



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Překladatelství anglického jazyka (dvouoborové studium)**

Název práce: ***The Problem of Translation Equivalence: Analysis of the Czech Translation of the Book The President is Missing by Bill Clinton and James Patterson***

Autorka práce: **Mgr. Bc. Sabina Štěpánková**

Vedoucí diplomové práce: **Mgr. Helena Lohrová, Ph.D.**

Oponent diplomové práce: **Mgr. Petr Kos, Ph.D.**

Short characteristics of the thesis

Sabina Štěpánková's MA applies the translation quality assessment approach to Ondřej Duha's Czech translation of the book *The President is Missing* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson, which in 2018 was voted the worst translation of the year by the Czech Literary Translators' Guild. The methodological framework adopted draws on Baker (2011). The author has sampled selected passages of the book and analysed the extent to which the translated text fails to correspond to its source original both at the level of its communicative purpose and accuracy. The notion of equivalence, or rather non-equivalence, following Baker, is subsequently developed within the frame of five translation areas: at the level of individual lexical units, equivalence above the word level, at the level of grammar/sentence, textual equivalence and equivalence in terms of pragmatic relations tying the text. When discussing the individual instances of translation errors, consideration is given to suitable translation strategies conventionally employed to address the issues of equivalence in the respective areas of textual complexity.

Altogether, the author examines and discusses 53 samples of text excerpts. The empirical analysis employs a two-level monolingual-bilingual model of translation quality assessment, that is, TT+ (ST+TT). This analytical, most valuable, part of the thesis takes up the largest proportion of the work submitted. The individual thesis parts progress in a logical order and build up towards a well-structured and organised Conclusion that finishes on page 73.

Overall assessment

Stemming from her own interest in the topic, the author has designed and completed a linguistic analysis that is truly applied in its character. The thesis is analytically sound and practically relevant as the author addresses the question of translation quality assessment (i.e., a fundamental perspective on the evaluation of the quality of translation work) and has also managed to react to a debate of a contemporary translation piece that stirred a heated debate in the professional community. Ultimately, the heuristic character of the thesis puts to test the learning the author has accumulated during her MA studies on the translation study programme. Applying the skills and competences acquired to date to the demands of the inquiry at hand in such a way that the research outcome was both purposeful and theoretically well-grounded, is always a



challenging task. In my view, Sabina has passed this test with dignified confidence and a clear voice.

Overall, the thesis provides a convincing account of a series of grave translation errors. The author attempts at all times to discuss these in a systematic and well-argued manner. The provision of own alternative translation solutions must be appreciated although they should not be in all cases considered as definite solutions.

The level of English used throughout the thesis is cultivated and of a high level. This applies both to literature review sections as well as to parts devoted to sustained discussion.

In the Conclusion, the author summarises the contribution of her work, stakes out an area of future research interest, and formulates her concluding view on the translation by Ondřej Duha.

I have no doubts in recommending this thesis for defence and I propose the evaluation "very good" (velmi dobře). This I do mainly for two reasons:

- 1) The strategy for data sampling may be described as random and unsystematic. It clearly is sufficient to illustrate the nature and gravity of the translation errors discussed but does not provide a comprehensive insight into the frequency and occurrence of translation errors throughout the book. To facilitate this insight, the employment of corpus tools at a greater extent would have been beneficial.
- 2) Although the thesis is highly coherent overall, there are a few formal aspects that have been violated. These include, neither the List of Data Samples nor the List of Tables provide information on pagination; the captions provided for the data samples consists only of a data sample number, which is perhaps fine when these are encountered with the text but this incompleteness provides little guidance on what the individual data samples refer to when they are reviewed as a list; repeatedly, the author uses quotation marks for long quotes (e.g., pp. 15, 17, 18), which should have been indented; finally proofreading would have been beneficial to eliminate errors that do not do justice to work of this standard. A few examples from the thesis Introduction serve to illustrate the point:
Page 11. "Valued value" perhaps a better word selection would be appropriate.
Page 11 "in the course of time" is in English usually expressed as: over the course of time.
Page 12 "on both ends" is usually constructed as: at both ends. This reflects the concept of the continuum.
Page 12 "Moreover the TQA" does not require the article, i.e., Moreover TQA.
Page 12 "This prize or more precisely anti prize awarding motivated" could perhaps be expressed better, i.e., This prize or more precisely the anti-prize award motivated ...

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **velmi dobře**



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Datum

Podpis