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Biblical motifs in English and Albanian proverbs

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Abstract

The Bible abounds in proverbs; a large number can be found in *The Book of Proverbs*, while many others form an integral part of many other biblical texts. In many dictionaries of proverbs, biblical citations evidence the Bible to be either a primary source or a transmitter of proverbs used as early as antiquity.

Albanian paremiological studies have never focused on the resourcefulness of biblical proverbs, although many sayings in Albanian dictionaries of proverbs fully correspond to biblical proverbs as they share the semantic meaning as well as the syntactic structure. Besides, the Bible is a source of proverbial motifs on tradition, youth and discipline, good neighbours, bad company, business, strong drink, pride, lies, bloodshed and the importance of “a good name.”

This study dwells on the aforementioned biblical motifs that English and Albanian proverbs share. It compares biblical proverbs to the English and Albanian counterparts, highlighting the national peculiarities of every proverbial saying of biblical origin.

Key words: *comparative paremiology, English and Albanian proverbs*