

Csilla Mária Pintér:

Erzsébet Szőnyi–Károly Szakonyi: *Break of Transmission*

Károly Szakonyi's comedy titled *Break of Transmission* was written at the request of the *Vígszínház* [Comedy Theatre] of Budapest in 1970. The play received its première in the same year. Erzsébet Szőnyi's opera with the same title was inspired by the theatrical performance although it was composed a decade later, in 1980. It was premièred on 7 May 1982 in the National Theatre of Szeged. The dramatic piece served as starting point for the opera paraphrased a well known parable. It discerns those who are able to approach the „mystery” from the ones who are hindered in understanding. The source of its vital force is the double-faced character of its genre. The ambiguity of its words and situations derives from the coexistence of the farce and the mystery play. Although the irony of the dramatic play is perceptible in the musical version, the composer's attitude differs significantly from that of the writer. The theme of the paper is the comparison of the two stage works.