

This study provides a description of the translation techniques applied to the translation of culturally significant phenomena in the Harry Potter series into Czech and Slovak. The analysis extends to the first three books of the Harry Potter series by British author J. K. Rowling and their translations into Czech and Slovak.

The theoretical framework is derived from the views of Finnish scholar R. Oittinen (2000) on the translation of children's literature; the translation techniques used to analyze the translations are taken from Molina & Albir (2002).

Chapter 1 discusses Harry Potter from the point of view of literary theory.

It reviews the different traditions (Anglo-American, Czech, Slovak) in defining and describing fantasy literature and fantasy for children. In the Czech and Slovak literary contexts, there is a tendency to view works similar to Harry Potter as fairy tales with fantastic elements.

Chapter 2 reviews the field of translation studies with respect to translation of children's literature. It develops the thesis introduced by the skopos theory which views changes as an inherent part of the translation process. Hence, in children's literature, the changes needed to accommodate the target language reader are considered part of the translator's strategy and a sign of the translator's loyalty both to the original author and to the target language readers. The work of each individual translator will be inevitably influenced by his/her child image, which is a complex concept derived from an individual's personal experience and from the image of childhood existing in a given society. The translators should account for the culture gap in translating culturally significant phenomena such as proper names.

Chapter 3 provides a short introduction into the communication context of translating the Harry Potter series into Czech and Slovak. ...