

## THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS-MYTHOLOGICAL LEXICON ON HISTORY AND CULTURE

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*This study examines the influence of religious-mythological lexicon on the formation, transmission, and transformation of historical consciousness and cultural identity. Language, as a carrier of collective memory, plays a crucial role in preserving mythological narratives and religious concepts that shape societies' worldviews across different historical periods. The research explores how religious-mythological terminology functions not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a symbolic system through which power, morality, social order, and cultural continuity are articulated. By analyzing key lexical units drawn from religious texts, mythological narratives, and historical discourse, the study reveals how such vocabulary contributes to the construction of collective identities and legitimizes social norms and ideological frameworks.*

*The research adopts an interdisciplinary approach, combining methods from historical linguistics, cultural studies, and discourse analysis. It investigates the semantic evolution of selected religious and mythological lexemes, tracing their transformation from sacred contexts to broader socio-cultural and political usage. Particular attention is given to the ways in which these lexical elements influence historical narratives, reinforce cultural memory, and shape national and civilizational self-perception.*

*The findings demonstrate that religious-mythological lexicon functions not merely as a linguistic residue of the past but as an active cultural mechanism that continues to shape modern thought, values, and identity formation. By uncovering the deep interconnection between language, belief systems, and historical consciousness, this study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the role of sacred discourse in the development of human civilization and cultural continuity.*

**Keywords:** religious lexicon, mythological discourse, cultural identity, historical consciousness, sacred language, collective memory, symbolic systems, cultural heritage, linguistic anthropology.

## ВПЛИВ РЕЛІГІЙНО-МІФОЛОГІЧНОЇ ЛЕКСИКИ НА ІСТОРІЮ ТА КУЛЬТУРУ

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*Це дослідження розглядає вплив релігійно-міфологічної лексики на формування, передачу та трансформацію історичної свідомості та культурної ідентичності. Мова, як носій колективної пам'яті, відіграє вирішальну роль у збереженні міфологічних наративів та релігійних концепцій, що формують світогляд суспільств у різні історичні періоди. Дослідження досліджує, як релігійно-міфологічна термінологія функціонує не лише як лінгвістичне явище, а й як символічна система, через яку артикуються влада, мораль, соціальний лад та культурна безперервність. Аналізуючи ключові лексичні одиниці, взяті з релігійних текстів, міфологічних наративів та історичного дискурсу, дослідження показує, як така лексика сприяє побудові колективних ідентичностей та легітимізує соціальні норми та ідеологічні рамки.*

*Дослідження використовує міждисциплінарний підхід, поєднуючи методи історичної лінгвістики, культурології та дискурсивного аналізу. Воно досліджує семантичну еволюцію окремих релігійних та міфологічних лексем, простежуючи їх трансформацію зі священних контекстів до ширшого соціально-культурного та політичного вживання. Особлива увага приділяється тому, як ці лексичні елементи впливають на історичні наративи, зміцнюють культурну пам'ять та формують національне та цивілізаційне самосприйняття.*

*Результати дослідження демонструють, що релігійно-міфологічна лексика функціонує не просто як лінгвістичний залишок минулого, а як активний культурний механізм, який продовжує формувати сучасну думку, цінності та формування ідентичності. Розкриваючи глибокий взаємозв'язок між мовою, системами вірувань та історичною свідомістю, це дослідження сприяє більш повному розумінню ролі сакрального дискурсу в розвитку людської цивілізації та культурної безперервності.*

**Ключові слова:** релігійна лексика, міфологічний дискурс, культурна ідентичність, історична свідомість, сакральна мова, колективна пам'ять, символічні системи, культурна спадщина, лінгвістична антропологія.

