

Hwæt! LOL! – common formulaic functions in *Beowulf* and blogs

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We consider the functions that formulae perform in two types of written texts which maintain close links to oral forms: Old English epic poetry and blogs. Five orality-related functions of formulae are identified in both datasets: *discourse-structuring*, *filler*, *epithetic*, *gnomic*, and *tonic*. A sixth type of formulaic function, *theacronymic*, necessarily tied to the written medium, is also found in both datasets.

The common functions of formulae observed in *Beowulf* and blogs link them to oral and written genres simultaneously and constitute a prominent device that positions them as transitional between the macro-level genres of oral and written communication.