ABSTRACT

A new method of intonational analysis is presented with two communicative directions in view: text → intonation (a word's accent prominence as effect of text parameters) and intonation → text (accent prominence as a text-formation factor).

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays linguists have evidently ceased to limit accent prominence (AP) to some single language phenomena — be it an intonation pattern, a category of definiteness/indefiniteness, significance, contrast or emphasis of the utterance /1/. Now one is inclined to consider AP as a multi-aspect object of study, which has to do with the semantic framework of a text rather than with semantic meaning of isolated utterances. Hence, AP may be ranked together with general categories of covert grammar of text thus helping to reveal interdependency of text constituents, i.e. text → intonation (AP as effect of certain text parameters) or intonation → text (AP as a text-formation factor).

The analysis of the intonation of immediate oral speech seems worthwhile for both studying the speech-production mechanism and context-bound regularities of AP. In the present paper special attention is paid to the functions of AP in spontaneous monologue of a scientific character (lectures, reports, etc.). Oral scientific text is characterized by specific accent markers, i.e. words whose AP serves to intensify the communicative message of the utterance /2/.

His public verbal event being limited in time, the speaker has to use a specific text-production program which should provide (besides some cognitively relevant information) argumentation (to convince the audience) and modality (revealing the speaker's attitudes). The study of AP's role in pragmatic constituents of a text may thus involve a number of particular tasks, such as analysis of AP in notional or syncosemantic syntactic constructions; syntactic position of AP in the utterance, text-formation functions of AP depending on the kind of texts and so on. Our approach to AP problems calls forth the role of the speaker himself. In the course of speech the attitudes of the speaker are not inflexible nor intentionally static: "...the speaker's point of view is constantly sliding like the camera man's objective thus exposing the object from different angles" /3, p.155/. Can we relate the changing semantic role of a word in speech continuum to the word's AP? To answer the question we'll first delineate our theoretical departure position.

L.A.Gogotishvili /3/ distinguishes three subsidiary pragmatic sense components which are usually fixed: point of view, attention focus and discourse pivot. Point of view is determined by the directness (speaker → hearer); hence, we have two positions that of the speaker (=I), and that of the hearer (=You). Attention focus is some semantic component of the situation chosen as centre for all the other components. Various authors connect the focus with the rheme/theme notion having the prosodic correlate on the surface structure of the sentence: "...roughly speaking, the presence of a pitch accent correlates with a focus (and thus with "new information"), while the absence of a pitch accent indicates the lack of focus (or "old information")" /4, p.200/. We assume that AP should have
more ingenuous semantic interpretation: it may highlight, in particular, within one utterance or another, old as well as new components of sense which become associated with the speaker or the hearer at a given moment. Hence, using the term "attention focus" as a synonym for the role of "a certain segment or element 5/7.

Discourse pivot is a certain intentional point in the line of action either the speaker or some generalized social opinion. Our main postulate concerns the following: all the pragmatic sense components mentioned above are pragmatico-situationally manifested on the acoustic level in the form of AP of some lexical element. Now we'll discuss the idea in detail using Russian adversives and adverbs: as we showed elsewhere /6/ prove to be good lexical material to study the role of AP in a complex of meaning, purposes, motivations and other components of a text.

Point of view

Speaking of AP's function to indicate the direction of message orientation (to the speaker or onto the hearer) we should note that it is possessed by different classes of lexemes in quite different degrees. That's why it seems fruitful to analyze general and particular properties of various lexical classes possessing different degrees of AP ability.

Utterance formation is a certain multi-stage process beginning with the emergence of AP and going to the creation of the logical and structural plan and finally producing the utterance (speech). If this model holds true then there should be three groups of AP: AP of greatest semantic load and hence are prone to AP: a) words denoting mental states (joy, anger, beliefs); b) adjectives and adverbs are often characterized by extremely wide range of semantic values and denoting the exact moment of the speech act (e.g. Ia dusha, ego dusha, ego dozhe, ego podrostok, ego neon, etc.); 3) agents of time actualization (e.g. darshe, teper'); 2) intensification + logical emphasis (e.g. darshe, teper'); 3) intensification + logical emphasis (e.g. darshe, teper', etc.).

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Analysis of a number of meanings in AP proves that the one which is characterized by extreme wide range of semantic values and denoting the exact moment of the speech act (e.g. Ia dusha, ego dozhe, ego podrostok, ego neon, etc.) proves to possess the following text values: 1) high - values show much common in semantic features with their adjective counterparta. Within both adjectives and adverbs the greatest extent of semantic generalization which enables the speaker to carry out the sense in oral scientific speech continuum. V sistike / ni / voobs' e vteelom). That's why AP of 'moy i vash' is introduced onto the scene (orientation towards the nearer).

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various stages of the utterance-formation process. It also determines spatial and temporal limits of the message and contributes to text formation. In this case the text is regarded of paramount importance, the task being to find textual loads of speech elements in AP position (text → AP).

The attention focus corresponds AP with a word's semantic and elements of the immediate context rather than with text parameters. Here we have the reverse direction (AP → text), whose function is to orient the hearer in the speech continuum. Further analysis of AP in this respect may contribute to reveal semantic potential of words in AP position.

The point of view involves speaker/hearer parameters. It is responsible for a general accent contour of the utterance, including AP which helps explicate the speaker's position and AP which takes account of the hearer's needs. Hence, this component functions as a bidirectional text-forming mechanism (text ↔ intonation).

NOTES AND REFERENCES