

This thesis analyzes three Czech translations of Oscar Wilde's fairy tales from the critical perspective of a contemporary reader, focusing on translations currently available on the Czech market. It compares the 1981 translation by Jiří Zdeněk Novák (published in 2007 as an audiobook), the 1985 translation by Radoslav Nenadál (republished in 2006) and the latest, 1994 translation by Markéta Cukrová (newly published in 2007). The thesis is divided into two main parts.

The first part sets the targets of the dissertation and provides an important background for the second part: it briefly summarizes relevant research carried out to date, introduces Oscar Wilde's life and literary career and considers the fairy tale genre in general, before discussing in more detail Wilde's own fairy tales, setting them in the context of the fairy-tale work of other Victorian writers and pointing out the characteristic feature and function of fairy stories in that period – social criticism. We then go on to examine certain personal and biographical factors that could have drawn Wilde to this particular genre, consider the likely intended recipient (addressing the question whether Wilde's fairy tales were written for children) and stress the importance of illustrations and graphic design in the original editions of Wilde's fairytale books – *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* (1888) and *A House of Pomegranates* (1891). The final chapter of the first part is devoted to an analysis of the tales' main themes and, most importantly, of the most characteristic features of Wilde's literary style; this analysis forms the basis for the detailed analysis of the three Czech translations in the second part.