

Smith, Nancy Susan

History of Czech verb classification from the 16th century up to Dobrovský

Sborník prací Filozofické fakulty brněnské univerzity. A, Řada jazykovědná. 1992, vol. 41, iss. A40, pp. [61]-70

ISBN 80-210-0547-5

ISSN 0231-7567

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/101358>

Access Date: 16. 02. 2024

Version: 20220831

Terms of use: Digital Library of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University provides access to digitized documents strictly for personal use, unless otherwise specified.

NANCY SMITH

HISTORY OF CZECH VERB CLASSIFICATION FROM THE 16TH CENTURY UP TO DOBROVSKÝ

The history of Czech verb classification, as well as the history of Czech philology or linguistic writings begins early in comparison to that of other Slavic languages. The first known Czech grammar appears in 1533 and it is also the first known Slavic grammar. Systematic classifications of the verb or conjugations did not appear in the first grammar, but are included in a grammar not long afterward (1577). The following is a review of grammars relevant in the development of verb classification from the earliest grammar up to but not including Dobrovský's treatment of the verb in his *Ausführliches Lehrgebäude der böhmischen Sprache* (Prague, 1809).

The first known Czech primer or exercise book is a volume printed in 1531 in Plzeň under the title *Krátké naučenj obogi řeči, česky a německy učiti se čjsti y mluwiti, čechům německy, a němčům česky... Zpráva o vlastnosti některých liter, kterak by w obogi řeči auplně wysloweny býti magj*.¹ The origin of the book is not definitely known, although Dobrovský (*Ausführliches Lehrgebäude*, 1809) credits Johann Pekk, who may have been the publisher. According to Jungmann (*Historie literatury české*, 1849:129) the text was printed first at J. Pekk's in Plzeň and reprinted in: Prostějov, 1548; Prague 1567, 1577, 1603, 1740, 1764; Olomouc, 1614. Stankiewicz (*Grammars and Dictionaries...*, 1984) lists the author as unknown. The book itself is small, consisting of eighteen pages of comparison of Czech and German pronunciation along with dialogues. Special attention is paid to Czech vowel quality. It remained popular until Dobrovský's day as is proved by the numerous reprints. Dobrovský *Lehrgebäude*, 1819) holds it in high regard.

¹ This book is not listed in Zdeněk Tobolka's *Knihopis českých a slovenských tisků od doby nejstarší až do konce osmnáctého století* (1948, díl II, část 2.), which casts some doubt on its existence. I mention it, however, because the numerous reprints listed by Dobrovský (1809), Jungmann (1849) and Stankiewicz (1984) support its existence.

Optát, Gzell and Philomates' *Gramatika česká* (1533), is generally accepted as the oldest grammar of the Czech language and of Slavic in general. It is commonly known as the Náměšť grammar because it was first printed in the town of Náměšť near Třebíč in Western Moravia: Its importance and the importance of its authors has been overshadowed by Jan Blahoslav's edition (1571) of the same text, annotated, expanded and with remarks but with no changes in content. Blahoslav's work is better known, perhaps, as Gerd Freidhof (1973) asserts, due to his (Blahoslav's) "outstanding" personality. He was a wellknown, active bishop and prolific archivist of the Czech/Moravian Brethren. In spite of this, the importance of the Náměšť grammar cannot be denied and is confirmed by numerous other editions including a Nuremberg edition (1543)² and two Prague editions (1588, 1643). Both the Prague editions and the Nuremberg edition are practically identical to the original while another edition (Prostějov, 1548) contains only the first part, the "Orthographia". According to Freidhof, the 1543 Nuremberg edition is the one taken over in Blahoslav's grammar. Oldřich Králík (1948:254) argues that Blahoslav's use of the grammar gave it a legitimacy and second life in a new time.

