

# Tagging Narrative with Propp's Character Functions Using Large Language Models



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## A Corpus of Discourses for Stories

# Morphology of the Folktale

By V. Propp

First Edition Translated by  
Laurence Scott with an  
Introduction by  
Svatava Pirkova-Jakobson

Second Edition Revised and  
Edited with a Preface by  
Louis A. Wagner  
New Introduction by  
Alan Dundes



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Russian folk tales compiled  
by Afanasiev

### APPENDIX II

#### FURTHER TECHNIQUES OF ANALYSES

1. Analysis of a simple, single-move tale of class H-I, of the type: kidnapping of a person.

131. A tsar, three daughters ( $\alpha$ ). The daughters go walking ( $\beta^1$ ), overstay in the garden ( $\delta^1$ ). A dragon kidnaps them ( $A^1$ ). A call for aid ( $B^1$ ). Quest of three heroes ( $C^\uparrow$ ). Three battles with the dragon ( $H^1-I^1$ ), rescue of the maidens ( $K^4$ ). Return ( $\downarrow$ ), reward ( $w^0$ ).

$\beta^1\delta^1A^1B^1C^\uparrow H^1-I^1K^4\downarrow w^0$

2. Analysis of a simple single-move tale of class M-N of the type: expulsion by water, coming ashore ( $A^{10}$ ).

247. Merchant, wife, and son ( $\alpha$ ). A nightingale foretells the humiliation of the parents by the son. (Prophecy. Table I, No. 8. This serves as the motivation for the villainy.) The parents place the sleeping boy in a boat and set it adrift ( $A^{10\uparrow}$ ). Boatmen take him with them ( $G^2$ ). They arrive at Xvalýnsk (substitute for a faraway kingdom). The tsar sets the following task: to guess what the ravens cry in the royal courtyard and to drive them off ( $M$ ). The boy resolves the task ( $N$ ), marries the tsar's daughter ( $W^*$ ), travels home ( $\downarrow$ ); en route he recognizes his parents at an overnight lodging place (recognition).

$\eta^2A^{10\uparrow}G^2M-NW^*\downarrow Q$

Remark: The little boy fulfills the task because he has known the language of the birds from birth. Here element  $F^1$  is dropped out—the transmission of a magical property. Consequently, the helper is also absent, and his attributes (wisdom) are transferred to the hero. The tale has preserved the rudiment of this helper: the nightingale which has foretold the humiliation of the par-

**Table 1**

Character functions proposed by Propp.

|                        |                                                                        |                      |                                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Absentation            | The villain or a member of the family leaves the home                  | Branding             | The hero is marked or identified                 |
| Interdiction           | A prohibition is imposed on the hero                                   | Victory              | The hero defeats the villain.                    |
| Interdiction violation | The interdiction is violated                                           | Liquidation of lack  | Villainy or lack resolved                        |
| Reconnaissance         | The villain attempts to obtain information                             | Return               | The hero returns                                 |
| Delivery               | The villain gains information or an object                             | Pursuit              | The villain chases the hero                      |
| Trickery               | The villain deceives the hero to gain an advantage                     | Rescue from pursuit  | The hero is saved from pursuit or danger         |
| Complicity             | The victim submits to deception.                                       | Unrecognized arrival | The hero arrives unrecognized                    |
| Villainy or lack       | The villain causes harm or injury or someone lacks something they want | Unfounded claims     | A false hero claims hero status                  |
| Mediation              | Misfortune is made known                                               | Difficult task       | The hero is given a difficult task               |
| Counteraction          | The hero reacts to the villain's actions                               | Solution             | The task is accomplished or resolved             |
| Departure              | The hero leaves home                                                   | Recognition          | The hero is recognized or acknowledged           |
| 1st donor function     | The hero is tested by a potential donor                                | Exposure             | The villain's identity or deception is exposed   |
| Hero's reaction        | The hero reacts to the test                                            | Transfiguration      | The hero undergoes a transformation.             |
| Receipt of agent       | The hero acquires a magical agent                                      | Punishment           | The villain receives punishment or consequences. |
| Transfer               | The hero is hero directed or taken to new location                     | Wedding              | The hero marries or is rewarded                  |
| Struggle               | The hero and villain engage in direct conflict.                        |                      |                                                  |

## Propp's spheres of action

- the villain
- the donor (provider)
- the helper
- the princess (or sought-for person)
- the dispatcher
- the hero or victim
- the false hero.

