

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE INTONATION PATTERNS OF THE ENGLISH, UZBEK AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

Ataxojayev Toxirjon Maxmudjonovich

Kokand State pedagogical institute Docent of the chair of Methodology of teaching foreign languages

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Abstract

This article deals with the problems of intonation in English, Uzbek and Russian languages. It gives a detailed analysis of the intonation patterns in the affirmative, interrogative and imperative sentences, singles out the similar and differentiating points in the languages compared.

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INTRODUCTION

Teaching correct pronunciation habits of the English language greatly depends on the use of several phonetic and phonological factors, such as correct use of the speech phonemes of the target language, avoiding phonetic interference, where the speaker uses speech sounds of the mother tongue instead of the speech sounds of the English language. The second factor is the correct usage of the word stress of the words and expressions, as the wrong use of the word stress leads to the change of meaning of the word, for example “ `present” and “ pre`sent”, where the words belong to different parts of speech having different meaning.

The next vital issue is the correct use of the intonation in speech, which causes much effort of the language learners, as the intonation structure of the Uzbek language greatly differs from the intonation patterns of the Uzbek language.

The following definitions of intonation have been given by British linguists: «Intonation may be defined as the variations which take place in the pitch of the voice in connected speech, i.e. the variations in the pitch of the musical note produced by the vibration of the vocal cords» [3.1.].

A.M. Antipova regards intonation as a complex combination of the following components: (1) speech .melody, (2) sentence stress, (3) time characteristics (duration, tempo and pausation), (4) rhythm and (5) tamber (the quality of voice) .[2.1]

Intonation itself is very complex unity of several components, as speech melody, sentence stress, pitch of voice, tempo of speech, tamber of voice, pausation.

Intonological Typology as a part of universal typology of languages. Though we do not shade the term «Intonology», but admit the possibility of scientific investigation of intonation in relation with linguistic levels and comparative - typological study of various intonation types in languages. Besides, it is possible to study intonational interference between the mother tongue and

foreign language which has a theoretical and practical value.[1.1.].Any utterance may have

communicative and expressive -emotional functions, which may be formed either by intonational or lexico-grammatical means. Any sound information is formed by intonation which also contributes to distinguish communicative types of utterance. Phonology has a special branch, intonology, whose domain is the larger units of connected speech: intonation groups, phrases and even phonetic passages or blocks of discourse.

The descriptions of intonation show that phonological facts of intonation system are much more open to question than in the field of segmental phonology. Descriptions differ according to the kind of meaning they regard intonation is carrying and also according to the significance they attach to different parts of the tone-unit. J.D. O'Connor and G.F. Arnold assert that a major function of intonation is to express the speaker's attitude to the situation he/she is placed in, and they attach these meanings not to pre-head, head and nucleus separately, but to each of ten 'tone-unit types' as they combine with each of four sentence types, statement, question, command and exclamation.

Methods

Intonation acts along with grammatical and lexical aspects as means of realizing semantic categories. Stylistics deals with choosing phonetic, grammatic and semantic means of expressive-emotional colouring and usually one of these means may become more important than the others. For example, in an ordinary sentence formed by a simple grammatical construction there is no stylistic meaning at all. If it is pronounced by an emotional timbre and unusual stress it may get some emotional colouring. The emotional information depends on the selection of certain intonation curves of a speaker. The given information may be emotionally relevant for a listener. If there is little syntactic and semantic ambiguity, intonation will not be decisive in a listener's understanding of the utterance. When there are several choices, intonation helps the listener make an adequate choice.

The main methods in teaching intonation patterns of the English language are comparative- analytical method, which gives a true picture of the intonation pattern of the languages compared, besides that synthesis is one of the priorities in learning intonation as well.

While comparing the intonation structure of the English and Uzbek languages we can find much similar points and different use of different intonation patterns. For example in the languages compared declarative sentence is pronounced with the falling tone: e.g. We live in sunny \country = Biz quyoshli mamlakatda \yashaumiz. Я живу в солнечной \стране. My friend Bob is a \teacher = Mening do`stim Bob \o`qituvchi. Мой друг Боб \учитель. Great Britain is located in the \British isles= Buyuk Britaniya Britan orollarida \joylashgan. Великобритания расположена на Британских островах.

While comparing interrogative sentence we come across different cases. In English general questions are pronounced with the rising tone in the languages compared:

Do you read stories in /English? = Siz Ingliz hikoyalarini /o`qiysizmi?, Вы читаете английские/ рассказы?, Are you /British?= Siz /Britaniyalikmi?, Have you been in /Canada? = Siz Kanadada /bo`lganmisiz?.

Whereas the intonation in special questions in Uzbek differ from the intonation of the special questions in English. In Uzbek special questions are pronounced with the rising tone: Siz qayerda /yashaysiz?= Where do you \live?; Siz qachon institutni /tugatgansiz?= When did you graduate the \institute?; Nima uchun siz darsga /kech qoldingiz?= Why were you late for the \lesson?; How much time did you spend for \your family?= Siz oilangizga qancha vaqt /sarflaysiz?. Где /находится этот музей?

In Uzbek and Russian we observe that the tone of special questions usually rises at the end of the sentence, but in English it falls down.

