

Goethe's novel "The Sorrow of Young Werther" was actually the first international success of the German literature. 25-year old Goethe wrote it at the beginning of his literature career within few weeks of spring of 1774. The second edited and extended version was published in 1787.

The aim of this diploma thesis was to compare two translations of this novel into Czech, namely translation by Oskar Reindl from 1922 and Arno Kraus from 1942. Prior to the very comparison, several aspects of the novel that are relevant for the subsequent comparison are described.

At the end of 18th century Werther became a cult for young generation. Due to the worldwide fame of the novel, other authors - included by literature theorists for their specific use of language and for specific motives among the movement of "Sturm und Drang" - became famous.

The novel comprises two books of letters and one part called "Publisher to the Reader" (Herausgeber an den Leser). The novel is specific in its form and style. It is a letter-novel, where all the letters are written exclusively by Werther trying to describe to his friend Wilhelm - his experiences of last two years of his life, his feelings, and his motive that had driven him to commit suicide. The letters are not written every day and they include several unexplained segments requiring the reader's cooperation. Werther's letters are characteristic for use of expressive language; on the contrary, the language of the unknown publisher is far more formal. The expressivity is achieved by lexical, grammatical, stylistic features.

Werther was on one hand received with enthusiasm but on the other hand it evoked strong opposition within conservative and church circles, mainly due to the presentation of suicide. ...