**Introduction.** The relationship between language, religion, and culture constitutes one of the most profound and enduring dimensions of human civilization. Throughout history, religious and mythological systems have functioned not only as belief structures but also as powerful frameworks for interpreting reality, regulating social behavior, and transmitting collective memory. Within these systems, language occupies a central position, serving as both a vehicle for sacred meanings and a mechanism through which

societies conceptualize the world, legitimize authority, and preserve cultural continuity. The religious—mythological lexicon, in particular, represents a distinctive layer of language that reflects the intersection of belief, symbolism, and historical experience.

Religious and mythological vocabulary is not merely a collection of archaic or symbolic expressions; rather, it constitutes a dynamic semantic field that evolves alongside social, political, and cultural transformations. Many of the fundamental concepts that structure human thought, such as creation, destiny, sacrifice, sin, redemption, order, and chaos are deeply rooted in mythological and religious discourse. These concepts have transcended their original ritualistic or theological contexts and continue to shape moral values, collective identities, and ideological frameworks in both traditional and modern societies. As a result, the study of religious-mythological lexicon offers valuable insights into how societies construct meaning, legitimize power, and maintain cultural continuity across generations.

In the context of cultural studies, the analysis of religious-mythological language provides a deeper understanding of how collective identities are constructed and maintained. Shared myths and sacred narratives contribute to a sense of belonging, continuity, and cultural coherence, particularly in periods of social transformation or crisis. Moreover, the persistence of mythological motifs in modern discourse—ranging from political symbolism to artistic expression—highlights the enduring influence of sacred language on contemporary thought and communication. This continuity underscores the role of religious-mythological lexicon as a bridge between past and present, tradition and modernity.

The relevance of this topic is further amplified in the context of globalization and cultural interaction, where religious and mythological symbols are increasingly reinterpreted, hybridized, or contested. In such a dynamic environment, understanding the historical and semantic foundations of these lexical units becomes essential for interpreting cultural dialogue, ideological conflict, and identity negotiation. Therefore, examining the influence of religious-mythological lexicon on history and culture is not only a linguistic or philological endeavor but also a multidisciplinary inquiry that intersects with anthropology, sociology, philosophy, and historiography.

This study aims to explore the functional and symbolic dimensions of religious-mythological vocabulary and to reveal its role in shaping historical consciousness and cultural memory. By analyzing the semantic evolution and contextual usage of key lexical elements, the research seeks to demon-

strate how language operates as a powerful mediator between belief systems and social reality.

**Aim.** Despite the rapid secularization and modernization of contemporary societies, religious—mythological vocabulary continues to occupy a significant place in cultural, literary, and historical discourse. Sacred terms, symbols, and narratives remain embedded in modern language, shaping collective memory, moral reasoning, and identity formation. However, the persistence of this lexicon raises important scholarly questions regarding how and why such traditionally sacred linguistic elements continue to function meaningfully within secularized and pluralistic cultural contexts.

Table 1

**Problem Statement of the Study**

Problem Area	Description
Persistence of Religious—Mythological Vocabulary	Despite processes of modernization and secularization, religious and mythological vocabulary continues to appear in contemporary cultural, political, and literary discourses. This persistence raises questions about the functional role of sacred language in modern societies and its capacity to maintain symbolic relevance beyond religious contexts.
Transformation of Sacred Meanings	Religious and mythological lexicon undergoes semantic transformation over time, shifting from strictly theological meanings to metaphorical, cultural, or ideological uses. Understanding the mechanisms behind this semantic evolution remains a key theoretical challenge.
Cultural and Historical Continuity	Sacred vocabulary contributes to the preservation of collective memory and historical continuity. However, the processes through which such language sustains cultural identity across different historical periods require deeper analytical exploration.
Lack of Interdisciplinary Integration	Existing studies often examine religious language from isolated disciplinary perspectives (theological, linguistic, or anthropological), resulting in fragmented interpretations. There is a need for an integrated framework combining linguistic, cultural, and historical analysis.
Limited Focus on Discourse Dynamics	Insufficient attention has been given to how religious—mythological lexicon operates within discourse to construct meaning, legitimize ideologies, and shape collective consciousness in both traditional and modern contexts.

