

Title: Souls without Bodies and Bodies without Souls: Re-contextualizing “Lenore.”
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Multiple versions of Burger’s “Lenore” in Slavic literatures have been sufficiently studied and compared to one another. The reason to add one more point of view is to explore the inner logic of the plot in the vein of Kristeva’s linguistic analyses of dreams.

The focus of the current study is on the Czech version of the famous Romantic ballad, K.J. Erben’s “The Wedding Shirts”. Erben places an emphasis on the phenomenon of the broken promise, and he achieves an unprecedented ambiguity of message by marrying the Biblical idea of a fulfilled prophecy with the folktale motif of a game, which rules are obligatory for the participants. The essay seeks to reinterpret the finale of the poem by offering two independently possible readings of the plot: one parodic and one psychoanalytical/anthropological.

References

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