

FOCALIZATION AS LINGUISTIC PHENOMENON

У статті висвітлюються основні поняття фокалізації, її функції та ознаки (емфаза і контраст) та їх вплив на трансформацію моделі просодичної структури тема-рематичного членування висловлювання.

Встановлено, що одним із розповсюджених факторів трансформації прототипової просодичної моделі є фокусування уваги слухача на важливих аспектах повідомлення, передача змістових зв'язків між окремими аспектами повідомлення. Фокалізація пов'язана з двома сферами прояву даної функції: за її рахунок реалізується логічний (контрастне зіставлення слів), або емпатичний наголос. Щодо напрямку тональної зміни, то у формуванні інтонаційної моделі фокалізованих структур дискурсу ця тональна характеристика безпосередньої участі не бере. Спостерігається лише певна модифікація тонального контуру, сформованого під впливом іллокутивного і фазового факторів, і деяких типів суб'єктивно-модальних значень.

Ключові слова: емфаза, контраст, фокалізація, актуальне членування висловлювання, тема, рема.

В статье рассматриваются основные понятия фокализации, ее функции и признаки (эмфаза и контраст) и их влияние на трансформацию модели просодической структуры тема-рематического членения высказывания.

Установлено, что одним из распространенных факторов трансформации прототипной просодической модели является фокусирование внимания слушателя на важных аспектах, передача смысловых связей между отдельными аспектами сообщения. Фокализация связана с двумя сферами проявления данной функции: за ее счет реализуется логическое (контрастное сопоставление слов), или эмпатическое ударение. Относительно направления тонального изменения, то в формировании интонационной модели фокализованных структур дискурса эта тональная характеристика непосредственного участия не принимает. Наблюдается лишь определенная модификация тонального контура, сформированного под влиянием иллокутивного и фазового факторов, и некоторых типов субъективно-модальных значений.

Ключевые слова: эмфаза, контраст, фокализация, актуальное членение высказывания, тема, рема.

The article reveals the principal notions of focalization, its functions and features (emphasis and contrast) and their influence on transforming the model of the prosodic structure of the actual division of the utterance.

Most frequently, focalization of a text fragment is prosodically expressed with a high register and extension of the tonal range, a raised loudness and a distinct pronunciation.

It is established that one of the most well-known factors of the transformation of the prototype prosodic model is the listener's focus on the most important aspects of the message, the conveyance of the semantic interaction of the message's specific aspects. Focalization is interwoven with the both possible manifestations of this function: logical stress (in case of the opposition of words) or emphatic stress is implemented by its means. Regarding the changes in the tone direction, it should be noted that this tonal feature does not participate directly in forming an intonation model of the discourse's focalized structures. It has been observed that there exists a certain modification of the tonal contour formed under the influence of the illocutionary and phase factors and certain types of the subjective-modal meanings.

Key words: *emphasis, opposition, focalization, actual division of the utterance, theme, rheme.*

Problem-setting. The problem of the actual division of speech in modern linguistics gives rise to discussions, becomes an object of the theoretical and experimental studies [9] aimed at determining the common factors of the speech units functioning in the process of communication.

The purpose of this work is to reveal the principal notions of focalization, its functions and features (both for emphasis and contrast), as well as its influence on transforming the model of the prosodic structure of the actual division of the utterance.

To achieve the above-mentioned goal, it should be specified that a task of this sort must be performed to reveal the peculiarities of correlation and mutual compensation of acoustic parameters while actualising the prosodic structure of the actual division under the conditions of the utterance's specific components focalization.

The object of the research are English and Ukrainian utterances, the subject is the focalization of the components of the utterance.

The fragments of some popular TV programmes “Top Gear”, “Per-shyi Test” (“First Test”) and “Berezhys Avtomobilia” (“Caution: Vehicles Coming”) in English and Ukrainian were used as material for the analysis. The total playing time of the material amounted to 301 minutes 6 seconds; the scope of the experimental material composes more than 3000 utterances.

Intonation is widely used for focusing the listener's attention on the most important aspects of the message and for conveying the semantic relationships of some particular aspects of the message.

