

Abstract

This MA thesis focuses on four different Czech translations of William Shakespeare's narrative poem *A Lover's Complaint* (Antonín Klášterský 1923, Jarmila Urbánková 1997, Jiří Josek 2008, Martin Hilský 2009). The first part of the thesis characterizes the development of and changes in the Anglo-Saxon critical reception of this much-neglected work from its first publication up until the present day. Further, it shows the interdependence between the position of *A Lover's Complaint* in Shakespeare's canon and the interpretation of the poem's meaning. The second part focuses on the Czech critical reception and compares it to the Anglo-Saxon one. This part also introduces the four translators with respect to their literary and translation activities and describes the poetic and translation norms prevalent at the time of their careers. In the third (the empirical) part, the focus is on formal and semantic analysis of the source text, as well as of the individual translations. On the basis of these analyses it is examined to what extent the translations correspond to the source text; what shifts, losses or enrichments occur as a result of each translation. The individual translation methods are compared and contrasted. The ultimate objective is to describe the poetics of each translation and its relationship to the poetics of the original.