



Univerzita
Hradec Králové
Pedagogická
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Posudek oponenta dizertační práce Mgr. Ke Su

*Kontextualizovaná studie dějin české literatury v čínských překladech
publikovaných v letech 1921-2020*

předkládané v roce 2022 na Ústavu translatologie FF UK

Opponent's Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation of Mgr. Ke Su

*Contextualized Study of History of Czech Literature in Chinese Translation:
1921-2020*

**Presented in 2022 at the Institute of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles
University**

The submitted book-length dissertation (337 pages) provides a complex as well as detailed critical assessment of the reception of Czech literature for adult readers in Chinese translations in mainland China in the twentieth century. The core of the study lies in examinations of translations discussed in their historical and political contexts, i.e. the histories of both countries and their relations. The author's approach and the theoretical framework of the study are clearly manifested and observed: as a translation history study, it combines and confronts empirical research concerning individual texts and their socio-cultural and political context with the pertinent general concepts of translation studies. The candidate aptly connects individual texts with general issues: the author accompanies and supports his findings by numerous references to relevant theoretical secondary translatological literature (see the extensive Bibliography, p. 314-337).

As to the content and form, the dissertation is well structured: Chapters 1, 2, 3 provide the theoretical basis of the dissertation, presenting its aim and underlying concepts, research questions and hypotheses, sources of data. Chapters 4-6 examine translations from the twenties to the present chronologically, dividing the century into three periods (1921-1949, 1950-1977, 1978-2020) according to the social and political development in both countries. The text is not a mere description; the candidate's wide scope of research includes collection of data, examinations and evaluations of translations, retranslations, mediating languages (English, Russian, Esperanto, French), translation strategies, censorship, paratexts, characterization of

translators and publishers. The candidate's analyses reveal his good orientation in the theoretical concepts of translation studies, Czech literature, Chinese and Czech history (here the study not surprisingly reveals many similarities with the "cultural policies" in both countries). The candidate is well aware of the socio-cultural conditions in these periods and discusses both the extrinsic and intrinsic factors in historical contexts, mentioning social causes of ideology-charged translations. The text is accompanied with well-arranged tables and diagrams summarizing the collected data. Their number seems to be more than sufficient (possibly nearly complete) and the methods of their examination can be approved of. The standard of style and language is excellent throughout (there are only a few misprints in some submitted texts, e.g. Thesis, p. 4, 7). The formal aspects of the dissertation, including Thesis, references and bibliography comply with the requirements.

Chapter 7 presents a sample case study, a detailed comparative textual analysis of the five existing different Chinese versions of Jaroslav Hašek's *The Good Soldier Švejk* translated either from its English versions or the Czech original, paying special attention to the most problematic issues, i.e. translation of cultural elements, offensive language and tabooed subjects. Though I cannot speak any Chinese and read Chinese characters, it is plausible that the chapter reveals the candidate's skill in nuanced examination of concrete texts. Chapter 8, Conclusion, is a pertinent summary of the study, offering also suggestions for further research (children's literature, translations outside mainland China?).

This detailed and well-researched dissertation concerning a largely under-researched area makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the reception of Czech literature in the Chinese language and society in the twentieth century. Besides its topic, the study also presents a good overview of secondary literature related to a translation history study. The dissertation has fulfilled its aim: it is based both on the collection of appropriate data and their processing and good theoretical translational background as it can be seen from the ideas quoted and employed in it. The candidate has manifested his ability to carry out original research and present its results.

In conclusion, this dissertation fulfils all the necessary standards and requirements for a Ph.D. dissertation in the field of Translation Studies. I recommend the submitted dissertation for defence with the grade of pass.

20 August 2022

Prof. PhDr. Bohuslav Mánek, CSc.