

ABSTRACT

Jiří Levý has been considered an outstanding personality in the field of Czech translation since the 1960's. His work, including the history, theory, criticism, and analysis of translation, is integral to the professional training of students, experienced translators as well as translato-logists. Since the turn of the millennium, interest in Levý has also been growing internationally, but with a focus only on a limited number of his works. Attempts at partial systematization of Levý's opus magnum are also increasing in the form of thematic proceedings, special issues of periodicals, or articles addressing certain aspects of his work.

A similar aspiration is followed in this doctoral thesis that aims to partly systematize Levý's work in the broad sense of the word. Therefore, it analyses not only his writings, but also focuses on his pedagogical, organisational, and promotional activity. The core focus of this thesis is Levý's work in translation. However, knowing that his theory was built on a broad interdisciplinary basis, Levý's other research interests are also analysed, with particular attention being paid to parallels with his thoughts on translation. In addition, the plurality of Levý's research sources and epistemological approaches is addressed, with the greatest emphasis on his methodological background in Czech structuralism.

Less commonly known, yet significant, is Levy's contribution to education on the nature and quality of translation. Therefore, this thesis draws attention to Levý's founding role in promoting translation as a distinct field of study. In doing so, our work reveals Levý's innovative and timeless teaching methods, now acknowledged as a significant contribution to translation didactics. With regard to Levy's educational and promotional activities for the wider public, we mainly refer to his engagement in the Circle of Translators and later also in the Translation Section of the Union of Czechoslovak Writers, which Levy also represented in the International Federation of Translators (FIT).

While Jiří Levý is a highly influential translation scholar whose work is frequently discussed and analysed, he still offers research potential. Accordingly, our dissertation also illustrates the complexity of Levý's work and encourages further research on the topics highlighted in this paper, which is based not only on examining published materials, but also includes the extensive use of archival sources and interviews with Levý's contemporaries.

Keywords: Jiří Levý, literary translation, translation theory, translation history, translation didactics, Czech structuralism