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INTONATION OF STATEMENT-QUESTION UTTERANCES IN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN.

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У дослідженні, проведеному на основі експериментально-фонетичного аналізу, розглядається інтонація стверджувально-питальних висловлень в англійській мові порівняно з українською. Ці висловлення є суто мовленнєвими утвореннями, не тотожними з мовними моделями, що і підтверджується особливістю їх інтонаційної структури.

Ключові слова: інтонація, стверджувально-питальні висловлення, комунікативно ускладнені мовленнєві конструкції.

В данном исследовании, проведённом на основе экспериментально-фонетического анализа, рассматривается интонация утвердительно-вопросительных высказываний в английском языке в сравнении с украинским. Эти высказывания являются речевыми образованиями, не тождественными языковым моделям, что и подтверждается особенностью их интонационной структуры.

Ключевые слова: интонация, утвердительно-вопросительные высказывания, речевые коммуникативно усложнённые конструкции.

This article deals with the intonation of statement-question utterances in the English and Ukrainian languages. These constructions are speech units which do not coincide with language ones. The peculiarity of their intonation proves this.

Key words: intonation of statement-question utterances, speech constructions.

The function of language to be the most important means of human communication is realized in the creative activity of native speakers who do not only reproduce the already existing language models but create new ones, the appearance of which is necessitated by the whole wealth of the thought under the limited number of the already existing language units. Some of these constructions are arranged according to the models of the language, but others are characterized by more or less free combinations of the components, which make them differ from the models, fixed in the language and forming its system [Валимова 1967; 81]. So the oral text is a complicated correlation of different language components.

This paper describes the speech constructions which differ from the language ones because having the structure of compound or complex sentences they contain different communicative types (directions). Such complicated units do not coincide with the language models and are not included in the normative syntax [2].

The researchers of speech syntax G.V.Valimova [6], O.N.Lapteva [8], M.Bloch [2], G.B.Streltsova [10], M.Skrebnev [9] paid their attention to the fact, that in colloquial speech within one utterance there may be

different communicative directions, which are either superimposed on each other (What!?) or find their expression in separate parts of the utterance.

To our mind the appearance of such utterances in speech is the expression of complicated intercommunication and interpenetration of functionally conditioned speech units caused by the situation (context). We share the opinion of M. Skrebnev who in his research came to the conclusion that "the functioning of the units not typical of the language in colloquial syntax testifies to the existence of the tendency to the predominance of the meaning of function over the meaning of structure" [9, p. 30].

Having appeared in colloquial speech these constructions entered the literary language as the means of imitating colloquial forms and became its valuable acquisition.

The analyses of the English and Ukrainian belles-letters showed that the statement-question utterances which are the subject of this paper are used rather often and mostly in dialogues. The average frequency in English is 0,334 and in Ukrainian – 0,137 utterances per page.

In both languages these utterances have the forms of compound or complex asyndetic or syndetic

sentences. The components of these utterances may have causal-consecutive, conditional-consecutive, explanatory, adversative and completive bonds.

The statement part is expressed mostly by two-member sentences and the question part by both two-member and one-member ones and even by interrogative or appellation particles and interjections. The degree of semantic bonds between statement and question parts may be different: from loose to very close. It is the degree of semantic and syntactical connection of both part of the utterances that gives grounds for the transformation of the text unity (two consecutive sentences) into a syntactic unity (utterance).

The most frequent type of bonds between statement and question parts in both languages is an asyndetic one, which reveals causal-consecutive, completive and explanatory relations between them.

