

Musicality and Rhythm in narrative techniques in Dogri Folktales

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Abstract

Folktales allow children to learn a wide variety of rich literary and cultural heritage and develop a sense of moral behaviour to stand truthful, fair and honest in society. These have captivated listeners for centuries. Dogri has a rich oral literature and folk tales form an extensive part of it. A plurality of themes can be found in this language ranging from mystery, adventure to humour, satire, social and domestic problems. Despite these myriad variety of themes, Dogri has an element of musicality and rhythm in narrative techniques within its folktales. The present paper discusses how the story tellers use the element of musicality in their story telling techniques to ease the children and other listeners and weave a zone of comfort and entertainment in front of them. Folktales are narrated using a sing-song variety of Dogri with special emphasis on the use of reduplicates and musical onomatopoeias to lend a sense of musicality and rhythm in the oral language. The paper is an attempt to archive Dogra oral history through the folktales which are meditative in nature and more soothed when narrated with musicality and rhythm. The age-old traditions have been preserved in the form of folktales in the regions of Jammu and Himachal Pradesh and still use distinctive linguistic feature such as novel words, repeated phonological or grammatical patterns that create interesting rhythm mingled with musicality.

Keywords: musicality; rhythm; literature; narrative; heritage