

The thesis focuses on the expectations of interpreters and public institutions with regard to the role of interpreters in a specific type of communicative events, i.e. in interpreter-mediated encounters between foreigners and Czech institutions. This type of interpreting is commonly referred to as community interpreting. Taking into account that there is a lack of consensus in the literature concerning the interpreter's role, the thesis aims to explore how Czech interpreters and institutions perceive this role in the absence of binding professional standards. The main goal is to determine whether the respondents see interpreters more as passive 'translation devices' or 'conduits', or whether they consider them to be active communication participants in their own right. The first part of the thesis provides an overview of research focusing on the interpreter's role, and gives examples of how this role has been codified, both in the international context and in the Czech Republic. The second, empirical part, presents the results of a questionnaire-based survey conducted among Czech interpreters and public institutions. The main part of the questionnaire has been designed with the aim of determining which expressions of the different interpreter's roles are seen as desirable by the respondents, and which are considered to be unacceptable. The results, based on a quantitative analysis of the main data set, show that both interpreters and institutions consider the interpreter to be an active participant in the communication; however, most respondents do not find it acceptable for the interpreter to take on roles that go beyond interpreting as such.