

The aim of this M.A. thesis was to prove the correlation between text type and time lag in simultaneous interpretation. Two text types were examined: a prepared speech read out by the speaker, and a spontaneous speech, not prepared in written form beforehand. The thesis is based on an experiment examining variations in time lag in simultaneous interpreting from English into Czech. Twelve students and recent graduates of interpreting at the Institute of Translation Studies, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Charles University in Prague, took part in the experiment. The interpreters' outputs were recorded on audiocassettes, then burned on CDs and processed with the help of specialized computer software (Cool Edit). The results were then evaluated, summed up in charts, analyzed, processed graphically, commented on and computed statistically.

The results presented in the empirical part of the thesis were then tested against a hypothesis assuming a shorter time lag in interpreting the prepared read text. This hypothesis was confirmed. The results gained in the experiment showed there is a correlation between text type and time lag in simultaneous interpretation, with a statistically significant difference in time lag between the two types of speech. It was also confirmed that time lag is influenced not only by text type but also, among other things, by the individual approach of the interpreter.

The experiment is of course not exhaustive - neither for the research of time lag in simultaneous interpretation, nor for its correlation with speech types. It would be desirable to broaden the research perspective of time lag and its dependence on text type; some methods of research that could help extend our understanding in this area were suggested.