The *Grammatika* (1533) is divided into two parts: the orthography, with a forward from Optát and Gzell, and the Etymology with a forward by Philomates. The Etymology is less of a systematic presentation of the problems of Czech grammar than it is a guide to the problems of translation from Latin into Czech. This is not surprising as, according to Stanekiewicz (1984), the grammar is written in connection with the authors' translation of the New Testament. This is confirmed by Jungmann (1849:128). The Etymology is divided according to the eight parts of speech: substantives (nouns and adjectives), pronouns, verbs, adverbs, participles, prepositions and interjections. In the section on the verb, no verbal system as such is presented. Rather several remarks concerning the tense system are made and possible connections with particles are pointed out. There is no classification of verbs. Jungmann (1849:128) makes the interesting comment that some of the information presented is correct, some incorrect, and some unnecessary for Czechs (for whom the grammar is certainly meant). This may be due to the fact that the grammar is based on Latin grammars of the time. Certain characteristics of Latin do not fit the facts of Czech.

The next known grammar of Czech was printed by Ondřej Klatovský in 1540 in Prague with the title *Knižka w czieském a Niěmeckém yazyku složena, kterakby Czech Niěmecky a Niěmec Česky čijsti, psáti a mluwiti učijti se mǐěl*. It was reprinted numerous times (Olomouc, 1564, 1614, 1641; Prague, 1551, 1567, 1577, 1578, 1590, 1597, 1603, 1631; Kutná Hora, 1642) and as these reprints show, Klatovský's Czech-German primer didn't go unnoticed. The book consists of forty-two side-by-side Czech and German conversations, the first seven of which deal with conjugation and declension and the remaining 35 with various other subjects. The vo-

² This edition is known only through Blahoslav's grammar.

cabulary is mostly that used in situations encountered when travelling. It was the contemporary equivalent of modern "Say it in Czech" guides. The *Knižka* doesn't present any comprehensive verb system, although several individual forms point to the status of the present tense conjugation at the time the book was written. No classification of verbs is presented.

In 1549 Šimon Hájek published a *Tabula congruitatis quarundam locutionum Bohemicarum (barbarolectica)* which, despite its Latin name has Czech as its focus. It is unremarkable in and of itself. However, in 1564 Matouš (Matěj) Kolín z Chotěřiny printed his *Grammatica linguae Bohemicae (De quatuor partibus grammatices praeceptiunculae compendiosae)*. It consists of tables of paradigmata, is modelled after Latin grammars of the time and incorporates the *Tabula* of Hájek. Neither presents any classification of verbs. Stankiewicz (1984) lists another publication by Kolín (1552), a handbook of Czech orthography and pronunciation, also without a verb classification.

As mentioned above, Jan Blahoslav wrote and edited a version of the *Gramatika česká* which was completed only shortly before his death in 1571. Although it was not published at all until 1857 in Vienna,³ and then only in an incomplete edition, it was certainly widely known and used in manuscript form, especially in the Brethren schools in Moravia. Blahoslav's *Gramatika* incorporates the text of Optát, Gzell and Philomates': it is fully annotated and an appendix with information on the Stylistics of translation and metaphor and a very brief section on Czech and Moravian dialects is added. No new information on verb classification is presented. According to Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:9), the two grammars differ in their conception of the literary language. The first (1533) codifies Czech according to the contemporary living language (usage) and formulates individual conclusions as theoretical rules. The second grammar (1571), on the other hand, archaizes the literary norm and makes judgements from a subjective, aesthetic viewpoint.

The first systematic classification of the verb is presented in the first paradigmatically based grammar by Matouš (Matthäus) Benešovský Philonomist, a preacher at St. James' Church in the Old Town, Prague, in his *Grammatica bohémica, studiosis eius linguae utilissima, t.j. Gramatika česká milovníkům téhož jazyku velmi užitečná*, Prague, 1577. Benešovský was the Czech tutor of King Rudolf II and according to Jungmann (1849: 128) tried to convince him that learning Czech would be a benefit in governing a large Slavic people. The grammar consists solely of paradigmata of the declensions and conjugations and several psalms (which Benešovský renders in Czech hexameter and pentameter). The conjugations he arranges by the stem-making vowel of the second and third person singular present form. He presents thus three classes: *mám, máš, má; chřadnu, chřadneš, chřadne; widjm, widjš, widj*. These he follows with two