While comparing alternative questions of the languages compared we come across to identical patterns of intonation, usually alternative questions are pronounced with rising -falling tone: Do you like /tea or \coffee?= Siz choyni afzal/ ko`rasizmi yoki `kofeni?; Have you been in /London or in \Paris lately? =

Siz keying paytlarda Londonda /bo`ldingizmi yoki \Parijda?.

The intonation of tagquestions in English and Uzbek have the similar intonation, that is falling –rising tone: You like \coffee do /you? = Siz kofeni \yoqtirasiz /shundaymi?; You are \English aren`t/ you? = Siz \inglizsiz /shundaymi?.

Above examples illustrate the similarities of the intonation patterns of the disjunctive questions. While studying intonation patterns of the English and Uzbek languages we can point out some similar cases as well as some different points too.

Results

While analyzing intonation structures of the affirmative, interrogative and imperative sentences in English, Uzbek and Russian languages we get the following results:

The affirmative sentence is pronounced mainly with the falling tones in the languages compared, mostly simple sentences. E.g. I study at Kokand State pedagogical \institute. Men Qo`qon Davlat pedagogika institutida \o`qiyman.

Я учусь в Кокандском Государственном педагогическом \институте.

General questions are pronounced with the rising tone in the languages under comparison: Do you study at Kokand State pedagogical /institute?; Siz Qo`qon Davlat pedagogika institutida /o`qiysizmi?; Вы учитесь в Кокандском Государственном педагогическом / институте?.

Special questions are pronounced with the falling tone in English, but in Uzbek and in Russian they are pronounced with the rising tone: Where do you \study at?; Siz qayerda /o`qiysiz?; Где вы /учитесь?.

Imperative sentences are pronounced with the falling tone in English, Uzbek and Russian languages: Open \the door. Eshikni \oching. Откройте \дверь.

Discussion.

While discussing the similar and differentiating points in the intonation structures of the English, Uzbek and Russian languages, we come across identical and different usage of intonation in different types of the sentences. Affirmative sentence, mainly simple sentences are pronounced with the falling tone in the compared languages, it gives much convenience to the language learners.

Whereas special questions are pronounced with the different intonation in the languages under comparison, in English they are pronounced with the falling tone but in Uzbek and Russian languages they are pronounced with the rising tone which create some difficulties for the language learners, some cases they may use rising tone when they speak special questions in English, giving the way to the intonation interference.

Imperative sentences are pronounced with the falling tone in the compared languages, which create favorable conditions to the language learners. While analyzing the intonation structures of the affirmative, interrogative and imperative sentences we find similar and different cases which gives us a true picture of intonation patterns of the compared languages.

In our article we tried to investigate simple sentence types, but intonation as a complex phenomenon may vary in the compared languages. As it is known that there are main basic intonation tones exist in English: falling, rising, falling-rising and rising – falling tones.

The meanings of the nuclear tones are difficult to specify in general terms. Roughly speaking the falling tone of any level and range expresses certainty, completeness, and independence. A rising tone on the contrary expresses uncertainty, incompleteness or dependence.

A falling-rising tone may combine the falling tone's meaning of assertion, certainty with the rising tone's meaning of dependence, incompleteness. At the end of a phrase it often conveys a feeling of

reservation; that is, it asserts something and at the same time suggests that there is something else to be said. At the beginning or in the middle of a phrase it is a more forceful alternative to the rising tone, expressing the assertion of one point, together with the implication that another point is to follow. The falling-rising tone, as its name suggests, consists of a fall in pitch followed by a rise. If the nucleus is the last syllable of the intonation group the fall and rise both take place on one syllable. In English there is often clear evidence of an intonation-group boundary, but no audible nuclear tone movement preceding. In such a circumstance two courses are open: either one may classify the phenomenon as a further kind of head or one may consider it to be the level nuclear tone. Low Level tone is very characteristic of reading poetry. Mid-Level tone is particularly common in spontaneous speech functionally replacing the rising tone.

There are two more nuclear tones in English: Rise-Fall and Rise-Fall-Rise. But adding refinement to speech they are not absolutely essential tones for the foreign learner to acquire. Rise-Fall can always be replaced by High Fall and Rise-Fall-Rise by Fall-Rise without making nonsense of the utterance.

According to D. Crystal, there are nine ways of saying Yes as an answer to the question Will you marry me?

1. Low fall. The most neutral tone; a detached, unemotional statement of fact.
2. Full fall. Emotionally involved; the higher the onset of the tone, the more involved the speaker; choice of emotion (surprise, excitement, irritation) depends on the speaker's facial expression.
3. Mid fall. Routine, uncommitted comment; detached and unexcited.
4. Low rise. Facial expression important; with a 'happy' face, the tone is sympathetic and friendly; with a 'grim' face, it is guarded and ominous.
5. Full rise. Emotionally involved, often «disbelief or shock, the extent of the emotion depending on the width of the tone.
6. High-rise. Mild query or puzzlement; often used in echoing what has just been said.
7. Level. Bored, sarcastic, ironic.
8. Fall-rise. A strongly emotional tone; a straight or 'negative' face conveys uncertainty, doubt, or tentativeness; a positive face conveys encouragement or urgency.
9. Rise-fall. Strong emotional involvement; depending on the face, the attitude might be delighted, challenging, or complacent.

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