



## TRANSLATING NON-BINARY IDENTITIES IN LITERATURE FROM ENGLISH TO CZECH

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**Research purpose.** This research aims to systematically assess the Czech non-binary community's preferences in treating gender-neutral language in translating literary works from English into Czech. It will do so by comparing the attitudes of the non-binary community to other readerships. A comparison of text readability under different translation strategies will be conducted. The comparative analysis will determine how well each translation strategy preserves the narrator/character's non-binary identity. The aim of this research is not to prescribe a single way of non-binary expression but rather to assess a range of solutions which by nature of non-binary identities must necessarily be varied.

**Keywords:** cultural translation, Czech, Czech-English, gender, gender-neutral, generic masculinity, identities, literary translation, literature, LGBT, LGBTQ+, non-binary, pronouns, semantic gender, Slavonic, translation

**Research Methodology.** The research will be conducted via surveys and one-on-one interviews with non-binary Czech native speakers. Questions will relate to linguistic identity, the influence of English on Czech gender-neutral expression, and their preferences in translation strategies. They will also be given sample texts translated from English to Czech through several strategies. These will also be given to gender-binary Czech native speakers. All participants will be asked to reflect on the texts' readability under different methods with how well the translation methods preserve the non-binary identity of the source text's narrator/characters.

**Results / Findings.** The research will focus on several strategies, mainly a graphic adjustment of past participle verb forms and gender-marked adjectives. Other strategies, such as the bypassing of gendered phrases, can hide the non-binarity of the character, and disrupt readability and flow (Wehle, 2020, 65). Translators can also use plural instead of singular, as this is the norm in English (Bregantová, 2020, n. p.). However, the plural form would create a masculine suffix anyhow because of the generic masculinity in Czech.

**Originality / Practical implications.** Previous research on non-binary identities in the Czech language has had a limited scope, as it was done at BA/MA thesis level. This shows the need for further discussion in public spaces and academia. While linguists may offer an academic perspective and translators must find practical solutions, it is Czech non-binary people who will ultimately adopt a standard way of gender-neutral expression.