Morphology of the Folk Tale

Morphology of the Folk Tale by Vladimir Propp

Morphology of the Folk Tale is a seminal work in the field of folklore and is widely regarded as the foundation of modern folkloristics. In this book, Vladimir Propp outlines a systematic approach to the analysis of fairy tales, focusing on the structure and function of the narrative elements. Propp developed a scheme for analyzing folklore, which has become known as Propp's scheme. This scheme consists of thirty-one functions, which are arranged in a sequence that describes the overall structure of a fairy tale.

Propp's method was developed in the context of Russian folklore studies, and it has been applied to a wide range of different types of narratives, including not only fairy tales but also myths, legends, and epic tales. The scheme has been particularly influential in the study of Russian and Slavic folklore, but it has also been applied to other cultures and traditions.

Propp's approach was based on a detailed analysis of the narrative structure of fairy tales, focusing on the interplay between the various elements that make up a story. His scheme allows for a detailed and systematic analysis of the narrative structure, identifying key functions such as the establishment of a context, the presentation of a problem, the solution of the problem, and the resolution of the story.

The Morphology of the Folk Tale has been translated into several languages, including English, French, German, and Italian, and it remains a key text in the field of folklore studies. It is widely used as a textbook in universities and has influenced the work of many other scholars and researchers in the field.