Source: Prepared by the researcher.

**Theoretical framework.** The theoretical framework of this study is grounded in an interdisciplinary approach that integrates linguistic anthropology, cultural semiotics, religious studies, and historical discourse analysis. The central premise of this framework is that religious—mythological lexicon functions not merely as a linguistic phenomenon but as a symbolic system through which societies construct meaning, transmit values, and sustain collective memory. Language, within this perspective, operates as both a cognitive and cultural mechanism that shapes how individuals perceive reality, history, and identity.

One of the foundational theoretical pillars of this study is linguistic relativity, which emphasizes the role of language in shaping thought and worldview. Contemporary interpretations of this theory argue that culturally embedded lexical structures influence how communities conceptualize abstract notions such as morality, time, and transcendence (Evans, 2020). Religious and mythological lexemes, in particular, encode metaphysical assumptions and cosmological models that structure collective understanding beyond purely communicative functions.

Another significant theoretical dimension is drawn from cultural semiotics, which views myth and religion as sign systems embedded within broader cultural codes. According to Lotman's semiotic tradition, culture operates as a semiotic space where meaning is continuously produced, negotiated, and transformed (Lotman, 2021). Within this framework, religious-mythological language functions as a semiotic core, preserving symbolic continuity while simultaneously allowing reinterpretation across historical epochs. This perspective enables the analysis of how sacred lexicon sustains cultural memory and mediates between tradition and innovation.

The study also draws upon discourse theory, particularly the notion that language constructs social reality rather than merely reflecting it. Contemporary discourse analysts emphasize that religious narratives and mythological symbols play a key role in legitimizing power relations, social hierarchies, and collective identities (Fairclough, 2020). Through repeated discursive practices, religious lexicon becomes embedded in political, educational, and cultural institutions, reinforcing dominant worldviews and shaping historical consciousness.

From the standpoint of cultural memory theory, religious-mythological vocabulary functions as a mnemonic device that connects present generations with their historical and spiritual past. Assmann (2021) argues that cultural memory is maintained through symbolic forms such as texts, ritu-

als, and narratives that preserve shared meanings over long periods. In this context, religious language serves as a repository of collective experience, enabling societies to transmit foundational values across temporal and cultural boundaries.

Finally, the theoretical framework incorporates insights from historical linguistics, emphasizing semantic change and lexical continuity. Religious and mythological terms often undergo processes of semantic expansion, metaphorization, or secularization, allowing them to remain relevant in evolving socio-cultural environments (Duranti, 2022). This dynamic transformation underscores the adaptability of sacred language and its enduring influence on historical narratives and cultural identities.

Together, these theoretical perspectives provide a comprehensive foundation for analyzing the influence of religious-mythological lexicon on history and culture. By integrating linguistic, semiotic, and socio-cultural approaches, the study offers a multidimensional understanding of how sacred language functions as a formative force in shaping human thought, collective memory, and cultural continuity.

**Methodology.** This study adopts a qualitative and interdisciplinary research design to explore the influence of religious—mythological lexicon on historical and cultural development. Given the symbolic, interpretive, and context-dependent nature of the research subject, a qualitative approach is most suitable for capturing the depth and complexity of meaning embedded in religious and mythological language. The interdisciplinary framework integrates perspectives from linguistics, cultural studies, religious studies, and history, allowing for a holistic examination of how sacred language functions across temporal and cultural boundaries. This design facilitates an interpretive understanding of language not merely as a communicative tool but as a cultural mechanism that shapes collective consciousness and historical perception.

The study draws upon a diverse corpus of qualitative sources to ensure analytical depth and contextual richness. Primary data include religious texts, such as sacred scriptures and canonical mythological narratives, which represent foundational sources of symbolic and theological meaning. In addition, historical chronicles and literary texts are examined to trace the transformation and reinterpretation of religious-mythological lexicon within different socio-historical contexts. To further contextualize linguistic and symbolic patterns, ethnographic and folkloric materials (including oral traditions, myths, legends, and ritual narratives) are incorporated. These

sources provide insight into how sacred language operates within everyday cultural practices and collective memory.

