

Univerzita Karlova
Pedagogická fakulta
Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

All Tomorrows: Translation and analysis of a selected part of C. M.
Kosemen's book

All Tomorrows: překlad a analýza vybrané části knihy All Tomorrows od C.
M. Kosemena
Matěj Schejbal

Vedoucí práce: Mgr. Jakub Ženíšek, Ph.D.

Studijní program: Anglický jazyk se zaměřením na vzdělávání se sdruženým studiem
Matematika se zaměřením na vzdělávání

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Poděkování

Rád bych poděkoval mému vedoucímu práce, panu Mgr. Jakobovi Ženíškovi, Ph.D. za odborné vedení a podporu, které mi poskytl po dobu vypracování mé bakalářské práce.

ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce je zaměřena na překlad vybrané části z knihy *All Tomorrows* od C. M. Kosemena z anglického jazyka do českého. Kapitoly byly vybrány na základě jejich lingvistických vlastností. Práce je rozdělena na dvě hlavní části: Praktická a Teoretická. Praktická část je zrcadlový překlad bez dalšího komentáře. Teoretická část sestává z analýzy problémů zachování vlastností textu a to informační, stylistické a zábavní. Navrhuje, jak mohou být vyřešeny v praxi, a ilustruje metody na příkladech z Praktické části. Dále je zkoumána role překladatele s ohledem na stylistická rozhodnutí a řešení možných gramatických či syntaktických chyb. Důraz je kladen na zachování stejných dojmů na čtenáře.

Teorie je primárně založena na popisu rozdílností anglického a českého jazyka od D. Knittlové s obecným přístupem založeným v iluzionismu J. Levého. Práce záměrně nevyužívá pojem ekvivalence a ukazuje, že je analýza překladu možná i bez jeho užití. Příklady jsou zkoumány individuálně za účelem zachování vybraných vlastností s ohledem na pravidla českého pravopisu. Předvedeny jsou také případy, které vyžadují netradiční přístup a originalitu od překladatele a typicky nejsou uváděny v obecných teoriích překladu.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA

All Tomorrows, iluzionistický přístup, denotační význam, aktuální větné členění, rozdělení věty, syntaktické rozdíly.

ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis is focused on the translation of a selected part of the book *All Tomorrows* from C. M. Kosemen from English to Czech. Chapters were selected on the basis of their linguistic characteristics. The thesis is divided into two main parts: Practical and Theoretical. The Practical part is a side-by-side translation without additional commentary. The Theoretical part is composed of an analysis of the problems of preservation of information, stylistic and entertainment values. It proposes how they can be solved in practice and illustrates methods on examples from the Practical part. Further explored is the role of the translator in regard to stylistic decisions and solving possible grammatical or syntactic errors. Stress is put on the preservation of impressions on the reader.

The theory is primarily based on the description of differences between the Czech and English languages by D. Knittlová along with the illusionist approach of J. Levý. The thesis purposefully does not use the term equivalence and shows that analysis of translation is possible without its use. Examples are investigated individually with the intention to preserve the selected characteristics with regards to Czech grammar. Showcased are also examples requiring a non-traditional approach requiring originality from the translator, which are typically omitted from general theories of translation.

KEYWORDS

All Tomorrows, illusionist approach, denotative meaning, functional sentence perspective, sentence splitting, syntactic differences.

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1 Introduction

C. M. Kosemen's *All Tomorrows* is a collection of entries from the fictional future of humankind. Unlike other science-fiction works, *All Tomorrows* has no specific characters who would serve as the focal point of the story and would give a perspective for the reader. Instead, snippets from different time periods and locations paint a broad picture about the evolution of humanity and the state of the galaxy. The early chapters focus on notable events in the near future, while the later chapters are written as descriptions of creatures into which humans have been transformed. Genre-typical futuristic technologies take a back seat and the front and center is given to biology and evolution.

1.1 Translation theory

The broadest approach used to produce the translation in this thesis falls under the “illusionist” method as described by J. Levý, where the translator pretends to be the author and tries to reproduce the same work in a different language (39-40). The aim is to have the reader of either version of the text perceive both as having conveyed the same information, being of the same stylistic complexity and offering the same amount and type of entertainment. These three values are defined in their respective sections in the Theoretical part.

Theoretical discussions of translation and its feasibility are plenty, and picking just one theory and applying it universally would be a task requiring much analysis and discussion, the very act of which can be considered questionable given how many times this has been attempted without a definite conclusion (Krijtová 116-117). It could be argued that for a translation of a work like *The Prince* by Machiavelli, all of the values discussed in this thesis can be completely disregarded, and the whole focus should be on the preservation of philosophical ideas. This thesis regards the lens of preservation of values as a simplified, focused process, meant to be applied to individual practical examples, and not as an attempt to construct a general translation theory.

Due to the focus on the aforementioned values, the Theoretical part of the thesis is structured, perhaps nontraditionally, by the preservation of each value, rather than by linguistic discipline. Nevertheless, when viewed through a linguistic lens, subsections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3

mostly correspond to the disciplines of lexicology, syntax and morphology respectively. Linguistic concepts are used as an objective explanation of a problem and as a justification of its solution.

1.2 Equivalence

This thesis strives to not use the term “equivalence” to describe the relations between a pair or groups of words across English and Czech. The main reason for this is that the usage of the word in common parlance carries the meaning of “the fact of having the same amount, value, purpose, qualities, etc.”, which is rarely true in translation (“Equivalence”). Every equivalence can be analyzed from different viewpoints, be it grammar, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, formality of language etc. This leads to the existence of terms like pragmatic, textual, grammatical and other equivalences, which do not necessarily have the same meaning when used by different authors (Panou).

In order to deal with the discrepancies, it could be argued that “equivalence” should be understood as “any structure considerable for use in the translation”, which is a notable departure from the common understanding of the word and is so general that even defining a term as such is questionable.

As a result, this thesis describes the type of relation rather than attempting to name it. This approach was chosen to accurately portray the decision process used during analyses and to circumvent a lengthy discussion of formal definitions and their applicability in practical examples. This is not meant to be a criticism or detraction of the usage of the term, it should rather be understood as an explanation why the term is not used in the Theoretical Part of this thesis.

1.3 Impressions on the reader

The following section is a description of the impressions that should be felt by the average reader. They are deliberately written generally and objectively. Therefore, they should be agreed on by the vast majority of readers, regardless of whether the book was to their liking. A more precise way of creating a picture of these impressions would be to aggregate different reviews and opinions from online forums and to conduct an analysis to determine how the

book is generally perceived. It can be argued that a translator should do such research, but its carrying out is not the focus of this thesis.

The style of the book could be described as dry. The author does not go into great detail to explain why an event takes place, nor does he explore the consequences for individuals. For example, the cause of the civil war between Mars and Earth is explained only with information about general sentiments and economic inequality. Usually, authors would try to captivate their audiences and get them invested by emotionally loading the story and soliciting sympathy for one or both sides of the conflict. Kosemen defies story-telling conventions by delivering the sequence of events simply as a matter of fact. This makes reading the book feel similar to reading an entry on a wiki.

In terms of language, the reader is assumed to be familiar with technical vocabulary mainly from the scientific field of biology rather than engineering and astrology, which would be more common for science-fiction. Sentences are not too complex, but in combination with words not commonly used in everyday speech, the text can feel like a challenge to read fluently.

The main draw of the book is the bizarre forms of the post-humans. The largest part of the book consists of descriptions of these creatures and their predicaments. Most of these chapters are accompanied by illustrations, but those have been omitted from the thesis due to their size. Descriptions of the illustrations are likewise not included, since their translation would not have much meaning without being able to see the image.

2 Practical part

To Mars

After millennia of earthbound foreplay, Mankind's achievements on a noteworthy level began with its political unification and the gradual colonization of Mars. While the technology to colonize this world had existed for some time, political bickering, shifting agendas and the sheer inertia of comfortable, terrestrial usurping had made this step seem more distant than it actually was.

Only when the risks clearly began to present themselves, only when Earth's environment began to buckle under the strain of twelve billion industrialized souls, did Mankind finally take up the momentous task.

All through the decades, traveling to, and later settling on Mars had been envisioned as quick, relatively easy affairs; complicated but feasible and manageable in short term. As the push finally came to a shove, it was realized that this was not the case.

It had to go step by step. Atmospheric bombardment by genetically-tailored microbes slowly generated a breathable atmosphere in a cycle that took centuries.

Na Mars

Po tisícileté předeře na Zemi se lidstvo začalo zviditelňovat v kosmickém měřítku. Začalo to politickým sjednocením a postupnou kolonizací Marsu. Technologie na kolonizaci této planety sice byla dlouho k dispozici, ale politické hašteření, změny v plánech a nepřekonatelná setrvačnost pozemského pohodlí tento krok činily vzdálenějším, než doopravdy byl.

Pouze když rizika začala být očividná, pouze když se životní prostředí Země začalo hroutit pod tíhou industrializace dvanácti miliard duší, se lidstvo odhodlalo k tomuto významnému posunu.

Celá desetiletí se cesta na Mars a jeho následné obsazení jevily jako poměrně snadná záležitost. Sice složitá, ale z krátkodobého hlediska prakticky proveditelná. Až při samotné realizaci se zjistilo, že to tak úplně nebude.

Lidstvo tedy začalo krok za krokem. Dýchatelný vzduch vytvářeli bombardováním atmosféry geneticky upravenými mikroby po dobu několika staletí. Později odklonili z dráhy několik

Later, a few cometary fragments were knocked off-course to bring forth seas, oceans; water. When the wait was finally over, remnants of Earth's flora and fauna were introduced as specially-modified Martian remakes.

When everything was ready, people came from their crowded world. They came in one-way ships; fusion rockets and atmospheric gliders, packed to the brim with colonists, sleeping in dreams of a new beginning.

The first steps on Mars were taken not by astronauts, but by barefoot children on lush, biosynthetic grass.

The Martian Americans

For several hundred years, Mars remained a backwater; prospering but still dim compared to the splendor of Earth, which was glowing brighter than ever before. Thanks to the relocation of environmentally demanding industries to Mars, Earth could usurp everything without having to damage its tired biosphere. This was the Terrestrial Heyday; the climax of economic, cultural, and social development on old Earth.

úlomků komet, aby přinesli na svět moře, oceány, vodu. Po nekonečném čekání vysadili do nového prostředí Marsu speciálně modifikované zbytky Zemské flory a fauny.

Když bylo vše připraveno, přišli ze svého ve švech praskajícího světa samotní lidé. Přiletěli na jednosměrných lodích: raketách poháněných jadernou fúzí a atmosférických kluzácích. Všechno použitelné místo zaplnili spící kolonisté se sny o novém začátku.

První kroky na Marsu neudělali astronauti, ale bosé děti na pláních bujné biosyntetické trávy.

Mart'anoameričani

Několik staletí zůstával Mars pozadu. Rozkvétal, ale jeho světlo bylo zatměno Zemí, která zářila jasněji než kdy dřív. Díky přemístění ekologicky náročného průmyslu na Mars měla Země všechno, aniž by musela poškozovat svou unavenou biosféru. Tato doba se označovala jako Pozemský rozkvět. Bylo to vyvrcholení ekonomického, kulturního a společenského vývoje na staré Zemi.

This, however, was not to last. Like the gradual separation of America from her European mother, the governments of Mars adopted a new, Martian identity. They became the Martian Americans.

The difference between Earth and Mars was not only political. A few generations in the lighter gravity gave the new Americans a spindly, lithe frame that would look surreal in their old home. This, combined with a certain amount of genetic engineering, took the Martians' separation to a new level.

For a while, the silent schism between the two planets was mutually accepted, and the balance of power hung in an edgy equilibrium. But the Terra-Martian standoff did not, could not, last forever. With limitless resources and an energetic population, Mars was bound to take the lead.

Civil War

The Martian turnover was expected to occur in two ways; either through long-term economic gains or by a much shorter but painful armed conflict. For almost two hundred years, the former method seemed to take effect, but this gradual stretch

Netrvalo ale dlouho a podobně jako se Amerika postupně odpojila od své matky Evropy, národy Marsu převzaly novou identitu. Staly se Mart'anoameričany.

Rozdíl mezi Zemí a Marsem ale nebyl pouze politický. Několik generací strávených v nižší gravitaci obdařilo tyto nové Američany vytáhlou, štíhlou postavou, která by v jejich staré domovině vypadala surreálně. V kombinaci s trochou genetického inženýrství dosáhla úrovně rozdělení jiných výšin.