³ A new complete and annotated edition of Blahoslav's grammar appeared recently: *Gramatika česká Pana Blahoslava* from Mirek Čejka, Dušan Šlosar and Jana Nechutová, in Brno, 1991. It is the first complete edition of Blahoslav's grammar.

complete but unconnected (to the system) conjugations of *chápám* and *chopjm*, *skloňugi* and *sklonjm*. As Dobrovský (1819) notes, this mixing up of the forms is avoided by his (Benešovský's) followers. Jungmann (1849: 128) praises the *Grammatica* as being the first 'sound' grammar. Although the classification of verbs is rough, it is the first and, as Jungmann asserts, it must be looked on as a first attempt. Stankiewicz (1984) maintains that Benešovský's grammar "represents no advance over that of Optát and Gzell (1533)". The fact that Benešovský presents a classification at all seems to argue against this. And as Večerka, Šlosar, et al assert (1988:9), Benešovský's grammar represents a definite methodological advance in its recognition of Czech morphology.

The next known grammar of Czech was written by a professor of Classics and Mathematics in Prague, a Slovak from Nedožery, near Prievidza, Western Slovakia, Vavřinec Benediktus Nudožerský in 1603. The author is commonly referred to by a number of other names including: Laurentius Benedicti, Benedict, Benedykt, with the surname Nudozerinus, Nudožerinus, or Nudožerský. His grammar appeared under the title *Grammaticae Bohemicae ad leges naturalis methodi conformatae et notis numerisque illustratae ac distinctae libri duo*. The grammar includes an Etymology, which includes sections on pronunciation, declension and conjugation. Nudožerský presents a four-class classification of verbs using the first person singular present form as a model: *wolám*, *činjm*, *nesu*, *ssigi*. Dobrovský in his *Lehrgebäude* (1819:VII) praises the grammar, saying that these four paradigms chosen by Nudožerský still (up until his day) seem to be sufficient. Jungmann (1849:128) also has praise, calling it "one of the best grammars up to our day". Part II (*De Syntaxi*) deals with agreement, the uses of the cases and provides dialectal information. Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:9) credits Nudožerský's conjugations with "reaching the doorstep" of recognising verbal aspect and calls the grammar the first Czech grammar in the true sense of the word. According to Stankiewicz (1984) this is the first normative Czech grammar. It was modelled on the Latin grammar of Peter Ramus and composed with the help of Daniel Adam z Veleslavína who is best known for his work with translations of religious texts and multilingual dictionaries.

Jan (Johann) Drachovský, a Jesuit, missionary and professor of Latin and Greek, wrote a short grammar of Czech which was only published after his death (1644) by Matěj Šteyer under the title *Grammatica boemica in V libros divisa* (Olomouc, 1660). This small book, based on Latin handbooks, contains declensions (based on the vowels of the genitive case) and conjugations including a classification of verbs according to the stem-making vowel in the second and third person singular present form (similar to that found in Benešovský). According to Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:10), this grammar is based on the contemporary language and is descriptive rather than prescriptive. Drachovský's three verb classes are presented as follows: 1. *faukám*, with stem suffix -á; 2. *hnigi*, *trescy*, *blednu*, with stem suffix -e; 3. *sedjm*, with the stem suffix -j/ý. Many verbs which later change from one verb class to another are presented here in the first person singular present form in "doublets", two forms

appearing in parallel. Thus *lamám, lami; ssklubám, ssklubi; kausám, kaussi*, etc. This is common in texts of this period and will be discussed fully later.

