

THE PECULIARITIES OF WORD STRESS IN THE UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This study examines the characteristics of word stress in both English and Uzbek languages using comparison and contrast techniques. It notes and explains the peculiarities of word stress in each language, highlighting both inconsistencies and similarities. Word stress, or emphasis placed on specific syllables when pronouncing words, varies between languages. In English, word stress, also known as lexical stress, plays a significant role in pronunciation by determining vowel clarity. The article focuses on providing data about the distinct characteristics of word stress in two languages: English and Uzbek.

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INTRODUCTION

Each independent nation will present itself to the global community through its economic, political, cultural, and educational policies, reflecting its unique national identity. This distinctiveness extends to its language policy and other aspects. Language policy is an integral component of both domestic and foreign policies for every nation. Following its independence, Uzbekistan also requires a defined language policy to elevate the status of its national language and expand its usage across various domains. The Uzbek language plays an active role in political, legal, socio-economic, and educational spheres, and its presence is increasingly felt on international platforms. Abroad, there is growing attention to and interest in learning the Uzbek language. Language represents the most significant national asset, serving not only as a medium of communication but also as the foundation of innovation, stemming from thought processes. Each language possesses its own uniqueness in this regard.

In this article, we will consider phonological differences. Word stress or accent is usually defined as the degree of force or prominence with which a sound or syllable is uttered. Languages differ with word stress placement and degrees of it. In the Turkic languages, particularly in Uzbek, word stress usually falls on the final syllable. English, Uzbek, and Russian are called stress languages or languages with dynamic stress (force stress), in which intensity is more significant than the other correlates—duration and pitch. The features of these three languages can be seen from the tables above. In English, the word stress is fixed, while in Uzbek it is movable and it often falls to the right side to the suffixes: *Eng. 'teach - 'teach +er, 'teach+ing Uzb. 'uuu – uuu+ 'chi – uuchii+ 'lap – uuchilap+ 'da – uuchilapda+ 'mi?*

Some words of collective pronouns (such as ҳамма, барча) of Uzbek are considered as exceptions

because in these pronouns stress is fixed: x`amma – x`amma+ga –x`amma+dan. Stress is one of the ways of word building in these compared languages: Eng.: `present (noun) – pre`sent (verb), `expert (noun) – ex`pert (verb). Uzb.: `olma (noun) – ol`ma (verb), `syzma (noun) – syz`ma (verb)¹.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study focused on one aspect of word stress, employing analytical techniques such as comparison and contrast, generalization or universalization, differentiation, and specification. Source materials for the analysis included reference books, academic texts, study papers, and a coursebook.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Many Uzbek students learning English as a second language may struggle to discern the precise similarities and differences in word stress between these languages, leading to mispronunciations and incorrect stress placements. Similarly, native English speakers learning Uzbek encounter the same challenge. This research work seeks to address this issue by conducting comparisons and contrasts and addressing three key questions: 1) What are the characteristics of word stress in English? 2) What are the characteristics of word stress in Uzbek? 3) What are the similarities and differences in word stress between these two languages? It aims to provide accurate distinctions regarding word stress while highlighting similarities and differences between the two languages.

Word stress is defined differently by different authors, B. A. Bogoroditsky, for instance, defined stress as an increase of energy, accompanied by an increase of expiratory and articulatory activity. D. Jones defined stress as the degree of force, which is accompanied by a strong force of exhalation and gives an impression of loudness. H. Sweet also stated that stress is connected with the force of breath. Later, however, D. Jones wrote, that "stress or prominence is effected . . . by inherent sonority, vowel, and consonant length and by intonation." A.C. Gimson also admits that a more prominent syllable is accompanied by pitch changes in the voice, quality, and quantity of the accented sounds. Also, in Uzbek phonetics, A.Abduazizov, A.Gulamov, H.Abdurahmanov, H.Jamolxonov, and J.Mamatov carried out remarkable works in terms of accent².

In linguistics, accent or stress refers to the emphasis or prominence placed on a specific syllable within a word or on a particular word within a phrase or sentence. Word stress is also known as lexical stress or word accent. It varies in type, degree, position, functions, and accentual tendencies.

In both English and Uzbek languages, word stress is dynamic, with stressed syllables receiving greater force and loudness compared to unstressed ones. Generally, word stress can be classified into several types in linguistics: dynamic or force stress (intensity of articulation), musical or tonic stress (pitch or musical tone), and quantitative or qualitative stress (length of stressed vowels).

Let's discuss degrees of word stress:

According to the degree of voice, there are from three to five types of word stress in English. These 3 of them are practically and theoretically essential: 1. primary |' | 2. secondary |, | 3. weak (unstressed) ³. *E.g.*, *after`noon* |, *aca`demic*. Most scholars recognize two distinct word stress types in the Uzbek language: 1. Stressed 2. Unstressed. *E.g.* *daftár* (notebook) *yumalóq* (round). But recent investigations proved that there are four degrees: primary, secondary, tertiary, and weak⁴.

