

*Martin Nenov*

*THE INFLUENCE OF THE OLD NORSE KENNINGS  
ON THE FORMATION OF THE ENGLISH POETIC LANGUAGE*

*The article deals with the application of the literary device of kenning – a metaphorical phrase, used to describe a mundane object in order to evoke a mental picture of something extraordinary in the reader's mind. Though not a characteristic of solely the Old Norse poetry, it is in Norway and Iceland that this figure of speech was most extensively used, and came closest to perfection. A comparison between Old Norse and Old English examples of kennings proves this fact. The art of the kenning and the alliterative rhyme have influenced contemporary authors, and are still present in literary diction and everyday speech today.*

*Keywords: Old Norse, Old English, kenning, skaldic verse, modern poetry, alliterative verse, contemporary authors*