

## **FABEL IM KRIMINALROMAN: DIE BEDEUTUNG VON TIERMETAPHERN BEI AGATHA CHRISTIE**

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**Abstract:** *Quite a few of Agatha Christie's detective novels and stories contain metaphors that serve as a guide to the content of the story. Especially Hercule Poirot, but also other Agatha Christie detectives, can often reveal the perpetrators in the novel with the help of a parallel between these metaphors and real life. The metaphors are only easy to decipher at first glance in the story, because they require the reader to have knowledge of the fable genre. It is always a challenge for the researcher to interpret metaphors and determine their role in the text. This article aims to examine the role of fables in the interpretation of animal metaphors in the German translation of some of Agatha Christie's novels, and to see how these animal metaphors contribute to the solution of the mystery in the detective novel. The purpose of this research though is not simply to determine the function of metaphors in a given text, but also provide an analysis that gives space to a complex philological interpretation.*

**Key-words:** *animal metaphor, fable, Agatha Christie, crime stories, human-animal comparison, double meaning*