

The Czech tradition of translation from German comprises a long period of translating ballads by the Classics Goethe and Schiller. Since the middle of the 19th century, there have been many attempts to deal with their difficult subject matter in the praxis of translation. However, there haven't been any studies in translation research that would analyze the original ballads and the translations together and respecting the context both in the German and the Czech cultural and literary tradition.

The following text would like to offer a translation analysis and a translation evaluation of the prominent examples of ballads by Goethe and Schiller concerning the following aspects:

1. Which poems have been translated? What was the notion of ballad used by the diverse interpreters and how has it developed from the 18th century up to the present day? This part of the text concerns the genre theory.
2. Were the ballads central to the reception of the German Classics? Was it drama, prose or poetry that predominated? This topic refers to the mapping of reception of Goethe and Schiller in our country.
3. Which aspects of the ballads do Czech translators emphasize? Do they underline the religious and didactic aspects of the text? Do they stress the morality? Or is it the individual character and the story that draws their attention? The following text is interested in the diverse interpretations, as they may (according to Walter Benjamin, 1996) open new perspectives on the meaning of the ballad. The central point of this theses is the translation evaluation of the Czech translations of ballads, especially the description of the characteristic processes in this type of translation.