Herewith, it is appropriate to highlight two possible manifestations of this function: resulting from it accentuation of certain words within one syntagma, i.e. the actual division takes place, the logical and emphatic stress is actualised and the semantic relationships between words is formed. This function indicates the relative importance of the adjacent syntagmas, provides the opposition of words localised in different syntagmas. This function of intonation is caused by non-linguistic (situational) factors. As a rule, it is impossible to foresee which word the speaker will emphasise as the most important by using the grammatical and lexical structure of the sentence. E. g.: Eng.: *But they're going to be putting \him in it for being an undertaker.* Ukr.: *\Кліренс зменшили на два сантиметри.(\Klirens zmenshyly na dva santymetry).*

However, some cases happen when the actual division of the sentence and its intonation pattern are caused by the grammatical structure of this sentence and are thus invariant (for instance, questions). In this case, the speaker does not have any choice in allocating the accentuation by means of the coordination bond of the stressed elements in the grammatical construction. E. g.: Eng.: *So is it the /slowest or the \fastest?* Ukr.: *Це була То/\йота чи Мерсе\дес?(Tse bula To/iota chy Merse\des?)*

Emphasising one word with the logical stress is fundamentally important for interpreting the content of the sentence and marking relationships of its members, for instance. E. g.: Eng.: *\I moved them all down last week. I moved them all \down last week.* Ukr.: *Насправді, Корандо із автоматичною коробкою буде \значно дешевше своїх корейських опонентів. Насправді, Корандо із \автоматичної коробкою буде значно дешевше своїх корейських опонентів. (Naspravdi, Korando iz avtomatychnoiu korobkoiu bude \znachno deshevshe svoikh koreiskykh oponentiv. Naspravdi, Korando iz \avtomatychnoiu korobkoiu bude \znachno deshevshe svoikh koreiskykh oponentiv.)*

In particular, use of differently directed tones causes the switch of attention to something new (i.e. rheme) in the utterance in contrast to the known (theme).

The function allows not only to actualize certain words within one syntagma, but also serves to convey semantic relationships between words placed in the adjacent syntagmas or utterances. This may be illustrated, for

instance, by the following intonation pattern of contrasting the most emphasised words in the two adjacent syntagmas. E. g.: Eng.: /Faster than \ Brian Cox and /much faster than \ Jimmy Carr. Ukr.: I що масш/табніше про\ект, то /більше захоплення у дитячих о\чах. (I shcho massh/tabnishe pro\ekt, to /bilshe zakhoplennia u dytiachykh o\chakh.)

By performing the function of the switch of the listener's focus onto the most important data, intonation can emphasise some syntagmas as the most important in comparison with others. These are considered minor syntagmas because of the less relevant information reported in them (for instance, the second and the fourth syntagmas in the sentence). E. g.: Eng.: *Even the office's lack of /wheels | was /no problem | for my metal mammoth's sixteen hundred /torques.* Ukr.: *На початку листопада цього /року | компанія БМВ запропонувала восьмистам /діткам, віком від п'яти до тридцяти /років, реалізувати насп/равді гранді\озний проєкт.* (Na pochatku lystopada tsoho /roku | kompaniia BMV zaproponuvala vosmystam /ditkam, vikom vid piaty do trydtsiaty /rokiv, realizuvaty nasp/ravdi hrandi\oznyi proekt.)

The interaction mechanism between the function of the semantic relationship conveyance, the function of the syntagma's components emphasis on one hand and the modal function of intonation on the other hand, as the analysis of the experimental material has revealed, is typologically alike in the contrasted languages.

The differences between the English and Ukrainian languages in this aspect are caused, first and foremost, by the fact that every language system is characterized by a certain grammatical structure and lexical composition, thus conditioning the corresponding phrasal accentuation. The divergences of these norms in the contrasted languages on the level of word stress are revealed chiefly by the initial position of a stressed syllable in English and by a greater changeability of this position in Ukrainian.

On the level of phrasal stress, the differences of accentuation in the contrasted languages are caused by the fact that English is analytical according to its grammatical structure, characterised by the bigger number of unstressed function words performing various grammatical functions unlike Ukrainian, which is classified as a synthetic language.

Furthermore, in English as opposed to Ukrainian, there prevails a tendency not to emphasise by means of accentuation such half-function words as personal and possessive pronouns, modal verbs, etc. Another factor predetermining the linguistic specifics of interaction between the func-

tion of intonation and the function of accentuation is also the difference of the acoustic nature of phrasal stress in the compared languages [2]. If the leading role is played by the temporal component of prosody with the marked involvement of intensity in the implementation of phrasal stress in the Ukrainian language, then in English the most prominent marker of the nuclear composition is contrast in the frequency of the principal tone with the minimum involvement of duration. Hence, it is obvious that there is inequality of different prosodic components' load at the time of interaction of the studied functions of intonation in English and Ukrainian.

