THE TURKIC WORD PROSODY PROBLEM

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ABSTRACT

The hypothesis of a word-stress lack in the Turkic languages phonetic system is being put forward. The constitutive, culminative and word-distinctive functions of synharmonism as well as the role of synharmonic co-articulation both in Turkic syllable formation and in syllabation are being elicited. Synharmonism predetermines the linear size of a morpheme, the latter being less than a syllable does not exist in the Turkic languages.

The Turkic word prosody has been completely reduced to the Indo-European word-stress, vowel-harmony being neglected as the result thereof. Besides, vowel-harmony is a phonologically unjustified and phonetically inexact term. However, the idea of vowel harmony which presupposes the presence of at least 2 syllables in a word, has played its misleading role as far as research is concerned, monosyllabic words being excluded from the field of study.

It is inferred from the present situation in the Turkic prosody that synharmonism has been denied a proper place in the succession of known in general linguistics prosodic units. Being theoretically the most thoroughly elaborated ones, stress and tone remain nowadays in general linguistics as the only generally recognized prosodic units.

"Europocentrism" has not solved and is not in a position to, cardinal problems of the Turkic phonetics, the reason thereof being the transference of the accentual (non-synharmonic) languages phonological analysis principles and means to the non-accentual (synharmonic) ones.

Accumulated experimental data have failed to lay down the basis for creating the Turkic phonological theory as it is, because of their "europocentrist" interpretation, the latter, in the final run, confirming the result obtained by traditional acoustic methods.

Attempts to produce evidence for the existence or lack of Turkic stress and its place only by means of experimental phonetics' methods are bound to fail.

To our mind, the reasons thereof are as follows: all the linguistic functions of synharmonism are, this way and that, attributed to word-stress, the latter acquiring the status of an important linguistic unit in the eyes of researchers. The identity of both word-stress functions and synharmonism as the same level prosodic units presents illusive logic of such a substitution, and the hypnotic influence of word-stress ideas still remains an insuperable obstacle.

The problem seems to envisage a Turkic word either having accentual nature (and this means segment analysis being carried on phonemic level) or synharmonic one (thus, obliging us to find the predetermined by it, principles of division into functional synharmonosegments and synharmonosegments proper).

This problem still remains obscure as researchers fail to understand the fact that phrasal words and words in a phrase are intonationally alike as far as sentence prosody is concerned. However, researchers differentiate phrasal words as isolated words proper, in contrast to the same words in a phrase. As a result, various manifestations of phrasal word intonation are interpreted as acoustic stress correlates. Taking into consideration that both phrasal words and expanded phrases can be pronounced with various logical, emotional, expressive accessory intonation in dependence of the phrasal word contextual semantics, the difficulty of word-stress unambiguous interpretation is quite understandable. In effect, researchers are oblivious of the fact that isolatedly pronounced words, allegedly proving word-stress presence in the Turkic languages, are, in fact, contained in a syntactical unit with a more-than-word volume, and, thus, they bear partly this units' intonation.

Hence, the Turkic "word-stress" does not
not possess the Indo-European word prosody's main characteristics of being the word acoustic image's obligatory element. Investigations into the Turkic languages 'word-stress' nature shows that one should speak of phrasal, rhythmic-syntagmatic, logical, segmental as well as supra-segmental stress.

Correct recognition of a Turkic word under the influence of the conditions that one should speak of phrasal, rhythmic-syntagmatic, logical, segmental as well as supra-segmental stress.

Word-stress, and this makes quite a difference between the Indo-European languages and tone significance in the syllabic one is shown to win recognition from all researchers. As far as synchronism in the Turkic languages was concerned, phonetics did not pay special attention to it from the functional-analytical point of view despite synchronism being recognized as a really existing acoustic phenomenon. Partially this occurred due to the fact that synchronics-phonoetics as we have already told cherished their pet-theory of word-stress.

Thus, the leading phonological function of synchronism pertains to keeping homogenous synchronism of the Turkic word's whole image, this being the obligatory element of its phonetic image. Violation of synchronism character of a timbre disrupts the word, graves upon the ears, impedes perception or makes it absolutely incomprehensible.

Thus, the constitutive function of synchronism pertains to proper positioning of homogenous synchronism of the word. For example, such Turkic words as [bo.x] (bo.x), [b o.x'] (b o.x') etc. are characterized not only by a certain linear combination of sound but also by unique quality of each word's synchronism. Hence, one can speak of synchronism of the Turkic language. The importance of the fact that synchronism is also proven by the fact that any synchronically properly organized word is easily and correctly pronounced by Turkic languages. The importance of the fact that synchronism is also proven by the fact that any synchronically properly organized word is easily and correctly pronounced by Turkic languages.

Another function of smaller importance is word-acoustic correlative of synchronism. The existence of such a function is shown by the fact that synchronism is also proven by the fact that any synchronically properly organized word is easily and correctly pronounced by Turkic languages. The importance of the fact that synchronism is also proven by the fact that any synchronically properly organized word is easily and correctly pronounced by Turkic languages.

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Thus, a morpheme less than a word of synchronism phenomena一顿tonal) sound segments, i.e. word-stress and word synharmonism — for us, the word-stress phenomena in Turkic languages should be considered false.

Traditional concepts of general linguistics were unable to explain the fact that synchronism phenomena always and consistently determine the synchronous structure of phonetic system is impossible. There are such synchronism phenomena that inconsistency of phonetic system is impossible. There are such synchronism phenomena that inconsistency of phonetic system is impossible. There are such synchronism phenomena that inconsistency of phonetic system is impossible. There are such synchronism phenomena that inconsistency of phonetic system is impossible. There are such synchronism phenomena that inconsistency of phonetic system is impossible. There are such synchronism phenomena that inconsistency of phonetic system is impossible.