Jiří Konstanc (Georg Constantius, Konstantius), a Jesuit and professor of Humanities and Mathematics, as well as a missionary for twelve years, published in Prague, 1667, his *Lima linguae bohemicae to gest brus gazyka českého neb spis o pooprawenj a naostřenj řeči české*, commonly referred to as *Brus*. According to Dobrovský (*Geschichte*, 1792), Konstanc wrote his grammar in order to deter the decline of the language (Czech) and to point out solecisms to its speakers. Jungmann (1849:257) calls it a well-based grammar written to urge the Czechs to be careful of foreign expressions. Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:10) says simply that Konstanc negatively evaluates certain morphological and syntactical changes or divergences from older literary usage. The grammar itself is written in a Czecho-Latin mixed language with a three-class verb classification similar to that already mentioned in Drachovský's work as coming originally from Benešovský, based on the stem-making vowel in the second and third person singular present form. Konstanc does not present as many 'doublets' or parallel forms as Drachovský; however he does present *hrám: hragi* as possible forms as well as *pjm: pigi*. In most cases, however, the verbs have been relegated to one, in this case the first, or another (the second) verb class.

In 1668 in Prague Matěj Šteyer (also Matouš, Mathias, Matthäus and Štayer, Stejer, Steyer, Štajer), a Jesuit, professor, preacher and missionary, published a guide to Czech orthography under the title *Wýborně dobrý způsob gak se má dobře po česku psáti neb tisknauti, vytažený z české biblí, která na několik dílů rozdělena a výklady po krajích položenými vyswětlena bywši mezi nekatolickými gest u veliké važnosti...* It is commonly known as Šteyer's *Záček* because it consists of conversations between a teacher and student. It is highly praised by Dobrovský in the Introduction to his *Ausführliches Lehrgebäude* (1809). Večerka, Šlosar, et al say (1988:10) that Šteyer codifies essentially on the basis of 16th century Czech and "defends" against the "fall" or decline of the contemporary literary language. Šteyer adopts the three-class verb classification originally presented by Benešovský, but chooses different verbs as his models and makes no mention of the stem-making or thematic vowel. Instead he presents the first person singular present form. His three classes are: For verbs ending in *-ám* he uses *míti: mám, máš, má*. For the second class ending in *-i* he presents *plakati: pláči, pláčeš, pláče*. And for the third class ending in *-jm/-ým hleděti* and *kázati: hledjm, oni hledj (hledagj)* and *kazým, oni kazý*.

Jan Václav Rosa (Johann Wenzel, Johannis Wenceslaus) published in Prague, 1672 his *Čečořečnost seu Grammatica Linguae Bohemicae*, a Czech grammar in four parts: an orthography, etymology, syntax and a section on prosody. Dobrovský (*Ausführliches Lehrgebäude*, 1809, *Lehrgebäude*, 1819) asserts that Rosa's work is that of a Reformer and one who hasn't taken a very good look at his mother tongue. Jiří Marvan (1984) maintains that despite Rosa's position as a Reformer he credits

Komenský, one of the foremost Czech Protestant pedagogues, with influencing his work. Rosa's *Grammatica* was severely criticized by revivalist and postrevivalist linguistics (bohemists) mostly for its attempt to bring neologisms into the language but also for its presentation of "non-literary" morphological and phonological alternations. Later linguists, starting with the Prague Linguistic Circle, recognized Rosa's grammar as one of few descriptions of the Czech language of this period. It is the first grammar to break the hold that Latin Grammars had on grammars of Czech. Rosa was also the first to clearly recognize the essence of verbal aspect and Aktionsart. Rosa also wrote a thesaurus, which is generally accepted to be a continuation of Komenský's work and the inspiration for Jungmann's five-volume *Slovník Česko-německý*. Dobrovský's criticism of Rosa's work may not be completely unbiased.

Rosa present a verb classification similar to that of Nudožerský: Four classes based on the ending of the first person singular present form. Rosa chooses different verbs as models for his classes: Conjugation I: *-ám*; *trhám, trháss, trhá, trháme, trháte, trhagj*. Conjugation II: *-jm/-ým*; 1. *mnjm, -jss, -j, mnjme, -jte, -egj*; 2. *házým*; 3. *běžjm*. Conjugation III: *-i*; 1. *-ugi, milugi, -ess, -e, milugeme, -ete, -j*; 2. *-igi, bigi*; 3. *-egi, hřegi*; 4. *-agi, lagi*. Conjugation IV: *-u*, 1. *-d/-t, -z/s, wedu, -ess, -e, wedeme, -ete, -au; nesu*; 2. *-h/-k, teku*; 3. *-v, rvu*; 4. *-r, mru*; 5. *-n, minu*; 6. *-m/-n, gmu, pnu*.

