

## ABSTRACT

*Salamanderdance Tied Up: The Hungarian Translation of Karel Čapek's Novel War with the Newts and its Interpretation from the Perspective of Animality*

Karel Čapek's 1935/1936 novel, *War with the Newts* was translated into Hungarian by László Szekeres. The Hungarian translation is examined from a descriptive and cultural translation studies point of view, based on three editions of the Hungarian novel, the first (1948) and the second edition (1956) and the latest version of the text from 2009.

In the first chapter of the thesis the complex structure of the text in the Czech and Hungarian editions is analysed. The quotation technique displayed in the novel portrays a complex underlying notion of text, reader and interpretation. The Hungarian editions vary according to the management of the typographic and textual complexity. The 1948 and the 2009 editions simplify the image of the pages considerably, whereas the 1956 edition retains the diversity of the Czech text.

The second chapter of the thesis investigates the linguistic diversity of the texts. The original's tendency to mix languages, dialects or different registers of a language appears to different extents in the Hungarian editions. All editions display at least a slight tendency to translate non-Czech elements into Hungarian or omit these foreign expressions.

The third chapter inquires into the workings of irony and parody in the translated text. Three cases are examined: that of scientific discourse and the animal-human borderline; allusions to the evolving national natural science; and irony in connection with specific Czech references. Owing to the shared cultural background, most of the ironic gestures in the text can easily be perceived by the Hungarian audience.

In the fourth chapter the results of the computer-aided comparison of the 1936 Czech and the 1948 Hungarian text are presented. Evidence points to a tendency of standardization in the Hungarian text. However, the analysis shows how the features studied in the first three chapters can clearly be followed in the Hungarian text and allow the Hungarian reader similar interpretations to that of the Czech.

In the fifth chapter of the thesis the novel is interpreted from the joint perspective of animal studies and post-colonialism. The impossibility of the subaltern's entering the discourse of power is amply displayed by the animal-human interactions of the novel. The nature of the border between the species is often investigated and called into question in the text, however, the failure to enter into any dialogue with the Other can be interpreted as one of the causes of the end of human civilisation.