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DRAGON AND HERO OR HOW TO KILL A DRAGON ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE LEGENDS OF MEĐIMURJE ABOUT THE GRABANCIJAŠ AND THE DRAGON

SUMMARY

In this article, through interpretation of Međimurean legends about the Čakovec Dragon (*Pozoj*), the differential determinant is emphasised in relation to the proto-Slavic legend's final status of the dragon (living status / cosmic renewal – dead status), in the legend of the Čakovec Dragon and, finally, in the legend of St George, who kills the Dragon. In other words, Christianity enthrones the single instance liquidation of the Dragon, while in the Indo-European myth on the conflict between, for example, Indra and the so-called Cosmic Monster (*Vrtra*, *Vala*) the Serpent / Dragon, it is a matter of cyclical slaughter. It is to this group – the group of cosmic dragons – to which the Međimurean dragons belong, although it is obvious that legends about the *Pozoj*, or Dragon, were superseded by the Christian legend of the Dragon-Slayer, with permanent overpowering of the so-called Monster, since the Grabancijaš in the south, east or even west of the Globe (or, as Andrija Dolenčić says in *the Indian butcher shops*) finally kills the Pozoj – and sells its meat, which means that the Cosmic Cycle, that is, repetition, has been discontinued.

In conclusion, the Međimurean legends of the meteorological binomial, consisting of the Grabancijaš and the Pozoj, are interpreted using the ecofeminist key as legends in which an effort is made to conceal embarrassing historical truths (Christianisation, colonialism). Namely, the legend of the Čakovec Dragon – as is the case with all similar legends of the vanquishing of so-called monsters, demonstrates what Barthes differentiated in mythic structure; that the myth can be very simply modified into a tool of political demagogy that confers a "natural" appearance upon a particular ideology. True enough, the case of the legend of the Čakovec Dragon is a *weak* myth, which Barthes denotes in relation to the strong myth, in which the political quantum is direct, and depoliticisation abrupt, as a myth in which the political quality of the subject has been lost, while adding that a trifle can abruptly revive it once again. Needless to say, trifles are not at all unimportant.

Key words: Dragon / *Pozoj*, *Grabancijaš*, myth, oral legend, legend, ecofeminism