Nějakou dobu bylo toto tiché schizma oběma stranami akceptováno a rozdělení moci bylo v choulostivé rovnováze. Tato patová situace ale nevydržela dlouho, ani nemohla. Nekonečné zdroje a energická populace Mars tlačily k převzetí vedení.

Občanská válka

Převrat Marsu mohl nastat dvěma způsoby: dlouhodobou ekonomickou převahou nebo daleko kratším, ale bolestivým ozbrojeným konfliktem. Téměř dvě stě let byla v popředí první metoda, ale postupné napětí nakonec vedlo k destruktivnímu vyústění.

eventually did break in a most destructive way.

Almost since its establishment, Martian culture was suffused with an explicit theme of rebellion against Earth. Songs, motion pictures, and daily publications repeated these notions again and again until they became internalized. Earth was the old, ossified home that held humanity back, while Mars was new; dynamic, active, and inventive. Mars was the future.

This ideology eventually reached its semi-paranoid, revolutionary apex. Roughly a thousand years from now, the nations of Mars banned all non-essential trade and travel with Earth.

For Earth, it was a death sentence. Without the resources and industries of Mars, the Terrestrial Heyday would quickly devolve into a pale shadow of its former glory. Since a trade of essential goods continued, nobody would starve. But for every citizen of Earth, the Martian boycott meant the loss of up to three-fourths of their yearly income.

Earth had no choice but to reclaim its former privileges, by force if necessary. Centuries after her political unification, Terra geared up for war.

Už od samotného založení byla kultura na Marsu spjata s explicitním tématem povstání proti Zemi. Písně, filmové snímky a denní publikace tyto nálady neustále opakovaly, až si je lidé převzali za své. Země byla starým a zkostnatělým domovem, který lidstvo pouze zbrzdřovalo. Oproti tomu Mars byl nový, dynamický, aktivní a vynalézavý. Mars byl budoucností.

Tato ideologie nakonec dosáhla svého poloparanoidního revolučního vrcholu. Zhruba tisíc let od dnešního dne státy Marsu zakázaly obchod se Zemí i cestování na ni, kromě nezbytných výjimek.

Pro Zemi to znamenalo zkázu. Bez zdrojů a průmyslu Marsu začal Pozemský rozkvět rychle vadnout. Jelikož nezbytný obchod pokračoval, hromadné hladovění nehrozilo. Ale pro každého občana Země tento úpadek znamenal ztrátu až tří čtvrtin ročního příjmu.

Země neměla jinou možnost než získat zpět bývalá privilegia, a to v případě potřeby i násilím. Staletí po politickém sjednocení se *Terra* připravovala na válku.

Většina myslitelů (a snílků) z předešlých dob si představovala meziplanetární válku jako fantastickou rychlou podívanou s obřimi vesmírnými loděmi, jednomístnými

Most thinkers (and fantasists) of previous times had imagined interplanetary war as a glorious, fast-paced spectacle of massive spaceships, one-man fighters, and last-minute heroics. No fantasy could have been further from the truth. War between planets was a slow, nerve-wracking series of precisely timed decisions that spelled destruction on biblical scales.

Most of the time, the combatants never saw each other. Most of the time, the combatants were not there at all. War became a duel between complicated, autonomous machines programmed to maximize damage to the other side while trying to last a little longer.

Such a conflict caused horrendous destruction on both sides. Phobos, one of Mars' moons, was shattered and rained down as meteorite hail. Earth received a polar impact that killed one-third of its population.

Barely escaping extinction, the peoples of Earth and Mars made peace and reforged a united solar system. It had cost them more than eight billion souls.

stíhacími letouny a hrdinstvím na poslední chvíli. Všechny tyto představy nemohly být dále od pravdy. Válka mezi planetami byla pomalá, nervy drásající série precizně načasovaných rozhodnutí, která znamenala zkázu biblických rozměrů.

Většinu času se protivníci neviděli. Většinu času ani nebyli přítomni. Válka se proměnila v souboj mezi komplexními, autonomními stroji, které byly naprogramované, aby způsobily nepříteli co největší škody a zároveň vydržely o trochu déle.

Takový konflikt přinesl oběma stranám strašlivou zkázu. Phobos, jeden z měsíců Marsu, se roztříštil a přšel dolů jako krupobití meteorů. Země byla zasažena do pólu, což vyhladilo třetinu populace.

Obyvatelé Země a Marsu sotva unikli vyhynutí. Rozhodli se uzavřít dohodu o míru a znovu utvořili sjednocenou Sluneční soustavu. Stálo je to přes osm miliard lidských duší.

Star People

The survivors agreed that massive changes were necessary to ensure that such a war never occurred again. These reforms were so comprehensive that they entailed not only political and economic changes but biological ones as well.

One of the greatest differences between the people of the two planets was that, over time, they had almost become different species. It was believed that the solar system could never completely unify until this discrepancy was overcome.

The answer was a new human subspecies, equally and better adapted not only to Earth and Mars but to the conditions of most newly terraformed environments as well. Furthermore, these beings were envisioned with larger brains and heightened talents, making them greater than the sum of their predecessors.

Normally, it would be hard to convince any population to make a choice between mandatory sterilization and parenting a newfangled race of superior beings. However, memories of the war were still painfully fresh, and it was easier to implement these radical procedures in the

Hvězdní lidé

Přeživší se shodli na nutnosti důkladných změn, aby se podobná válka nemohla nikdy opakovat. Tyto změny byly tak obsáhlé, že zahrnovaly přeměny nejen politické a ekonomické, ale i biologické.

Jeden z největších rozdílů mezi obyvateli dvou planet byl ten, že se z nich postupem času staly téměř různé druhy. Sluneční soustava se nikdy nemohla spojit zcela, dokud by se tento rozpor nepřekonal.

Odpovědí byl nový lidský poddruh, který byl stejně nebo lépe adaptovaný ne jen na život na Zemi a na Marsu, ale i na podmínky nově teraformovaných prostředí. Dále byly tyto bytosti obdařeny většími mozky a vylepšenými vlohami. Celkově byly svým předkům nadřazený.

Obvykle by bylo těžké přemluvit jakoukoli populaci, aby si vybrala mezi nařízenou sterilizací a zplozením nově smyšlené rasy nadřazených bytostí. Vzpomínky na válku byly ale stále bolestivě čerstvé, a proto bylo jednodušší uskutečnit tyto radikální kroky v návaznosti na takový masakr. Jakýkoliv odpor proti zrodu nového druhu se nezmohl na více než nepatrné stížnosti a nedůležité stávky.

wake of such slaughter. Any resistance to the birth of the new species did not extend beyond meager complaints and trivial strikes.

In only a few generations, the new race began to prove its worth. Organized as a single state and aided by the technological developments of the war, they rapidly terraformed and colonized Venus, the Asteroids, and the moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

Soon, however, even the domain of Sol grew too small. The new people who inherited it wanted to go further, to new worlds under distant stars. They were to become the Star People.

Colonization and the Mechanical Oedipi

Even for the Star People, interplanetary travel was a momentous task. Early minds had boggled over the problem, and fantasies such as faster-than-light travel and hyperspace emerged as the only “solutions”.

Simply put, it was impossible to take a large number of people with enough supplies to even the closest star to make colonization feasible. The existing technologies could

Již během pár generací začala nová rasa prokazovat svou hodnotu. Nová organizace jako jednotný stát spolu s technologickým pokrokem z války umožnily rapidní teraformaci a následnou kolonizaci Venuše, okolních asteroidů a měsíců Jupitera a Saturnu.

Brzy se ale i doména Slunce zdála moc malá. Noví lidé, kteří ji zdělili, chtěli dosáhnout nových světů pod vzdálenými hvězdami. Bylo jim souzeno stát se Hvězdnými lidmi.

Kolonizace a mechičtí Oidipové

I pro Hvězdné lidi bylo meziplanetární cestování složitým úkolem. Vědci se v minulosti tímto problémem zabývali až k zbláznění a fantastické nápady jako cestování nadsvětelnou rychlostí a hyperprostor se jevily jako jediná „řešení”.

Jednoduše řečeno, vzít velké množství lidí s dostatkem zásob na cestu a následnou kolonizaci i té nejbližší hvězdy nebylo

only slug along at mere percentages of lightspeed, making the journey an epoch-spanning affair. Enormous “generation ships” were conceived and even built, but these succumbed to technical difficulties or onboard anarchy after a few cycles.

The solution was to first go there and make the colonists later. To this end, fast and small, automated ships were sent forth to the stars. Onboard were semi-sentient machines programmed to replicate and terraform the destination, and “construct” its inhabitants from the genetic materials stored on board.

A bizarre problem plagued such attempts. The first generation of humans to be manufactured sometimes developed a strange affection for the machines that made them. They rejected their own kind and perished after the massive identity crisis that followed. This technological Oedipus complex was not uncommon; nearly half of all the colony-founding attempts were lost through it.

Even then, however, the remaining half was enough to fill humanity’s own spiral arm of the galaxy.

prakticky možné. Vynalezené technologie umožňovaly plazit se v pouhých procentech světelné rychlosti, což by znamenalo cestu napříč epochami. Jednou z navrhovaných možností byly kolosální „generační lodě”, které ale po dokončení konstrukce čelily technickým problémům a po pár cyklech jejich posádky podlehly anarchii.

Řešením bylo nejdříve se tam dostat a kolonisty poté vytvořit. Za tímto účelem vyslali ke hvězdám rychlé a malé automatizované lodě. Na palubě byly polovědomé stroje, které byly naprogramované replikovat se a teraformovat svoji destinaci. Následně měly z genetických materiálů uložených na palubě obyvatele „zkonstruovat”.

Tyto pokusy byly sužovány bizarním problémem. V první vyrobené generaci lidí se občas vyvinula podivná citová závislost na strojích, které je vytvořily. Vlastní druh odmítli a během následné otřesné krize identity zahynuli. Tento technologický Oidipovský komplex nebyl až tak vzácný. Přibližně polovina všech pokusů o založení kolonie ztroskotala právě díky tomuto problému.

The Summer of Man

Right after Mankind's colonization of the galaxy came its first true golden age. Reared by machine prophets, the survivors of the Oedipal plagues built civilizations that equaled and even surpassed their Solar forbears.

This diffusion across the heavens did not mean a loss of unity. Across the skies, steady flows of electromagnetic communication linked Mankind's worlds with such efficiency that there was no colony that did not know about the goings-on of her distant siblings. The free-flow of information meant, among other things, a vastly accelerated pace of technological growth. What couldn't be figured out in one world was helped out by another, and any new developments were quickly made known to all in a realm that spanned centuries of light.

Not surprisingly, living standards rose to previously unimaginable levels. While this did not exactly mean a galactic utopia, it was

I přesto byla zbývající polovina dostačující na zaplnění jejich vlastního spirálního ramena Galaxie lidstvem.

Léto člověka

Ihned po lidské kolonizaci Galaxie započal první zlatý věk. Po výchově od strojů-proroků začali přeživší Oidipovských morů znovu budovat civilizace. Vyrovnali se předkům ze Sluneční soustavy, nebo je i předčili.

Rozptyl napříč nebesy neznamenal ztrátu jednoty. Nebem stále proudila elektromagnetická komunikace, která propojovala lidské světy s takovou účinností, že nebylo kolonie, která by nevěděla o dění na svých vzdálených sourozencích. Volný tok informací znamenal, mimo jiné, značně zrychlený technologický vývoj. Když se jednomu světu nedařilo vyřešit nějaký problém, jiný svět mu pomohl. I přes svou rozlohu několika set světelných let se celá lidská říše brzy dozvěděla o jakékoli nové události.

Životní úroveň očekávaně rostla do dříve nepředstavitelných výšin. Neznamenal to galaktickou utopii, ale jistě se dalo říci, že

safe to say that people of the colonized galaxy lived lives in which labor, both menial and mental, was purely compulsory. Thanks to the richness of the heavens and the toil of machines, each person had access to material and cultural wealth greater than that of some nations today.

During all this development, a curious phenomenon was observed. While alien life was abundant in the stars, no one had encountered any signs of true intelligence. Some attributed this to an overall rarity, while others went as far as divine influence, resurrecting religion.

