

Abstract (in English)

Many studies in Czech or other languages studied variability. However, these studies were focused on variability in speech or in written texts and there are not many studies about variability of nasal consonants. This thesis is focused on variability of nasal consonants where speakers are reciting a poem. This poem consists of many nasal consonants and there are two strophes which are similar (the first and the fourth).

This thesis consists of a theoretical part where we summarize facts about nasals in general and about variability. We describe factors and their influence on the durations and harmonicity of nasal consonant and we also included the articulation rate. The analytic part is based on recordings of 32 speakers. We analyse the articulation rate through the poem, then through strophes and verses.

The second analysis focuses on the durations of nasals. At first, we analyse the durations in the first three strophes, which differ from each other, across the speakers. The durations of nasals were influenced by accents, positions in the phrases and the presence of nasals in cluster (clusters only influence the nasal [n], which occurs most frequently). For every factor we create graphs. These graphs illustrate the influences of these factors on nasal durations.

The last analysis explores the harmonicity of nasals. We use same factors and observe their effects on harmonicity.

In the analysis of articulation rate, we discovered that speakers generally decrease their cadence through the poem (except for the last strophe). The last strophe deflects. Analysing the durations of nasals reveals that longer durations have nasals with an accent and also nasals which stands in the final position in the phrase. Influence of cluster was proved only in nasal [n]. In the last analysis (analysis of harmonicity) we discovered that sex of speakers has the most significant influence. Women have higher harmonicity than men. The clusters also have influence on the harmonicity. Nasals in clusters have higher harmonicity than standalone nasals.