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Propp includes in his book (Appendices II and III) a number of examples of how character functions might be assigned to tales in the corpus.

He presents them as assignments of character functions to spans of synopses of the plot of the tale in question.

These synopses have been used as input to the system.

The tales considered correspond to numbers:

93, 104, 123, 127, 131, 133, 139, 155, 198, 244 and 247.

## Tale 104 with character functions as assigned by Propp

A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). The tsar does not have a wife (*Lack*). Vasilisa goes to town. Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house (*Unrecognised Arrival*). The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax. Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax. The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom. The old woman takes the linen to the tsar. The tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen (*Difficult Task*). The girl sews the shirts from the linen (*Task Resolved*). The tsar sends for Vasilisa. Vasilisa marries the tsar (*Wedding*).

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ChatGPT's response to the question: "Do you know about Propp's character functions?"

Vladimir Propp, a Russian folklorist and scholar, identified and analyzed common narrative elements in Russian folktales. One of his most notable contributions is his identification of "morphology of the folktale," which includes what he termed "character functions." Propp identified 31 character functions that frequently appear in folktales. Here's a brief overview of Propp's character functions:

# Propp's character functions as understood by ChatGP (1)

1. Hero: The central character whose actions drive the narrative forward.
2. Villain: The antagonist who opposes the hero and creates conflict.
3. Donor: A character who provides the hero with an important magical item or assistance.
4. Helper: A character who aids the hero in their quest.
5. Princess/Prize: The sought-after object or person that motivates the hero's journey.
6. False hero: A character who initially appears to be the hero but is later revealed as deceitful or unworthy.
7. Dispatcher: The character who sends the hero on their quest.
8. Helper's Object: An item or tool provided by the helper to aid the hero.
9. Magical agent: A supernatural object or ability that aids the hero in their quest.
10. Interdiction: A prohibition or rule that the hero must follow.
11. Violation: The hero's breaking of the interdiction.
12. Reconnaissance: The hero gains information or gathers allies to aid them.
13. Delivery: The villain learns information or acquires the hero's sought-after object.
14. Trickery: The villain attempts to deceive or manipulate the hero.
15. Complicity: A character knowingly helps the villain.
16. Villain's lack: A need or desire that motivates the villain's actions.

## Propp's character functions as understood by ChatGP (2)

17. Mediation: A character intervenes to resolve conflicts or aid the hero.
18. Counteraction: Actions taken to thwart the villain's plans.
19. Departure: The hero leaves home or sets out on their journey.
20. First function of the donor: The hero encounters the donor and receives assistance or magical items.
21. Hero's reaction: The hero responds to the actions or challenges presented.
22. Receipt of a magical agent: The hero gains a magical item or ability.
23. Guidance: The hero receives advice or guidance from a mentor or wise figure.
24. Struggle: The hero faces obstacles or battles opponents.
25. Branding: A mark or recognition bestowed upon the hero.
26. Victory: The hero overcomes the villain or achieves their goal.
27. Liquidation: The villain is defeated or punished.
28. Return: The hero returns home or completes their journey.
29. Pursuit: The villain or antagonist pursues the hero.
30. Rescue: The hero is rescued or aided by another character.
31. Unrecognized arrival: The hero returns home or achieves success incognito, unrecognized by others.

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## Propp's character functions as understood by Gemini

- Sphere of action 1 - Preparation: initial situation, absentation, interdiction, violation, reconnaissance, delivery of information, trickery, complicity.
- Sphere of action 2 - Departure: mediation, beginning of the counteraction.
- Sphere of action 3 - The Hero's Actions: hero's departure, first function of the donor, tests of the hero, acquisition of magic agent, hero's reaction, spatial translocation, struggle, branding, victory.
- Sphere of action 4 - Return: liquidation of the lack, return, pursuit, rescue, unrecognized arrival, false hero's claims.
- Sphere of action 5 - Recognition and Reward: difficult task, exposure of the false hero, transfiguration, wedding.
- Sphere of action 6 - Resolution: punishment, resolution.

