

ABSTRACT

This Master's thesis analyzes *Three Men in a Boat*, a famous work by a British author Jerome Klapka Jerome. It is a very popular humorous novel published in 1889 which rightly belongs to the classics of British humour and is still attracting new readers today. The novel has been translated into dozens of languages including Chinese. The thesis is based on comparing the original work to its modern Chinese translation produced by Wang Bi, the analysis is conducted in the direction from English to Chinese. For reference, it also uses the Czech translation by J. Novák.

Methodologically, the thesis builds on structuralist terminology created by the Czech translation theorist Jiří Levý. For text analysis, it utilizes an influential theoretical concept invented by the German translation scholar Christiane Nord. It also takes into account specialized studies on humour literature and the problems of its translation.

The thesis attempts to define British humour and characterize the author's devices to achieve comic effect. It thoroughly describes the strategies chosen for translating some of the individual literary devices (e.g. hyperbole, irony, understatement or personification) into Chinese. The complex analysis presents specific examples of translating verbal, cultural and situational humour. It also evaluates the adequacy and functionality of Wang Bi's translation in general.

The Chinese translation of the British humorous novel is put into the Chinese context: apart from the brief history of Chinese humor, the thesis also discusses the development of Chinese translation as a crucial part of inter-cultural exchange between China and the West.