The greatest number of utterances are with completive bonds. The interrogative part may be expressed by a) a question proper, e.g.: *That'd be thousand names, why does he call mine?* (A. Miller); *Зараз міністр приїздить, а ти кого на перон тягнеш?* (О. Корнійчук) b) a rhetorical question, e.g. *You are silly, what's that to be afraid of?* (A. Miller); *А може вчора, хто повірить?* (Є. Гуцало) c) elliptical sentences, expressed by the verbs denoting perception and mental activity (*to see, to hear, to know, бачиш, чуєш, розумієш*); e.g.: *And there she was, you know?* (W. McLvanney); d) word sentences expressed by modal words, interrogative and appellation particles, interjections; e.g.: *We'll take it, o'ka?* (H. Lee); *Він буде жити, правда?* (О. Корнійчук); *По сповіді перед отцем Кручинським, чи не так?* (Д. Бездик); *Дивно прізвище, еге?* (О. Гончар); *Розумно, га?* (М. Дашків).

Rather considerable is the number of utterances with causal-consecutive relations the interrogative part of which is expressed by rhetorical questions, e.g.: *They came with handcuffs into the shop – what could I do?* (A. Miller). *Мій садок, чого поприбігали? Ніч, поле, ліс – куди вам?* (Є. Гуцало).

The most representative group of statement-question utterances in English is the so-called "disjunctive questions" the interrogative part of which is expressed by tag-questions, e.g.: *"Hopelessly" doesn't seem to make much sense, does it?* (O. Wilde). The similar type of complicated utterances in Ukrainian is the one, the second part of which is expressed by the interrogative or appellation particles *так, чи не так, еге/ж/, га/ж/?* e.g.: *Адже це твій батько, так?* (Є. Гуцало).

Asyndetic utterances with completive bonds the interrogative part of which is represented by parenthetical clauses (I hope, I believe, etc.) are used only in English. E.g.: *You have a country house, I hope?* (O. Wilde).

To analyze the intonation of these utterances we divided them according to their syntactical structure into 10 groups and chose for analyses ten statement-question units in situations from each group.

On the perceptual level the term "intonation" is used here in its broad sense as "a complex unity of four components, formed by communicatively relevant variations in: voice pitch, or speech melody, the prominence of words, or their accent; the tempo (rate), rhythm and pausing of the utterance, and voice-tamber, which serve to express adequately, on the basis of the proper grammatical structure and lexical composition of the sentence, the speaker's or writer's

thoughts, volitions, emotions, feelings and attitudes towards reality and the content of the sentence (Vassilyev, 290).

Acoustically intonation (prosody) is a complex combination of varying fundamental frequency, intensity and duration. Pitch correlates with the fundamental frequency of the vibration of the vocal cords, loudness – with the amplitude of their vibrations and tempo is a correlate of time during which a speech unit lasts.

The experimental phrases in context were recorded in the Language laboratory at the Linguistic Institute in the Academy of science in Kyiv by three native speakers of English and three speakers of the Ukrainian radio. The auditive analyses were done by the specialists in English and Ukrainian phonetics. 100 of utterances (300 in each language) were selected for intonographic analyses which supplied us with the data of fundamental frequency in cps, intensity in bells, and the rate of utterance in ms described in each group. They gave us grounds to define the intonation of statement-question utterances in English and Ukrainian and to carry their comparative analyses.

The experimental phonetic analysis of the intonation structure of statement question utterances both in English and Ukrainian showed that the main acoustic indices are in the statement part which proves the realization of the semantic center in this very part, while the question part is of minor importance. Thus the maximum indices of the fundamental frequency values are realized in 58% of the English utterances and in 80% of the Ukrainian ones.

Rising-falling (35%) and rising (34%) tones are realized in the nuclear tone of the most statement parts of the English utterances. Though falling (18%), level (6%), rising-falling-rising (5%) and falling-rising (2%) tones are possible.

In the nuclear tone of the Ukrainian utterances rising (42%) tones prevail, though level (29%), falling (22%) and rising-falling tones (8%) are possible. Rising (44%) and level (35%) tones are mostly used in the tail syllables of the statement parts in English utterances and level (52%) and falling (35%) tones – in Ukrainian ones. In English tail syllables falling tones (22%) are also possible.

In the interrogative parts of these utterances the rising tone in the nuclear syllables prevails in both languages: English – 62%, Ukrainian – 56%. The tail syllables of the English utterances are characterized by the realization of level (45%) and rising (44%) tones, while in Ukrainian – by level (50%) and falling (38%) ones.