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## Prompt used for Zero-Shot Tagging

Can you annotate this tale using Propp's character functions?

A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll. The tsar does not have a wife. Vasilisa goes to town. Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house. The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax. Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax. The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night . Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom. The old woman takes the linen to the tsar. The tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen. The girl sews the shirts from the linen. The tsar sends for Vasilisa. Vasilisa marries the tsar.

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A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). The tsar does not have a wife (*Lack*). Vasilisa goes to town. Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house (*Unrecognised Arrival*). The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax. Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax. The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom. The old woman takes the linen to the tsar. The tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen (*Difficult Task*). The girl sews the shirts from the linen (*Task Resolved*). The tsar sends for Vasilisa. Vasilisa marries the tsar (*Wedding*).

Lack: The tsar lacks a wife.

Dispatcher: Vasilisa goes to town.

Helper: Vasilisa settles in the old woman's house and receives aid from the miraculous doll.

Task: The old woman buys flax for Vasilisa, who spins unusually fine yarn and weaves linen.

Delivery: The old woman takes the linen to the tsar.

Task: The tsar orders shirts to be sewn from the linen spun and woven by the same person.

Performance of task: Vasilisa sews the shirts.

Arrival: The tsar sends for Vasilisa.

Final union: Vasilisa marries the tsar.

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# Zero-Shot Tagging Using Gemini

## Characters:

Hero: Vasilisa

Dispatcher: None explicitly identified (opportunity arises naturally)

Donor: Doll (magical helper)

Prize/Princess: Tsar (implicitly)

False Hero: None explicitly identified

## Narrative Functions:

### Sphere of Action 1: Preparation

Initial Situation: Vasilisa has a miraculous doll and lives without a father figure.

Lack: Tsar lacks a wife. (Note: not directly affecting Vasilisa, but creates initial context)

### Sphere of Action 2: Departure

Beginning of the Counteraction: Vasilisa goes to town (implicitly seeking opportunity).

### Sphere of Action 3: The Hero's Actions

Hero's Departure: Vasilisa leaves her home environment.

First Function of the Donor: Old woman provides flax (indirect aid).

Tests of the Hero: Task of spinning fine yarn (challenge).

Acquisition of Magic Agent: Doll magically creates a loom for Vasilisa.

Hero's Reaction: Uses the loom to weave fine linen.

Spatial Translocation: Linen reaches the Tsar.

### Sphere of Action 4: Return

Return: Tsar acknowledges the linen and initiates contact with Vasilisa.

Return: Vasilisa arrives at the Tsar's court.

### Sphere of Action 5: Recognition and Reward

Unrecognized Arrival: Vasilisa implicitly demonstrates her skills.

Difficult Task: Sewing the shirts (implicit test of skill).

Exposure of the False Hero: N/A

Transfiguration: Vasilisa gains new status as Tsar's wife.

Wedding: Marriage to the Tsar (reward).

### Sphere of Action 6: Resolution

Resolution: Lack of the Tsar is addressed (gains a wife), and Vasilisa finds a new life.

A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll (Acquisition of Magical Agent). The tsar does not have a wife (Lack). Vasilisa goes to town. Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house (Unrecognised Arrival). The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax. Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax. The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night (Acquisition of Magical Agent). Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom. The old woman takes the linen to the tsar. The tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen (Difficult Task). The girl sews the shirts from the linen (Task Resolved). The tsar sends for Vasilisa. Vasilisa marries the tsar (Wedding).

Initial Situation: Vasilisa has a miraculous doll and lives without a father figure.

Lack: Tsar lacks a wife. (Note: not directly affecting Vasilisa, but creates initial context)

Beginning of the Counteraction: Vasilisa goes to town (implicitly seeking opportunity).

Hero's Departure: Vasilisa leaves her home environment.

