

## **ABSTRACT**

The detailed comparative analysis of four Czech translations of Alexander Blok's poem *The twelve* is at the crux of this diploma thesis. Concurrently, it sets the assessment of translation mastery of each translation based on criteria of poetry translation as defined by the significant Czech theoretician Jiří Levý. Aesthetic interpretation of the poem and the description of distinctive features of Blok's poetry precede the main part of the thesis.

The author comes to a conclusion only two of the translations can be called acceptable to present-day readers (Vojtěch Jestráb's and Václav Daněk's translations). Nevertheless, the translation by Bohumil Mathesius has a certain aesthetic quality, and if it is looked at from a historical perspective it can be appraised as successful translation work. The very first translation by young Czech poet Jaroslav Seifert satisfies current poetry translation criteria the least. But there is also another reason for it: both the Seifert's and Mathesius's translations are greatly influenced by the former language standard (the language obsolescence manifests itself at different levels). Yet, the latest translations differ too. Jestráb's method focuses upon stressing exoticism in his translation, whereas Daněk concentrates on naturalisation. Considering the fact that both of the translations were created simultaneously, they can be judged to be an example of different translation approaches or styles. Both of the translations show permanent stylistic qualities, regardless there can also be found partial failings.

### **Key words:**

Alexander Blok, poem *The Twelve*, poetry translation, Czech translation theory, comparative analysis, Jaroslav Seifert, Bohumil Mathesius, Vojtěch Jestráb, Václav Daněk