According to the type of accent language are usually divided into two categories: those possessing free accent and those possessing fixed accent. In languages of the latter category the position of accent is conditioned by the phonetic structure of the word.

Languages whose accent is fixed in various manners, most of which, however, are variation of syllable counting. In the simplest case stress falls on a certain syllable counted from the word's beginning or end. All other ways of fixing the accent are apparently being derived from the basic principle by means of introducing into the fixation rule of some additional factor - structure, quantity of the syllable (by quality we mean both the segmental and the suprasegmental syllable quality - 1, 2, 3).

Thus, if we take into account the minimal units fixed by the rules determining the position of accent in accent fixed languages, then following subdivisions may be distinguished:

1) Languages where the position of accent is determined by the number of syllables (syllable-counting languages), e.g. Latin with its stress on the penultimate syllable, Greek, with stress falling on the word's first syllable.

2) Languages where the position of accent is determined by the syllable number and the syllable structure (absc accent - short vowel - 1 stress; long vowel - 2 stress). In some languages (e.g., in Arabic), the accent, or more accurately the pre-penultimate stress (with some minor complications) is apparently preserved in Modern dialects of Arabic.

In the present paper, accent languages are usually divided into two categories: those possessing free accent and those possessing fixed accent. In this paper, the accent position is conditioned by the phonetic structure of the word. The accent is fixed in various manners, most of which, however, are variations of syllable counting. In the simplest case, stress falls on a certain syllable counted from the word's beginning or end. All other ways of fixing the accent are apparently being derived from the basic principle by means of introducing into the fixation rule of some additional factor - structure, quantity of the syllable (by quality we mean both the segmental and the suprasegmental syllable quality - 1, 2, 3).

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Arabic

1) Languages where the position of accent is also determined by vowel quality: e.g., Mokha; similar systems probably underlie the Mari and Perin Perin morphosynchroned accent.

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West Caucasian (Abkhaz, Abaza, Ubykh) accent systems. The usual method of their description is determining the number of accent types within every lexico-morphological word class and its particular subclasses, and describing the behaviour of word-accent within each of these accent types ("the accent curve").

When there exists a possibility, the (complementary) distribution of accent curves depending on morphological subdivision is established. In this case several accent curves can be united (on basis of certain characteristic features) within one class of complementary distributed accent curves. Such a class (or a category characterised by this class) is usually called an "accent paradigm". Sometimes the notion of accent paradigm and accent curve are being confused; but we should stress that in different word-categories one and the same accent paradigm can be manifested by different accent curves. Then one determines the content of each accent type, i.e. enumerates all lexemes accentuated according to a given accent pattern, and specifies the accent types of derived structures which may be either connected with the accentuation of underlying non-derived morphemes and with the morphonemic type of the affix, or else may depend only on the character of the affix. One outlines the parts of the system where exceptions from the paradigmatic principle of accent types distribution and a developing cathegorial accent can be observed. Finally one describes various transformations of accent curves within syntactic units (transfer of accent to enclitics, proclitics etc.)

Recent decades have shown that systems of this kind can be rather efficiently described by means of generative morphonemics, and such descriptions help discovering many obscure (from the "surface" point of view) relations. As an example of this kind of a description, essentially structured along the lines of my internal reconstruction of the Balto-Slavic system of accent valencies, may be quoted the study of the Lithuanian accent system in the new Lithuanian Grammar (Vilnius, 1985, pp. 61-68; section written by A.Ciriena). A sufficiently complete description of the Russian accent system has been achieved by A.A.Zaliznyak ("Russian nominal word-formation"), Moscow, 1967; "From the Proto-Slavic accentuation towards the Russian", Moscow, 1985). A "generative" description of the Abkhaz accent system based on the above principles was proposed in my paper "The typology and the reconstruction of paradigmatic accent systems" (in "Aktsentologiya i eravnitelno-istoricheskiy metod", in print).

Languages with "paradigmatic accent" in many cases reveal a tendency of shifting towards "cathedral accent" by means of generalisation within certain lexical categories and especially within derivational types of some accent paradigms. Examples of different progressive stages of this tendency are the Russian, the Lithuanian and the Pushtu accent systems.

Results presented in this paper can probably serve as a basis for distinguishing between languages with morphemized accent systems and languages with tonal accent contours and tonal paradigms (patterns) which are possibly results of immediate development — and not of a "representation" — of systems with "classical" tones.