

Title: Czech *duchovní* as English *spiritual*? Examining a Havelian Key Word and Its Translation
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The paper makes two contributions to Czech studies. First and foremost, it represents an examination of a key concept in Václav Havel's thinking, a concept which occurs most frequently in Havel's writing via the adjective *duchovní* (often translated by the path-of-least-resistance *spiritual*) but is also present in its nominal forms, *duch* (*spirit*) and *duchovnost* (translated variously as *spirituality*, *mind and spirit*, *intellect*...). Secondly, the paper offers, as a necessary step toward the first goal, a comparative semantic analysis of *duchovní* and *spiritual*.

Duchovnost is a key term in both pre- and post-1989 Havel, and it therefore unites his so-called dissident period with his presidency. It is also the foundational concept of one of Havel's central arguments: the modern world is a world in *spiritual* crisis and only a revolution in *spirit* can save it. Strangely, this argument has mostly been ignored in Havelian scholarship; I will suggest that one of the reasons for this may well be the conceptual differences between *duchovní* or *duchovnost* and their English renderings.

Briefly put, the difficulty in rendering *duchovní* as *spiritual* is that the Czech word has strong associations with culture, knowledge, and education while the English word has religious overtones that the Czech does not exclude but also does not profile. The Czech suggests a relationship between an individual and the larger cultural that s/he inhabits while the English word primarily references the personal sphere (compare the phrases *duchovní potenciál* and *spiritual potential*). *Duchovní* suggests a horizontal and cultural kind of spirituality while *spiritual* implies a vertical and personal kind.

Sources for the analysis include dictionaries, corpora, interviews with native speakers, and a detailed comparison of professional translations of Havel's texts with the original Czech (these include four pre-1989 essays as well as all of Havel's presidential speeches from 1990-2003).