

Stith Thompson - The Folktale - p 82 - note 20

(20). This motif is found in Grimm's tale, *The White Serpent* (Type 673) and in an Estonian and three Finnish analogues. By the use of the knowledge of animal languages the hero discovers the queen's necklace or prevents an accident. These folktales apparently go back to medieval literary sources. For a good discussion of them, see Bolte-Polivka, I, 131-34. The trait seems to belong quite as much to local tradition and mythology as to folktale. For another story of animal languages, see Type 781.

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The learning of animal speech by eating the flesh of a serpent occurs in a German and Baltic oral tale (Type 673) and also in the *Siegfried* story, but this is the only parallel, and the resemblance may not indicate actual relationship.