

Title: "...*proti své/svý vůli...*" Code Switching in Hrabal's *Příliš hlučná samota*
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Bohumil Hrabal's idiosyncratic use of the Czech language has been the bane of his translators and a prodigious source of material for his critics. The cataloguing of Hrabal's linguistic oddities, especially his mixture of written and spoken Czech, has predominately been used as a means of establishing the 'literariness' of his work. The intermixing of the high and colloquial language in Hrabal's work creates deviations from the standard to establish the necessary 'defamiliarization' prized in traditional formalist approaches to literature. Such a discussion focuses on the language of the text, often without exploring the source of such deviations. Is Hrabal's experimentation with the Czech language simply a way to establish literariness and if not what can an intensive study of the linguistic features of Hrabal's prose reveal about the text itself? This paper seeks to provide an answer to this question by exploring the phenomenon of code switching in Hrabal's masterpiece *Příliš hlučná samota* (*Too Loud a Solitude*).

As Karen Gamelgaard notes Hrabal's language is often praised for its use of spoken features (2). However, focusing the spoken elements of Hrabal's language leads to a disregard of the existence of those linguistic features more commonly associate with written Czech. For example, in *Příliš hlučná samota* Hrabal consistently uses -i in the first person singular ending of the verb *žít* (to live). Yet, with the verb *pít* (to drink) he consistently chooses the -u ending for that same form (Hrabal 10). Perhaps an even more interesting example is on the first page of the novel where Hrabal repeats the phrase *proti své vůli* (against my will); however, in the second instantiation the *své* becomes *svý* thereby employing both variants of the feminine singular adjective ending in the dative (Hrabal 9). It is by exploring the phenomenon as a whole that this paper aims to understand the reason such a switch occurs in such a significant and repeated phrase.

Works Cited

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