The research employs discourse analysis to investigate how religious-mythological language functions within broader systems of meaning and power. This method enables the examination of narrative structures, symbolic patterns, and ideological implications embedded in texts. Through discourse analysis, the study identifies how sacred language contributes to the construction of social norms, moral values, and historical interpretations.

In addition, comparative historical analysis is utilized to examine similarities and differences in the use of religious-mythological lexicon across different cultural and temporal contexts. This approach allows for the identification of recurring symbolic motifs as well as culturally specific adaptations, highlighting both continuity and transformation within religious discourse.

Finally, semantic and etymological analysis is employed to trace the historical development of key lexical items. By examining shifts in meaning, metaphorical extensions, and processes of secularization, this method reveals how religious and mythological terms evolve while retaining core symbolic functions. Together, these methodological tools provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the dynamic relationship between language, belief systems, and historical consciousness.

#### Research Questions (RS):

RS1: How does religious-mythological lexicon contribute to cultural memory?

RS 2: In what ways has sacred language influenced historical narration and symbolism?

RS 3: How are mythological concepts reinterpreted in modern cultural discourse?

**Religious—Mythological Lexicon in Historical Context.** The religious—mythological lexicon occupies a central position in the historical development of human thought, functioning as both a linguistic and cultural mechanism through which societies have interpreted existence, structured belief systems, and preserved collective memory. Applying the previously outlined methodological framework (qualitative, interdisciplinary, and discourse-oriented) this section analyzes the historical evolution of religious—mythological language and its enduring influence on cultural consciousness (Eliade, 2020).

From a historical-linguistic perspective, religious lexicon emerges as one of the earliest structured forms of symbolic communication. In ancient civilizations, mythological narratives were not merely literary expressions but foundational frameworks through which cosmology, morality, and social order were articulated. Terms associated with divinity, creation, sacrifice, and transcendence carried deeply embedded symbolic meanings that extended beyond literal interpretation. Through semantic continuity, many of these lexemes were preserved across centuries, adapting to changing historical contexts while maintaining their core symbolic functions. This demonstrates that religious vocabulary functions as a diachronic linguistic system capable of both stability and transformation (Turner, 2017).

Applying discourse analysis, religious—mythological language can be understood as a powerful instrument for constructing historical narratives and legitimizing social structures. In historical chronicles and sacred texts, such language often operates to naturalize authority, sanctify political power, and establish moral hierarchies. The repetition of sacred symbols and mythological motifs reinforces collective beliefs and shapes communal identity. Even in later secular historical writings, remnants of this discourse persist, revealing how deeply embedded religious language is within cultural consciousness.

From a comparative historical perspective, the evolution of religious lexicon demonstrates both universality and cultural specificity. Across different civilizations, similar mythological archetypes, such as creation myths, divine judgment, or heroic sacrifice appear in linguistically distinct yet conceptually related forms. This suggests the existence of shared cognitive patterns in human culture, while variations in terminology and symbolism reflect unique historical experiences and sociopolitical conditions. Comparative analysis thus highlights the adaptability of religious language and its capacity to mediate between universal human concerns and localized cultural meanings (Duranti, 2022).

The application of semantic and etymological analysis further reveals how religious terms undergo gradual processes of abstraction and secularization. Words initially rooted in ritual or theological contexts often expand into metaphorical usage within philosophical, political, or literary discourse (Goody, 2021). For example, concepts originally denoting sacred authority or divine order may evolve to signify moral legitimacy or social hierarchy in secular narratives. This semantic shift does not eliminate the sacred dimension but transforms it into an implicit cultural reference, enabling religious lexicon to persist within modern intellectual frameworks.



