

## ABSTRACT

This MA thesis focuses on translation of Czech literature into English offering a historical account of its development (mainly from a quantitative perspective).

To achieve this, an up-to-date bibliography of Czech literary translation into English has been compiled drawing upon existing research in the field. Covering Czech literary translation into English from its modern beginnings up to 2010, the bibliography contains about 2,500 records of works of Czech authors published either as separate books or in anthologies. Apart from the Excel version of bibliography enclosed to this thesis, the bibliography is also available as a web application enabling easy and ongoing updating in the future. Data collection was the main method of this part of the thesis.

In addition, the thesis discusses in detail its methods and methodological issues helping better understand the nature of data and process of their collection. This is particularly useful for translation history researchers and for anyone interested in mapping literary translation into another language.

The thesis also gives a basic outline of Czech literary translation into English summarizing major trends both in history and the present day, highlighting 15 most published Czech authors and discussing in more detail the renderings of their works into English; it also mentions major translators. These parts of the thesis use a method of description.

Finally, the thesis analyzes some of the key assumptions on translation of Czech literature into English. Apart from social or political factors behind publishing of Czech literature translations (playing some role especially at times of historic events, such as Prague Spring or awarding of Nobel Prize), the thesis emphasizes translators', authors' and occasionally even publishers' personal motivations that are often the major reason for a translation of a Czech author to be created and published.

An audio recording of conversation (about one hour in length) with Ewald Osers, one of most prolific translators of Czech literature into English, is enclosed to the thesis.