THIS WORK IS THE RESULT of a long association between the authors, stemming originally from a seminar on folklore and language conducted by Tom Green in 1976. It is based in part on a series of articles that emanated from that seminar (Green and Pepicello 1978, 1979, 1980; Pepicello 1980). Since our initial collaboration, we have besieged meetings of folklore and linguistic societies, as well as professional journals, with our integrations of folklore and linguistics, striving to establish a focus that both disciplines would find compatible. In so doing, we have found it necessary to present some basic material from both fields, so that the foundations of our analyses are clear to both folklorists and linguists. Our progress toward that goal has been aided immeasurably by discussions with colleagues too numerous to name, as well as by observations and contributions of riddles by students, friends, and passers-by.

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