It is very significant to find out about the features of stress in English. Stress is one of the most

¹ Arakin V. D. *Sravnitel'naya tipologiya angliyskogo i russkogo yazika*. Leningrad, 1979.

² Abduazizov A. *O'zbek tili fonologiyasi va morfonologiyasi*. Toshkent, 1992; G'ulomov A. *O'zbek tilida urg'u*. Toshkent "SAGU" -1947; Abdurahmonov H. *O'zbek fonetikasi tarixidan // O'zTA*, 1963 №2; Jamolxonov H. *Fonetika*. Ma'ruzalar matni. T.:TDPU bosmaxonasi,1999; Mamatov J. *O'zbek tilida reduksiya*. NDA, Toshkent, 2009.

³ Abduazizov A. A. *English Phonetics. A Theoretical Course*. Tashkent, 2006

⁴ Salidjanov S. *Sillabicheskaya I aksentnaya strukturi slova I ix sootnosheniye v raznosistemnix yazikax*. Avtoreferat. kand. Sissertatsii. M., 1982.

important speech tools used by English speakers to communicate meaning. English speakers use stress to highlight information they think is important. In addition, every English word with more than one syllable or word part has a defined stress pattern. The four basic types of word stress that lead to proper intonation in English are: Tonic stress. Emphatic stress. Contrastive stress. New information stress.

The primary stress in a word is the syllable that stands out the most, being longer, louder, and higher in pitch. A syllable, the smallest unit of a word typically containing one vowel and one or more consonants, carries stress. In English, stress is marked by longer, louder, and higher-pitched sounds compared to unstressed ones. For instance, in the word 'banana,' the stress falls on the second syllable, while in 'photographic,' it falls on the third.

According to research, the emphasis in Uzbek word stress is not solely determined by high frequency or duration of sound, but rather by accent. In acoustics, dynamic emphasis typically doesn't simultaneously overshadow percussion and sustain, although Scandinavian languages present exceptions where tonic and dynamic stress hold equal weight. In Uzbek, word stress is defined perceptually and validated through specialized instruments. Unlike English, Uzbek accent is characterized by movement of physical components across initial, middle, and final syllables in polysyllabic words, constituting dynamic accent. As word stress components are interconnected, it's incorrect to assume that a stressed syllable will always be high, long, and high-pitched. Some sources suggest that Uzbek accent has its own distinct essence apart from accent, with vowel quantity playing a significant role in lexical stress occurrence. For instance, in words like "sa:ap-sariq" or "ma:azza," linearity supersedes word stress. This perspective suggests that Uzbek language belongs not only to languages with dynamic accent but also to those with quantitative accent.

According to Vrabel, English, along with languages like German, French, and Ukrainian, exhibits dynamic word stress due to its phonetic nature. While tone and duration of sound also play a role, English places greater emphasis on dynamic and tonic features of word stress. The tonic element involves raising the syllable to a higher tone level, distinguishing it from others. Quantity and quality of accent hold significance as well. Word stress reflects the language's historical development; classical rules from the Anglo-Saxon period differed significantly from modern norms. Initially, stress was straightforward, with the first syllable typically stressed in one- and two-syllable words like 'blossom', 'body,' and 'holy.' However, the introduction of polysyllabic words from Latin, Greek, and other languages led to confusion in word stress usage.

Three features are important in the differentiation of accented and unaccented syllables in the Uzbek language ⁵. Firstly, accented syllable is pronounced longer than other syllables, secondly, it is pronounced more clearly than other unaccented syllables, thirdly, the accented syllable is pronounced more loudly than the other unaccented syllable. For example, in the words: *dala*, *taxta*, *ota*(*field*, *wood*, *father*) the last second syllable is pronounced more elongated, more clearly and loudly than the first syllable. According to its phonetic and phonological nature, the English language is a more complicated process than the Uzbek language, and its role in the language is also more important. D.Krytal and Gimson have also described it as a process in which English accents are difficult to carry out ⁶, agreeing the above mentioned idea. The reason that although there are so many scientific researches with the similarities between definitions and approaches of accent, sometimes we also come across contrast opinions. For example, Vrabel believes that in English only meaningful words (independent words) can receive a word accent, and indeed the articles can't be accented. It is proposed in some literatures that both articles and prepositions have a potential (probable) accent in some sense ⁷. Therefore, there are some exceptions in all sources about the accent of the English language. The Uzbek language is

⁵ Muhammadov E. So'z urg'usi // Imtihon, 2016

⁶Crystal D. A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics. Sixth edition.Oxford.:Blackwell publishing, 2008

⁷ Vrabel T. Lectures in theoretical phonetics of the english language and method- guides for seminars. Poliprint. Ungvár.: 2009

characterized by general norms, in contrast to the English language of the word stress. Perhaps, therefore, in the sources on the phonology and phonetics of the Uzbek language, the authors give very brief information about the accent of the word and its special features.