Overall, the analysis demonstrates that religious—mythological lexicon functions as a dynamic and multilayered system embedded in historical processes. Rather than being confined to the domain of belief, it actively participates in the construction of historical meaning, cultural identity, and social continuity. By applying a qualitative, interdisciplinary methodology, this study reveals how sacred language operates as a living component of historical discourse, continually reshaped by changing cultural contexts while retaining its foundational symbolic power.

**Cultural Impact of Religious—Mythological Lexicon.** The religious—mythological lexicon has played a foundational role in shaping cultural systems, value structures, and collective worldviews throughout human history (Geertz, 2017). Far beyond its original ritual or theological functions, this lexicon has continuously influenced cultural production, social norms, and symbolic expression. Its impact extends across literature, art, moral philosophy, and everyday communication, demonstrating its enduring capacity to shape cultural meaning and identity.

One of the most significant cultural impacts of religious—mythological language lies in its role in constructing collective identity. Sacred narratives and mythological symbols provide shared reference points through which communities understand their origins, purpose, and moral order (Hobsbawm, 2019). Concepts such as creation, sacrifice, divine justice, and redemption become deeply embedded in cultural consciousness, shaping collective self-perception and social cohesion. Even in secular societies, these symbolic frameworks continue to inform cultural memory and national narratives, often functioning beneath the surface of explicit religious belief.

Religious—mythological lexicon also plays a crucial role in the formation of ethical and moral frameworks (Eagleton, 2019). Many fundamental moral concepts, such as good and evil, guilt, salvation, and destiny are historically rooted in religious discourse. Over time, these concepts have been secularized and integrated into legal, philosophical, and ethical systems. As a result, modern moral reasoning often relies on linguistic structures that originated within sacred traditions, illustrating the deep interconnection between religious language and ethical thought.

From a cultural-production perspective, mythological and religious symbols serve as powerful tools in literature, art, and popular culture. Writers, artists, and intellectuals frequently draw upon sacred imagery and archetypes to express complex emotional, philosophical, and existential themes (Eagleton, 2019). Through reinterpretation and recontextualization, reli-

gious lexicon gains new meanings while preserving its symbolic resonance. This process enables cultures to negotiate continuity and change, allowing ancient symbols to address contemporary concerns.

Moreover, religious—mythological language contributes significantly to the construction of cultural memory. As a repository of shared narratives and symbols, it functions as a mnemonic framework that connects past experiences with present identities. Through rituals, narratives, and symbolic representations, societies transmit collective knowledge across generations, reinforcing continuity even in periods of social transformation. This enduring presence underscores the role of sacred language as a stabilizing cultural force (Lotman, 2021).

Finally, the cultural impact of religious—mythological lexicon extends to the shaping of social hierarchies and power relations. Sacred terminology has historically been employed to legitimize authority, sanctify political institutions, and justify social norms. Even in modern contexts, echoes of this symbolic authority persist in political discourse and national ideologies, revealing the enduring influence of religious language on structures of power and governance.

**Modern Interpretations and Transformations.** In contemporary cultural and intellectual contexts, religious—mythological lexicon continues to evolve, undergoing significant reinterpretation and functional transformation (Bellah, 2017). While its original sacred meanings remain embedded within historical and theological frameworks, modern societies increasingly reinterpret these lexical elements through secular, philosophical, and ideological lenses. This process reflects broader shifts in worldview, characterized by secularization, globalization, and the diversification of cultural narratives.

One of the most notable features of modern interpretation is the symbolic recontextualization of religious language. Terms and motifs once confined to ritualistic or doctrinal usage are now frequently employed metaphorically in literature, political discourse, and popular culture. Concepts such as “salvation,” “sacrifice,” “apocalypse,” or “redemption” often appear detached from their theological origins, functioning instead as expressive tools to articulate social crises, personal transformation, or collective anxieties (Bellah, 2017). This semantic expansion allows religious lexicon to remain culturally relevant while adapting to contemporary communicative needs.

