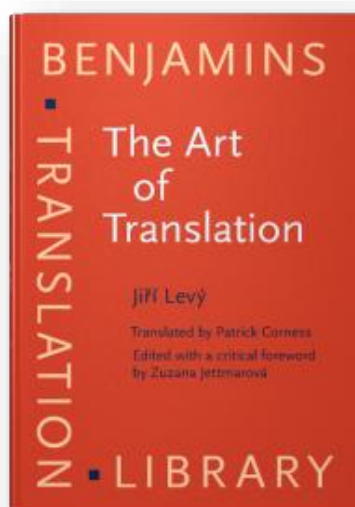


Jiří Levý's translators, editors and publishers



There are many books bearing the same title, in many languages (e.g. by Chukovsky, Dedecius, Savory), but Levý's *Art of Translation* is a unique work. It has been made accessible to the world public by Patrick Corness, erudite translator and Slavist, under the editorship of Zuzana Jettmarová ...

Most importantly, this edition is both a gift and a task (in the sense of the German *Gabe und Aufgabe*) for the discipline and profession alike. As Karel Hausenblas, the editor and translator of the 1983 Czech version, said, any following work in TS would have to measure up to Jiří Levý's work. Now, it may be other works that will be compared to and seen through the universally accessible Levý.

— **Tomáš Svoboda** (*ToP*, 103/2012; transl. Z. Jettmarová)

The book proves to be valuable to translators, researchers, students and teachers in the field of Translation and Literary Studies who could not read the Czech or the German version of the book. The English version of Levý's book will be a major contribution to our understanding of the extent to which translation studies emerged as a new academic field in the twentieth century.

— **Adina Nicolae**, Review, *Word and Text. A Journal of Literary Studies and Linguistics*, 2 (2), 2012.

[In the 1960s and 1970s, a major contribution to the theorizing of translation shifts was made by a group of scholars in the then Czechoslovakia. These writings have been somewhat neglected in recent years, but the recent English translation of Jiří Levý's key work will doubtless cause them to be reevaluated.]

— **Jeremy Munday** (*Introducing Translation Studies*): <http://www.routledge.com/cw/munday-9780415584890/s1/previous/>

Cabe desear que la publicación de la versión inglesa de la obra de Jiří Levý casi cincuenta años después de la aparición del original checo contribuya no solo a ampliar los conocimientos de la historia de la traductología, sino que se convierta en un aporte al incesante debate sobre la renovación metodológica de nuestra disciplina.

— **Jana Králová**, **Charles University**, review of *The Art of Translation* (*Herméneus* 15/2013: 368)

On translating this book see: *Translating Jiří Levý's Art of Translation for an International Readership / Traduzindo The Art of Translation de Jiří Levý para um Público Internacional* by Zuzana Jettmarová, Gustavo Althoff, Gustavo Sartin, at: <https://periodicos.ufsc.br/index.php/scientia/article/view/1980-4237.2012n11p132>

Interview with Zuzana Jettmarová on Levy's The Art of Translation:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKIXHlkDsyM>



The Art of Translation by Jiri Levy

Roderick Jones interviewing Zuzana Jettmarova, the editor of the English edition. Jiří Levý's seminal work, The Art of Translation, considered a timeless ...



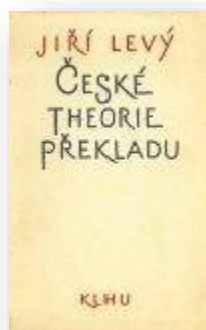
Translator and Slavist Patrick Corness and his wife Jitka: Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Silver Medal Award (Prague, 2013)

Author of the **Quadrilingual Corpus: Jiří Levý, Umění překlada** (Czech-German-English-Russian), Patrick Corness, InterCorp 2013; at <http://patrickcorness.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/tetralingual-presentation-ffuk-6th-sept2.pdf>

The Emergence of a World Classic: The History of the Book



Umění překlada (*The Art of Translation*). Praha: Československý spisovatel, 1963 (1st Czech edition)
The book was the outcome of Levý's extensive empirical and theoretical research based on Czech structuralist methodology and interdisciplinarity and his state-of-the-art knowledge of a number of disciplines in both East and West.