First Function of the Donor: Old woman provides flax (indirect aid).

Tests of the Hero: Task of spinning fine yarn (challenge).

Acquisition of Magic Agent: Doll magically creates a loom for Vasilisa.

Hero's Reaction: Uses the loom to weave fine linen.

Spatial Translocation: Linen reaches the Tsar.

Return: Tsar acknowledges the linen and initiates contact with Vasilisa.

Return: Vasilisa arrives at the Tsar's court.

Unrecognized Arrival: Vasilisa implicitly demonstrates her skills.

Difficult Task: Sewing the shirts (implicit test of skill).

Exposure of the False Hero: N/A

Transfiguration: Vasilisa gains new status as Tsar's wife.

Wedding: Marriage to the Tsar (reward).

Resolution: Lack of the Tsar is addressed (gains a wife), and Vasilisa finds a new life.

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## Prompt that explicitly provides the tags to use (1)

For the character types:

- + Hero: The role model of a story.
- + Villain: The negative character who creates struggles for the hero.
- + Donor: The character who provides some magical object to the hero.
- + Helper: The character who helps the hero.
- + Princess: The character who becomes a companion of the hero.
- + Dispatcher: The character who illustrates the need for the hero's quest and sends the hero off.
- + False Hero: The character who takes credit for the hero's actions

For the narrative functions:

- + Absentation: The villain or a member of the family leaves the home
- + Branding: The hero is marked or identified
- + Interdiction: A prohibition is imposed on the hero
- + Victory: The hero defeats the villain
- + Interdiction violation: The interdiction is violated
- + Resolution of trigger: Villainy or lack resolved
- + Reconnaissance: The villain attempts to obtain information
- + Return: The hero returns
- + Delivery: The villain gains information or an object

## Prompt that explicitly provides the tags to use (2)

- + Pursuit: The villain chases the hero
- + Trickery: The villain deceives the hero to gain an advantage
- + Rescue from pursuit: The hero is saved from pursuit or danger
- + Complicity: The victim submits to deception
- + Unrecognized arrival: The hero arrives unrecognized
- + Villainy or lack: The villain causes harm or injury or someone lacks something they want
- + Unfounded claims: A false hero claims hero status
- + Mediation: Misfortune is made known
- + Difficult task: The hero is given a difficult task
- + Counteraction: The hero reacts to the villain's actions
- + Solution: The task is accomplished or resolved
- + Departure: The hero leaves home
- + Recognition: The hero is recognized or acknowledged
- + 1st donor function: The hero is tested by a potential donor
- + Exposure: The villain's identity or deception is exposed
- + Hero's reaction: The hero reacts to the test
- + Transfiguration: The hero undergoes a transformation
- + Receipt of agent: The hero acquires a magical agent
- + Punishment: The villain receives punishment or consequences
- + Transfer: The hero is hero directed or taken to new location
- + Wedding: The hero marries or is rewarded
- + Struggle: The hero and villain engage in direct conflict

Annotate this tale: <story>

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# Few-Shot Tagging Using ChatGPT

## Character Types:

Hero: Vasilisa

Villain: None explicitly mentioned

Donor: The miraculous doll

Helper: The old woman

Princess: Vasilisa herself, who becomes the tsar's wife

Dispatcher: The tsar

False Hero: None explicitly mentioned

## Narrative Functions:

Dispatcher: The tsar sends for Vasilisa.

1st donor function: The miraculous doll aids Vasilisa in spinning and weaving.

Receipt of agent: The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa.

Delivery: Vasilisa presents the fine linen to the tsar.

Difficult task: The tsar orders shirts to be sewn from the fine linen.

Solution: Vasilisa sews the shirts.

Wedding: Vasilisa marries the tsar.

# Few-Shot Tagging Using ChatGPT

A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). The tsar does not have a wife (*Lack*). Vasilisa goes to town. Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house (*Unrecognised Arrival*). The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax. Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax. The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom. The old woman takes the linen to the tsar. The tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen (*Difficult Task*). The girl sews the shirts from the linen (*Task Resolved*). The tsar sends for Vasilisa. Vasilisa marries the tsar (*Wedding*).

