Aleut, being a language without a word-stress, forms its rhythmic structure by means of two main things: rhythmic accent and long vowels. There are several main rhythmic accent patterns in Aleut, long vowels "breaking ranks" - long, rhythmic accent is counted from that "break".

**INTRODUCTION**

Suprasegmental features of three now existing Aleut dialects have not been yet investigated in detail. It is obvious, however, that such information could give new material for typological studies, as well as for comparative Eskimo-Aleut linguistics (cf. the comparison of Eskimo rhythmic accent patterns in [1]).

The work of this kind on Aleut material began some time ago (2). The purpose of this report is to present rhythmic accent patterns of wordforms in Bering Island Aleut, which is, probably, the second stage of the Bering Island Aleut dialect. The material was obtained during two field trips to Bering Island in 1982 and 1985.

**Long Vowels**

The three short Aleut vowels /a/, /i/, /u/ have the correlative long vowels. Long vowel /a/ can be either included into morpheme signifiers or result from phonological alternations: /a/ → /a:/, and vice versa: /a:/ → /a/. This is the verbalist's pronunciation: the "full" type requires the change of /a/ in the wordform the second syllable to be accented, i.e. the "full" type demands the phonetic lengthening (every second syllable). If a three-syllable stretch is accentuated, e.g. aMuaMs [aMuaMs] "he is pouring (water)," the first two syllables are not accented, and the third one is accented, e.g. /a:/ (not "notional") word and its followings: "he wanted to eat". Long and accented vowels /a:/ in two-syllable wordforms is an important rule of the rhythmic structure of the stretch, except in the position after the third syllable.

In multi-syllable wordforms a rule of rhythmic accent puts an accent on every second syllable, except in the cases when a long vowel appears and breaks the rhythmic structure; then, rhythmic accent is counted from that "rhythm break".

The distribution of accented/neutral syllables given above is of probability character, accent is closely connected with the syntactic context of wordforms, or, rather, with their structural features: e.g. /aUgamak/ [aUgamak] /goyin son is coming up/. The one-syllable word /aU/ and three-syllable word /goyin/ give a four-syllable stretch ([goyin] /goyin/), which is accentuated. The rhythmic structure of the words does not contradict the rule of rhythmic accent, which is correlated to the phonetic lengthening of the syllable, and, so, they are not changed. When two "notional" ("independent") word forms a three-syllable stretch, their own rhythmic structures inevitably contradict to the rhythmic structure of the stretch, e.g. /goyin iqu/ [goyin iqu] "I have sent my son goyin".

A three-syllable stretch tends to have the second syllable accented - but not in every case. It can be explained by a rule of the phonetic lengthening of the syllable, which is in the first, "notional", word - cause of this, the three-syllable stretch is accentuated as a multi-syllable structure (every second syllable). If a three-syllable stretch is formed on the syllable /a:/ ("notional") word and its followings, "he wanted to eat", and the first syllable is accented, e.g. /a/: /aUgamak [aUgamak] /goyin/ "take this one!"; /aUgamak [aUgamak] /goyin/ "take the fish!" In these examples the "pointing word" wan does not prevent the speaker from putting accent on the following word. The "right" accent, and the "notional" one can be considered as independent rhythmic accent structure of the second stage. We let us take the multi-syllable stretch "goyin /goyin/" and "goyin /goyin/". The first wordform has a "right" accent; the second accent is the second one. In the second wordform, our informants put an accent on the first syllable, so the second syllable is second syllable. It depends on the type of pronunciation: if the person pronounces the second syllable to be accented, i.e. "goyin /goyin/" - the phonetic lengthening of the syllable is also shown and is marked more distinctly, e.g. natsaklik [natsaklik] /goyin/ "he is getting ready", watsukak [watsukak] /goyin/ "he is coming up". The accent on these syllables cause lengthening of the following syllable: "he is coming up".

Long and accented vowels /a:/ in two-syllable wordforms have two accented syllables - the vowels have two accented syllables, e.g. "enjoy to eat" long and accented vowels...
The rhythmic structure of a stretch is connected with the 
vocalic structures of the workforms. It can be 
ilustrated by 
workforms with the openess of normal length. For instance, 
there exist two va-
riants of the imperative from the verbs 
with present-stems, e.g. speech "give!

In each - same meaning, the choice be-
tween them depends on the rhythmic struc-
ture of syntactic context, e.g. ngus kal
a-wa-s-ta, "give me the fish!

In the first stretch the accent is put to 
the third syllable, and the openess is 
relaxed. In the second stretch the accent 
is put to the openess, and it can, by 
no means, be relaxed.

The rhythmic structure of a workform is 
generally preserved in two cases: 1) if it 
does not contrast to the rhythmic struc-
ture of the syntactic context; 2) it it 
relaxes to the first "nucleus" word of the 
stretch. The study of rhythmic accent struc-
tures of workforms in different syntactic 
contexts shows that there are no prosodic 
means in Aleut which provide conditions 
for the workform as an independent unit.

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