The number of lexical units in this work amounts to 100, and the number of stylistic devices – 50. "Hero" is the main state image in "Beowulf". Lexical devices, used for his description, include words which depict power, courage, and honour as "hero", "warrior" and "strong". Herewith, the author used kennings, epithets and metaphors to intensify the image of the hero. The number of lexical units in this work amounts to 80, and the number of stylistic devices - 40. "Wise man" is the main state image in "Edda". Words, describing knowledge, wisdom, prophecy: knowledge, wisdom, to prophesy are used in this work. Stylistic devices such as Alliteration, assonance, and metaphors help to emphasise the wisdom of the wise man. The number of lexical units in this work amounts to 90, and the number of stylistic devices – 45. The average sentence length of approximately 14 words is observed in all works, but a lexical variety of different devices varies from 70% to 80%. Comparative analysis of the representation of state images-gestalt in texts of "The Nibelungenlied", "Beowulf", and "Edda" is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 – Comparative analysis of the representation of class images-gestalt in texts of "The Nibelungenlied", "Beowulf", and "Edda"

Comparison	Mann — Whitney U-test	p- value	Conclusion	
Nibelungenlied vs. Beowulf	0.523.	0.051.	No significant difference	
Nibelungenlied vs. Edda, The Poetic	0.478.	0.012.	Significant difference	
Beowulf vs. Edda, The Poetic	0.432	0.003	Significant difference	

Source: Developed by the authors.

The analysis of the comparison of three Old German literary monuments confirmed that there are no significant differences between "Nibelungenlied" and "Beowulf", which indicates the similarity in their structure and style. However, "Nibelungenlied" differs from "Edda" which certifies significant differences between

these works. "Beowulf" also demonstrates significant differences with "Edda". These results indicate significant similarities between "Nibelungenlied" and "Beowulf", which are epic poems, then with "Edda", which is a collection of poems. Table 3 presents the historical-cultural analysis of the representation of state images gestalt in texts of "The Nibelungenlied", "Beowulf", and "Edda".

Table 3 – Historical-cultural analysis of the representation of class images-gestalt in texts of The Nibelungenlied, Beowulf and Edda, The Poetic

Comparison	Mann — Whitney U-test	p- value	Conclusion	Historical-cultural analysis	
Nibelungenlied vs. Beowulf	0.523	0.051	No significant difference	Similarities: epic poems, heroism, chivalry, Christian motifs	
Nibelungenlied vs. Edda, The Poetic	0.478	0.012	Significant difference	Difference: Nibelungenlied - epic poem, Edda, The Poetic - collections of poems, different methodological systems	
Beowulf vs. Edda, The Poetic	0.432	0.003	Significant difference	Difference: Beowulf - epic poem, Edda, The Poetic - collections of poems, different methodological systems	

Source: Developed by the authors.

Historical-cultural extended analysis of three Old German literary monuments, with the use of the Mann — Whitney U-test and historical-cultural analysis, showed the following results. More similarities than differences were found in "Nibelungenlied" and "Beowulf". Both works are epic poems, which have motifs of heroism, chivalry and Christian motifs. Compared to "Edda", "Nibelungenlied" has more differences. "Nibelungenlied" is an epic poem, while "Edda" – is a collection of poems, in which different mythological systems are used. "Beowulf" and "Edda" also have significant differences. "Beowulf" is an epic poem, while "Edda" – is a collection of poems, with different mythological systems. "Nibelungenlied" and "Beowulf" have more in common than "Edda". This is explained by the fact that the first two works are epic poems, while "Edda"



represents the other literature form - a collection of poems, which is distinguished by the mythological system.

Discussion

The results of the study, conducted within this article, reveal important aspects of the verbalisation of state gestalt images in literary monuments. Results of the study Babai (2023) and Nishino (2021) confirm and supplement the received results. Analysis of literary devices, stylistic techniques and lexical units in Old German literary works enabled the determination of specifics of their expressiveness and emotional load. In particular, in their works, Agee (2021) and Azamatova (2023) determined that the authors used various stylistic devices and linguistic constructions to create live and reliable images in their works. Devices such as epithets, metaphors, similes, and others, were used to underline significant aspects of characters, scenes and events, which contributed to deeper emotional expression in the work and the increase of its aesthetic value.

