

This thesis focuses on problematics of on-stage speech tempo in a semi-improvised performance. The theoretical part contains field-related findings regarding on-stage speech and aspects of speech tempo. Presented here are definitions of articulation and modified tempo, which are consequently compared with results of related studies of speech tempo. A subjective auditory analysis of performances is presented in the practical part, examining the performances with regards to various speech aspects. The cardinal part of this thesis is centered at a quantitative analysis of speech tempo. The purpose of this thesis is to find, whether individual characters portrayed by a single actor and a single actress are different from the perspective of articulation and modified speech tempo, as well as from the perspective of length of pauses used in the performances. Further, influence of type (monologue vs. dialogue) of performance on the speech tempo of characters portrayed is considered. Linear mixed model was chosen for the purposes of assessing statistical significance. The final part elaborates on development of tempo in terms of a particular output, following its consistency and whether it approaches such of the partner, with whom the part is played. Results show that individual characters' differences in articulation and modified speech tempo, as well as pause length vary significantly. Neither performance type nor temporal dimension appear to have no consistent influence across various characters.