

The thesis is focused on a description of temporal features of Czech central fricatives (f, v, s, z, š, ž, ch [x], h). The duration of fricatives in the intervocalic position is investigated according to the place of articulation and the voicing contrast. These results are contrasted to the preceding comparable researches. Also other contexts that can influence the duration of fricatives are examined (the phonological quantity of the neighbouring vowels, the position of the fricative in the stress unit, the type of speech, the gender of the speaker). The possible reciprocal influences are analysed in relation to the duration of the fricative and the articulation rate. The thesis deals also with the compensation tendencies in the field of duration of sequences “vowel + fricative” or “fricative + vowel”.

The basis for this research is formed by adequately extensive material of two types – read speeches, acquired advisedly for this analysis, and semi-spontaneous speeches, gained thanks to the Prague Phonetic Corpus (formerly Phonetic-Acoustic Database of Czech), created at the Phonetic Department of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Charles University in Prague.

The methodical basis for the thesis is formed by the doctoral thesis of PhDr. Pavel Machač, Ph.D.