

as despite the authors' best attempts at balance, there are some literatures mentioned less often than others. Although the second part of the book offers exclusive space for each literature, the reader may feel that some literatures (Romanian for example) vanish from certain time periods, while others (Hungarian or Polish) are mentioned much more often. The responsibility for this may lie with the authors themselves, especially their beliefs of what needs to be pointed out and what can remain in the background. Slovak literature is also represented considerably at the beginning, in the part on religious lit-

erature and writings. This is chiefly thanks to one of the authors, Katarína Bednárová, whose work can also be found throughout the book. All things considered, Slovak and Czech literature appear rather often in various parts of the text, particularly in the analyses of the normalization period from the fourth part to the conclusion (235–361), which makes it of particular interest to international literary criticism.

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IVANA KUPKOVÁ – ZBYNĚK FIŠER et al.: Jiří Levý: zakladatel československé translologie [Jiří Levý: The Founder of Czechoslovak Translation Studies]
Brno: MUNI PRESS Masarykova univerzita, 2019, 131 pp. ISBN 978-80-210-9348-5

At the time of creation and formation of Czech and Slovak translation theory as well as its praxis and criticism in the 1960s and 1970s, there were two outstanding personalities, whose scholarly work overcame the borders of the Czechoslovak cultural and academic context: Jiří Levý (1929–1967) and Anton Popovič (1933–1984). Not surprisingly, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Jiří Levý's death, Czech and Slovak scholars decided not only to remember the most important aspects of his scholarly heritage, but also to prove its importance in contemporary translation theory and praxis in a collective monograph called *Jiří Levý: The Founder of Czechoslovak Translation Studies*.

The monograph comprises not only a preface, bibliography, index of names and terms and summary in three languages, but also nine articles of an evaluative or analytical character covering a large spectrum of Levý's scholarly heritage in the area of literary theory and translation studies. Considering the huge thematical scope and well-founded articles we can firstly state that this collective monograph is a significant enrichment of contemporary translation studies.

At the very beginning of this collection is the chapter "Science, Philosophy, Literature. Jiří Levý Died Fifty Years Ago" by the literary aesthetician Milan Suchomel, an emeritus professor at Masaryk University in Brno, a colleague and a friend of J. Levý. As the title may suggest, the author pays attention mainly to Levý's thinking on possibilities of using a methodological framework of exact sciences and philosophy in literary research. He focuses his attention not only on Levý's effort to relieve "literature from the domination of subjective impressions and from a pressure of ideological speculations" (12), but also to the possible limitations of applying such a methodological base in practice, because – as already stated by Levý himself – "[t]heory of facts has not been able to define reliable measuring tools for an aesthetic value yet. It is applicable just as an auxiliary method for exact analyses of an internal structure of a piece of literature [...], but it still cannot be applied as a methodological base for general theory of literature" (12). Although the author of this chapter observes Levý's ideas in his literary research from Heidegger's hermeneutics to Ricoeur's project of interpretative reading of literature, he rightfully con-

cludes that “Levý’s exact understanding of the theory of literature is not philosophical, but nevertheless (like Czech structuralism) methodological and allows to perceive literature and literary works in their individuality as well as versatility, in their contradiction as well as symbiosis with new possibilities of its reading, theory and analysis” (13–14).

The article “Avant-garde Scientific Contribution of Jiří Levý and Anton Popovič to Contemporary Translation Studies Development” by Edita Gromová, Daniela Müglová and Daša Munková from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra highlights the scientific legacy of both founders of Czech and Slovak translation studies from its recency point of view in contrary to contemporary thinking on interlingual and intercultural communication as well as from the point of view of current trends in translation didactics and the development of computer linguistics. Along with the mutual benefits of their scholarly dialogue, the authors point out relevant specific features in their methodological concept of translation. The avant-garde nature of their scholarly works in the Slovak literary context, especially thanks to the Nitra school of translation theory, led to the creative development of current thinking on translation based on the fact that “[a] translator’s decision-making process occurs at the text level, nevertheless, there are broader macro-textual, i.e. sociocultural connections behind the text” (25), and helped to establish Czech and Slovak translation studies worldwide.

