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MYTHICAL CREATURES IN BELARUS AND IN THE COUNTRY OF THE TARGET LANGUAGE

As part of the research project in English on the topic «Mythical creatures in Belarus and in the country of the target language», we study mythical creatures, consider the role of mythology in the sociocultural aspect, analyze creatures whose image is similar in Belarus and in the country of the target language, and also compare them.

We assume that the process of globalization has a significant impact on the daily life of Belarusians. This process is associated with the increased popularity of foreign mythical creatures, because their images are used in games, TV series and modern foreign literature. This study proves the need to pay more attention to the culture of Belarus and offers options for its promotion. The study is relevant due to the increased interest in the cultural heritage of the Belarusian people. The aim of the study is to identify cultural peculiarities of the images of mythical creatures in Western European and Belarusian mythologies.

The aim stipulates the solution of the following tasks:

- study theoretical material on mythology;

- consider the role of mythology in modern culture;
- make a list of similar characters;
- analyze and compare the creatures whose images are similar in Belarus and in the country of the target language.

The object of the study is mythical creatures in British and Belarusian mythologies. The subject of the study is the similarity of creatures with common origin.

For the study, we used the following methods:

- theoretical analysis;
- historical method;
- comparative method;
- descriptive method.

Firstly, we study theoretical material about mythology, images of mythical creatures, their classification, the use of images of mythical creatures in everyday life and works of art, their impact on the development and enrichment of the culture.

Secondly, we conduct a brief comparative analysis of Belarusian mythical creatures and their foreign equivalents. Thanks to this analysis, we see that Belarusian culture is not inferior to foreign culture. The culture of our country is diverse and has its own unique characteristics. We also give examples of various projects that have already been created by Belarusians to promote our culture. As part of the practical part of the research work, we conduct research to check the level of awareness of the population of different ages about the uniqueness of the culture of the Belarusian people. We find out that young people under the age of 25, in particular teenagers (56%), are poorly aware of this aspect of their country's culture. They have background knowledge, but little specifics (Diagram 1).

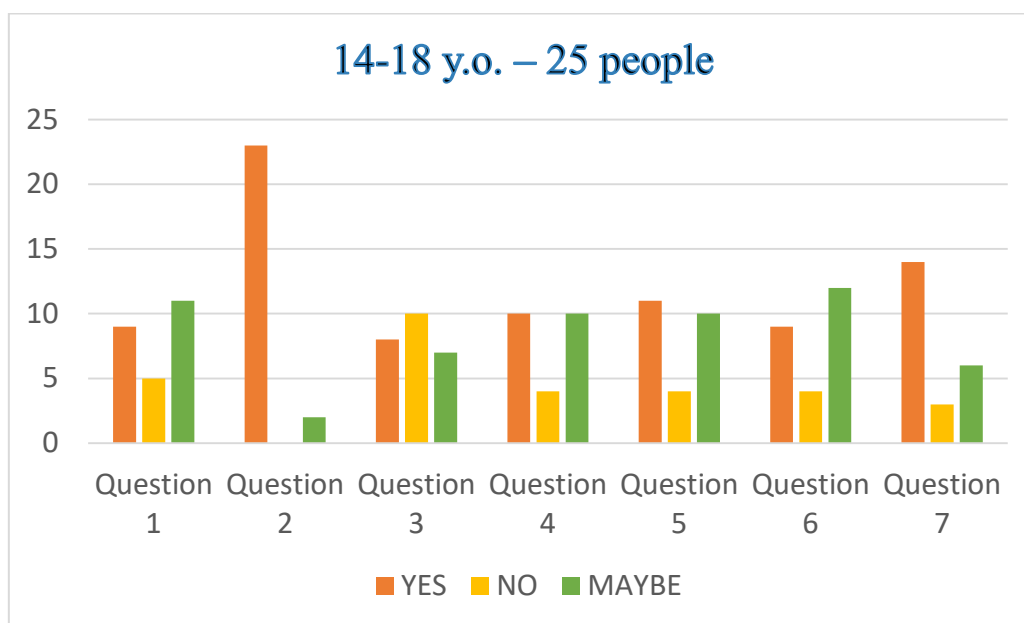


Diagram 1. Teenagers' answers

On the contrary, children (72 %) know enough due to the fact that people contribute to the promotion of Belarusian folklore (Diagram 2).

