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Old Czech relativizers within the long and the short version of the "Revelationes Sanctae Brigittae" – a fortunate insight into historical diaphasic variability

The "Revelationes Sanctae Brigittae" are a very influential Latin text of Christian medieval culture, mainly on the visions of Bridget of Sweden, an important historical figure of the 14th century. Soon, many versions translated into different Germanic and Romance languages spread all over Europe. Correspondingly, also two Old Czech versions by Tomáš ze Štítného appeared, comprising a long version and a shorter one: The first one (delší verze) is obviously an accurate translation of a Latin model text from the region of Prague (Prager Redaktion), while the second one (kratší verze) is based on the before mentioned Czech translation, partially summarizing and rearranging its model and being intended for more "daily usage". (Actually, the short version is said to be a simplified compilation by Tomáš ze Štítného for reading it to his very own daughter during her childhood.)

Interestingly, significant asymmetries between the two Old Czech versions of the "Relevationes Sanctae Brigittae" can be observed also for the distribution of the relativizers: While the long version shows a richer formal (i.e. inflectional) usage of the relativizer, its equivalent contexts within the short version are more often prone to the relativizer's nominative form ješto. Thus, morphosyntactic patterns are sometimes (slightly) altered, resulting in formal contrasts between the two texts. Taking these formal contrasts as a starting point, it will be given an insight into the two Old Czech versions of the "Revelationes Sanctae Brigittae", focusing on the traceable differences in respect to the applied relativizers and finally arguing that the observable variability might be a fortunate case of explicit historical diaphasic divergences.