The other seven articles in this collective monograph have a more pragmatic character. Applying the theoretical postulates declared by Jiří Levý, the authors demonstrate the current importance of Levý’s ideas in the field of translation studies for future translators studying at universities, of translation criticism as well as of translation of legal and marketing texts.

Petra Mračková Vavroušová from Charles University (Prague) devotes her attention mainly to second-hand translation, using a German and Portuguese translation of Levý’s study “Three Phases of Translator’s

Work” as a base for her contrastive analysis, taking into consideration the Czech original as well. She focuses especially on the translation of Levý’s key terminology, substitution, compensation, generalization and concretization; moreover, she observes omitted and added parts in both translated texts. Quoting Neckel, a translator of this work into Portuguese, she states: “[a]lthough Levý’s research is devoted exclusively to literary translation, [...] his conclusions could be applied generally, i.e. they may be helpful also in translating non-literary texts [...] and serve as a methodological tool for an analysis of translations” (38).

Ivana Kupková from the University of Prešov focuses on the legacy of Jiří Levý in contemporary Slovak translation criticism. Using a short summary, she points out all key criteria for evaluating literary translation defined by Levý and its reflection in Slovak theory of translation criticism in works written by A. Popovič, F. Miko and J. Ferenčík. Based on this methodological framework, Kupková evaluates some critical reviews of literary translations, such as reviews of Z. Jesenská’s translations by E. Maliti-Fraňová, J. Štrasser’s translation of Eugen Onegin by A. Červeňák as well as her own critical review of Lermontov’s *A Hero of our Time*, translated by D. Lehutová. In conclusion, Kupková states that not only the abovementioned works by Slovak translation studies scholars but also Levý’s research and legacy could be considered to be one of the most significant theoretical and methodological sources for today’s Slovak translation criticism: “Levý’s work not only explains the translation process and a translator’s work, which shall be the main assumption for a critical analysis of a high quality, [...] but also serves as an inspiring source for some reflections about the work of a literary critic and possibly also for a creation of clearer criteria for translation criticism” (50).

Specific features of translating poetry and drama are discussed in the studies by Jana Kitzlerová (“‘The Twelve’ or What Would Jiří Levý Say to the Latest Trans-

lation of the Poem Written by Blok”) and Radek Malý (“Goethe’s ‘Faust’ in the Recent Translation into Czech, Taking into Consideration Levý’s Scholarly Thinking”) from Charles University. Based on a critical review of Kasala’s latest translation of Blok’s poem into Czech, Kitzlerová states that plenty of stylistic and lexical shifts, which in many cases caused a decreased quality of a translated text compared to the original, appeared as a result of the translator’s struggle to modernize the translation and led to an extreme conciliatory attitude towards a contemporary reader. Owing to the stylistic unity of the translation, there is a reason to declare that it is “a successful attempt to actualize and modernize Blok’s ‘The Twelve’” (61). Malý, the translator of the latest Czech version of *Faust*, summarizes the translation reception of Goethe’s masterpiece in the Czech cultural context and compares previous translations, then explains the circumstances behind the latest Czech translation and finally highlights the most remarkable features caused by the cooperation between the translator and a staging team. Despite the fact that the text of the play was significantly shortened, all the main ideas were preserved. This conciseness resulted also in shortening the verse from iambic pentameter to iambic tetrameter and in reducing the space for finer nuances, consequently the play became a shortcut having almost the characteristics of a slogan, supporting the main staging intention to introduce *Faust* in a more dynamic form. Nevertheless, based on conclusions made by the author of this study, the shifts are not in contradiction with Levý’s postulates devoted to translation of drama. This translation belongs in particular to the category of performance, which limits its timeliness and durability. Therefore, the author in conclusion claims that “as a matter of general dispute, we shall agree with Levý: to declare any derived work to be a final and universal interpretation would be at least problematic” (69).

Radek Černoch from Masaryk University (Brno) deals with specific features of translating legal texts and based on a translation of

Digest, one of the key Roman law documents, demonstrates Levý’s thesis that in translating a legal text there is no choice between a fidelity of translation/word-for-word translation and an adaptation/free translation, hence a translator tends to absolute fidelity. He/she shall take into consideration, as Černoch highlights in his conclusion, the relationship between a text and an exact law order, strictness and argumentation logic of a text, the need to use legal terms along with fragmentation, stylistic and terminological discrepancies, as in the case of the analyzed translation of *Digest*.

