

Abstract

This MA thesis discusses the work of the Russian writer Pavel Ulitin (1918-1986) and the Czech poet Ivan Blatný (1919-1990) in a comparative perspective. These authors both developed a poetics of multilingualism in their writing. The term multilingualism refers to a literary method where several languages are combined for an artistic effect. Ivan Blatný started writing multilingual poetry during his exile in England. As a result, a collection of poetry entitled *Pomocná škola Bixley* came out in 1979. Pavel Ulitin's prose was also created in specific circumstances. A reclusive writer, Ulitin shared his manuscripts mainly with his friends. His text *Four Quarks for Dr. Marx* (1969) was published for the first time in 2018. Both Blatný and Ulitin's books represent complex literary artifacts as their publication was possible thanks to additional editorial processing of the manuscripts. The MA thesis discusses how the intervention of the editors shaped the ways in which Blatný and Ulitin's writing can be read today. The MA thesis consists of two parts. In the first part, aspects of Blatný and Ulitin's biographies are discussed. The writers are then contextualized with various literary and critical discourses. In the second part, the poetics of multilingualism is discussed in a historical perspective. Comparisons are drawn between Blatný and Ulitin and modernist writers who also employed the multilingual method. The discussion of literary multilingualism is reinforced by the theoretical work of the Russian formalist critics such as Viktor Shklovsky and Yury Tynyanov.

Key words: translingualism, multilingualism, modernism, poetry, poem, poetics, literature, formalism