What can be heard in the Czech Parliament

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Abstract

We analyze speeches delivered in the Parliament of the Czech Republic in the period of 2013-2023. Four text indices are computed for each speech. The indices reflect lexical and syntactic properties of the texts. It is shown that members of the same political parties speak differently when their parties form a government coalition and when they are in the opposition. Speeches from the opposition members of parliament are mostly simpler and display a higher degree of activity, whereas speeches from the government coalition parties tend to be more descriptive and tend to use a more complex syntax.

Keywords: Czech political discourse, text activity, word length, dependency syntax.