The last two articles in this monograph are devoted not only to specific features of translation of marketing texts but also to a detailed summary of many inspiring aspects of Levý’s scholarly work for contemporary Russian translation praxis along with a summary of didactic applications of his findings. Zbyněk Fišer (Masaryk University) in his article called “Communication Strategy in Parallel Marketing Texts” deals with the classification of these texts, defines factors of marketing communication in the translation process, specific features of creation of information texts for tourists, multilanguage flyers and transcreation, and finally using several student translations defines and examines the didactic aspects of the translation training process for first-class translation specialists, who are able to accurately mediate “the factual and persuasive message of a source text and without any deformations on a semantic level creatively transfer it into a target text to enable adequate persistence in a target environment” (93).

Zdeňka Vychodilová of Palacký University (Olomouc) in the final article of this collection, called “The Olomouc Phase in Levý’s Professional Life. Jiří Levý as an Inspiration for a Contemporary Translation Praxis from Russian Language”, devotes her attention first of all to summarizing the results of Levý’s research and pedagogic activities at Palacký University. Nevertheless, the crucial part of her article is devoted to the possible pedagogical use of Levý’s scholarly ideas in teaching

students in the Russian studies department – i.e. future translators of literary texts. The methodological basis and outcomes applied in the article are demonstrated on examples of students' work created during her translation classes. Vychodilová's succinct summary of Levý's heritage in the field of translation studies also encapsulates the ideological message of the whole book, namely: "[t]he convincingness of Levý's arguments supported by translational and educational practice as well as indirect and moderate for-

mulations, implicitly [evokes] his sensitive approach to a translator as a sovereign individuality having a right to a subjective decision making. [...] In particular, conceiving a translation as a decision-making process and a translator as a decision maker shall be understood to be timeless benefits of Levý's philosophy" (106).

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VLADIMÍR BILOVESKÝ – IVAN ŠUŠA: Banskobystrické myslenie o preklade a tlmočení [Thinking on Translation and Interpreting in Banská Bystrica]
Banská Bystrica: Belianum, 2017. 136 pp. ISBN 978-80-557-1329-8

In 2017, translation studies at Matej Bel University celebrated its 20th anniversary. In the twenty years, the academic staff has changed, the program has developed, and in terms of academic research, many previously overlooked topics have been studied. The publication *Banskobystrické myslenie o preklade a tlmočení* aims to reflect the past twenty years of the translation studies program in Banská Bystrica.

The publication is divided into seven main chapters. The first two chapters take a look at translation studies in Banská Bystrica through the lens of the people involved in it. The authors provide exhaustive information related to the academic staff and their research areas. A bibliography of their most significant publications is also included. Each scholar is accompanied by a biography and by a brief profile of their research area.

The third and the fourth chapters deal with translation training at Banská Bystrica. The authors give full overview of the study program, explain its roots and clarify the changes it has gone through. They also explain how the translation and interpreting studies program combines theory and practice through its Translation and Interpreting Centre (now in the form of the civic organization LCT – Lingua, Communicatio,

Translatio), which has been part and parcel of the integrated translation and interpreting program at Matej Bel University since 2012. The Centre gives students the opportunity to translate and interpret in real working conditions and receive valuable feedback from professional, native Anglophone proofreaders and editors. In addition, teachers are able to monitor the development of students' skills and revise training methods appropriately.

The fifth and the sixth chapters provide a general overview of the scholarly projects and academic conferences related to translation and interpreting studies that have been based in Banská Bystrica. The origins of several scholarly journals related to the field are also described. Matej Bel University has held many events featuring lectures from world-famous translation studies scholars, such as Christiane Nord, Anthony Pym, Andrew Chesterman, Christopher Rundle, Ingrid Kurtz or Franz Pöchhacker. In 2021, Matej Bel University will hold the international conference "Translation, Interpreting and Culture 2: Rehumanising Translation and Interpreting Studies" with the world's leading translation and interpreting studies scholars as keynote speakers (Susan Bassnett, Lawrence Venuti, Jan Pedersen, Nadja