PRINCIPLES OF INTONATIONAL STRUCTURING OF THE SPONTANEOUS MONOLOGUE

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ABSTRACT

The spontaneous speech intonation has generally been viewed as a modification, or a version of the intonational structure of an audible written text. In actual fact, being of different nature, these systems possess intrinsic properties enabling them to regulate their elements' structuring and functioning capability.

INTRODUCTION

The 20th century linguistics has focused upon language as a system of historically evolved means of communication. Modeling language stratificationally has proved, however, to be imperfect and perfunctory in a great number of aspects, with the worked-out model failing to incorporate all facts of authentic human communication.

Attempts to make linguistics' subject matter more expanded and comprehensive, which brought about the emergence of spechology and psycholinguistics in particular, ought to be given credit to as constructive and generative.

On the other hand, it should be noted that an approach to subsystems dissimilar both qualitatively and functionally will call for diversity of the research method applied. An element of a system cannot be forcibly transposed into a different system wherein it is likely to acquire new qualities. Such ecclectics could lead to an inadequate analysis of the object under study as its integrity, structure and dynamism are supposed to be reflected by each element analysed.

A series of experiments carried out by the Experimental Phonetics Laboratory, University of Odessa, made it possible to establish specific features of spontaneous speech which manifest themselves through a direct conjugation of mental continuum and discrete language means.

The monologue seems to be the most spontaneous in this respect, being distinguished on the precept of independence of motivation and stability of concept, as well as its tendency toward informational adequacy alongside with the programme's simultaneous composition and implementation.

PSYCHOLINGUISTIC PRINCIPLES OF INTONATION DIVISION IN SPONTANEOUS MONOLOGUE

The basic divergence of the spontaneous monologue from other types of speech subsystem lies in its intonational structuring. In an extemporaneous speech its intonation functions as a means of conveying expression along with other language units, thereby reflecting the mode in which semantic categories within a described extralinguistic situation are being grouped in a speech/thought stream.

It has been established experimentally that, on being represented graphically, i.e. deprived of its intonation, a spontaneously generated utterance is often perceived as inconsistent and meaningless even by the speaker himself.

In reading, intonation patterns "wander over the grammatical surface of language" /1/, thus effectuating a mediated segmentation of sense pointed out and included in the text by the author. Figuratively speaking, the difference of spontaneous speech intonation and reading intonation is similar to that between a living bear's skin which is essential for keeping the animal alive and enables one to make judgement concerning the condition of the whole of the animal's body, and a fur-coat made from this skin just to be sold. In fact, intonational segmentation of a spontaneous monologue points to the "apportioned" character of text composition.

In all existing speech generating models the function of intonation stands in need of a clear definition, being wrongly treated as identical to functioning of purely articulatory means. At the same time, an analysis of authentic monologues has suggested that communicative and expressive components of intonation emerge at different levels of speech generation and are subject to diverse psycholinguistic phenomena.
A generalized communicative and intonational "unit" is a phrase is issued as far back as the communicative level where the generally subjective sense is modeled.

For instance, an individual wishing to obtain certain information conceives a notion of a question to which the speaker is busy planning the following utterance where the information is delivered. Information characteristics, as well as syntagmatic, i.e. a short formal frequency range, a tone contour and intonational, i.e. a short intonational range, a faster tempo, etc. are possessed by syntagmas containing familiar, or thematic information at the whole text level, one can assert that the familiar-novel opposition in the spontaneous monologue is also associated with a partial discharge of the linear programming process as well as an accent shift to the intonational level. For the unassembled intonational "unit", these may parcel out melodically into 3 in spontaneous speech, the latter fact being caused by the insomnium of intonational cycles.

Along with the abovesaid features common for all spontaneous monologues, their intonational variability is determined by the speaker's personal estimations of the subject-predicate syntagmas may in- clude a varied number of principal, or elementary, or non-elementary sentences, respectively. In this case, the speaker's personal estimations of the subject-predicate syntagmas may in- clude a varied number of principal, or elementary, or non-elementary sentences.