Regardless of the theorizing, one question went truly and utterly unanswered. What would really happen if mankind ever ran into his equals or superiors in space?

An Early Warning

During those times, a small discovery of immense implications warned humanity that it might not be alone.

On a newly colonized world, engineers had stumbled across the remains of a puzzling creature, considered so because it had every hallmark of terrestrial animals on an alien

lidé kolonizované Galaxie žili životy, kde práce fyzická i duševní byla nutná pouze z příkázání. Díky bohatství nebes a práci strojů měl každý člověk přístup k materiálnímu i kulturnímu bohatství většímu než některých dnešních národů.

Během tohoto všeho vývoje byl zpozorován kuriózní jev. Zatímco mimozemský život byl mezi hvězdami hojný, nikdo se neseťkal s žádnými známkami pravé inteligence. Někteří to připisovali celkové vzácnosti, zatímco ostatní zacházeli až k božskému vlivu, což vedlo k náboženskému obrození.

Bez ohledu na teoretizování, jedna otázka zůstávala zcela a jasně nezodpovězena. Co by se dělo, kdyby se ve vesmíru lidstvo setkalo s bytostmi sobě rovnými nebo nadřazenými?

Včasné varování

V těchto dobách varoval lidstvo nepatrný objev s ohromujícími důsledky, že nemusí být ve vesmíru osamocené.

Inženýři na nově kolonizovaném světě narazili na pozůstatky tajemného tvora. Tajemný byl tím, že měl všechny charakteristické rysy pozemského

planet. Justifiably named *Panderavis pandora*, the colossal fossil belonged to a bird-like creature with enormous claws. Later research determined it to be a highly derived therizinosaur from a lineage of herbivorous dinosaurs that died out millions of years ago on Earth.

While every other large land animal on that colony world had three limbs, a copper-based skeletal system, and hydrostatically operated muscles, *Panderavis* was a typical terrestrial vertebrate with calcium-rich bones and four extremities. Finding it there was as unlikely as finding an alien creature in Earth's own strata.

For some, it was irrefutable proof of divine creation. The religious resurgence, fueled at first by mankind's apparent loneliness in the heavens, got even more intensified.

Others saw it differently. *Panderavis* had shown humans that entities powerful enough to visit Earth, take animals from there, and adapt them to an alien world were at large in the galaxy. Considering the time gulf of the fossil itself, the mysterious beings were millennia older than humanity when they were capable of such things.

živočicha, ale nacházel se na mimozemské planetě. Oprávněně ho pojmenovali *panderavis pandora*. Kolosální zkamenělina patřila tvorovi, který byl podobný ptákům, ale měl obří drápy. Pozdější výzkum odhalil, že je to vzdáleně odvozený therizinosaurus z řádu býložravých dinosaurů, kteří před miliony let vymřeli na Zemi.

Zatímco každý jiný velký suchozemský živočich na tomto koloniálním světě měl tři končetiny, kosterní soustavu založenou na mědi a hydrostaticky ovládané svaly, *panderavis* byl typickým pozemským obratlovcem s kostmi bohatými na vápník a čtyřmi končetinami. Jeho nalezení na této planetě bylo stejně tak pravděpodobné jako nalezení mimozemského tvora mezi vrstvami Země.

Pro někoho to byl nepopiratelný důkaz božského stvoření. Obnova náboženství, zprvu poháněna zdánlivou osamělostí lidstva ve vesmíru, nabrala na obrátkách.

Ostatní to viděli jinak. *Panderavis* lidstvu ukázal, že se po Galaxii pohybují bytosti natolik mocné, aby navštívili Zemi, vzali z ní živočichy a adaptovali je k životu na mimozemské planetě. Podle stáří samotné zkameněliny byly tyto záhadné bytosti o

The warning was clear. There was no telling what would happen if mankind suddenly ran into this civilization. A benevolent contact was obviously preferred and even expected, but it paid to be prepared.

Silently, humanity once again began to build and stockpile weapons, this time of interplanetary potency. There were terrible devices capable of nova-ing stars and wrecking entire solar systems. Sadly, even these preparations would prove to be ineffectual in time.

Qu

The first contact was bound to happen. The galaxy, let alone the Universe, was simply too big for just a singular species to develop intelligence in. Any delay in contact only meant a heightening of the eventual culture shock. In humanity's case, this "culture shock" meant the complete extinction of mankind as it had come to be known.

Almost a billion years old, the alien species known as Qu were galactic nomads, traveling from one spiral arm to another in

tisíciletí starší než lidstvo, když byly schopny těchto manipulací.

Varování bylo jasné. Nikdo nemohl předpovědět, co by se stalo, kdyby se lidstvo s touto civilizací z ničeho nic setkalo. Na prvním místě byl podle očekávání mírumilovný přístup, ale připravenost nebyla na škodu.

Lidstvo znovu tiše začalo zbrojit, tentokrát meziplanetární silou. Vybuďovalo strašlivé zařízení schopné proměnit hvězdy v supernovy a zdemolovat celé sluneční soustavy. Bohužel, i tyto přípravy se časem ukázaly jako neúčinné.

Qu

První setkání bylo nevyhnutelné. Galaxie, natož celý vesmír, byla až moc velká na to, aby si inteligenci vyvinula pouze jedna rasa. Jakákoliv prodleva setkání znamenala pouze stupňování budoucího kulturního převratu. V případě lidstva tento „kulturní převrat“ znamenal úplné vyhynutí člověka tak, jak ho známe.

Skoro miliardu let stará mimozemská rasa známá jako Qu by se dala popsat jako „galaktičtí kočovníci.“ Qu se pohybovali

epoch-spanning migrations. During their travels, they constantly improved and changed themselves until they became masters of genetic and nanotechnological manipulation. With this ability to control the material world, they assumed a religious, self-imposed mission to “remake the universe as they saw fit.” Powerful as gods, Qu saw themselves as the divine harbingers of the future.

This dogma was rooted in what had been a benevolent attempt to protect the race from its own power. However, blind, unquestioning obedience had made monsters of the Qu.

To them, humanity, with all of its relative glories, was nothing more than a transmutable subject. Within less than a thousand years, every human world was destroyed, depopulated, or even worse; changed. Despite the fervent rearmament, the colonies could achieve nothing against their billion-year-old foes, save for a few flashes of ephemeral resistance.

Humanity, once the ruler of the stars, was now extinct. However, humans were not.

mezi spirálními rameny v epochálních migracích. Během cest se neustále zdokonalovali a pozměňovali, až se stali mistry genetické a nanotechnologické manipulace. Tuto schopnost ovládat hmotný svět využívali k plnění dobrovolné náboženské mise „přetvořit vesmír jak uznají za vhodné.” Jejich božská moc z nich dělala, ve vlastních očích, svaté posly budoucnosti.

Toto dogma pramenilo z benevolentního pokusu ochránit rasu před svou vlastní mocí. Slepá, nepodmíněná poslušnost z Qu ale udělala monstra.

Lidstvo, s celou svou relativní slávou, pro ně nepředstavovalo nic více než subjekt k přetvoření. Od prvního setkání neuběhlo ani tisíc let a každý lidský svět potkalo zničení, vyhubení, nebo ještě hůř, transformace. I přes horlivé zbrojení kolonie nedokázaly proti svým miliardu let starým nepřátelům nic kromě pomíjivého odporu.

Lidstvo, někdejší vládce hvězd, nyní vyhynulo. Člověk ale přežil.

Man Extinguished

The worlds of humanity, gardens of terraformed paradise, seemed strangely empty to the Qu. Often there were no raw materials available other than people, their cities, and a few basic niches of ecology, populated by genetically modified animals and plants from Earth. This was because humans had erased the original alien ecologies in the first place.

Offended by another race trying to remake the universe, the Qu set forth to punish these “infidels” by using them as the building materials of their vision. While this led to a complete extinguishment of human sentience, it also saved the species by preserving its genetic heritage in a myriad of strange new forms.

Populated by ersatz humans, now in every guise from wild animals to pets to genetically modified tools, Qu reigned supreme for forty million years on the worlds of our galaxy. They erected kilometer-high monuments and changed the surfaces of entire worlds, apparently to whim.

One day, they departed as they had come. For theirs was a never-ending quest, and

Vyhasnutí člověka

Světy lidstva byly jako zahrady teraformovaného ráje, ale pro Qu se zdály podivně prázdné. Často nebyly k dispozici žádné suroviny, pouze lidé, jejich města a pár jednoduchých ekosystémů, které sestávaly z geneticky modifikovaných zvířat a rostlin ze Země. Lidé původní mimozemské ekosystémy vymazali.

Pro Qu to byla ta největší možná urážka. Na přetvoření vesmíru měli právo pouze oni a ne tito „bezvěrci“. Jako stavební materiál pro svou vizi proto využili právě je. To znamenalo vyhasnutí lidské inteligence, ale také záchranu rasy zachováním genetického dědictví v nespočetně mnoha nových podivných podobách.

Qu panovali ze světů naší Galaxie čtyřicet milionů let. Člověka znetvořili do každé podoby od divoké zvěře po domácí mazlíčky a geneticky modifikované nástroje. Postavili monumentální, kilometry vysoké konstrukce a změnili povrch celých planet, zřejmě jen tak z rozmaru.

Jednoho dne zmizeli tak náhle, jako se objevili. Jejich poslání nemělo konce, a oni nechtěli, nemohli přestat, dokud neupraví celý vesmír.

they would not, could not stop until they had swept through the entire cosmos.

Behind them, the Qu left a thousand worlds, each filled with bizarre creatures and ecologies that had once been men. Most of them perished right after their caretakers left, others lasted a little longer to succumb to long-term instabilities. On a precious few worlds, descendants of people actually managed to survive.

In them lay the fate of the species, now divided and differentiated beyond recognition.

Worms

Their world lay under a scorching sun, its intensity made monstrous through the interventions of the bygone Qu. The surface lay littered with husks of dead cities, baking endlessly like shattered statues in a derelict oven.

Yet life remained in this unforgiving place. Forests of crystalline “plants” blanketed the surface, recycling oxygen for the animal life that teemed underground. One such species, barely longer than the arms of their ancestors, was the sole surviving vertebrate.

Zůstala po nich tisícovka světů, každý plný ekosystémů s tvory, kteří kdysi bývali člověkem. Většina těchto stvoření zahynula brzy po odchodu svých strůjců. Ostatní vydrželi trochu déle, ale podlehli dlouhodobé nestabilitě. Pouze vzácně se podařilo potomkům lidstva na svém světě přežít.

Skrýval se v nich potenciál lidského druhu, který byl nyní rozdělený a diferenciovaný za hranice rozpoznatelnosti.

Červi

Jejich svět ležel pod spalujícím sluncem, jehož intenzitu dávní Qu svými zásahy zvýšili na monstrózní úroveň. Povrch byl posetý zbytky opuštěných měst, které se navěky pekly jako roztráštěné sochy v zapomenuté troubě.

Přesto na tomto nemilosrdném místě zůstával život. Povrch pokrývaly lesy krystalických „rostlin”, které recyklovaly kyslík pro živočišný život bující v podzemí. Jedním z těchto živočichů, který byl sotva delší než paže svých předků, byl jediný

Furthermore, it was that planet's last heir of the star people.

Distorted beyond recognition by genetic modification, they looked for all the world like pale, overgrown worms. Tiny, feeble feet and hands modified for digging were all that betrayed their noble heritage. Aside from these organs, all was simplified for the life underground. Their eyes were pinpricks, they lacked teeth, external ears, and the better half of their nervous system.

The lives of these ersatz people did not extend beyond digging aimlessly. If they encountered food, they devoured it. If they encountered others of their kind, they sometimes devoured them too. But mostly they mated and multiplied, and managed to preserve a single shred of their humanity in their genes. In time, it would do them good.

Titans

On the endless savannah of a long-extinguished colonial outpost, enormous beasts roamed supreme. More than forty meters long by terrestrial measurements, these behemoths were actually the transmuted offspring of the Star People.

přežívající obratlovec. Kromě toho byl i jediný dědic Hvězdných lidí.

Rozsáhlá genetická modifikace je zdeformovala tak, že se jevíli jako bledí přerostlí červi. Drobné ochablé nohy a ruce modifikované k hrabání byly jediné, co prozrazovalo jejich vznešený původ. Kromě těchto orgánů bylo vše zjednodušeno pro účel života v podzemí. Jejich oči byly jako špendlíkové hlavičky, neměli zuby, vnější uši a ani dobrou polovinu nervové soustavy.