In Prague, 1704, Václav Jandit (Wenzel Jandyt) published the first edition of his grammar *Grammatica linguae boemicae methodo facili...* It is an excerpt from Rosa's *Čechořečnost* with dialogues added. It was published once again under Jandit's name in 1705 and then numerous times (1715, 1739, 1753) in a version by Kašpar Vussin (Caspar Wussin) with German explanations of the examples and dialogues without Jandit's name. The verb classification is the same found in Rosa (1672). Although its numerous reprints exhibit the grammar's popularity, Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:10) claim that it represents no noticeable progress in the development of grammars.

Pavel Doležal (also Doleschalius), a Slovak born in Skalica and a preacher in Necpaly u Turčanského sv. Martina, Western Slovakia, published in Pressburg (Bratislava) in 1746 his *Grammatica Slavico Bohemica*. Dobrovský (1819:IX) highly praises the work, crediting Doležal as being "the first who felt that the usual number of declinations and conjugations did not suffice". Doležal presents a more complex system with six verb classes arranged according to the stem vowel in the infinitive form. Thus: I. *wolati*, II. *milowati*, III. *ležeti*, IV. *učiti*, V. *pjti*, VI. *hrnauti*. Because he has no model for verbs such as *něsti*, which add the *-ti* ending of the infinitive directly to the stem, he has to treat all such verbs as irregular. Doležal is apparently the first to base his verb classification on the infinitive stem. His system was in its time innovative and more complete than earlier classifications, but it is not sufficient. It ignores an entire class of verbs (*něsti, věsti*, etc) and also treats many verbs whose infinitive forms put them into the "wrong" class such, as *bráti*, as irregular. Doležal

also presents a long list of doublets, parallel forms mentioned before, including *pjsám: pjši* and *mazám: maži*. Despite its inelegance Doležal's classification is still a sign of linguistic progress for its time. Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:10) consider this grammar the most important bohemistic work of the prerevivalist period. He goes on to say that the grammar codifies a norm of biblical slovakized Czech, which was used as a liturgical and literary language of the Protestant evangelical intellectuals in Slovakia. Doležal's forms are rather old but his methods, especially of classification and inflection of verbs, are quite new and their importance is maintained until Dobrovský takes them up himself.

Jan Václav Pohl (Johann Wenzel) was one of the foremost linguistic purists of the Czech National Revival period who was also the Czech teacher of Emperor Josef II in Vienna. His linguistic purism is evident in his *Grammatica linguae bohemicae oder die böhmische Sprachkunst* (Vienna, 1756, 1764, 1773, 1783), consisting of a four-part grammar of Czech which follows Rosa's rules and paradigmata almost exactly, a dictionary of approximately 1600 words and several conversations. Dobrovský (*Ausfühliches Lehrgebäude*, 1819) criticizes Pohl's puristic neologisms, calling them "fully unCzech". Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:11) call it "one of the weakest Czech grammars" ever for it tries to normalize many neologisms, most of which are calques from German.

