

Translator's introduction to the English edition

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The Art of Translation

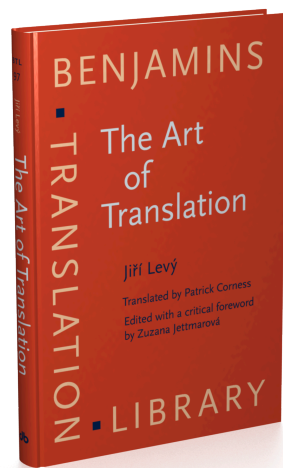
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The sources for the present book are overlapping and somewhat complex, as will emerge from a reading of the history of Jiří Levý's *The Art of Translation* referred to in the *Introduction to the 1983 Czech Edition* in this volume. The primary source text for my translation is the latest Czech edition (1983) reprinted in 1998; reference has also been made to the German edition (1969) translated by Walter Schamschula and the Russian edition (1974) translated by Vladimir Rossels. The German and Russian versions were translated from Czech manuscripts adjusted by Jiří Levý for the respective readerships and these sources have been used to check accuracy, terminology and meaning; they have also been a source of additional relevant information or more apt examples for inclusion or substitution, bearing in mind that Levý's treatment of versification in Part II of the German edition focused on languages other than Czech, whereas the Czech version of Part I offered a more comprehensive treatment of general issues, having originally been compiled from the 1963 and 1969 editions.

Where translation examples quoted by Levý are in Russian or Czech I have added a literal back translation into English. All translations of excerpts and quotations are my own unless specifically stated otherwise; those not originally in Czech are translated from the original source rather than at second hand via Levý's Czech rendering. In the case of Gachechiladze (1961), unavailable to me, the Russian source text was taken as quoted in Levý (1974).

For the transliteration of Russian names, words and short phrases occurring in the text the modified Library of Congress Cyrillic transliteration system, customary in academic publications, is adopted in this translation, with the proviso that the use of the obtrusive apostrophe to distinguish largely irrelevant minor pronunciation features is avoided.

The use of terminology is informed by previous publications in the field, including writings by Levý in English. For the present translation I have had the benefit of Zuzana Jettmarová's extensive unpublished Czech-English terminological glossary of Czech structuralism and translation studies.

I am immensely indebted to the Editor of this volume, Zuzana Jettmarová, for her expert guidance and unstinting support in every way in the course of my work

on the translation of this book. She has assisted me to better understand the philosophy and terminology of Czech structuralism, enabling the Prague School's contribution to translation studies, and in particular the work of Jiří Levý, to be better known and understood well beyond the country of its origin – none too soon, given the very limited accessibility of the Czech language in academic circles.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge the support and patience of my wife and family, which made the completion of this translation possible.

Patrick Corness

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