

ATTITUDINALLY DISTINCTIVE FUNCTION OF SOME PRE-TONIC STRESS-AND-PITCH PATTERNS IN ENGLISH IN REFERENCE TO THEIR PHONO-STYLISTIC USAGE

I.S. Tikhonova, Moscow State Pedagogical Institute, English Department (USSR)

The attention of phoneticians has recently been drawn to the rapid development of phonostylistics and a completely new approach has arisen to the investigation of phonetic phenomena.

In syntactic phonetics the prosodic phenomena are now analysed inseparably from their realization in certain speech styles taking into account the purposes of communication.

The pre-tonic stress and pitch sections of a phrase have been thoroughly studied up till now together with the terminal tones. There appeared recently a number of books and articles both at home and abroad in which different tonetic and stress-and-pitch patterns are presented as a system and in correlation with certain communicative types.

Some scientists, however, have started investigating pre-nuclear sections of the pitch, irrespective of terminal tones.

Nevertheless, not much is known yet about what functions are fulfilled exclusively by heads. It is generally acknowledged that heads are very important sections of pitch patterns. But it has not been proved yet that their attitudinal function is dependent on speech situations, different types and styles of speech.

Having analyzed a great number of sound texts and sources on the subject, we attempted to single out structural types of descending heads in English: the falling head, the stepping head, the scandent head, and the sliding head. The first three differ in the direction of unaccented syllables in the head; the last - by the sliding down variations on the accented syllables.

In this paper we managed to prove that each type of descending heads in English is distinctively different and has its own intonological status. They express different attitudes of a speaker towards the utterance or reality, but their attitudinally distinctive function varies in different styles of speech. So their modality, and attitudinal difference should be studied as applied to intonation styles. The problem of head tonemes is not fully solved yet, and we are hopeful that in this paper one more step towards its solution is made.