František Martin Pelcl (Franz Martin Pelzel), born in Rychnov nad Kněžnou, the first professor of Czech language at Charles University, published his first work on the Czech language in Prague, 1775 with the title *Handbuch zum Gebrauch der Jugend bei Erlernung der deutschen, böhmischen und französischen Sprache*. He followed this with several other philological works including *Typus declinationum linguae Bohemicae nova methodo dispositarum* (1793, 1795) and *Grundsätze der böhmischen Grammatik* (1795). The *Handbuch...* consists of a small vocabulary, twelve conversations and thirty stories. The *Typus...* follows a design which was supposedly given to Pelcl by Dobrovský *Lehrgebäude*, 1819:XI) and is a description of Czech inflection. He uses this same system in his *Grundsätze...* (1795), which treats orthography, phonetics, morphology, and syntax. The inflected parts of speech are covered in the morphology section including a particularly complete study of the Czech verb. The verb classification, however, is quite simple, consisting of four classes based on the first person singular present form: *nesu, miluji, wolám*, and *učjm*. The *Grundsätze...* also contains the twelve conversations mentioned above plus a thirteenth, lists of Czech phrases and proverbs, and a Czech-German dictionary. According to Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:11), Pelcl strikes a balance in his grammar: On the one hand he uses archaic forms, on the other hand he frequently presents "folk" forms next to literary forms.

Jan (Johann) Nejedlý, born in Žebrák, was a provincial lawyer and professor of Czech language and literature. For his revision of the translation of the civic law he was given the title King and Caesar Councillor. Nejedlý has many publications in his name. He had a strong influence on the development of Czech verb classification not because his own clas-

sification was ahead of its time (his is basically Dobrovský's system taken over via Pelcl), but because it is through his grammars that knowledge of Dobrovský's verb classification is widened. Nejedlý was the successor to Pelcl as Professor of Czech language and literature at Charles University. He also revised and published Pelcl's grammar after the latter's death in 1801, adding to this theoretical work a practical volume. The first was published in 1804 with the title *Böhmische Grammatik*. The second followed in 1805 with the title *Böhmische Grammatik: Praktischer Band*. Later editions of both appear together with the title: *Praktische böhmische Grammatik für Deutsche*. (Prague, 1809, 1821, 1830). Nejedlý follows Pelcl's four-class system, although he selects different model verbs: *pigi* instead of *milugi*, and *pasu* instead of *nesu*. Dobrovský accepts the first change but not the second because the vowel of *pasu* does not remain unchanged throughout the paradigm. Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:11—12) regard Nejedlý's linguistic talent highly, placing his work alongside that of Tomsa, Chládek and Pelcl, as using a methodologically correct means of investigation based on a good knowledge of the facts of the literary language as well as the living contemporary language. Unlike Pelcl, Nejedlý distinguishes more precisely the literary language from the "folk" language. His norms for this distinction are, however, rather conservative.

František Jan (Franz Johann) Tomsa, born in Mokrý near Turnov, was a journalist as well as an official of the Prague school system in charge of selecting books for the elementary school curriculum. He was also a prolific writer on the subject of the Czech language. Jungmann (*Historie...*, 1849: 642) lists thirty-seven works by Tomsa, mostly dictionaries and manuals of orthography. His first work appeared in 1782 in Prague with the title *Böhmische Sprachlehre (für Deutsche)*. In this work Tomsa follows the *Grammatica Slavico-Bohemica* of Doležal quite closely. In the six conjugations he prefers *hynu* to Doležal's *hrnu*. Otherwise the two classifications are identical and Tomsa's grammar therefore presents the same problems as Doležal's: Verbs of the type *bráti*, *dráti*, etc. are treated as irregular. Tomsa presents more "colloquial" variants than does Doležal. These he sets in parentheses and marks with "im g. L.", that is, "im gemeinen Leben", in everyday life. Thus the following pattern is found: *mazati*, *maži* (im g. L. *mažu*) and *mazám*. The existence of colloquial forms in Tomsa's work will be discussed in detail later. From this inelegant and overly complex classification Tomsa seems to have retreated to an overly simplified system. In a later work *Uiber die Bedeutung, Abwandlung und Gebrauch der českischen Zeitwörter* (1804) he leaves Doležal behind, presenting only two conjugations based on the ending of the first person singular present form (-u and -m). For the first class he uses the model *mnu*; for the second the models *wolám*, *činjm*, and *ležjm*. The book is divided into two parts: Part I, the morphology of the verb, deals with the meanings of verbs and presents the above-mentioned formal classification. There is also a discussion of the verbal categories of mood and aspect, of which three are presented: perfective, imperfective and frequentative. Part II consists of Czech-German conversations as well as so-

