

## Reflexive Possessives in the Third Redaction of the Old Czech Bible Translation

The competition of simple and reflexive possessive pronouns is a topic widely discussed in Czech synchronous linguistics (‘Přivlastňovací zájmeno’); however, the competition of simple and reflexive possessive pronouns can be detected in Old Czech, as well. Jan Gebauer, a prominent Czech philologist and to this day one of the most respected Czech linguists, claims that instead of the proper reflexive (*svůj*), other possessive pronouns (i.e., pronouns *můj*, *tvůj*, *náš*, *váš* in relation to the subject) could have been used in Old Czech texts (Gebauer 1929: 228). This was mainly due to the influence of other languages (especially Latin and German), which is why this tendency is most evident in translated literature. As for the Czech biblical translation, Vladimír Kyas, a Slavist and the editor of the Old Czech Bible, first describes this tendency (reflexive possessives regularly being replaced by the simple ones) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Melantrich Bible* (1556/1557).

In our research we found that the tendency to replace reflexive possessives with simple possessives in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> persons (of singular and plural forms, due to the low number of occurrences we omit the dual) first appears in the third redaction of the Old Czech Bible, which dates back to the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (the author most likely started translating sometime around 1410). The author tried to translate the text of the Bible as literally as possible, which probably showed in the translation of possessive pronouns, too.

However, it is necessary to distinguish between the third translation of the Psalter and the third redaction of the Bible. While the use of reflexive and simple possessives in the third translation of the Psalter – which has been first preserved in the *Boskovice Bible* (Olomouc, Vědecká knihovna v Olomouci, shelfmark M III 3) – alternates to varying degrees, the text of the Psalter of the *Padeřov Bible* from 1432–1435 (Wien, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, shelfmark Cod. 1175) with revised translation already evinces systematic removal of reflexive possessives in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> persons. This study tries to expand on the issue of reflexive possessives in the Old Czech biblical translation (including the issue of possessives in the 3<sup>rd</sup> persons); it will look primarily at the use of reflexive possessives in the Psalter of the Bible of the third translation, but also in other biblical books, as well as in earlier and later Bible translations.

## References:

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