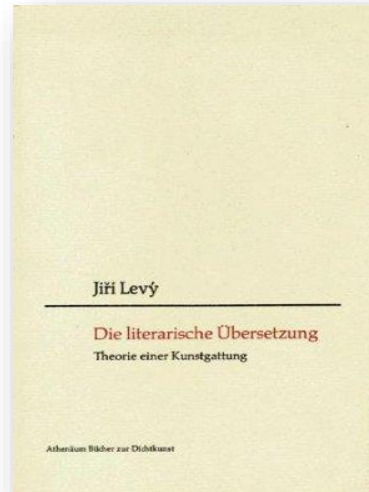
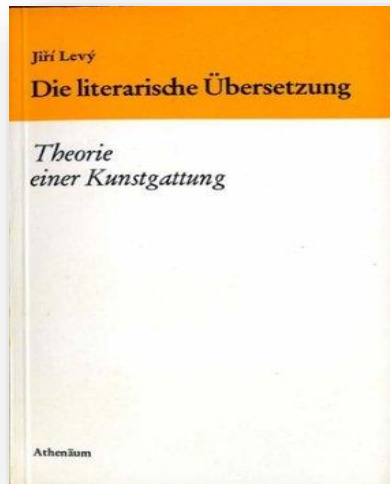
1957



1996

Empirical data and method: *Czech Theories of Translation* was published in 1957. The book, over 900 pages in length, may be the first comprehensive history of translation ever published, covering the period between the Middle Ages and the end of World War II. The 1996 edition is an abridged version. Levý is justly called a descriptivist, because his theory is based on empirical results, the object of research being socio-historical fact subject to norms and functions. But this is not all. Firstly, Czech structuralist methodology was anti-positivist; it was constructivist. Secondly, the 'zig-zag' approach permitted the integration of theoretical models (and their subsequent verification) into the development of the discipline. For this purpose Levý used experimental methods (e.g. to verify translation universals – he called them tendencies) and also suggested generic and recognoscative models for the verification of the linear process of decision-making through ex post facto retrospection, and introspection. His introspection was not based on TAPs as we now know them, but

on observation of the chain of variants produced in the process leading to the final decision, which is a more recent method (e.g. Jakobsen, Hansen).

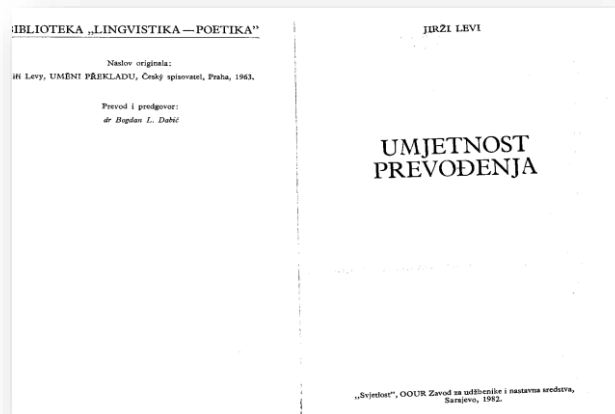


Die literarische Übersetzung. Walter Schamschula, Athenäum (1969)

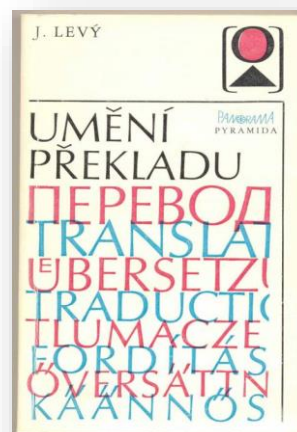
It was this German Slavist (now Professor Emeritus at UCLA, then a university teacher in Western Germany) who asked Levý to make his *Art of Translation* available abroad. Similar communication was probably taking place between Levý and his Russian translator Vladimir Rossels, who first published the monograph chapter by chapter in the renowned periodical *Tetradí perevodchika*, then in 1974 in book form.



The Art of Translation in Russian. Vladimir Rossels, Moscow, 1974.



The Art of Translation in Serbo-Croat, Sarajevo, 1982. Translator unknown. Reference is made to the 1963 source, but the book was translated from the 1974 Russian version.



Karel Hausenblas, *Umění překlada* [The Art of Translation] Praha: Panorama, 2nd edition (1983)

Levý wrote different versions for different readerships, sending them chapter by chapter to his two translators until his death in 1967. For the 1983 Czech version, *The Art of Translation* was back-translated from the German in 1983 by the Czech linguist Karel Hausenblas, taking into account the style and content of the 1963 edition. This 1983 version is the source for the 2011 English translation, which also takes into account the German and Russian versions in respect of corrections and the selection of examples.



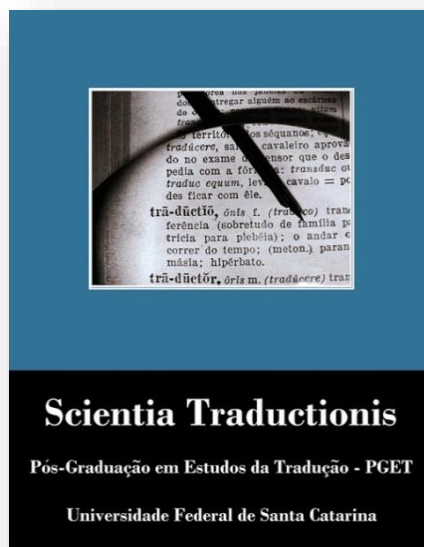
1998 (Praha, Ivo Železný)



2012 (Praha, Apostrof)

The 1998 Czech edition was a reprint of the 1983 edition, with minor corrections. The 2012 edition was updated following the 2011 English version.