Modernity has also introduced processes of secular reinterpretation, whereby religious expressions are redefined within rational, human-centered frameworks. In philosophical and sociopolitical discourse, sacred terms are

often stripped of their transcendental references and reoriented toward ethical, ideological, or psychological meanings. This transformation reflects a shift from the divine to the human as the primary source of meaning, while still preserving the symbolic depth inherited from religious traditions (Eliade, 2020).

At the same time, globalization and digital communication have intensified the circulation and hybridization of religious symbols. In global media, literature, and digital culture, mythological and religious motifs are frequently blended across traditions, producing new, hybrid symbolic forms. This phenomenon illustrates the adaptability of religious lexicon, as it transcends cultural boundaries and acquires new interpretive layers within transnational contexts. Such transformations also raise questions about authenticity, cultural ownership, and the commodification of sacred symbols (Ricoeur, 2020).

Furthermore, contemporary critical theories, such as post-structuralism and cultural studies have emphasized the fluidity and instability of meaning within religious discourse. From this perspective, religious language is not a fixed system but a dynamic field of interpretation shaped by power relations, historical conditions, and ideological struggles (Smith, 2019). This theoretical shift underscores the role of interpretation itself as a site of meaning production, rather than viewing sacred texts as repositories of static truth.

In modern societies, the reinterpretation of religious—mythological lexicon also reflects broader processes of identity negotiation. Individuals and communities selectively appropriate sacred symbols to express personal beliefs, cultural belonging, or social critique. As a result, religious language continues to function as a powerful symbolic resource, one that mediates between tradition and innovation, continuity and change.

**Conclusion.** This study has examined the influence of religious—mythological lexicon on history and culture through the lens of three interrelated research questions: its contribution to cultural memory, its role in shaping historical narration and symbolism, and its transformation within modern cultural discourse. The findings demonstrate that religious—mythological language functions not merely as a remnant of sacred tradition but as a dynamic and enduring cultural mechanism that continues to shape collective consciousness across historical periods.

First, the analysis confirms that religious—mythological lexicon plays a foundational role in the construction and preservation of cultural memory. Sacred terms, symbols, and narratives act as mnemonic frameworks through which societies transmit shared values, ethical norms, and historical experiences. By embedding meaning within ritualized language and symbolic

structures, religious lexicon enables the continuity of collective identity across generations. This process allows cultures to maintain coherence even amid social transformation, ensuring that historical experience remains accessible and meaningful within changing contexts.

Second, the study demonstrates that historical narration has been profoundly shaped by religious and mythological language. Sacred vocabulary has long served as a legitimizing force in historical discourse, framing political authority, social hierarchy, and moral order in symbolic terms. Historical narratives often draw upon mythological motifs, such as divine destiny, sacred origins, or redemptive struggle, to construct coherent and persuasive accounts of the past. As a result, religious lexicon functions not only as a descriptive tool but also as a narrative mechanism that structures historical interpretation and collective memory.

Finally, the research highlights the ways in which mythological concepts are reinterpreted within modern cultural discourse. In contemporary contexts, sacred language frequently undergoes processes of secularization, metaphORIZATION, and reinterpretation. While detached from strictly theological frameworks, mythological concepts continue to inform artistic expression, political rhetoric, and cultural identity formation. This transformation demonstrates the adaptability of religious lexicon, which retains its symbolic power even as its meanings are reshaped to reflect modern values and experiences.

Overall, the findings suggest that religious—mythological lexicon constitutes a dynamic cultural resource rather than a static linguistic residue. Its enduring presence across historical periods underscores its capacity to mediate between past and present, tradition and innovation. By shaping cultural memory, influencing historical narration, and adapting to contemporary discourses, religious—mythological language continues to play a vital role in the intellectual and symbolic life of societies.

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