In phonological aspect, lexical accents have the function of distinguishing meaning ⁸. Such kind of situations exist in many languages, in particular English and Uzbek: 1) *There has been a significant increase in the number young people who smoke.* 2) *The population may increase by 15percent.* The word *increase* is a **noun** in the first sentence, and it performs the function of **verb** in the next sentence. In Uzbek *olma* (apple (*fruit*)), *olma* (don't take (*negative form of the verb*)). Combinations of words with the same sound sequence and compound words we use lexical accents to distinguish the words: '*black 'bird* (blackbird, any black bird (word combination)), '*black-bird*(a bird type which we can meet mainly in Europe and North America (compound word)). Outside the context, we can distinguish such words only with the help of accents.

Simply, the word accent falls into one of the syllables of the word and determines its meaning and pronunciation. Word accent is also referred as lexical accent.

Word accent is closely related to the history of the language. If we look at the classical rules of the English word accents in the Anglo-Saxon period, then the degree of complexity of accent is radically different from the norms of modern English accents. About this, Robert Stokvel and Donka Minkova claim that the norms of using the word accent were not a serious problem in the Anglo-Saxon era, and almost no special rules were also existed. Usually the first syllable possessed the accent (main accent): '*blossom*, '*body*, '*holy*. At that time, most of the words were formed by one-and two-syllable words. Nevertheless, multi-syllable words were formed on account of the borrowed words and suffixes from Latin, Greek and other languages into English. And this situation caused confusion in the use of the word accent ⁹.

The investigation of word accent issues has been a prominent concern in general and comparative linguistics for the past century. Various approaches to lexical accents, despite differing definitions, strive for a deeper analysis of this phenomenon. Four crucial factors contribute to the formation of word accent in languages: the primary tone of the sound, the force or intensity of pronunciation, continuity or elongation, and the high frequency of sound.

Indeed, not all of the listed factors manifest simultaneously in all accented languages. Consequently, the classification of accent by its phonetic nature relies on identifying the dominant factor in forming lexical accents within a specific language. In English and Uzbek, the force or intensity of pronunciation, often referred to as "blow," plays a significant role. Thus, both languages are categorized as dynamic accented languages.

Thus, based on the research conducted within the framework of the word accent, several similar and different aspects were identified between the languages, with the help of the word accent the languages of the world were divided into different types. The comparison of English and Uzbek within the framework of the word accent also helps us to cover phonetic and phonological peculiarities and similar aspects in both languages.

If we analyze the placement of the word stress in English, word stress marks are placed before stressed syllables, also indicating syllable division, as in "be'come." In Uzbek, stress marks are placed above stressed vowels, as seen in "telefôn."

In English, stress is both fixed and free. According to A.C. Gimson, it is fixed because the main stress consistently falls on a particular syllable, yet it is also considered free because this stress isn't tied to a

⁸ Crystal D. A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics. Sixth edition. Oxford.: Blackwell publishing, 2008

⁹ Robert S, Minkova D. English Words. History and Structure. –Cambridge.: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

specific position within the word's syllabic chain. In Uzbek, word stress is primarily fixed, usually falling on the final syllable, such as in "Oná" (mother). However, due to borrowing from languages like Russian, which has free-stress patterns, Uzbek also exhibits instances of free word stress, as in "rúchka" (pen) and "gazéta" (newspaper).

Stress Shift:

In English, most words of Germanic origin maintain fixed primary stress, which cannot be shifted from one syllable to another, as in "beauty," "beautiful," "beautifulness," "beautifully". In contrast, Uzbek allows for stress to be shifted from syllable to syllable, as seen in "paxtá" (cotton) → "paxtakór" (a cotton grower) → "paxtakorlár" (cotton growers) → "paxtakorlargá" (for cotton growers).

We can also face with the unstressed words in English and Uzbek languages. English content words are stressed, while structure words are usually unstressed. Here is a list of the structure/ function words: determiners: *a, an, the, some, much, more*, pronouns: *he, they, anybody, it, one*, conjunctions: *and, as, but, then, that, when, or*, prepositions: *at, on, in, since, for, to*, auxiliaries: *is, am, are, have, has, had, do does did*, modals: *shall, may, can, would, must*, particles: *no, not nor, as, down, up*.