Dispatcher: The tsar sends for Vasilisa.

1st donor function: The miraculous doll aids Vasilisa in spinning and weaving.

Receipt of agent: The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa.

Delivery: Vasilisa presents the fine linen to the tsar.

Difficult task: The tsar orders shirts to be sewn from the fine linen.

Solution: Vasilisa sews the shirts.

Wedding: Vasilisa marries the tsar.

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# Few-Shot Tagging Using Gemini

Annotating the Tale of Vasilisa using Propp's Framework

Characters:

Hero: Vasilisa

Donor: The Doll (magical helper)

Dispatcher (indirect): The Tsar's lack of wife creates an opportunity for Vasilisa.

Narrative Functions:

Absentation: The Tsar lacks a wife (lack).

Hero's possession of a magical agent: Vasilisa has the miraculous doll.

Departure: Vasilisa goes to town (possibly seeking a new life).

Helper: The old woman provides Vasilisa with flax.

Difficult Task (indirect): Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn, implying exceptional skill.

Receipt of Magical Agent (indirect): The doll creates a loom for Vasilisa, demonstrating its magical abilities.

Difficult Task: Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen, again showcasing her skill.

Mediation: The old woman takes the linen to the Tsar, revealing Vasilisa's talent.

Transfer: The Tsar sends for Vasilisa, bringing her closer to her potential reward.

Marriage: Vasilisa marries the Tsar (fulfills the lack and resolves the story).

Notes:

This tale is a simplified version and omits some of the more complex elements of Propp's morphology.

The villain and some other functions (e.g., struggle, victory) are absent.

The focus is on Vasilisa's exceptional skills, aided by the magical doll, which ultimately lead to her marriage with the Tsar.

# Few-Shot Tagging Using Gemini

A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). The tsar does not have a wife (*Lack*). Vasilisa goes to town. Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house (*Unrecognised Arrival*). The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax. Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax. The doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night (*Acquisition of Magical Agent*). Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom. The old woman takes the linen to the tsar. The tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen (*Difficult Task*). The girl sews the shirts from the linen (*Task Resolved*). The tsar sends for Vasilisa. Vasilisa marries the tsar (*Wedding*).

Absentation: The Tsar lacks a wife (lack).

Hero's possession of a magical agent: Vasilisa has the miraculous doll.

Departure: Vasilisa goes to town (possibly seeking a new life).

Helper: The old woman provides Vasilisa with flax.

Difficult Task (indirect): Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn, implying exceptional skill.

Receipt of Magical Agent (indirect): The doll creates a loom for Vasilisa, demonstrating its magical abilities.

Difficult Task: Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen, again showcasing her skill.

Mediation: The old woman takes the linen to the Tsar, revealing Vasilisa's talent.

Transfer: The Tsar sends for Vasilisa, bringing her closer to her potential reward.

Marriage: Vasilisa marries the Tsar (fulfills the lack and resolves the story).

| Text                                                                             | Propp                     | ChaGPT<br>self | ChatGPT<br>prompted | Gemini                                           | Gemini prompted                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A girl called Vasilisa has a miraculous doll.                                    | Acquisition Magical Agent |                |                     | Initial Situation                                | Hero's possession of a magical agent |
| the tsar does not have a wife.                                                   |                           | Lack           |                     | Lack                                             | Absentation                          |
| Vasilisa goes to town.                                                           |                           |                |                     | Hero's Departure, Beginning of the Counteraction | Departure                            |
| Vasilisa settles in an old woman's house.                                        | Unrecognised Arrival      |                |                     |                                                  |                                      |
| The old woman buys Vasilisa some flax.                                           |                           |                |                     | First Function of the Donor                      | Helper                               |
| Vasilisa spins unusually fine yarn from the flax.                                |                           | Task           |                     | Tests of the Hero                                | Difficult Task                       |
| the doll makes a loom for Vasilisa in one night .                                | Acquisition Magical Agent |                | Receipt of agent    | Acquisition of Magic Agent                       | Receipt of Magical Agent             |
| Vasilisa weaves unusually fine linen on the loom.                                |                           |                |                     | Hero's Reaction                                  | Difficult Task                       |
| The old woman takes the linen to the tsar.                                       |                           |                | Delivery            | Spatial Translocation                            | Mediation                            |
| the tsar orders that shirts be sewn by the one who has spun and woven the linen. | Difficult Task            | Task           | Difficult task      | Difficult Task                                   |                                      |
| The girl sews the shirts from the linen.                                         | Task Resolved             | Solution       | Solution            |                                                  |                                      |
| The tsar sends for Vasilisa.                                                     |                           | Arrival        | Dispatcher          | Return                                           | Transfer                             |

