## The Structure of the Fairy Tale

### Introduction

Based on the axiomatic theses listed below, I aim to develop a reliable approach to formalizing the fairy tale, thereby enabling the automatic analysis of fairy tales.

The theses are as follows:

1. The content of a fairy tale consists of a sequence of individual actions.

2. Every action in the fairy tale is guided by one or more acting characters.

3. Each appearance of such a character or characters triggers a new action.

4. The motif, as a conceptual term for the smallest indivisible content element in the text, corresponds to an action depicted during such an appearance or scene. A motif must not be larger than the scene.

5. The marking of the objectively recognizable scene in the text corresponds to the marking of the action sections and thus also to the marking of the motifs.

6. The categorization of the action sections and the involved characters corresponds to the definition of content constants for the entire genre.

7. The schematization of the lawful interactions between these constants corresponds to the modeling of a universal structure of the genre.

After the formal description of the content constants and their interactions in the fairy tale, it is possible to automatically annotate and evaluate any representative of this genre, as well as to create a machine-generated image of the similarities and differences between the compared data.

The most important insight of this work is the identification of a previously missing objective criterion for capturing the motif as the smallest narrative content element in the fairy tale (points 1 – 4 above).

The first part of this work describes the system of action categories and actors based on these insights. Subsequently, an attempt is made to schematize the universal structure of the fairy tale.

The next section of the work is dedicated to providing markup as a means for the standardized encoding of content. Following this, the work presents some modules of the artificial assistant for the semi-automatic annotation of the folk fairy tale, as well as tools for the visualized representation of the mutually compared data. The digital infrastructure discussed in this section of the work is fully accessible via the GitHub publication.