

[The Wolf in American Environmental Literature: predator or scapegoat?]

Pavel Šefraný

University of Ostrava, Ostrava,
Czech Republic

[Abstract] *The chief focus of this paper is to discuss the presence of the wolf in American environmental literature of the 20th and 21st centuries. This animal has been portrayed many times in literary works by American writers, be it fiction or non-fiction, and it is the subject of numerous opinions, some of which are biased, others objective, but all intriguing and more connected with the human way of life than would at first seem to be the case. The first part of this text presents an insight into the topic through examples from American literary fiction. It studies the depiction and presence of the wolf in American environmental literature of the last two centuries, before discussing a categorization of this animal's portrayal in American literature. The topic of the presence of the wolf in American literature is examined through a comparison of its depictions in both environmental and fictional works.*

[Keywords] *wolves; ecocriticism; American environmental literature; mythology; endangered species; wilderness conquest; Barry Lopez; S. K. Robisch; Cormac McCarthy; Jack London*

This text is a result of the project SGS04/FF/2019 “Ecocritical Perspectives on 20th and 21st-Century American Literature” supported by the internal grant scheme of the University of Ostrava.