Abstract

The aim of this doctoral thesis is to analyze existing translations of Bohumil Hrabal’s works into the Russian language, to create an adequate translation of Hrabal’s novel Harlequin’s Millions, to accompany it with an introspective commentary on the translation process, and to place it into the context of the current translational norm.

The present work can be defined as an empirical-analytical study. The empirical part of the thesis consists of the first translation ever done of Harlequin’s Millions into Russian preceded by a complex theoretical-analytical study. This study has a multilevel structure and includes translation criticism of Hrabal’s works in Russian based on a special methodological framework, which was developed specifically for the purposes of our research. The study also covers the issue of translational norm, offers a review of secondary literature on Hrabal, and defines the author’s role among other Czech writers on the Russian book market. The translation of Harlequin’s Millions is followed by an extensive multilevel analysis of the novel’s translation, including its correspondence with the existing translational norm in Czech-Russian translations of Hrabal’s works. Therefore, this doctoral thesis has sought to present a complex model of practical work on literary translation with due consideration of the intratextual and extratextual factors relevant to this particular author.

The methodological and theoretical background of the thesis draws on renowned works written by famous theorists of translation in the field of translation criticism, translational norm, equivalence, adequacy, translation transformations and other areas of translation studies.

In addition to the chapters on translation quality assessment and the translation process, the thesis also offers a review of Czech films based on Hrabal’s works and shown in Russia, a unique interview with leading Russian translators of Czech literature, and the most complete bibliography of the secondary (mostly Russian) literature on Bohumil Hrabal as of now.

Keywords: translation studies, Bohumil Hrabal, Harlequin’s Millions, Russia, translation criticism, translational norm, comparative translation analysis