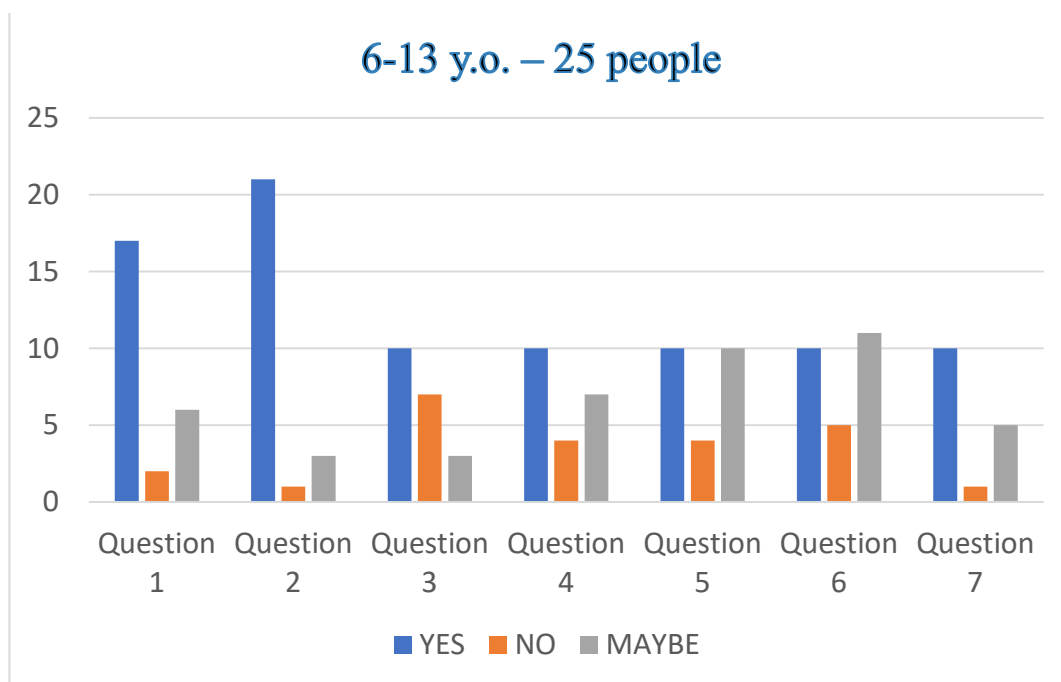


Diagram 2. Children's answers

Then we analyze the statistics of Google queries in Belarus over the last 5 years using numerical units of measure from 0 to 100, where 100 is the highest level of interest and 0 is the lowest, and find out that recently interest in mythology has been gradually increasing. In other words, the average level of interest between 2018 and 2022 is 36 and between 2022 and 2023 is 45. Therefore, we can see improvement of the dynamics by 11 units. We have also confirmed our hypothesis that foreign mythical creatures are more popular than Belarusian. If to talk about Tsmok, the average interest level in 2023 is 50, while the dragon's popularity is 68 (Diagram 3).

Динамика популярности ?

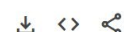


Diagram 3. Tsmok and dragon

Today social networks play a huge role in the life of a modern person. In the process of exchanging information users actively use stickers and emojis. We have taken advantage of this opportunity and created a sticker pack to popularize

Belarusian mythology. The main characters are mythical creatures in a memorable format. The electronic version of the stickers is available on Viber, which is now actively used in Belarus (Image 1).



Image 1. QR code «Sticker pack»

The materials of this research can be used to systematize knowledge on Belarusian folklore, promote Belarusian culture and improve the quality of English lessons.