The systematization of accentuation mechanisms described herein and types of phrasal stress caused by them perfectly correlates with the classification of phenomena adopted in literature, which are grouped under a general name of focalization.

Focalization is one of the most important discourse processes. Its function is highlighting a special information status of the text fragment by the respondent for the purpose of focusing the addressee's attention on it. Traditional terms for marking a high level of importance are such: accentuation, emphasis, contrast (T. M. Nikolaieva [3], E. V. Paducheva [4], M. A. K. Halliday [10], W. Chafe [6; 8], T. Ye. Yanko [7], and others).

There are three main determined features of the significance of information used by a language:

- 1) neutral information;
- 2) highly significant information;
- 3) insignificant information.

Distinction of communicative components of the utterance corresponds to them, primarily, the rheme distinction:

- 1) absent special marking (neutral text form — standard syntagmatic stress);
- 2) focalization (special accentuation) of communicative components — logical and emphatic stress);
- 3) anti-focalization (special weakening — atonal discourse components) of corresponding fragments.

Most frequently, focalization of the text fragment is prosodically expressed with a high register and extension of the tonal range, an increased loudness and a more distinct pronunciation (they are caused by the intensified breathing and increased scope of resonators). E. g.: Eng.: *The Jag is here!* Ukr.: *Дви\зун заглуши!(Dvy\hun zahlushy!)*

Anti-focalized fragments are pronounced low and reduced. E. g.: Eng.: (- *When do you think you're gonna cut it in half?*) *I'm not gonna get into a competition with you, mate.* Ukr.: (- *Може кудись поїдемо?*) *Краще \кузов пофарбувати.*((- *Mozhe kudys poidemo?*) *Krashche \kuzov pofarbuvaty.*)

Here is the whole relevant replica, including its focus: 'competition' and 'кузов' ('kuzov') are pronounced in a low voice and not distinctly. E. g.: Eng.: *I'm not gonna get into a cutting-in-half competition with you, mate.* Ukr.: *Краще б \кузов пофарбували.*(*Krashche \kuzov pofarbuvaty.*)

Anti-focalization is a sort of phonetic ellipsis. It is a typical phenomenon for a casual colloquial speech (see [5]). It is a result of the combination of the two focalized sets of a non-directive discourse: a set for a low information significance of some discourse components and a set for a positive psychological partner's set (category "friend").

This specific prosodic method of accentuation/anti-accentuation is implemented by means of one of the two focalization features: emphasis and opposition. Some English works about focalization (see, for instance, a recent work by B. Drubig about the typology of focalization [3]) describe the systematic difference of the two types of focus (Presentational focus vs. Contrastive focus). These notions comply with our opposition of emphasis and contrast.

Emphasis symbolizes the assessment of importance (relevance) of the data introduced by the speaker and thus it controls the recipient's attention. There are a few semantic types of this general function.

Focalization may manifest through the marked meanings of the second focalization feature — opposition. This feature is related to another semi-otic function — the epistemic one: it shows how much the data introduced is consistent with the expectations related, for example, to the common viewpoint or the background experience.

Opposition is represented in two forms: contrast and contradiction. Contrast is a paradigmatic opposition revealing that the studied semantic position is filled with an emphasised, less foreseen, member of the paradigm of possible fillers. Contradiction demonstrates that there is the two components mismatching in a certain complicated situation.

Thus, one of the common factors of the prototypical prosodic model transformation is when the listener's attention is focused on important aspects of the message, the semantic relationships between the specific aspects of the message are conveyed. Focalization is related to the two manifesta-

tions: logic (the opposition of words) or emphatic stress is actualised due to it. As for the tonal change direction, this tonal feature does not participate directly in forming an intonation model of focalized structures of the discourse. It has been observed that there exists a certain modification of the tonal contour formed under the influence of the illocutionary and phase factors, and certain types of the subjective-modal meanings.

The perspective of the further research may be carried out in the form of a targeted study of the influence of the emphasis and contrast on transforming the prosodic structure model of the actual division of the utterance.

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