

"As the Crow Flies": Linguosemiotics of a Mythic Concept in the English Rock Lyrics

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This research focuses on linguo-semiotic, linguo-cognitive and cultural peculiarities of English designations of the mythic concept of RAVEN / CROW in modern English rock lyrics. The said lyrics (1970 - 2025) constitute a customer corpus processed via the Ant.Conc software. The general semantic space providing the context for the said designations is identified as a possible world (an alternative reality) and associated with the "English-ridden" pop-culture.

The methodology comprises "componential analysis" and reconstruction of cognitive models that motivate the units verbalizing the RAVEN / CROW concept. Comparative and contrastive methods are used for mapping these features against those of the previously analyzed Old Norse designations (as the representations of the Germanic "mythic space"). Further interpretations involved interdisciplinary synthesis framed as "M-logic".

The findings comprise an inventory of cognitive models as the premises of the RAVEN / CROW concept's verbalizers (RAVEN – DESTINY, RAVEN – TRAVEL, CROW – DEITY etc.). The cognitive models are allocated at different levels of the universal model featuring the hierarchical plane of an open system. Clusters of cognitive models demonstrate hyper-linked frames which highlight the dynamics of a particular segment of an alternative reality. The research highlights differences between these conceptual arrays and those typical for the units verbalizing the RAVEN / CROW concept in the Old Norse texts.

The findings expand the traditional scope of modern cognitive linguistics and demonstrate the way the archaic mythic space's components shape the modern culture and subcultures. Further interdisciplinary interpretations target potential systemic universalia employed in constructing alternative realities and utilizing mythic concepts (the RAVEN / CROW in particular) in a variety of discourses.