There are some words and suffixes that are unstressed in the Uzbek language. One-syllable words: *bor, ber, kel, yer...* Particle forms: *-mi, -chi, -a, -ya, -u, -yu, -da, -ku, -gina, -oq, -yoq, -dir, -ki*. Person and number forms: *-man, -san, -dir, -miz, -siz*. The negative form of the verbs: *-ma, -may, -mas, -masdan, -maslik*. Verb suffixes: *-la, -lar*. Number forms: *-ta, -tacha, -lab, larcha*. Adverb suffixes: *-dek, -day, -cha*. Imperative-subjunctive mood forms: *-sin, -gin, -y(-ay), -ylik, (-aylik), -(i)ng, -(i)ngiz, -inglar, -sinlar*. Surname and patronymic forms: *-ov, -ova, -yev, -yeva, -ovich...* Verb tense forms: *-di, -gan, -yapti, -ar...* Suffix of indefinite pronoun: *-dir*. Conditional mood form: *-sa*. Boundary form: *-gacha, the form of belonging: -niki*, diminutive forms of the nouns: *-cha*. Auxiliaries: *bilan, uchun, sari, sayin, singari, kabi, tufayli, uzra, qadar, yanglig', haqida*.

Compound words stress

Compound words in the English language, or words made up of two words combined, typically place the main emphasis on one part. Compound words with primary accent on the first element: 'newspaper | 'anything. In compound nouns, the stress is usually on the first part: 'bedroom | 'baseball. In compound adjectives, the primary stress is on the second part: good-'looking | old-'tempered. In compound verbs, the stress is on the second part: double-'check | under 'stand. In the Uzbek language, compound words often have one primary stress. In compound verbs, the stress is on the first part: ótib oldi (bought), yózib oldi (wrote). In compound numbers, the stress is on the first part: yígirma besh (twenty-five), ón sakkiz (eighteen). In compound pronouns, the stress is on the first part but it does not get the primary stress level: Héch bir (no one), hár kim (every person).

Stress variation

Many word pairs in English share the same spelling but fall under two distinct grammatical categories. These terms can function as verbs or adjectives. However, these phrases have a different emphasis. They are emphasized on the first syllable when they are used as nouns and on the second syllable when they are used as verbs: 'in-sert(n) – in-'sert (v), 'des-ert (n)–de-'sert(v). Also in the Uzbek language, one of the important functions of word stress is to differentiate the meanings of words that are written/spelled the same but have different meanings and grammatical structures. Ólma (*verb-do not take*), Olmá (*noun-an apple*), Átlas (*noun-geographic map*), Atlás (*adjective-satiny*), Hózir (*adverb-now*), Hozír (*adjective-ready*), Shaharchá (*noun-small city*), Shahárcha (*adverb-like townspeople*).

The stress of loan and borrowing words from English into the Uzbek language.

Many words are borrowed from English in the Uzbek language. For example yumor (humour), menejment (management), koktetl (cocktail). All the words borrowed from English are stressed the same as how it is stressed in their original language. However, adding an accented Uzbek suffix cause a

stress shift as in this example: *metód* (method) – *metodgá* (to the method). Here -ga dative and accented suffix added to the borrowed word and the word stress shifted to it¹⁰.

DISCUSSION

The comparative-contrastive analysis highlights the main roles and peculiarities of word stress in both English and Uzbek. Despite similarities in having dynamic word stress and structure words with unstressed suffixes, differences arise in placement, position, shift, degrees, and compound words. Nevertheless, word stress remains crucial in both languages for distinguishing meaning and grammatical structure. Additionally, English influence has introduced numerous new borrowing words into Uzbek, albeit with the potential for stress shifting when accented Uzbek suffixes are added. This research offers valuable insights for learners seeking to understand word stress in these two languages more comprehensively.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is essential to underscore the pivotal role of language in society, facilitating communication among its members. Language serves as a reflection of societal history and holds significant importance in the spiritual and intellectual development of individuals. With its practical expression in speech, language is intricately linked to human cognition, psychology, culture, tradition, and personal growth. Linguistics, as a science, encompasses both general and specific facets, including theoretical and applied linguistics, which explore language and speech from various perspectives. General linguistics delves into the scientific study of phonetic, phonological, grammatical (morphological and syntactic), lexical-semantic, and stylistic aspects across global languages.

With the aid of comparison and contrast, generalization or universalization, differentiation, and specification techniques, some similar and different aspects between English and Uzbek languages were identified based on research conducted within the framework of the word accent to gain a clear understanding of the word stress and to prevent mistakes in it.

In conclusion, it was found that there are many phonetic and phonological similarities and differences between the English and Uzbek languages, and they have not yet been fully analyzed, and word stress is certainly not an exception. Therefore, we think that it is necessary to discuss lexical stress in both languages in more depth in the future and to continue scientific research in this field.

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