

Development Tendencies of Contemporary Polish Folklore

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(Summary)

The Polish folklore after the constitutional transformation in the 1989 began to be in thrall to strong west influences similarly to other aspects of life. The modern media, including the Internet, has had the most vital impact on its transformation. They have created more opportunities for forming, modifying, copying and sending new types of communications. In this way, each of the internauts could easily become a potential folklore addressee and sender. These changes have been creating numerous forms of folklore, such as demotivators or mems. They have also transformed traditional forms, e.g.: chain letters and riddles. Folklore obviously has strong connection with the media and the current country affairs, however, the noticeable tendency in the development of folklore is the domination of comical forms or those creating fears (urban legends). These tendencies may be interpreted as a reaction to stress associated with continuous cultural and economical transformation in Poland. It might also be an attempt to tame the fears of everyday life.

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