Tito znetvoření lidé vedli životy plné bezcílného tunelování hlínou. Když narazili na jídlo, sežrali ho. Když narazili na ostatní svého druhu, někdy je sežrali také. Většinou se ale pářili a rozmnožovali, a dokázali si zanechat jediný kousek lidskosti ve svých genech. To jim časem prospělo.

Titáni

Na nekonečné savaně dlouho vyhaslé kolonie se neohroženě potulovaly kolosální bestie. Pozemskými měřítky byli dlouzí přes čtyřicet metrů, přesto tito obři také patřili k přetvořeným potomkům Hvězdných lidí.

Several features betrayed their human ancestry. They still retained stubby thumbs on their elephantine front feet, now useless for any sort of precise manipulation except for uprooting trees. They compensated this loss by developing their lower lip into a muscular, trunk like organ that echoed the elephants of Earth's past.

As bestial as they seemed, the Titans were among the smartest of the reduced sub-men that remained in the galaxy. Their hulking stance allowed for a developed brain and gradually, sentience re--emerged. With their lip-trunks they fashioned ornate wood carvings, erected hangar--like dwellings and even began a form of primitive agriculture. With settled life came the inevitable flood of language and literature; myths and legends of the bygone, half--remembered past were told in booming voices across the vast plains.

It was easy to see that, within a few hundred thousand years, Humanity could start again with these titanic primitives. Sadly, as a catastrophic ice-age took over the Titans' homeworld the gentle giants disappeared, never to return.

Jejich lidský původ prozrazovalo několik rysů. Na slonovitých předních nohách si zachovali pahýlky, pradávňé palce, které dávno ztratily schopnost precizní manipulace a sloužily pouze na vytrhávání stromů. Jako kompenzace této ztráty se jejich spodní ret vyvinul ve svalnatý, chobotovitý orgán, který připomínal slony z minulosti Země.

Vypadali sice monstrózně, ale mezi poníženyými podlidmi, kteří v Galaxii přežívali, byli Titáni jedni z nejchytřejších. Mohutná postava umožňovala vývin mozku a postupně se jim začala vracet lidská inteligence. Svými chobotorty vytvářeli zdobené dřevorezby, stavěli hangárovité obydlí a dokonce začali vynalézat primitivní formy zemědělství. Přejchod na usedlou společnost přinesl záplavu jazyků a literatury a rozlehlými pláněmi se začaly ozývat dunivé hlasy, které vyprávěly mýty a legendy o dávné, napůl pamatované minulosti.

Bylo snadné poznat, že během pár set tisíců let by těmito gigantickými primitivy mohlo lidstvo znovu začít. Bohužel svět Titánů začala sužovat katastrofální doba ledová, něžní obři vymizeli a už se nevrátili.

Predators and Prey

Devolved predators were common among humanity's feral worlds. Most of the time they resembled the vampires, werewolves and goblins of bygone lore; hunting equally sub-human prey with a combination of derived weaponry. Some had enormous heads with large, killing teeth. Others tore their victims apart with talon--like feet. But the most common kinds bore modified fingers and thumbs, bristling with razor-sharp claws.

The most efficient of these predators lived on one of mankind's first off-world colonies. In addition to paw-like hands with switchblade thumbs they also had gaping, tooth studded jaws on disproportionate heads with large, sensitive ears. All of these served to make them the dominant predators on their home planet.

They ran the prairies, stalked the forests and ranged through the mountains in pursuit of different people; herbivorous saltators with bird--like legs. While their prey lapsed into complete animosity, the hunters managed to keep the spark of intelligence alive in their evolutionary honing.

Predátoři a oběti

Na lidských divokých světech se běžně vyskytovali zpětně vyvinutí predátoři. Většinou se podobali upírům, vlkodlakům a skřetům z dávných bájí. Svou stejně podlidskou kořist lovíli kombinací odvozené výzbroje. Někteří měli ohromné hlavy s velkými zabíjáckými zuby. Ostatní své oběti trhali na kusy pařátovitýma nohama. Nejběžnější druhy ale měly modifikované prsty a palce s odstrašujícími drápy ostrými jako břitvy.

Nejzdatnější z těchto predátorů žili na jedné z prvních lidských kolonií. Měli nejen tlapovité ruce s palci jako vystřelovací čepele, ale i tělu nepřiměřené hlavy s velkýma, citlivýma ušima a se širokou tlamou posetou tesáky. Všechny tyto vlastnosti z nich činily na své domovské planetě dominantní predátory.

Pobíhali po travnatých stepích, číhali v lesích a prolézali hory ve snaze pronásledovat ostatní lidi - býložravé caprioly s ptačíma nohama. Zatímco jejich kořist propadla kompletní otupělosti, lovci si dokázali při evoluční cestě zachovat jiskru inteligence.

Mantelopes

Not all devolved people lapsed into complete bestiality. Some held on to their minds, while losing all of their physiological advantages to the genetic meddling of the Qu.

A singular species was a prime exemplar. They had been bred as singers and memory-retainers, acting much like living recorders during the reign of Qu. When their masters left they barely survived, reverting into a quadrupedal stance and occupying a niche as grazing herd animals. This change was so abrupt that the newly evolved Mantelopes endured only due to the forgiving sterility of their artificial biosphere.

The Mantelopes, equipped with full (if slightly numbed) Human minds and completely disabled animal bodies, lived agonizing lives. They could see and understand the world around them, but due to their bodies they could do nothing to change it. For centuries, mournful herds roamed the plains, singing songs of desperation and loss. Entire religions and oral traditions were woven around this crippling racial disability, as dramatic and detailed as any on bygone Earth.

Lidolopy

Ne ze všech zdeformovaných lidí se stala nemyslicí zvířata. Někteří si udrželi mysl, i když přišli o všechny fyziologické výhody kvůli genetickým hrátkám Qu.

Jeden druh byl ukázkovým příkladem. Lidolopy se vzhledem podobaly pozemským antilopám, ale ovládaly jazyk a měly skvěle vyvinutou paměť. Během nadvlády je Qu využívali jako zpěváky a jako živoucí záznamníky. Odchod svých pánů málem nepřežily. Vrátily se k čtyřnohému zvířecímu životu a usadily se v ekosystému jako stáda spásačů. Tato změna byla tak náhlá, že ji nově vyvinuté Lidolopy přežily jen díky shovívavému sterilnímu prostředí umělé biosféry.

Lidolopy sice měly plně lidskou (i když trochu otupělou) inteligenci, ale postižená zvířecí těla dělala z jejich života utrpení. Svět kolem sebe viděly a rozuměly mu, ale kvůli svým tělům ho nemohly nijak ovlivnit. Celá staletí se truchlící stáda potulovala pláněmi a zpívala písně plné zoufalství a ztráty. Na tomto ochromujícím rasovém postižení postavily celá náboženství i lidové tradice, které byly stejně dramatické a podrobné jako na dávné Zemi.

Fortunately, the selective forces of evolution made their agony a short-lived one. Simply put, a brain was not advantageous to develop if it could not be put into good use. A dim-witted, half minded Mantelope grew up faster than a smart one, and grazed just as efficiently. The Mantelopes' animal children overtook them in less than a hundred thousand years, and their melancholic world fell silent for good. Nothing was sacred in the evolutionary process.

Swimmers

Perhaps because their life cycle involved an aquatic larval stage, the Qu had transmuted a large number of their human subjects into a bewildering array of aquatic creatures. Taken care of by specially-bred attendants, these post-human water babies came in every shape and size imaginable. There were limbless, ribbon like varieties of eel-people, huge, whale like behemoths, decorative people who swam by squirting water out of their hypertrophied mouths and horrifying multitudes of brainless wallowers that served as food stock.

All of them were perfectly domesticated. All of them went extinct when their masters left.

Selektivní síly evoluce jejich trápení naštěstí brzy ukončily. Jednoduše řečeno, vývin mozku nebyl výhodný, když neměl žádné využití. Hloupá, polomyslná Lidolopa vyrůstala rychleji než ta chytrá a pásala se úplně stejně. Zvířecí děti Lidolop je předstihly za méně než sto tisíc let a jejich melancholický svět nadobro utichl. Evolučnímu procesu nebylo nic svaté.

Plavci

Životní cyklus Qu obsahoval vodní larvální stadium, snad proto přetvořili mnoho lidských subjektů na překvapivě rozmanité vodní tvory. Speciálně vyšlechtili sluhy, kteří se starali o tyto palidská vodní nemluvňata všech možných představitelných tvarů a rozměrů. Mezi nimi byli stužkovití úhořolidé bez končetin, velrybí giganti, ozdobní lidé, kteří se pohybovali vystřikováním vody z hypertrofovaných úst, a děsivý zástup bezmozkých vznášejících se tvorů, kteří sloužili jen jako potrava pro ostatní.

Všichni byli perfektně domestikovaní. Jakmile je jejich páni opustili, všichni

All save a few lightly mutated, generalized forms. These swimmers still resembled their human ancestors to a large degree; they had no artificial gills, their hands were still visible through their front flippers, their feet were splayed affairs that functioned like a pair of tail flukes. Recognizably human eyes peeked through their blubbery eyelids and they spoke to each other, though not in words and never in sentient understanding.

For millennia they swam the oceans of their ecologically stunted world, feeding on diversifying kinds of fish and crustaceans; survivors of the food stock originally imported from Earth. With the intervention of the Qu gone, natural selection resumed. The swimmers became more streamlined to better catch their fast prey. The prey responded by getting even faster, or evolving defensive countermeasures such as armor, spikes or poison. Their evolution back on track, the swimmers drifted further and further away from their sentient ancestry. They would wait for a long time indeed to taste that blessing again.

vyhynuli. Jen pár lehce zmutovaným zobecněným druhům se podařilo přežít. Tito Plavci se do značné míry stále podobali svým lidským předkům. Neměli umělé žábry, i přes přední ploutve byly jejich ruce viditelné a roztažené nohy sloužily jako dvojice ploutví ocasních. Zpoza ztukovatělých víček jim vykukovaly rozpoznatelně lidské oči a dokonce na sebe mluvili, ale ne slovně a nikdy s vyvinutým porozuměním.

Tisíciletí plavali v oceánech svého ekologicky zaostalého světa a živili se různými druhy ryb a korýšů, kterým se podařilo přežít. Původně je sem lidé dovezli ze Země jako zdroj potravy, ale s koncem zásahů Qu se vrátil přirozený výběr a život se začal diverzifikovat. Plavci ztratili křivky, aby méně odporovali vodě a lépe chytali svou mrštnou kořist. Ta se na oplátku stala ještě rychlejší, nebo si vyvinula obranu, jako brnění, bodce nebo jed. Evoluce byla znovu v plném proudu a Plavci se čím dál více vzdalovali svým myslícím předkům. Požehnání inteligence ještě opravdu dlouho nepocítili.

Lizard Herders

They were the lucky ones. Instead of unrecognizably distorting them as they had done to most of their subjects, the Qu had merely erased their sentience and stunted the development of their brains.

Distantly resembling their ancient forebears on Earth, the primitives led feral lives for an unnaturally long time. They never regained sentience after the Qu left, despite having every incentive to do so. This was partially due to the total absence of predators on their garden world, resulting in no advantage for intelligence. Furthermore, the Qu had made some small but integral changes to their brains, tweaking with the structure of cerebellum so that certain features associated with heuristic learning could never emerge again. Once again, the reasons for these baffling changes remained known only to the Qu.

The dumb people eventually settled in a symbiosis with some of the other creatures that inhabited their planet. They began to instinctively “farm” some of the large, herbivorous reptiles, ancestors of which were brought from Earth as pets.

Pastýři plazů

Ti měli štěstí. Qu je nezkřivili k nepoznání, jako učinili většině ostatních subjektů, ale zničili jim lidskou mysl a omezili vývin jejich mozků.

Zdánlivě se podobali svým pradávným předkům ze Země, ale tito primitivové vedli divoké životy nepřírozeně dlouhou dobu. Po odchodu Qu nikdy nezískali zpět lidskou inteligenci, i když k tomu měli dostatek podnětů. Z části nesla vinu totální absence predátorů na jejich zahradním světě, která znamenala, že inteligence nepřinášela žádnou výhodu. Qu také provedli nepatrné, ale integrální změny v jejich mozcích. Poupravili strukturu mozečku tak, aby se některé funkce spojené s heuristickým učením nemohly nikdy znovu objevit. Důvod těchto nepochopitelných změn znovu zůstal tajemstvím Qu.

