

Abstract:

The thesis examines the phenomenon of nonverbal communication via dance from the perspective of anthropology of dance. The objective of the thesis is to analyze the dance environment of contemporary and ballroom dance, based on the point of view of the dancers as well as of the audience. I determine the differences in the ways these forms of dance communicate through dance performances. I examine how dance functions as a means of language, on which level the communication is processing and what meanings and messages the audience decodes within the dance performance. The phenomenon of dance in its natural environment is studied semiotically, as a form of language in certain context. The fieldwork method is based on participant observation and semistructured interviews with both dancers and audience. The research was conducted in the studio of *Nová scéna – Lidé v pohybu* in Prague, which teaches contemporary dance, and in the dance club *Akcent Dobruška*, which focuses on ballroom dance.

Keywords:

Anthropology of Dance, Nonverbal Communication, Contemporary Dance, Ballroom Dance, Semiology, Performance, Audience, Meaning.