

# The Translation Technique from Latin to Old Church Slavonic on the Basis of Gumpold's Legend and the Second Old Church Slavonic Life of Saint Wenceslas

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## Summary

This dissertation analyses the translation technique from Latin to Old Church Slavonic on the basis of *Gumpold's Legend (Gump)* from the end of the 10th century and its translation, the *Second Old Church Slavonic Life of Saint Wenceslas (VencNik)*, which was written in early Přemyslid Bohemia probably in the second half of the 11th century. The introductory chapters provide the basic characteristics of the *Gump* and deal with its preservation in manuscripts and other Latin and Old Church Slavonic legends of St Wenceslas. Afterwards, attention is focused on the analysis of the *VencNik*, its preservation in manuscripts of Russian provenance and the basic phonetic and morphological characteristics of the text. These chapters are followed by a new edition of the *VencNik*, in which the Old Church Slavonic text is presented in the form actually preserved in manuscripts (unlike the earlier edition of Josef Vařica from 1929, who tried to reconstruct the original version), and compared with the partly revised and supplemented edition of the *Gump*.

The edition of the Old Church Slavonic text is followed by a brief chapter on the biblical quotations preserved in the *VencNik* and a chapter discussing the originals. It arises from a detailed comparison of the Old Church Slavonic and Latin versions, in agreement with previous literature, that roughly one-third of the Old Church Slavonic text was not translated from *the Gump* but from other Latin sources, especially the Czech redaction of *Crescente fide*, or it is based on the oral tradition or other, non-extant texts of legends.

The essential part of the work is an analysis of the translation technique from Latin to Old Church Slavonic on the basis of the complete excerpt and evaluation of numerous morphosyntactic phenomena. Among morphological phenomena, attention is drawn to those that are somehow specific, i.e. the Latin pluperfect, future perfect and future active participle, which are rather rare in the text of the *Gump*. A more detailed analysis is devoted to the Latin subjunctive in independent clauses and then especially gerund and gerundive phrases, content clauses, adverbial and relative clauses, and the Latin semi-clause construction – the ablative absolute.

Similarly, the vocabulary used in the *VencNik* is briefly evaluated with particular focus on the treatment of this work in *Slovník jazyka staroslověnského* [A Dictionary of Old Church Slavonic], which clearly indicates the need to review all documents and compare them with the two manuscript versions and the Latin original. Likewise the analysis of the *hapax legomena* in the *VencNik* and their comparison with relevant lexicographic and selected extant works confirm that conclusions based on a simple enumeration of such lexemes can only bring relative results. The dissertation further summarises lexical matches with *Besědy Řehoře Velikého* [Forty Gospel Homilies by Gregory the Great], the most extensive Old Church Slavonic text of Czech origin, and selected East Bulgarian works, which have been the subject of component studies before.

Based on a detailed analysis of the text of the *VencNik*, the last chapter compares the quality of the Old Church Slavonic translation with the Latin original. Consistently with the literature, the translation must be evaluated as bad, but it is also necessary to take into account the complexity of the text of the *Gump* as well as numerous mistakes that were made by the copyists of the text over the centuries and that can, to a certain extent, distort the evaluation of the Old Church Slavonic translation.