Tito přihlouplí lidé se nakonec na své planetě usadili v symbióze s některými ostatními tvory. Instinktivně začali „obhospodařovat“ některé velké, býložravé plazy, kteří byli potomky domácích mazlíčků dovezených ze Země.

Rovnováha vzájemného vztahu se brzy začala naklánět ve prospěch plazů. Tropické

Soon the balance of this mutualism began to tip in the reptiles' favor. The tropical climate of the planet gave them an inherent advantage, and they underwent a spectacular radiation of different species. They encountered no competition from the only large mammals on the planet; the brain--neutered descendants of the starfarers. Faced with a reptilian turnover, the only adaptation the sub--men could muster was to slip quietly into bestial oblivion.

Temptor

In the Temptors' case, the remodeling was done with an almost artistic enthusiasm. How they managed to survive in their bizarre form was not clear; their ancestors were used as sessile decoration and through some miracle of adaptation they had endured.

No human would have recognized them as their descendants. The females were beaked cones of flesh some two meters tall, rooted in soil like grotesque carnivorous plants. The males on the other hand, resembled contorted, bipedal monkeys. Unlike their mates they were perfectly ambulatory; dozens of them ran around the females'

klima planety jim dávalo přirozenou výhodu, a proto zažili pozoruhodný rozptyl na několik nových druhů. Od jediných velkých savců, mozkově sterilizovaných potomků hvězdoplavců, se žádného odporu nedočkali. I když čelili plazímu převratu, jediná adaptace, na kterou se podlidé zmohli, byl pomalý úpadek do zvířecího zapomnění.

Sváděči

V případě Sváděčů provedli Qu přemodelování až s uměleckým nadšením. Nebylo jasné, jak se jim vůbec podařilo přežít ve svojí bizarní podobě. Jejich předci sloužili jako usedlá dekorace a nějakou zázračnou adaptací se dokázali udržet naživu.

Jako své potomky by je žádný člověk nerozeznal. Samice se podobaly masitému, zobákovitému kornoutu. Do výšky zhruba dvou metrů vyčnívaly ze země, kde byly zakořeněné jako groteskní masožravé rostliny. Samci se zase podobali zkrouceným, dvounohým opicím, ale na rozdíl od svých družek byli perfektně

mounds like so many imps. Some would gather food, others would clean the females while others would stand on guard for danger. Although their actions looked purposeful, the males had no will of their own.

In Temptor society, females controlled everything. Using a combination of vocal and pheromonal signals, they guided the masculine hordes into any number of menial tasks, while mating with the strongest, the most obedient and the dumbest to produce even better drones. On certain periods they would also give birth to a few precious females, who would be carried away by subservient males to root themselves.

It was a terribly efficient hegemony that would certainly give rise to civilization in a matter of centuries had fate not intervened. As a stray comet obliterated the Temptors' mound forests, one of Humanity's best chances for re-emergence was cruelly swept away.

Bone Crusher

Through the deliberate modifications of Qu and the blind molding of evolution, the heavens came to be populated with creatures

schopni chodit. Běhali kolem kopečků samic jako regiment skřítků. Někteří chodili sbírat potravu, ostatní čistili samice, zatímco jiní byli na strážích kvůli případnému nebezpečí. Jejich chování se jevilo jako úmyslné, ale samci vlastní vůli neměli.

Ve sváděčské společnosti měli nad vším kontrolu samice. Kombinací hlasových a feromonálních signálů naváděly mužské hordy k fyzické práci a vybíraly si k páření ty nejsilnější, nejposlušnější a nejtupější, aby zplodily ještě lepší dělníky. V určitých obdobích porodily i pár vzácných samiček, které poddaní samci záhy odnesli na místo vhodné pro zakořenění.

Byla to strašlivě efektivní nadvláda, která by se během pár staletí jistě dopracovala k civilizaci. Osud měl ale jiné plány. Zbloudilá kometa zdevastovala jejich lány kopečků, a tím bezcitně vymazala jednu z nejlepších šancí na návrat člověka.

Drtikosti

Záměrnou modifikací Qu a slepým modelováním evoluce se nebesa zaplnila

that would put the myths of their ancestors to shame.

Their ancestors were pint-sized pets of Qu that were bred for the dazzling colors of their tooth-derived beaks. When their masters left, most of these pampered creatures died, with no one or nothing left to take care of them.

But some, belonging to the hardiest breeds, survived. In less than a geological eyeblink of a few million years, the descendants of such creatures radiated into the evolutionary vacuum of their garden world. One lineage led to a profusion of human herbivores. These were preyed upon by a variety of enamel-beaked raptors, each evolved to deal with a specific prey. Among these generalized niches were entire assemblages of specialized animals, resembling anything from ibis-billed swamp sifters to splendorous forms with bizarre crests that flared out of their toothy beaks.

There were even secondarily sentient forms, in the shape of the ogre-like bone crushers. To an observer of today they would indeed be the stuff of nightmares; three meters tall and hairy, sporting vicious thumb claws and

stvořeními, která by zahanbila i mýty svých předků.

Jejich první pozměnění předkové byli maličkými mazlíčky Qu, kteří jim přemodelovali zuby na zářivě zbarvené zobáky. Když je jejich páni opustili, nezůstal nikdo ani nic, co by se o ně postaralo a většina těchto zhýčkaných tvorů zemřela.

Pouze někteří jedinci nejvytrvalejších druhů dokázali přežít. Pár milionů let je v geologickém měřítku sotva mrknutí oka, ale potomkům těchto tvorů to stačilo k pestrému vývinu různých poddruhů, které zaplnily evoluční vakuum svého zahradního světa. Jedna rodová linie vedla k hojnosti lidských býložravců. Na těch si pochutnávaly různé druhy dravců se zobáky ze skloviny. Každý druh se vyvinul, aby co nejlépe zvládl svoji kořist. Mezi těmito obecnými druhy byly celé zástupy rozmanitých zvířat, která se podobala všemu od prosévačů bažin se srpovitými zobáky až po skvostné druhy s bizarními chocholkami, které se rozvíjely ze zubatých zobáků.

Byly tu i druhotně cítící bytosti, obrovití Drtikosti. Dnešnímu pozorovateli by opravdu připadali jako z noční můry. Byli tři metry vysokí a chlupatí a na palcích měli

enormous beaks that suited their scavenging diet.

Despite their shortcomings, these corpse-eating primitives were one of the first species to attain intelligence, and although primitive, a level of civilization. All of this proved the fallacy of human prejudice in the posthuman galaxy. A creature could feed on putrefying meat, stink like a grave and express its affection by defecating on others, but it might as well be your own grandchild and the last hope of mankind.

In eventuality, however, not even the bone crushers fulfilled this promise. Their dependency on carrion for food limited their population severely, and their mediaeval civilizations crumbled after a few uneventful millennia.

Colonials

Their world had given the toughest resistance against the Qu onslaught. So tough, in fact, that they had turned back two successive waves of the invaders, only to succumb to the third.

The Qu, with their twisted sense of justice, wanted to make them pay. Even extinction

děšivé drápy. Jakožto mrchožrouti měli i ohromné zobáky.

I přes některé nedostatky byli tito primitivní pojídači mrtvol jedním z prvních druhů, který dosáhl inteligence a vytvořil, i když primitivní, civilizace. Jejich existence uvedla do omylu lidské předsudky, které v polidské Galaxii neměly místo. Sice požírali hnijící maso, páchli jako hrob a vyjadřovali náklonnost kálením na ostatní, ale mohli by to být vaše vlastní vnoučata a zároveň poslední naděje lidstva.

Postupem času ale ani Drtikosti nedokázali tento příslib naplnit. Jejich závislost na mršinách jako potravě výrazně omezovala populaci a jejich středověké civilizace se zbrobili po pár nepozoruhodných tisíciletích.

Koloniálové

Jejich svět odolával náporu Qu nejdéle. Odolával tak tvrdě, že se obráncům podařilo odrazit dvě vlny invazí, než konečně podlehlí té třetí.

Qu je za to chtěli potrestat, ale jejich zvrácený smysl pro spravedlnost neumožňoval tak mírný trest jako vyhlazení.

would be too light a punishment for resisting the star gods. The humans of the rogue world needed a sentence that would remind them of their humiliation for generations to come.

So they were made into disembodied cultures of skin and muscle, connected by a skimpy network of the most basic nerves. They were employed as living filtering devices, subsisting on the waste products of Qu civilization like mats of cancer cells. And just to witness and suffer their wretched fate, their eyes, together with their consciousness, were retained.

For forty million years they suffered; generation after generation were born into the most miserable of lives while absorbing the pain of all that they were going through.

When the Qu left, they hoped for a quick extinction. But their lowliness had also made them efficient survivors. Unchecked by the Qu, the colonials spread across the planet in quilt-like fields of human flesh. After an eternity of tortured lives, the human fields tasted something that could almost be described as hope.

Za vzdorování hvězdným bohům odsoudili obyvatele neposlušného světa k ponížení, které budou pociťovat celé generace.

Přetvořili je do beztvárné hromady kůže a svalů, která byla propojena řídkou základní soustavou nervů. Qu je používali jako živoucí filtrační zařízení, která přežívala na odpadních produktech jejich civilizace jako rohože rakovinných buněk. Zachovali jejich oči a vědomí, jen aby co nejjasněji pociťovali svůj mizerný osud plný utrpení.

Trpěli čtyřicet milionů let. Generace za generací prožívala tento ubohý život a plně chápala zoufalství situace.

Když je Qu opustili, doufali v rychlé vyhnutí. Ale jejich jednoduchost je činila velice odolnými. Bez kontroly Qu se Koloniálové rozprostřeli po celé planetě jako nekonečná deka z lidského masa. Po věčném mučení pociťovala lidská pole něco, co se téměř dalo popsat jako naděje.

Flyers

They were not uncommon at all in the domain of Qu. At least a dozen worlds sported human-derived flying species of one kind or another. Most resembled the bats or the pterosaurs of the bygone past, dancing through the aether like angels. (Or demons, depending on the point of view.) There were a few bizarre kinds relied on swollen gas glands for floatation as well.

Sadly, most of these creatures were already too specialized to be anything but flyers. They had forsaken their humanity for the conquest of the sky; they had little potential for further radiation beyond their limited roles.

The only exception proved out to be a monkey-like species that flew on wing membranes stretched across the last two fingers. Their advantage was a unique, turbine like heart, artificially developed during the regime of Qu. No other human flyer in the galaxy had such an adaptation. The starfish shaped organ sat in the middle of their chests, directly funneling oxygen from the lungs to the bloodstream in a supremely efficient way. This meant that the Flyers could develop energy-consuming

Létači

V říši Qu nebyli zdaleka neobvyklí. Nejméně tucet světů byl domovem pro palidské létající tvory toho či onoho druhu. Většina se podobala netopýrům nebo pterosaurům z dávné minulosti. Tancovali na nebi jako andělé. (Nebo démoni, záleží na úhlu pohledu.) Někteří bizarnější z nich se vznášeli pomocí zduřelých žláz plných plynu.

Bohužel, většina těchto tvorů byla až moc specializovaná na to, aby se stali čímkoliv jiným než letci. Pozbyli své lidskosti ve prospěch dobytí oblohy. Jejich potenciál vyvinout se do jiných rolí byl těžce limitovaný.

Jedinou výjimku tvořil druh podobný opicím, který létal pomocí blán roztažených mezi dvěma posledními prsty. Jejich výhodou bylo unikátní, turbínovité srdce, které jim uměle vyvinuli Qu během svého režimu. Takovou adaptaci neměl žádný jiný druh lidských letců v celé Galaxii. Hvězdicovitý orgán se nacházel uprostřed hrudi a mimořádně účinně tlačil kyslík z plic přímo do krevního oběhu. To znamenalo, že si Létači mohli vyvinout energeticky

adaptations such as large brains without having to give up their power of flight.

Not that the flyers were going to reclaim their sentience right away. Instead, they literally exploded into skies, filling the heavens with anything from bomber-sized sailers to impossibly fast predators that raced with sound. Their world was pristine and there were plenty of niches to play in. Intelligence could wait a little more.

