

FOREIGNERS IN LITHUANIAN FOLK COUPLETS (*TALALINĖS*)

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Summary

Since ancient times, Lithuania used to be inhabited by people of different nationalities. Therefore images of foreigners naturally appear in folklore as well. Folk romances are inconceivable without the image of a gipsy woman, humorous and didactical songs – without the Jew tavern-owner, and no wedding can be staged without the mock “wedding-party”.

Folk couplets (*talalinės*) present no exception. Strange language, religion, different ways of life and customs, specific features of dress and appearance, uncommon occupation – everything prompted people to create humorous couplets about strangers. The mockery is directed at quite a broad spectrum of foreigners: Jews, Gipsies, Germans, Byelorussians, Poles, etc.