| Text                                                                           | Propp                               | ChaGPT self                                    | ChatGPT prompted         | Gemini                  | Gemini prompted             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A priest has his wife, his son Ivanuska, and daughter Alenuska.                |                                     |                                                |                          |                         |                             |
| Alenuska goes out into the woods for berries.                                  | Absentation                         |                                                | Departure                | Departure               | Departure                   |
| Alenuska's mother orders Alenuska to take her brother Ivanuska along with her. | Interdiction<br>Announced           |                                                |                          | Spatial<br>Displacement | Interdiction                |
| Ivanuska gathers more berries than Alenuska.                                   |                                     |                                                |                          |                         |                             |
| Alenuska says "Let me look for lice in your hair".                             | Trickery                            |                                                |                          |                         |                             |
| Ivanuska falls asleep.                                                         | complicity                          |                                                |                          |                         |                             |
| Alenuska kills Ivanuska.                                                       | Villainy                            | Interdiction /<br>Violation of<br>Interdiction | Resolution<br>of trigger | Villainy                | Villainy or<br>Lack         |
| A thin reed grows upon the grave.                                              | Acquisition<br>Magical Agent        |                                                | Absence                  |                         |                             |
| A shepherd plucks it and makes a pipe out of it.                               |                                     | Reconnaissance                                 | Mediation                |                         |                             |
| The pipe plays and reveals Alenuska as the murderess.                          | False Hero<br>Exposed               |                                                |                          | Donor,Exposure          | Exposure,<br>Identification |
| The parents expel their daughter Alenuska.                                     | Hero Dispatched<br>Villain Punished | Punishment                                     | Punishment               | Punishment              | Punishment                  |

## Discussion

Responses = label + justification of which part of the story the label is assigned to

Labels and justifications are paraphrases rather than references to specific character function names or specific segments of the text.

Precision and recall metrics not sufficiently informative

Additional metrics computed in the hope of providing insights

|                       | ChatGPT   |          | Gemini    |          |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                       | zero shot | few-shot | zero shot | few-shot |
| Precision             | 0.38      | 0.37     | 0.41      | 0.46     |
| Recall                | 0.26      | 0.22     | 0.31      | 0.34     |
| Assignment meaningful | 70        | 66       | 77        | 78       |
| Response required     | 33        | 33       | 74        | 72       |
| Incorrect assignments | 26        | 29       | 16        | 44       |
| Invented labels       | 01        | 03       | 10        | 04       |

All metrics show relatively low values

For several of the metrics the zero-shot approach performs better than the few-shot approach

For zero-shot Gemini better than ChatGPT (less confusion on character functions)

Gemini improves slightly with prompting, ChatGPT does not

# Content

Propp's morphology of the folk tale

Propp's annotated synopses

Propp's character functions

ChatGPT's understanding

Gemini's understanding

Zero-Shot Tagging

Using ChatGPT

Using Gemini

Few-Shot Tagging

Using ChatGPT

Using Gemini

Conclusions and Future Work

## Conclusions

Zero-shot performance constrained by incomplete knowledge of concepts required

Performance very tightly coupled with particular choices of prompt

Precision and recall very low

Evidence of complex linguistic inference

Inferences often do not comply with accepted understanding of Propp's account

## Future Work

More experiments with different prompting

Establish standardized format for output

Consider full text of tales rather than synopses

Compare with sources other than Propp

**Thank you!**

**<http://nil.fdi.ucm.es/>**