

Reflections on the use of narrative form in *Hrafnkels saga Freysgoða*

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One of the most discussed issues in saga scholarship has been the question of how the sagas came into being. Traditionally, *Hrafnkels saga* was at the heart of this discussion, and has been used to examine questions of saga origin. For decades scholars regarded *Hrafnkels saga* as one of the earliest sagas (written about 1200) because of its stylistic and narrative qualities. More recently the same argument based on style and narrative has reached the opposite conclusion, and dates *Hrafnkels saga* a hundred years later.

Even though there have been different views on the dating of the saga, scholars generally agree that *Hrafnkels saga* is a typical saga. I would like to offer a paper which examines the so-called typical aspects of the saga and the meaning behind its use. My hypothesis is that the saga writer has consciously exploited the narrative form in order to make the saga form interpretative, and that an analysis of these aspects can lead to new information on the dating of the saga.