



FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA
Univerzita Karlova

Zápis o obhajobě disertační práce

Akademický rok: 2021/2022

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Ke Su
Identifikační číslo studenta: 35815366

Typ studijního programu: doktorský
Studijní program: Filologie
Studijní obor: Translation Studies
ID studia: 542019

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

Pracoviště práce: Institute of Translation Studies (21-UTRL)

Jazyk práce: angličtina

Jazyk obhajoby: English

Školitel: PhDr. Vanda Obdržálková, Ph.D.

Oponent(i): PhDr. Eva Kalivodová, Ph.D.

prof. PhDr. Bohuslav Mánek, CSc.

Datum obhajoby: 29.09.2022 **Místo obhajoby:** Praha

Termín: řádný

Průběh obhajoby:

11:00 – Chair of the committee Tomáš Duběda introduced the members of the committee and the student Ke Su, who was online. Tomáš Duběda then outlined the program of the PhD defense.

11:03 – The student's doctoral supervisor, Vanda Obdržálková, confirmed the identity of the PhD student – a necessary step since the PhD defense was taking place in a hybrid format with the student defending his thesis online.

11:05 – Vanda Obdržálková praised the diligent work of the student, saying that the only complications were caused by the COVID pandemic, which slowed down the completion of the thesis. Dr. Obdržálková gives a positive evaluation of the dissertation. She also points out that the research in the was difficult, requiring extensive archival work. She says the dissertation succeeds in giving a systematic overview of Czech Literature in China. She specifically praises a profound theoretical chapter that will be useful to other students of Translation Studies.

11:10 – The student began the presentation of his thesis, highlighting novel aspects of the dissertation: that it is the first systematic survey of Czech literature's translation in China; Translation studies mainly focuses on the translation of major world languages, examining a smaller language could provide important results; it pays attention to paratextual elements of translation.

He divides Chinese translation of Czech literature into three historical phases:

1st era (1921-1949): Marked by indirect translation, especially with English and Esperanto serving as the intermediary languages. The primary works to be translated were short stories, poems, and essays, published only in periodicals.

2nd era (1950-1977): Marked by tighter ideological control. Translation of Czech literature falls by more than half. No translations of Czech literature appear between 1963–1977. Most literature translated are works of realism and often have an anti-fascist element. Marxist aspects of stories is often highlighted in paratexts. The intermediary language for indirect translations is now more often Russian than English, and Esperanto drops out almost completely.

3rd era (1978–2020) Marketization of Czech translations. More full translations, instead of excerpts or short stories. Censorship is often self-censorship on the part of translators. Direct translations from Czech to Chinese grows from 18% to 42%. Indirect translation from Russian declines dramatically.

11:30 – First reviewer Eva Kalivodová, delivers her evaluation of the dissertation. She points out that it is the first systematic examination of Czech literature's translation into Chinese and praises the full scope of the research, its quantitative and qualitative methodology, as well inclusion of theorists such as Toury and Lefevere. She praises the student's choice of *The Good Soldier Švejk* for the case study. She says the dissertation is a strong contribution to translation studies, and hopes that it will be published in English. She does mention the fragmentary nature of some aspects of the dissertation, where points are raised but clarified only later in the work. She says that she considers the dissertation as passed. She asks about some infidelities in the translations of Czech literature and the reasons behind it. She also asks if the student can comment on basing overarching extrapolations on one the publication of one specific short story: "Geese" by Božena Viková-Kunětická. She also asks about retranslation of Czech literature.

11:50 – Second reviewer Bohuslav Mánek praises the dissertation combination of empirical research with theoretical currents in Translation Studies. He comments on the ambitious scope of the dissertation, interweaving translation studies, paratextual research, and Chinese history. He praises the students understanding of the social and historical context of the periods researched. He praises the standards of the research and writing in the dissertation as excellent, focusing on the strengths of chapter seven, dealing with *The Good Soldier Švejk*. He calls the dissertation a significant contribution to our understanding of Czech literature's transmission into China. He considers the dissertation a success and recommends that the dissertation is given a pass. He says he has no further questions.

11:58 – The student responds to the first reviewers' questions. He raises the idea that infidelities in the translation mentioned by the first reviewer could have been deliberate to avoid the implicit sexual references in the original, yet he thinks the likelier reason is simply a mistake. Referring to the question regarding his use of the story "Geese" to draw broad conclusions, he points out the Communist regime's championing of gender equality led to more women authors being translated and "Geese" as a strong example of this. Discussing retractions, he also pointed out the strength of ideologies in the times, where the economic interest in marketization during the third era leads to more publications.

12:07 – Tomáš Duběda asks if the reviewers are satisfied with the

student's answers.

12:08 – Opponent, Zuzana Šťastná, asks questions about whether regional dialects of Chinese affect the retranslation of Czech literature.

12:09 – The student has difficulty understanding the question because of technical problems online. Dr. Šťastná's question is then submitted in writing to the student. The student states that this does not affect retranslations, since although China contains many speakers of different Chinese languages and dialects, publications are generally in the standard lingua franca of China.

12:16 – The committee states there are no further questions.

12:17 – The chair of the committee asks the student to leave the meeting for a short period so the committee can privately discuss the presentation of the doctoral student.

12:27 – The chairman of the committee invites the student to return. He announces that the five members of the committee voted unanimously that Ke Su's dissertation has passed, and he now officially has his PhD.

12:34 – The (former) student, Dr. Ke Su, expressed his gratitude to the members of the committee and his supervisor in particular.

Klasifikace obhajoby:

prospěl/a (P)

Předseda komise:

doc. PhDr. Tomáš Duběda, Ph.D.

Členové komise:

prof. PhDr. Bohuslav Mánek, CSc.

PhDr. Eva Kalivodová, Ph.D.

PhDr. Vanda Obdržálková, Ph.D.

Mgr. Zuzana Šťastná, Ph.D.