

Table 1. Musical structure of a dialogic passage in both scores and in the Neapolitan libretto (2) compared to the reading in the Udine libretto (3) and Busenello’s original text (1) (Act 1, scene 3; lines 192–93)

(1) Busenello 1656

Poppea A dio, Nerone, a dio.
Nerone A dio, Poppea, ben mio.

(2) Both scores, Naples libretto

Poppea A dio.
Nerone A dio.
Poppea Neron, Nerone, a dio.
Nerone Poppea, Poppea, a dio.
Poppea A dio, Nerone, a dio.
Nerone A dio, Poppea, ben mio.¹

(3) Udine libretto

Nerone A dio.
Poppea Nerone, a dio.
Nerone Poppea, a dio.
Poppea A dio, Nerone, a dio.
Nerone A dio, Poppea, a dio.

(*Poppea*: Farewell, Nerone, farewell. | *Nerone*: Farewell, Poppea, my beloved.)

¹ Instead of “ben mio” (my beloved), the Venetian score gives “a dio” (farewell) like the Udine libretto.