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DEFINITION AND ORIGIN OF FOLK ETYMOLOGY

(Summary)

Folk etymology is regarded as one of the structural features of the language system, as a natural process in which the sound shape of an unfamiliar word is related to another lexeme by reanalyzing its motivation.

It is difficult to interpret in a uniform manner the various manifestations of folk etymology. They can be studied from linguistic, sociolinguistic and ethnolinguistic point of view. Generally, they can be divided in two opposing groups: destructive and creative.

Keywords: folk etymology, analogy, assimilation, contamination, supererogation

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