

Abstract

This thesis is devoted to a relatively little explored issue – the social differentiation of literary characters and the transfer of its linguistic means. The language material for exploring this field of translatology was provided by Döblin's novel *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1928) and by two translations into Czech (1935 and 1968). We analyzed utterances of two characters. The first one represents a lower social class and criminal environment. In his speech the analysis showed many elements of Berlin urbanlect which were used for his social characterization. The second character represents the Jewish ethnic group. His direct speech contains elements of literary Yiddish, alluding to his Jewish origins.

The subsequent utterance analysis of the first character in Czech translations showed an appropriate use of common Czech as a substitute for Berlin urbanlect in both translations. The analysis was set in the context where the usage of nonstandard elements in Czech and translated literature used to be a convention. Both translators followed these conventions successfully.

When translating the literary Yiddish in the direct speech of the second character, significant differences in both translations were discovered. In the first translation the Yiddish elements were not replaced. In the second translation the elements typical of Czech Jewish literary characters were used suitably. However, we evaluated negatively that the speech of the character was based on common Czech, which has no basis in the original. Our conclusions may be helpful in the future when similar linguistic means of social differentiation will have to be transferred.