

The aim of this thesis was to outline some problematic issues of translating Květoslav Chvatík's essay „Romány Milana Kundery a krize lidské existence pozdní doby“ (The Novels by Milan Kundera and the Crisis of Human Existence in Modern Times) from the essay collection „Melancholie a vzdor“ (Melancholy and Resistance).

From the lexical point of view we focused on conveying informal expressions and terms, which were often difficult to translate. In some cases we found ourselves in a situation when it was not possible to keep all the expressive values of the original and we had to opt for a more general word, in other cases we had to use more words in the target language to translate one word of the original in order to express the meaning accurately.

From the syntactic point of view we can say that we tried to respect and follow the syntax of the original text in the translation, in so far as it sounds natural in the target language, in some cases the use of different syntactic structures was dictated by the nature of the target language.

From the stylistic point of view we can say that this essay could be defined neither as publicistic style, nor scientific, nor popular-scientific style, which may be the closest. It contains features of all of these styles.

When translating into the target language we tried to convey these features and express them in the most adequate way. We sought to convey the basic notional and aesthetic values of the original.

In the commentary, we tried to show the main translation problems using concrete examples and outline how they can possibly be solved. With regard to the extent and complexity of the problems, we narrowed down the subject of our study to several areas, which were dealt with in more detail.

Upon translating this essay we found out the frequency of certain problematic features and in the particular parts of this paper we further specified the most common changes in the lexical and syntactic areas.

We hope that the translation of Květoslav Chvatík's essay on the works by Milan Kundera will be useful not only to literature theorists, but also to anybody interested in modern literature. The commentary, in which we deal with the questions regarding the Russian/Czech translation problems, could be interesting to people studying these languages and wishing to improve their translation skills.