Although the abovesaid features common for all spontaneous monologues are embodied in the intonational structure is determined by the speaker's personal estimations of the subject-predicate syntagmas, their intonational variability is determined by the speaker's personal estimations of the subject-predicate syntagmas. In this case, the speaker's personal estimations of the subject-predicate syntagmas may include a varied number of principal, or elementary, or non-elementary sentences.
with the semantic and syntactic factor re-
treating to the secondary plane.

The intonational prominence of action-
verbs in short stories disguises the ab-
sence of norm-premeditated dependent word-
forms. The rising-falling termination tone
used to shape up a vacant-valence verb
syntagma provides an opportunity to allege
that this type of predicate could operate as an autosemantic unit in the speaker's
conscience.

The logical and intonational division of
the predicate may stand out as a specific
feature of the spontaneous speech, the
two-component predicate including a modal
element like МОЖЕТ, МУЖЕ, НОЧУМО
(possible", "necessary") plus an infin-
itive.

An expanded subject in the spontaneous
speech prevails as an independent sense-
tonation unity. Apparently this may be
determined by the fact that the subject or
object attribute acts, in effect, as a
disguised predicate while a syntagma is
capable of including a single vectorial
(predicative) element only, with the pro-
grame unfolding extrapersonally.

In a number of cases, an insufficiently
informative subject "attracts" the vari-
cous predicate elements like auxiliary
verbs, linking verbs with modal, phase
and emotional meaning, adverbial modi-
fiers, demonstrative pronouns, etc. In the
vector syntagmas thus formed, it is the
predicative elements that carry the maxi-

mum sense, with the subject's position
being optional and determined, for the
most part, by the tendency toward phone-
tic and sense rhythmisation.

The data obtained in the process of our
investigation revealed the syntagma being
center-oriented in extrapersonal concep-
tual speech. This is caused by the fact
that sense accentuation is expressed by
intonational accentuation in a progres-
sively unfolding speech. Consequently,
no informatively prominent object is ge-
erally represented by a separate synta-
gma.

It should be noted that the predicate-ob-
ject division and subject-predicate syn-
tagmization are ensued by the same pheno-
menon, i.e., provided the emergence of an
object expressed by an explanatory clause
be rather indeterminate, the predicate
syntagma is adjoined by the "object in-
dex" -- the conjunction ("that"): /Представляю, что/ считаю, что/ думай,
что/ Based on the regularity of this pecu-
liarity of intonational segmentation, one
can assume that explanatory verbs are re-
ognized by the speaker not only as lex-
exes but as syntaxemes as well; in other
words, the verbs' semantics includes
their valences in the mind of the speaker.
Therefore, the dialectic unity of the
speech stream's discreetness and contin-
ity brings about the emergence of assym-
metric syntagmas wherein the intonation
value is shifted to the right of syntac-
tic structures.

The tendency of the spontaneous monologue
toward continuity is materialized in the
conduct of the acoustic constituents. In
extrapersonal speech, the opposition of
logical and hesitation pauses appears to
be practically obliterated, as it is
these types of pauses that mark the junc-
tions of psycholinguistic units. The purely
syntactic pauses observed in reading
appear to be non-existent in sponta-
aneous speech. If the speaker relates some
facts that he is well aware of and con-
vinced in ("communication of events"),
neglectful of whether these facts are to
be correctly apprehended, it is only phy-
siological pauses that he is likely to
make in the speaking process. The use of
linking verbs, conjunctions and "super-
fluous" pronouns reduces the number of
hesitation pauses considerably.

Fundamental frequency variation depends
on the syntagmas' autosemantics/synsem-
tics and their modality as well as indi-
cates the significance of the semantic
categories in utterance generation and
compensates for grammatically inadequate
structures.

The type of dynamic curve is called forth
by the reproducibility of the intonation-
sense units in the text.

The spontaneous syntagma's tempo arrange-
ment depends on the probability of the
subsequent unit's emergence, whereas in
reading it is the isochronal factor that
is more operative.

CONCLUSION

Generally speaking, the spontaneous mo-
ologue's intonational structure is mo-
delled by the direct thought-formation
and extralinguistic apprehension process
whereas a usage-bound interface of lexi-
cal, grammatical and intonational means
can be observed in reading.

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