me poetry. As mentioned above, Tomsa was a prolific philologist. Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:11) view his works as real progress in the overall conception and methodology of linguistic description. He also considers the *Böhmische Sprachlehre* the best revival grammar before Dobrovský because it is sound in its "documentary" parts, exact in its description and correctly distinguishes the written and spoken language. Tomsa also tends less towards archaisms than his predecessors. Some of his writings include a study of the history of the Czech language through orthographic, syntactic and inflectional changes as attested in texts (*Über die Veränderungen der böhmischen Sprache nebst einer böhmischen Chrestomatie seit dem dreizehnten Jahrhundert bis jetzt*, Prague, 1805), a defense of the Czech language (*Von den Vorzügen der böhmischen Sprache*, Prague, 1812), several dictionaries (*Malý německý a český slovník*, Prague, 1789, and *Vollständiges Wörterbuch der böhmisch-, deutsch-, and lateinischen Sprache*, Prague, 1791), and numerous handbooks on Czech orthography.

Maximilian Šimek (Šimek) was a contemporary of Tomsa and Pohl, and also interested in Czech pedagogy, philology and literature. Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:11) assert that Šimek was also a fanatical purist and lover of neologisms, though Šimek's works do not really support this assertion. He published a handbook for teachers of Czech literature (*Handbuch für einen Lehrer der böhmischen Literatur*, Vienna, 1785) in which he presents four conjugation classes of the verb: *trhám*, *čínjm*, *milugi/pigi*, and *nesu*. He also discusses aspect and presents three: perfective, imperfective and frequentative.

Karel Ignác Thám (Karl Ignaz) was a Doctor of Philosophy and a self-made pedagogue who dedicated his life to the Czech language. Like his contemporary Tomsa, Thám was a journalist and a prolific writer in many areas concerning Czech philology. Jungmann (1849:640) lists twenty-five works for Thám. Among the earliest is his *Kurzgefaßte böhmische Sprachlehre nebst böhmisch, deutsch, französischen Gesprächen*, Prague-Vienna, 1785, in which Thám follows Tomsa's eleven declensions but not his six conjugations. Thám follows instead Rosa's system with four: *trhám*, *čínjm*, *milugi*, and for Rosa's *wedu* Thám has *hnu*. In his *Böhmische Grammatik zur Behufe der Deutschen* (Prague, 1798) Thám cuts back his declensions to seven, probably modelled on Pelzel's eight, but leaves his conjugations pretty much untouched. This volume is reprinted several times with changes in the title: *Böhmische Grammatik zum Gebrauch der Deutschen wodurch sie diese Sprache auf eine leichte Art in kurzer Zeit gründlich erlernen können* (Prague, 1800, 1801), *Erster gründlicher Unterricht in der böhmischen Sprache mit Leseübungen* (1804, 1821). Two of Thám's later works do make some adjustments to the verb classification. According to Stankiewicz (1984:7), Thám's *Neuste gründliche und leichtfassliche Methoden in möglichster Geschwindigkeit böhmisch richtig lesen und schreiben zu lernen* (1811), adopts a verb classification with only three conjugations based on present tense forms; in *Lehrbuch für Anfänger in der böhmischen Sprache in grammatischen und syntaktischen Übungen* (1817) he bases his four-class classification on both the infinitive and present tense stems. From this information it is clear that Thám was

more concerned with methods of Czech pedagogy than with a formal classification of Czech verbs. Most of Thám's works were pedagogical in nature. According to Večerka, Šlosar, et al (1988:11), Thám was a linguistic purist like Pohl if not quite so severe. He wrote numerous grammars, textbooks and dictionaries, most of which promised an easy and fast method for learning Czech. Like Tomša he also wrote a defense of Czech and Slavs in general: *Über den Charakter der Slaven, dann über den Ursprung, die Schicksale, Vollkommenheiten, die Nützlichkeit und Wichtigkeit der böhmischen Sprache* (1803).