Hand Flappers

Some flying posthumans re--approached sentience in an entirely different way. Without the augmented metabolisms or the gravitational advantages of their siblings on distant planets, they had no choice but to give up their power of flight in order to develop further.

The Hand Flappers were one such species. Their wings, once used for butterfly--like flutters in the unearthly gardens of Qu, had shrunken and reverted back into their manual condition. Their legs were likewise re--adapted, but they bore a splayed awkwardness from their perching ancestry.

náročné adaptace jako velké mozky, aniž by se museli vzdát schopnosti létat.

Inteligenci Létači nezískali zpátky hned. Místo toho se doslova vyhodili do povětří a zaplnili nebesa vším od plachtičů velkých jako bombardér až po neuvěřitelně rychlé predátory, kteří závodili s rychlostí zvuku. Jejich svět byl nedotčený a měl spoustu nezaplňených evolučních koutů, v kterých si mohli Létači vyhrát. Intelligence musela ještě chvíli počkat.

Mávači

Někteří létající polidé se vraceli k inteligenci zcela jinou cestou. Bez vylepšeného metabolismu a gravitačních výhod jejich sourozenců na vzdálených planetách neměli jinou možnost, než vzdát se schopnosti létat, aby se mohli dál vyvíjet.

Mávači byli jedním z takových druhů. Jejich křídla, kterými kdysi třepetali jako motýli v nadpozemských zahradních světech Qu, se scvrkla, až se z nich téměř znovu staly ruce. Nohy se přeadaptovaly podobně, ale zůstaly nešikovně sešikmené kvůli jejich ptačím předkům.

Only a singular, and an almost sadistically simple flaw held them back from developing civilization. In the course of their secondary atrophy, the wings of the Hand Flappers had become useless as hands as well. Their flag like appendages were very useful in signaling and mating dances, but they couldn't hurl missiles, construct shelter or even manufacture basic stone tools. All that they could do with their useless hands was to display each others' sexual availability, so the Hand Flappers did just that; flashing and dancing their way to oblivion.

Blind Folk

When the Qu came they dug in, and dug in deep. Inside several continent-sized shelters under their besieged world, they waited for the invaders to pass them by. It was a futile gamble. The Qu located the shelter--caves and remade their inhabitants without effort.

The shelters became home to an entirely different ecology, a realm of perpetual darkness, fueled by the trickle of water and nutrients from the world outside. A surprisingly complex ecology developed on this scant resource; gigantic pale insects; the descendants of common household pests,

Ve vytvoření civilizace jim ale bránila jediná, skoro až sadistická vada. Atrofování křídel je znehodnotilo nejen jako křídla, ale i ruce. Vlajkovité končetiny se hodily na signalizaci a pářící tance, ale rakety odpalovat nemohly, stavět přístřešky také ne a nemohly ani vyrábět základní kamenné nástroje. Jediné co mohli nepoužitelnýma rukama dělat, bylo vystavovat sexuální dostupnost. A tak činili, až dotančili do záhuby.

Nevidomci

Když přišli Qu, zakopali se, a to velmi hluboko. Doufali, že invazi svého obleženého světa přečkají v bunkrech velkých jako světadíl, ale sázka se jim nevyplatila. Qu jeskynní úkryty našli a jejich obyvatele bez námahy přetvořili.

Úkryty se staly domovem pro úplně jiný svět, který ve věčné tmě přežíval jen díky pramínkům vody a živin z venčí. Překvapivě se z tohoto mizivého zdroje vyvinul komplexní ekosystém. Obří vybledlí brouci, potomci běžných domácích škůdců, soutěžili o pole přerostlých hub s ptáky a

competed with Dali-esque birds and rodents over fields of overgrown fungi. Predators were not uncommon; almost crocodilian fish patrolled the underground streams and vast blind bats, echolocating with unnerving precision, took their toll on the residents of the cave floor. The kilometer-high ceilings of the shelters glowed in the dark with protean constellations of bioluminescent fungi, and in some cases, animals.

People were present here as well, albeit in unfamiliar forms. They were more often heard than seen, as they tried to find their way in the dark with banshee--like screams. These albino troglodytes lived in a realm where sound and touch, not sight, was the gateway of perception. They had developed long, tactile fingers, enormous whiskers and mobile ears to live in the dark. Where their eyes should have been, there was nothing but a patch of haunting, flawlessly smooth skin. Their perfect adaptation to the world of darkness had erased the most basic feature of human recognition.

As adapted as they were, they were doomed. Before the Blind Folk could develop any kind of intelligence to crawl out of their geographical graves, the glacial constriction

hlodavci, kteří byli jako z obrazu od Dalího. Neobvyklí nebyli ani predátoři. Skoro až krokodýlí ryby hlídkovaly v podzemních tocích a ohromní slepí netopýři, kteří se echolokací pohybovali děsivě přesně, si vybírali svou daň na obyvatelích jeskynního povrchu. Kilometry vysoké stropy úkrytů zářily jako pohyblivé souhvězdí bioluminiscenčních hub a, v některých případech, i zvířat.

Přítomni byli i lidé, ačkoli neobvyklých tvarů. Častěji byli slyšet než vidět, jelikož se ve tmě orientovali pomocí pronikavých výkřiků. Tito troglodytní albíni žili v království tmy, kde místo dotyku a zraku byl králem sluch. Pro život bez světla se jim vyvinuly dlouhé citlivé prsty, obří vousky a pohyblivé uši. Na místě očí měli jen děsivě prázdnou hebkou kůži. Perfektní adaptace na svět temnoty je připravila o ten nejzákladnější lidský rys.

Jakkoli byli adaptovaní, zkáze uniknout nedokázali. Než si Nevidomci mohli vyvinout inteligenci a vyhrabat se z ohromných hrobů, pohyb zemských desek jejich úkryty jeden po druhém zničil.

of their World's continental plates snuffed out the shelters one by one.

Lopsiders

The Qu were grotesquely creative in their redesign of the human worlds. One group of misfortunate souls they transported to a planet with thirty--six times the amount of "normal" gravity, and made them over for life in this bizarrely inhospitable realm.

The results of these experiments resembled nightmare sketchings of Bosch, Dali or Picasso. They looked like cripples squashed between sheets of glass. Three out of their four limbs had become paddle--like organs for crawling; only one of their arms remained as spindly tool of manipulation. This singular, wizened limb also doubled as an extra sensor, like the antennae of an insect.

Their faces were different horrors altogether. All pretensions of symmetry; the hallmark of terrestrial animals from jawless fish onwards, were completely and utterly done away with. One bulging eye stared directly upward while the other scanned ahead, in the direction of the creature's

Jednostranci

Výtvary Qu na některých lidských světech byly až groteskně kreativní. Jednu skupinu nešťastlivců transportovali na planetu s třicetišesti násobkem „obvyklé“ gravitace a přetvořili je k životu na tomto bizarně nehostinném světě.

Výsledky těchto experimentů se podobaly hrůzným skicám od Bosche, Daliho nebo Picassa. Vypadaly jako postižení, jako by byly zmáčknutí mezi dvěma tabulemi skla. Tři z jejich čtyř končetin se staly pádlovitými orgány, kterými se plazily. Jen jedna jejich vytáhlá ruka byla použitelná k manipulaci. Tato jediná štíhlá končetina fungovala také jako další senzor, jako anténa nějakého brouka.

Jejich obličeje byly ještě hrůznější. O jakékoliv symetrii se nedalo uvažovat, i když je to jedním z nejzákladnějších rysů živočichů už od bezčelistnatých ryb. Jedno vypouklé oko zíralo přímo nahoru a druhé dopředu k čelistem tvora, které se otvíraly vertikálně. Uši byly podobně zkřivené.

vertically-opening jaws. The ears were likewise distorted.

Monstrous as they looked, these ex-men thrived in their heavy--gravity environment.

Once again there was the usual explosion of species into every available niche, and the Lopsiders consolidated their chances for a renewed sentience.

Vypadali sice monstrózně, ale těmto bývalým lidem se v silné gravitaci dařilo.

Znovu nastala exploze různých druhů všemožných rolí a Jednostranci upevnili svoje šance na obnovu inteligence.

3 Theoretical part

Possibly the most important part of the job of a translator is to read the source material well and to understand what the original author is trying to convey, who they are conveying it to, the methods they use and why they are doing so. Knittlová divides the broader process into two stages: the “macroapproach”, where the translator first regards the work and its context as a whole, before using a “microview” to analyze the implementation of structures in the text (21).

The impressions on the reader summarized in the introduction of this thesis are the conclusion of the macroapproach. Every decision made afterwards was in service to preserve these impressions. Problems with preservation can be identified in several different areas, but the ones deemed most central to the source text are: information value, stylistic value and entertainment value. The term “value” is used as “the resulting subjective opinion of the reader”, rather than an objective assignment of merit. Ideally, the reader would consider the values of both versions of the text as the same.

Depending on the source text, it could be argued that other values should also be preserved. For example, the local flavor of the language, the cultural references, or in the case of poetry, a specific type of rhyme. These other values are of no less importance than the ones chosen, but they were deemed to be too rare, or not present at all, in the English text to warrant their analysis in this thesis.

The following sections are by no means an exhaustive analysis of every problem encountered during the translation. They are meant to be focused on the largest issues with justification of representative examples. Several of them can be problematic in more than just the area they are listed under, but for the sake of showcasing a wider part of the text, they are not repeated in multiple sections.

3.1 The problem of preservation of information value

Information value refers to the meanings of words, phrases and clauses, and the feelings, thoughts and images they are meant to evoke in the reader. The aim is to select words and structures which convey the same information value as the source text. Problems arise when the translator misunderstands the relations between words or when they are unfamiliar with a non-literal phrase like an idiom or metaphor. However, these are problems with language familiarity rather than with translation itself (Levý 50).

A framework is required to analyze meanings in a consistent way. One such framework is to divide the meaning of a word into denotative and connotative. Denotative meaning refers to the information expressed by a word that is related to the fact or concept the word describes (Knittlová 41). Languages describe phenomena in different ways, which leads to interesting problems related to the existence of words that describe similar phenomena across languages. Georges Mounin explores these differences without explicitly naming them denotative meaning, but the reference seems to be the same (60). Since the translation in this thesis is between English and Czech, both being European languages of societies that are not radically different in their way of life, there are few concepts in the text that possess a name in one language but not the other.

Connotative meaning generally conveys how the reader is supposed to feel, but it is possible for the connotation of a word to be so strong, that it overshadows the denotative meaning (Knittlová 55). Given the text is written matter-of-factly, with barely any emotional language and a total lack of perspective from individual characters, connotative meaning is not explicitly explored in specific examples in this section.

3.1.1 Verbs with different denotative meanings

A real issue presents itself upon closer analysis of all denotative meanings of verbs. Knittlová illustrates an incongruence between English and Czech verbs, where she points out that even a “basic” verb such as “to go” can be translated in several different ways depending on the context of its use (42). This is because the most common translation, “jít”, includes information about the method of transport, in this case walking, which the English verb does not include. Knittlová explains this is a fundamental difference between the two languages: “English verbs are closer to relators, connecting elements between nominal bearers of

meaning, whereas in Czech, the fundamental bearer of meaning is the verb” (42). Therefore, the translation of the verb from English to Czech, often necessitates a “hyponym”, a word with a more specific meaning, not necessarily because of a decision by the translator, but because Czech verbs tend to carry more information.

Example:

<p>When everything was ready, <i>people came</i> from their crowded world. They came in one-way ships...</p>	<p>Když bylo vše připraveno, přišli ze svého ve švech praskajícího světa samotní lidé. Přiletěli na jednosměrných lodích...</p>
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The verb “came” is translated differently in the two sentences. The first “came” is translated as “přišli”, used in its most general sense, ignoring the added method of walking. There is no Czech verb that would convey the same meaning with the same generality. The second English sentence explains the method using a nominal construction, but the verb does not need to change since it possesses no method of its own. In the Czech version, “přiletěli” is used instead, because the now concretized method of transport would not be respected by “přišli”.

3.1.2 Translation of animal features

An interesting difference between Czech and English was encountered when translating the bodily features of aquatic animals.

