Abstract
The study describes main features of the reception of French literature translated to Czech and published in Czech Republic after 1989. Its goal is to comment on the circumstances, conditions, and consequences of the way Czech environment conveys literature of a different language and geographic area. The analysis of the reception is based on the bibliographic corpus of Czech translations of French literature published in print between 1990 and 2013.

While the composition of Czech translations published in the last 25 years is rich and varied, it is not possible to objectively assess whether it gives a representative picture of the current French literary scene. For that, there is not only too little time detachment, but also a satisfactory methodology for determining an ‘ideal’ pattern is missing. Nevertheless it is clear that the Czech reader does not have a suitable tool for a full-fledged reflection of the French literary scene: in the case of current literary production, Czech book market offers a higher ratio of works with primarily commercial potential (bestsellers, books intended for wide readership which have obtained literary prizes) and suppresses the segment of literature for demanding readers (including experimental works), which is one of the important aspects of the French literary scene. Although canonical literature has been receiving some attention, even in this area publishers tend to focus mainly on repeated editions of proven titles rather than searching for new and exceptional works. The search for the reasons behind the disproportional publishing has to, for the most part, focus on the difference in size of the French and Czech book market and the number of potential readers.