

Feedback  
for a student's master's thesis  
Faculty of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg State University

**Jekaterina Zavjalova**  
(Direction "Oriental studies and African studies", program "Literature of the peoples of Asia and Africa")

***"The place and function of the image of yokai supernatural creatures in modern Japanese literature (XX-XXI centuries)"***

Direction: "Literature of the peoples of Asia and Africa"

The existence of images taken from folklore in works of fiction is a broad and multifaceted topic, undoubtedly relevant for Japanese studies. In her thesis, J. Zavjalova turns to the study of the functioning of the images of youkai, supernatural creatures, characters from Japanese folklore in the literary fiction of Japan, mainly of modern times.


This work is the result of five years of research and a direct continuation of the final bachelor's thesis, defended in 2018.

As a student of the Department of Japanese History, J. Zavjalova studied the existence of youkai images in Japanese culture in various forms of art (second year) and in society (third year). Her graduation research "Perception of the Supernatural in the History of Japanese Culture" became the generalization of said work. In her master's thesis, J. Zavjalova examines this topic from a literary point of view. The composition is based on a very complete and deep study of a wide range of materials in Russian, Japanese and English.

The work on the research was carried out regularly, the student showed interest in the topic, independence of approach and diligence in research. The main problem that J. Zavjalova was forced to face was the development of the norms and characteristics of the Russian language, which is characteristic of academic research. However, thanks to the interest in the topic and perseverance in its development shown by the master's student, she managed to cope with most of the problems in this area.

As an adviser, I consider it possible to evaluate the research work done as "excellent".

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