Although meter seems to be mainly a formal feature of poetry, many researchers have pointed out the topical or tonal features a meter may acquire in the course of development of poetical tradition. During the development of Estonian nationhood folklore acquired a special position as one of the representatives of Estonian national culture; indigenous singing tradition, runosong, shared with Finns and other smaller Finnic groups was considered as a masterpiece of ancient Estonian culture reflecting its elaborated poetic tradition. The folk meter was imitated in literary use to develop national high culture – based on Estonians’ own ancient “high culture”, but also following the patterns from European literary tradition. Especially the national epic “Kalevipoeg” by Fr. R. Kreutzwald attached the runosong meter (along with the whole poetic system) to the national ideology.

The ideological connection has had its impact on the research of runosong meter and on the artistic imitations, that tend to follow the theoretical views of its time, and even on the meter of singers when dealing with nationally tinted topics.