Other Books and Articles at a Glance



n. 11 (2012)

(Re)descobrimdo Jiří Levý

(Re)discovering Jiří Levý

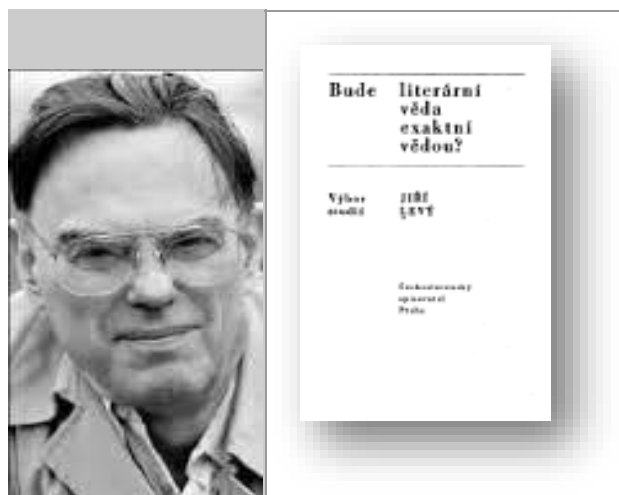
Omnia tempus habent (Jerome, *Eccl.* 3:1). *There is a time for everything*, as the ancients taught us.

About fifty years ago, the Czech scholar Jiří Levý (1926-1967) published his most important work – nowadays considered a classic of Translation Studies –, *Umění překladu* (1963), on the theory of literary

translation. Of late, this work has been rediscovered and despite its age it is admired for its conceptions and the universality of its propositions. The ongoing movement of rediscovery of Jiří Levý is supported by several major initiatives, such as the recent translation of *Umění překlada* into English, *The Art of Translation* (John Benjamins: 2011), as well as the dissemination of Levý's thought by Czech scholars Jana Králová and Zuzana Jettmarová from Charles University in Prague, articles by both of whom previously published elsewhere are translated into Portuguese for this issue.

The current issue of Scientia Traductionis contains a dossier dedicated to the leading Czech translation theorist: **(Re)discovering Jiří Levý**. It comprises four texts written by him, plus five others on his thought. All the texts in foreign languages are presented as such and in their first ever translations into Portuguese. It is worthy of note that an excerpt of *Umění překlada*, taken from the German version (1969), to which Levý contributed as a co-translator, is also featured. [...]

— Mauri Furlan & Gustavo Althoff. <http://www.periodicos.ufsc.br/index.php/scientia/>



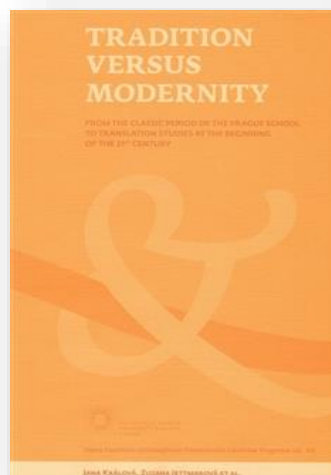
Miloslav Červenka (editor)

Bude literární věda exaktní vědou? [Will Literary Studies Become an Exact Science?] Miroslav Červenka (ed.), selected essays and articles by Jiří Levý, in Czech (Praha: Československý spisovatel, 1971). Several articles in this collection had been previously published in English. The most prominent is the essay on the genesis of a literary work (including the famous *Translation as a Decision Process* – previously circulated in an abridged English version). See: Jana Králová and Zuzana Jettmarová (eds.), ***Tradition versus Modernity. From the Classic Period of the Prague School to Translation Studies at the Beginning of the 21st Century*** (2008). Levý's article ***The process of creation of a work of literature and its reception*** is accessible in English translation at: <http://utrl.ff.cuni.cz/UTRLFF-400-version1-Geneze.pdf>.



