

Diplomová práce, Bc. Jan Komárek

Abstract

This thesis is a comparison of two literary works: on the one hand, nearly forgotten anonymous novel Jin, Yun Qiao Story (金雲翹傳), which was written in China at the turn of XVII and XVIII century, and, on the other hand, of a famous novel in verse called The Tale of Kiều (Truyện Kiều), composed a century later by a Vietnamese poet Nguyễn Du on the basis of the aforementioned work. The primary aim of this thesis is to point to the literary elements by means of which Nguyễn Du enriched his work in comparison to the original, and thus offer an explanation of why each of these works met such a different fate. For illustration, translations of the first chapter of the Chinese novel and of a corresponding part of the Vietnamese poem are presented. The two works are then set in the literary context of their time and Nguyễn Du's relationship to the Chinese novel is assessed on the basis of his other works and related contemporary sources. Subsequently, there is a brief outline of history of the comparison between the two works by Vietnamese and by some foreign scholars. Finally, both texts are subjected to a comparison by means of statistics, examples and references to the translated excerpts presented at the beginning of the thesis. The comparison respects the differences in the form of both texts and does not focus solely on discrepancies on the level of plot, but also on the narrative elements on the use of which the amount of innovation in Nguyễn Du's work is shown. Textual analysis leads to the conclusion that Nguyễn Du ingeniously enriched his work in comparison with the source of inspiration on several levels, and it is therefore an original work that can boldly represent Vietnamese literature and should not be considered a mere translation.