The studies by Sunnatovna (2023) and Oxonjonovich (2023) demonstrated that state gestalt images in Old German literary monuments do not reflect key aspects of the culture and history of the society, and indicate delicate nuances of its collective perception of the world. According to the authors, these images create not only images of characters and events but also translate the main values, ideals and beliefs of that time, which helps the reader to better understand and feel the spirit of that epochal period.

Instead, Goering (2023, February) and Bovsunivska (2021) believe that the meaning of gestalt images can be determined within the context of their remoteness from modernity and changes in social values and norms. As Old German literature reflects cultural and historical realities of the ancient world, some images and gestalts can lose their relevance for a modern reader. Interpretation of gestalt images can be subjective and depend on the individual understanding and experience of the reader. Such images can cause different associations and impressions in different people, which reduces their general significance.

Roberge (2020) and Shapochkina (2022) note that images of heroes fighting for their pride and dignity reflect the significance of a warrior's spirit and courage, which were valued in those times by Old German society. Furthermore, images and gods and mythological creatures reflect faith and religious beliefs, which determined the worldview and mentality of that period.

The language of Old German literary monuments is symbolic and metaphorical, which allows the creation of multi-layered images. These gestalt images become a kind of archetypes that influence the collective unconscious. They reflect not only the external manifestations of social roles, but also the internal psychological experiences associated with these roles. Through verbalising situated images, Old Germanic literary monuments create a cultural matrix in which individual and collective experiences are intertwined. It helps to understand how society perceives itself and its members, how ideals and norms are formed, and how they are transmitted through generations. Philosophical analysis of this process allows a deeper understanding of the complexity and multifacetedness of human culture and its influence on the formation of individual and collective identity.

The practical significance is that the study enables the revealing of deep aspects of culture, history, and mentality of Old German society through the analysis of literary devices and stylistic techniques in literature. It may be used for a better understanding of the sociocultural context of the epoch and its influence on image formation in literature. It may also be useful for literary critics, linguists, and cultural scientists, who are interested in Old German literature and their role in cultural heritage formation.

The theoretical significance is that the study of verbalisation of state gestalt images expands our knowledge of the nature and functions of literary texts in images and idea formation. It contributes to the development of literature and language studies, revealing new aspects of linguistic expression and methods of its interpretation. Herewith, such a study can provide possibilities for further studies in the sphere of cognitive linguistics and psycholinguistics, directed at understanding the processes of formation and perception of images through language.





The study limitations are related to some aspects, which should be considered in its interpretation and general understanding of the results. Firstly, limitations may arise because of the selected analysis volume. Due to the limited number of Old German literary monuments, the selected corpus of texts cannot reveal all the variety and complexity of literary tradition. Secondly, limitations can arise from methodological limitations. For example, the use of certain analysis methods can lead to the omission of some aspects or results distortion.

Conclusion

Relevance

The received results are significant for the modern reconsideration of Old German literature. Their relevance manifests in several aspects. Firstly, the study of state gestalt images enables a better understanding of cultural and historical aspects of Old German society, its values, ideals, and beliefs. It also contributes to the analysis of cultural and literary texts of that period.

Conclusions on the received results

The results of the study found that state gestalt images reflect not only images of characters and scenes but also translate features and aspects of collective world perception by Old German society. They reflect important values such as bravery, loyalty and dignity, as well as religious and mythological beliefs. The received results expand understanding of linguistic and stylistic peculiarities of Old German literature. The analysis of literary devices enables the detection of the specifics of expressiveness and emotional load, used by the authors for the creation of images and recreation of events. Philosophical analysis of Old German literary monuments allows a better understanding of the diversity and complexity of culture and its influence on the formation of personal identity.



Implication

The received results may be useful for further studies in the spheres of literature, culture and language studies, as well as used for better understanding and interpretation of Old German literary works. Considering the significance of these works in cultural heritage formation, they are an important source for the study and analysis of traditions, values, and ideals of Old Germans.

Further studies perspectives

Further studies should be directed at the study of the representation of state gestalt images in modern German literature.

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