Paralipomena. Brno University 1971 (Jiří Levý's articles and essays on versification, in English and other languages; some of them previously published elsewhere – see Levý's List of Publications). Free access at <http://digilib.phil.muni.cz/handle/11222.digilib/103874>

- *A Contribution to the Typology of Accentual-Syllabic Versifications.* (In Poetics/Poetyka, Warszawa 1961, 177-188).
- *The Development of Rhyme-Scheme and of Syntactic Pattern in the English Renaissance Sonnet.* (In Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis, Philologica IV, 1981, 167-185).
- *On the Relations of Language and Stanza Pattern in the English Sonnet* (In Worte und Werte. Bruno Markwardt zum 60. Geburtstag, G. Erdmann und A. Eichstaedt (Hrsg.), Berlin 1961, 214-231).
- *W sprawie ścisłych metod analizy wiersza* (In Poetyka i matematyka, Warszawa 1965, 23-71).
- *The Meanlngs of Form and the Forms of Meaning* (In Poetics/Poetyka, Warszawa 1966, 45-59).
- *Aktualnye problemy teorii khudozhestvennogo perevoda* (In Aktualnye problemy teorii khudozhestvennogo perevoda, Moskva 1967, vol 2, 296-303).



Tradition versus Modernity. From the Classic Period of the Prague School to Translation Studies at the Beginning of the 21st Century. Jana Králová and Zuzana Jettmarová (eds.), Charles University Press, 2008.

This book contains a variety of articles by contemporary authors representing the standpoint of Czech structuralism in translation research, introduced by Zuzana Jettmarová's overview.

It also presents Levý's seminal (abridged) essay that may shed more light on what he actually meant by the decision process, the generic model, the minimax strategy, translation tendencies (now known as universals), anti-positivism, etc.

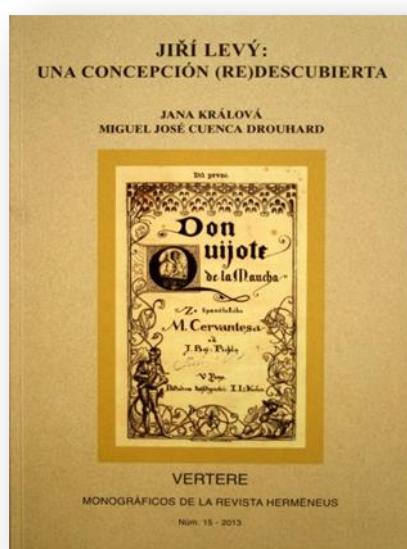
The process of creation of a work of literature and its reception

Jiří Levý. Translated by Patrick Corness

"This translation is made from an abridged version of the chapter entitled *Geneze a recepcce literárního díla* in Levý (1971). In Section 1: *The Creation of a Translation*, some examples and certain modifications have been adopted from a shorter version of the chapter entitled ***Translation as a decision process***, which Levý wrote in English (1967). *Creation* is adopted as the equivalent of Levý's *geneze* [genesis] – a neutral concept in terms of non/creative processes ... (Translator's note)"

Levý's article is accessible at: <http://utrl.ff.cuni.cz/UTRLFF-400-version1-Geneze.pdf>

Zuzana Jettmarová's article **Czech and Slovak Translation Theories: the Lesser known Tradition** is accessible at: http://usuaris.tinet.cat/apym/publications/ETT/Jettmarova_4%2002_08.pdf



Jana Králová, Miguel Cuenca, Herméneus, Soria 2013 (Jiří Levý Anthology in Spanish)

Highlights of the work of Levý in Spanish. Contents: Introduction (methodological background, basic aspects and categories of Levý's theory); *Czech Theories of Translation* 1996 (Foreword and final chapter); *The Art of Translation* 1983 (Part I); *The Creation of a Work of Art and its Translation* 1971 (First part); *Karel Čapek's Translations and their Role in the Evolution of Czech Translation and Verse* (abridged); *Will Translation Theory be of Use to Translators?*

FILIPPE MENDES NECKEL

**DIE LITERARISCHE ÜBERSETZUNG
APRESENTAÇÃO DA OBRA DE JIŘÍ LEVÝ ACOMPANHADA
DE UMA TRADUÇÃO COMENTADA**

Dissertação apresentada ao curso de
Pós-graduação em Estudos da Tradução
da Universidade Federal de Santa
Catarina, como parte dos requisitos para
a obtenção do título de Mestre em
Estudos da Tradução.

Área de concentração: Teoria, história
e crítica da tradução.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Mauri Furlan
Florianópolis 2011

This dissertation is available on-line. Filipe Mendez also contributed an article based on his dissertation to the *Scientia Traductionis* bilingual issue 11/2012 (see above).

Abstract: In this article I present the most prominent features of the translation theory of Jiří Levý – a Czech historian and researcher. By means of an introductory reconstruction, I shed light upon two of his works dating from the 60s which are representative of his thought but which received little or no recognition by his peers in the West: *Die literarische Übersetzung* (1969 [1963]) and *Translation as a decision process* (2000 [1966]), translated into Portuguese fully and partially, respectively, in this issue of *Scientia Traductionis*. A panorama of Levý's role as a theoretician is offered and the importance of his theories to the history, critique and practice of translation is highlighted.



Siri Nergaard (1995)

