

The paper covers five complete Czech translations of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin by Václav Čeněk Bendl, Václav Alois Jung, Josef Hora, Olga Mašková and Milan Dvořák. Translation quality assessment is based on the question of how each rendering reflects semantic complexities of the original. Analysis of each translation involves the significant phonetic, imaginative, ideational and structural features of Pushkin's novel in verse. Often a particular rendering is contrasted with another one to demonstrate its style more clearly, including some of the incomplete renderings of Onegin, especially that by Jan Evangelista Purkyně. All the translations analysed are put into their historical context. It follows that most of them were created at some crucial point in the Czech history (1860, 1937 and 1966) and in some way reflect "the spirit of their time".

Bendl changed the structure of the original by a shift in metre. He replaced iambic tetrameter by iambic pentameter. As a result, he was given more room to develop the thoughts and imagery of Pushkin's novel in verse. However, he often turned his translation into renarration and contaminated his rendering with a great deal of semantic shifts.

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