Thus, the tone contour of statement and question parts of the utterances in both languages undergoes considerable changes in comparison with their structures when they are separate affirmative and interrogative sentences. For all its variations, noticeable is the realization of the rising and level tones at the end of the statement part of the utterances in both languages and incomplete finality of the falling tones, the minimal indices of which exceed the beginning of the phrase. It testifies to the incomplete finality of the statement and its close connection with the interrogative part. The realization of the level and falling tones at the end of the question part, the slow ascent of the rising tone is the indicative of some leveling of interrogation in the second part of these constructions.

The analysis of the frequency intervals and the speed of changes of the fundamental frequency values in the

structure of English and Ukrainian statement-question utterances testifies to the fact that they have higher indices in English. For example, the average data show that the interval of the rising tone in the nuclear syllable of the statement part is +8st (semitones) with the rate of the ascent 1,2Hz/ms in English and +7st with the rise 0,9Hz/ms in Ukrainian. But the rising tone of the tail syllables has the same interval (+5st) and the rate of the ascent (0,9Hz/ms) in both languages. The falling tone in English has the higher interval indices (-9st) and the rate of the fall (1,2Hz/ms) in comparison with Ukrainian, where the interval is -6st with the speed of 0,6Hz/ms. By ear this difference is perceived as much steeper fall in English than in Ukrainian, where the falling tone is perceived as more gradual. But the rising tone in the nuclear syllable of the interrogative part in Ukrainian has a larger interval (+8st) than in English (+4st) with the same speed of the ascent (1cps/ms). The rising tone of the tail syllables in English have the interval of +6st with the speed of 0,9Hz/ms, while in Ukrainian – only +2st with the rate of 0,5Hz/ms, which testifies to a less steeper rise.

The average indices of the tone structure of the statement-question utterances demonstrate typological dependence of these constructions in both languages. So they testify to the fact that the tonal range is diminished in the second part of the constructions in comparison with the first one. In English it is 11,5st in statement and 7,6st – in question part. In Ukrainian it is 10 and 9,2st. correspondingly.

Maximum indices of intensity in the overwhelming majority of the utterances are realized in the first stressed syllable of the statement part. The intensity contour in the interrogative part does not continue the fading amplitude of the first part. It autonomously repeats the contour of the latter one but with the lower indices [7, p. 21].

The analyses of the tempo indices shows that the average syllable length of the statement part in both languages exceeds the indices of the interrogative one. But the average duration of the stressed syllables in

English is longer than in Ukrainian, while the average length of the unstressed syllables is shorter in English. This explains the enclitic character of the English rhythmic group and proclitic one in Ukrainian.

The analyses of the borders between the parts of the most statement-question utterances in both languages proved their junction without any pause / 36% in English and 48% in Ukrainian/, though it seems to be, due to the contrasts of tones, stresses, ranges, tempo and intervals, or with the help of a short physical pause (60–220ms) (32% and 15%) which fulfills the function of joining the components by a close syntactic connection. One third of the utterances are connected by the pauses of middle length (220–600 ms), which join the parts of the complicated communicative constructions in one sentence. And only insignificant number of the statement-question utterances (5% and 11%) is separated by a long physical pause (600–800 ms) which underlines their relative independence.

Medium and long pauses between statement and question parts characterize syndetic and asyndetic constructions with causal-consecutive and explanatory bonds, the interrogative parts of which are represented by proper or rhetorical questions. The presence of these pauses gives us grounds to speak about a rather loose connections between the components of these utterances and even about their certain independence which characterize the components of compound and complex sentences.

Statement-question utterances with completive bonds, the interrogative parts of which are represented by modal words, interrogative and appellation particles, verbs, denoting perception and mental activity, tag-questions and parenthetical clauses are characterized by the absence of pauses at the junction of two parts or by a short physical pause. This testifies to the existence of a very close connection between the components of these utterances, which gives us grounds to treat them as complicated simple sentences opposing them to compound or complex ones.

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