Example:

<p>...their hands were still visible through their front flippers, their feet were splayed affairs that functioned like a pair of tail flukes.</p>	<p>...i přes přední ploutve byly jejich ruce viditelné a roztažené nohy sloužily jako dvojice ploutví ocasních.</p>
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When mentioning the appendages of aquatic animals, “fin” and “flipper” are defined differently in scientific articles. For example, they can be defined as such: “Flippers are modified forelimbs that can be moved freely, whereas a dorsal fin is composed of skin, fat and connective tissue, with no bones or muscles, and it cannot be moved” (Okamura et al.). They use the term “fluke” to refer to a part of the caudal, or tail fin (Gough Figure 1). Translating all of these terms as “ploutev” therefore loses denotative meaning, but Czech does not possess terms with the same specificity to enable a different translation. A surface-level explanation might be that, since Czech is only spoken in one landlocked country, the vocabulary for the morphology of aquatic animals is not as diverse. The question of how languages evolve to not distinguish between two objectively different phenomena could be a focus of future studies beyond the scope of this thesis.

3.1.3 Sentience

The term “sentience” is difficult to translate as “there is no universally accepted definition of sentience” (Proctor). In the English text, Kosemen refers to “human” sentience one time. Other usages do not include the word “human”, but the context makes it clear that it is something only certain forms of life possess. It is implied that it is a kind of state of mind or capability of the brain that is not accessible to the majority of transformed humans.

Example 1:

...the Qu had merely erased their sentience and stunted the development of their brains.	...ale zničili jim lidskou mysl a omezili vývin jejich mozků.
---	--

Example 2:

Recognizably human eyes peeked through their blubbery eyelids and they spoke to each other, though not in words and never in sentient understanding .	Zpoza ztukovatělých víček jim vykukovaly rozpoznatelně lidské oči a dokonce na sebe mluvili, ale ne slovně a nikdy s vyvinutým porozuměním .
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Since the denotative meaning is hard to clearly define, it is difficult to analyze whether information is gained or lost in translation. Some of the possible Czech versions are: “vědomí”, “intelligence”, “vnímání”, “vjem”, “chápání”, “porozumění”, “cítění”. It can be argued that all of them should be used with the modifier “lidské” to make the meaning more specific, as they can all be used to mean something different from the human experience of sentience. It can be equally argued that, due to the inherent intuitiveness of the meaning, all of these words can be considered interchangeable. As such, each usage of sentience was translated individually, using a subjective understanding of whether the author is referring to the ability to think in an “intelligent” manner, or some kind of deeper, more fundamental aspect of the mind.

3.2 The problem of preservation of stylistic value

Stylistic value poses a big obstacle when translating between English and Czech. It can be defined by the structures of sentences, the coherence and cohesion of the text, the type and appropriateness of vocabulary and the unique writing mannerisms of the original author. Coherence is the understandability of the text, whether the reader is capable of decoding information without much difficulty (Knittlová 99). Cohesion can be understood as the relations among the pieces of decoded information, whether sentences lead into one another, or whether they switch to seemingly unrelated information (Knittlová 101).

The idea of attempting to preserve stylistic value stems from the illusionist approach as described by J. Levý, as was mentioned in the introduction of this thesis (39-40). It would be inappropriate to translate a text with an abundance of complex sentences and ornate language by using only simple sentences and vulgar language. The illusion would be broken because the style would be too different from that of the original author. Therefore, the translator must ask themselves how the author would write a sentence if they were a native user of the target language.

The issue is that languages do not always share propensity to use the same syntactic constructions. For example, English is fond of non-finite clauses, but Czech prefers finite clauses, partly because the transgressive, which can be considered similar grammatically, is used rarely and is considered heavy-handed (Mašková). In addition, the relative rigidity of the word order in English requires the use of, as Knittlová puts it, “overpriced” constructions

like the “empty it”, because “attention is drawn to that which is unexpected and deviates from the common standard” (96-97). Czech, in contrast, has a more flexible word order, which allows it to utilize the concepts of functional sentence perspective to move a word to the end of a sentence and therefore put more emphasis on it (Knittlová 97). The translator therefore cannot use the same structures as the original text and expect his work to be perceived as of the same style.

What complicates matters even further is when the author makes, in the eyes of the translator, a mistake. A deviation from accepted norms, in conjunction with the differences described in the previous paragraph, make the preservation of style almost impossible. The translator must consider whether the mistake was actually an intentionally unconventional use of language, whether they should correct the mistake, and should they wish to preserve it, how they can commit a similar mistake in their own language.

3.2.1 Word order and italics

One of the ways in which the rigid word order of English manifests in *All Tomorrows* is the use of italics. They draw attention to a word and emphasize it in a way that the sentence structure does not, whereas in Czech, their use is rare largely because it is much easier to change the word order of a sentence (Šlancarová). As a result, it is more desirable to remove the use of italics during translation and it should not be considered a change to the stylistic value of the text.

Example 1:

The solution was to first go there and <i>make</i> the colonists later.	Řešením bylo nejdříve se tam dostat a kolonisty poté vytvořit.
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This is a prime example of the difference in flexibility of word order in Czech and English. The author clearly wants to emphasize the word “make”, the use of which should stand out due to the object being human beings. He resorts to italics because English does not allow him to place the verb at the end of the sentence. However, Czech does enable that structure, hence it was used to convey the same emphasis.

Example 2:

Earth was the old, ossified home that held humanity back, while Mars was <i>new</i> ; dynamic, active, and inventive. Mars was <i>the future</i> .	Oproti tomu Mars byl nový, dynamický, aktivní a vynalézavý. Mars byl budoucností.
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The words italicized in this example already stand at the end of their respective clauses and therefore occupy the position with the most emphasis. As such, it can be argued that the italics do not alter emphasis and therefore are redundant. The only plausible explanation seems to be that the author intended for the sentence to be read a certain way, possibly with a pause or a different tone of voice, and he felt that the structure does not convey that intent enough. The presence of the semicolon also supports this interpretation. The translation does not reflect this and therefore loses some of the stylistic value of the original. It was nevertheless deemed inappropriate to use italics due to their aforementioned rarity in Czech writing.

3.2.2 Sentence splitting, merging and the semicolon

Given the differences in commonly used types of clauses, it can be difficult to preserve the number of sentences. Czech prefers the active voice, which necessitates a different structure of clauses, which can make it hard to join with the main clause depending on the relations between them (Běhulová). This is compounded by the relations usually being more explicitly stated in Czech than in English, which means the translator “has to recognize and estimate what logical connection the author intended” (Knittlová 95).

In this thesis, sentence splitting is utilized when the relationship between clauses is unclear, or when it is so weak, that the dependent clause seems more like additional or tangential information, rather than being an integral part of the meaning of the sentence as a whole. On the other hand, sentence merging is used when two consecutive sentences are closely related and they are both short enough to not create an overly long complex sentence.

The usage of the semicolon somewhat complicates this. Both Czech and English use it in the same way to join two clauses that could act as individual sentences, but are related closely

enough that they are part of the same conveyed meaning (“The Semicolon”; “Středník”). In order to respect the explicitness of clause relations, semicolons were left out from the translation. However, Kosemen also uses the semicolon to separate non-finite clauses and even phrases, which is not a permissible usage (“The Semicolon”). Some occurrences even make the meaning of the sentence less clear. It could be argued that correcting the usage goes against the preservation of style, but considering the only sign of possible intended ambiguity is the unconventional usage, it does not detract from the stylistic value the text.

Example 1:

<p>The shelters became home to an entirely different ecology, a realm of perpetual darkness, fueled by the trickle of water and nutrients from the world outside. A surprisingly complex ecology developed on this scant resource; gigantic pale insects; the descendants of common household pests, competed with Dali-esque birds and rodents over fields of overgrown fungi.</p>	<p>Úkryty se staly domovem pro úplně jiný svět, který ve věčné tmě přežíval jen díky pramínkům vody a živin z venčí. Překvapivě se z tohoto mizivého zdroje vyvinul komplexní ekosystém. Obří vybledlí brouci, potomci běžných domácích škůdců, soutěžili o pole přerostlých hub s ptáky a hlodavci, kteří byli jako z obrazu od Dalího.</p>
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The use of the semicolon in this example is quite possibly the most confounding of all usages in the whole text. It makes the meaning of the sentence more unclear by obfuscating the connection of “gigantic pale insects” to the rest of the sentence. One possible interpretation is that the insects are the scant resource, but this is refuted by the previous sentence, which was included in the example as context. One other possible interpretation is that the following phrase “descendants of common household pests” only describes insects and it is they who compete with the others mentioned afterwards. It could also be understood that there are four participants in the competition: insects, descendants of household pests, birds and rodents. This is supported by the use of semicolons, since they separate out the insects away from the following phrase.

Using an awareness of general science fiction trends and cultural influences outside of *All Tomorrows*, it can be inferred that Kosemen most likely wants to describe the “radroach” from the popular video game series *Fallout*, without making the reference too explicit. The radroach is a cockroach which has grown to several times its size due to the effects of radiation in the setting of the game series (“Radroach”). It can be concluded that the phrase “descendants of common household pests” serves as a descriptor of the insects. The translation therefore uses this interpretation and changes the sentence structure accordingly to make the meaning less ambiguous and more comprehensible to the reader.

Example 2:

<p>Onboard were semi-sentient machines programmed to replicate and terraform the destination, and “construct” its inhabitants from the genetic materials stored on board.</p>	<p>Na palubě byly polovědomé stroje, které byly naprogramované replikovat se a teraformovat svoji destinaci. Následně měly z genetických materiálů uložených na palubě obyvatele “zkonstruovat”.</p>
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This sentence was split to make the text more coherent. The word “construct” refers to the italicized “make” used earlier in the same paragraph, which was discussed in Example 1 of the previous subsection. This time, the author chose quotation marks instead of italics. The increased emphasis remains apparent and so the word was used at the end of the sentence in the translation. However, this decision impacts the whole sentence, since “construct” would be very far removed from the other verbs describing the programming of the machines. To prevent the translation from sounding more long-winded, the sentence was split in two.

Example 3:

<p>The males on the other hand, resembled contorted, bipedal monkeys. Unlike their mates they were perfectly ambulatory; dozens of them ran around the females’ mounds like so many imps.</p>	<p>Samci se zase podobali zkrouceným, dvounohým opicím, ale na rozdíl od svých družek byli perfektně schopni chodit. Běhali kolem kopečků samic jako regiment skřítků.</p>
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The two sentences were merged due to the close relation in meaning. The first one begins with “on the other hand”, which conveys the difference from a previously mentioned creature. The next sentence starts with “unlike” to continue describing the difference. In conjunction, the semicolon was removed and the second sentence was split, as the sentence after it functions more as an additional comment on the humorous manner of the situation. Overall, the decision to merge could be regarded as unnecessary, but it was done mainly to avoid having three consecutive short sentences, which could hurt the cohesion of the text.

3.2.3 Synonyms with different roots and repetition

With the use of synonyms, it is possible to refer to the same information without repetition of the same word. However, the existence of synonyms close in meaning in both English and Czech is not guaranteed.

Example 1:

<p>After millennia of earthbound foreplay... terrestrial usurping had made this step seem more distant than it actually was.</p>	<p>Po tisícileté předešle na Zemi... pozemského pohodlí tento krok činily vzdálenějším, než doopravdy byl.</p>
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The words “earthbound” and “terrestrial” can be considered synonyms because they refer to the same information, which could be rephrased as “on Earth”. The two words do not share a root and are not homophones. It should be fair to say that no reader would consider this repetition. The problem is that Czech does not have two adjectives that are phonetically and graphically as different as the two English words. Both could be translated as “pozemské” and arguably, no information would be introduced or lost, but that would create a repetition in the text. The chosen solution of “na Zemi” as the translation of “earthbound” loses the information of being unable to leave Earth and shares the root “zem” with “pozemské”, but overall is different enough that it should not be immediately apparent as repetition. This is partly aided by “na Zemi” being an adverbial instead of a modifying adjective.

Example 2:

The chapter <i>Flyers</i> uses the words “aether”, “sky” and “heavens” to refer to the same information of “in the air”.	The translation of this chapter uses the words “na nebi”, “oblohy” and “nebesa” to translate each one respectively.
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It could be argued that the occurrences are far apart enough that repetition would not be a major detriment, but it would nevertheless mean a deviation away from the English version. The word “aether” is a “less common way of spelling ether”, and the most likely intended understanding of “ether” is “the upper regions of space”, which can be considered synonymous with “sky” (“Aether”). In terms of denotative information conveyed, all three words can be considered equal. Czech makes a less apparent distinction between the Biblical “heavens” and the objective phenomenon “sky”, referring to them as “nebesa” and “nebe” respectively. The two are similar due to their shared root, therefore “oblohy” was chosen as the translation for “sky”, simply due to the fact that it is the middle occurrence and makes the repetition less obvious.

3.3 The problem of preservation of entertainment value

Entertainment value is by far the broadest and most subjective quality. It is meant to represent what the reader feels is the “point” of the text. It is the answer to questions such as: “Who was this written for? Why does this exist? Who cares about this? What is there to enjoy here?” These questions will have different answers for each reader, and the translation should be informed by all possible answers. To give an example, if a work includes both ornate descriptions of nature and humorous phrases, the translator should attempt to preserve both, even if they find the descriptions of nature as the more appealing aspect of the text. The following subsections are some of the areas that were deemed as possible quirks that readers would find enjoyable or recognizable, and therefore special consideration was taken during their translation.

3.3.1 Names of creatures

All Tomorrows describes and names a plethora of fantastical creatures that are scarcely reminiscent of animals, but nevertheless are hard to clearly picture. The author alleviates this

by accompanying most chapters with an illustration and a short description. As was previously mentioned, these were omitted from the translation in this thesis as the images are quite large and the descriptions are meaningless without them. However, the names of the creatures also serve to aid the imagination, usually describing their form or behavior. As such, their translation is relatively important.

The author does not always refer to the creatures in the plural in chapter titles. The reason for this is unclear, as he then uses the plural form of their name in the chapters regardless. This can be seen in the chapter Bone Crusher. The translation unifies the naming scheme to always be plural in chapter titles, since the irregular occurrences give the impression of a mistake more than a deliberate choice.

Example 1:

Star people	Hvězdní lidé
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English has an advantage of being able to use the word “star” as an adjective. Czech does not allow for this, therefore a different form of the word “hvězda” is required. At the same time, the chosen form must not lead the reader to believe that the people look like stars, only that they live on planets dispersed among the stars. This ruled out the translation “hvězdolidé”. Another possibility was to merge the two words and replace the word “lidé” with a grammatical ending common for living beings. However, translations like “hvězdouni”, “hvězdníci”, “hvězdáci” were ruled out due to the same issue as “hvězdolidé”. The word “hvězdáři” was not used either, as it could be misleading, due to it being an existing Czech word for “astronomer”. Keeping the two words separate therefore seemed as the most practical solution.

Example 2:

Mantelopes	Lidolopy
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The author easily merges the words “man” and “antelope” due to shared letters. However, the Czech words “člověk” or “lidé” do not have much in common with the word “antilopa”.

One option is to keep the first half of “antilopa” instead of the second, but that would be highly misleading due to the commonly understood meaning of the prefix “anti-”. Other options include appending like “antilopolidé”, which is a heavy-handed merging of the two words, or just splitting the word as “lidské antilopy”, which leaves out the formation of a new word entirely. The finally chosen option “lidology” merges the two words without many problems, due to the similarity with the existing word “lidoopi”. However, this is a double-edged sword, since the two words are similar in pronunciation, but have different grammatical genders, “lidoopi” being masculine and “lidology” being feminine. The feminine gender was chosen due to “antilopy” also being feminine. Recognizing the gender might be more of an issue for the translator than the reader, due to the reader not having to actually use the word in writing.

Example 3:

Bone Crusher	Drtikosti
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This translation is a reference to a character from the film *Prázdniny pro psa*, whose nickname is “Drtikol”. The film is quite well-known and therefore the form of the word should not be viewed as totally alien by the Czech reader. In case they are not familiar with the reference, the word should still be intelligible, since the two original words “drtit” and “kosti” are recognizable in the spelling. As such, it should be considered acceptable as a translation, even if it adds entertainment value where there was none before. This is further supported by other possible translations being more unwieldy, for example “Drtiči kostí”, “Kost’odrtiči”.

3.3.2 The case of the Qu

The word “Qu” stands out in its uniqueness. In English, there are several possible pronunciations. The possible phonetic transcriptions into American English are as follows: [kju], [ku], [kə], and if the commonly accepted translation and pronunciation of the Chinese “q” is taken into consideration, [tʃu] or [tʃə] are also possibilities (“Chinese Pronunciation – How To Pronounce C, Q, R, X, And Z”). This ambiguity was most likely the intention of the author. The appearance of the Qu is never directly described in the text and the reader is

only offered a single image in which one member of the race is depicted. They are made out to be an existence so alien, that even their intentions behind the genetic modifications are incomprehensible. Taking this into account, it seems any alterations that would concretize anything about the Qu, even the pronunciation of their name, would go against the value of the text. However, it should not go unmentioned that the average Czech reader would most likely pronounce Qu as [kvu].

This has unfortunate implications for the usage of the name in Czech due to declensions. The translation considers Qu a proper noun with identical singular and plural forms. In Czech, it would be classified as a “pomnožné podstatné jméno”. As such, the number is not discernable from the word itself (“Číslo podstatných jmen (dvoje housle, hromady listí”). The grammatical gender is considered to be masculine, though it could arguably be any of any gender, since the ending “-u” is not characteristic for any of them. The masculine gender requires an assignment of animacy, which can be understood as animate, taking into account that Qu refers to a race of beings.

With these three categories assigned, it should be possible to determine the ending of the word in all seven Czech cases by selecting a pattern, which would be one of the following: pán, muž, předseda, soudce. The problem is that the singular and plural case endings all begin with a vowel, leading to all possible versions sounding unnatural and being difficult to pronounce. The same conclusion is reached no matter which gender and pattern are selected in the previous steps.

The solution to this problem was to keep the word in its base form in all cases. This preserves the enigmatic nature of the race, being somehow liberated from the rules of the language. Most importantly, there should be no problem with the readers considering their name a joke, which could have been the case with some possible translations in the following examples.

Example 1:

However, blind, unquestioning obedience had made monsters of the Qu .	Slepá, nepodmíněná poslušnost z Qu ale udělala monstra.
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In this example, the genitive case of Qu is necessary. Possible versions are: “Quů”, “Q” (feminine pattern “žena” and neuter pattern “město”), “Quí”, “Quat”. The most acceptable version seems to be “Quů”, but the pronunciation is nevertheless too unnatural.

Example 2:

The worlds of humanity, gardens of terraformed paradise, seemed strangely empty to the Qu.	Světy lidstva byly jako zahrady teraformovaného ráje, ale pro Qu se zdály podivně prázdné.
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The case of Qu in the translation should arguably be the dative, which would lead to the following possible forms: “Quům”, “Qám”, “Quím”, “Qem”. The solution was to change the case to the accusative, which is facilitated by the preposition “pro”, which makes the case apparent even with the lack of a declension.

3.3.3 Saltators

Quite possibly the most unique sentence in the whole text is as follows:

They ran the prairies, stalked the forests and ranged through the mountains in pursuit of different people; herbivorous saltators with bird--like legs.	Pobíhali po travnatých stepích, číhali v lesích a prolézali hory ve snaze pronásledovat ostatní lidi – býložravé caprioly s ptačíma nohama.
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Immediately apparent is the translation of “prairies” as “stepi” instead of “prérie”. This is due to the fact that the word “prérie” refers exclusively to the area of western North America and the general name for that type of environment is “step” (“Pojem Prérie”; “Pojem Step”). Another point is the usage of the semicolon, which again goes against convention, and was therefore replaced with a dash to indicate that the previous word is being specified.

What is far more interesting is the word “saltators”. The saltator is a type of bird, which is exclusively herbivorous, unless the author considers insects as meat (Rodríguez-Ferraro). Their legs seemingly possess no quality that would make them stand out from other species of birds. As a result, the literal reading of the phrase “herbivorous saltators with bird-like

legs” is borderline incomprehensible because of the redundancy. To illustrate the point, it is akin to saying “carnivorous wolves with canine-like snouts”.

Alternatively, Kosemen is referring to a species of lizard, *pseudoeurycea saltator*, but this is highly unlikely, given the mention of “bird-like legs” (“Pseudoeurycea Saltator”).

In terms of etymology, the word saltator comes from the Latin word for “dancer” (“Saltator”). In Czech, the word “salto” refers to the same acrobatic move as the English “somersault”. One of the possible translations of somersault into Turkish, Kosemen's native language, is also “salto” (“Salto”). This makes the intended reading clearer, as it might refer to the manner of movement the creatures exhibited, rather than serving as a description of their visage. A conclusion can be drawn that the author just used an unfortunate term that happens to also be the name of a bird.

The issue with this conclusion is that it requires research of the term, a healthy amount of guesswork and most importantly, a familiarity with languages that the reader of the English version might not have. The experience of a reader who can only speak English would not be the same. It is an aspect of the work, albeit most likely unintentional, that is incredibly difficult to preserve.

One of the possible solutions is to do as the author seemingly did, which is create a new word. Using “saltator” in Czech could leave the reader with the same understanding as the original, but due to the existence of the word “salto”, that would be hard to ensure. Creating a completely different word would solve this issue. The problem with this is that the original word is not completely made up, it is possible to analyze how it came to be. To sum up, the new word should be related to a different language, it should be distinct in spelling and ideally also refer to a species of bird at the same time.

After careful consideration, the word “caprioly” was chosen as the translation. The word comes from the Italian “capriola”, referring to the somersault (“Somersault In Different Languages”). The ending “-y” is standard for nouns of feminine gender in plural. The misleading nature of the word is preserved due to the fact that it also refers to a flower, “krásenka zpeřená”, which is perhaps even more confusing than the original, since it is not

an animal at all (“Krásenka zpeřená”, “Cosmos Bipinnatus Cav.”). What is not preserved is the redundancy, but no other word was found that would preserve the other aspects so well.

4 Conclusion

The aim of this bachelor thesis was to present some of the values of a written work that should be preserved in translation. The Practical part features a side-by-side translation of a section of the book and the Theoretical part mainly discusses the problems a translator might face and illustrates them on examples from the Practical part. There are certainly many more examples that could be discussed in all sections, but the scope of this thesis permitted the selection of only a few.

The theoretical part as a whole describes the methodology of the translation in the Practical part and shows examples of its application with justification. The decision not to attempt to construct or use a general theory of translation can be seen as beneficial given uniqueness of the encountered problems. Nevertheless, linguistic concepts from the fields of lexicology, syntax and morphology were mentioned as explanations of a given problem and as justifications for the selection of a solution.

As was stated in the Introduction, one of the goals was to not use the term “equivalence” throughout the thesis. The area where this term is used most commonly is in the discussion of lexical meanings of words, the analysis of which was accomplished without its use. This thesis demonstrates that the terms and its variations are not required when discussing concrete examples and their omission does not absolutely constitute a detriment to translation analysis.

It was considered ideal for the translator to be “invisible” and to provide to the Czech reader an experience which is as close as possible to that of the reader of the original text. A problem was encountered with the semicolon making the meaning of a sentence more ambiguous due to the unconventional usage by the author. Liberties had to be taken to ensure the text is coherent, which involved concretization of the meaning, as can be seen in Example 1 of section 3.2.2.

Possibly the most interesting part of the thesis is section 3.1, which was the most unconventional in its approach when compared to the rest of the thesis. Section 3.3.2 was concerned with problems arising from adapting the word “Qu” to have Czech declensions. The solution was to keep the word in the base form, which was justified linguistically, as

well as using the role the word plays in *All Tomorrows*. Furthermore, section 3.3.3 contains ample discussion on the translation of the word “saltators” as “caprioly” in order to preserve the uniqueness of the usage. This translation required an atypical methodology, which was amply discussed.

This thesis can serve as a basis to the further exploration of preservation of selected values. Specifically, discussions can be had about the cultural significance of a text, the historical context in which the text was written and its relations with other works, as these were not analyzed.

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Vyjádření k využití nástrojů umělé inteligence

Nástroje umělé inteligence, konkrétně Google Translate a DeepL Translate byly použity pouze v Praktické části. Byly použity za účelem porovnání vlastního překladu slov nebo frází a nikdy pro překlad celých vět nebo odstavců. Překlady navržené těmito nástroji byly v případě jejich použití řádně přezkoumány.

Statement on the use of artificial intelligence tools

Artificial intelligence tools, specifically Google Translate and DeepL Translate were used only in the Practical part. They were used in order to compare personal translations of words or phrases and never for the translation of whole sentences or paragraphs. If the translations recommended by these tools were selected, their usage was duly considered.