THE TYPOLOGY OF SENTENCE INTONATION SYSTEMS

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The study of the intonation system is efficient and interesting. Distinctions are made between universal, typological and specific phenomena. The report sets out some data on the prosodic units from this point of view and the ways of reconstructing intonation system of different languages. Some phonetic laws are reconsidered. The laws of "language evolution" is put to discussions of increase of information per speech unit. This leads to the development of the suprasegmental sentence features (presuppositions and intonation contours including) since the human perception capacity is limited.

1.1. We consider the intonation system as a complex of three functional prosodic parameters: 1. frequency, duration and intensity. 1.2. At the contemporary stage of intonological investigation it is necessary to distinguish two complementary planes: 1/ synchronic intonational typology; 2/ diachronic intonational typology. 2.1. In both cases it is necessary to differentiate much more the typological and language specific one /1/. This distinction is not an easy one, and we have to elaborate a method for it. Let us turn our attention to one of prosodic phenomena: intensity curves in a word and in a sentence. We know that in a word an intensity curve is usually declining in a Slavic language the stressed syllable corresponding to the last place (or the penultimate syllable) is not rising on the stressed syllable. We have data on other languages and confirm this regularity /2/.

2.2. The second issue is an ontological one. We are talking about questions in Slavic languages. They split the Slavic languages into two major groups, the Western group and the South-Slavic group. 2.3. The first type is characterized by the rising tone in the final unstressed syllable (boundary tones) including the last unstressed syllable; the final stressed syllable (sentence stress) can take a lower position. The second type is characterized by a high steep rise on the stressed syllable, post-stressed syllable have a falling tendency, the unstressed syllable leads to a low end. West Slavic languages use the first type, in general questions and declaratives and the second type - in interrogative and reinterpreted questions. South Slavic languages and some other languages, that is exactly on the contrary, use the second type in general questions and declaratives. And we have a type in repeated questions /4/. Now, if we accept O'halla and Bolinger's viewpoint, this can be represented in the following way:

- Melody curve in yes-no questions is Universal;
- Melody curve in yes-no questions is Universal.
- Intensity curve in declaratives is Universal;
- Melody curve in emphatic questions is Universal.

We have so far discussed the form-function correlation. Yet we have found one very important criterium: the form (or weakness) of influence of sentence prosody on the word prosody. It is significant to know how the word prosody is modified in different languages. We have experience in working with internal data that there is a regularity of changes in the word prosody due to the position of the word in the sentence (beginning-middle-end) and so on. The criterium discussed above deals with the intonation system of a language. We do not yet have any data about the basic unit, i.e. syntax, or a sentence.

3. The criterium discussed above deals with a new hypothesis about the existence of a "new Balto-Slavic" - yes-no questions and declaratives. Here we have a case of areal convergence.

4. Some years ago I discovered a striking coincidence between the Slavic yes-no question contour (with falling post-stressed syllable) and the rising post-stressed syllable in the question melody in Finno-Ugrian languages. At the X International Finn-Ugrian congress in Syktyvkar in 1985 (Komi, Udmurt, Komi-Wordar and Mari questions) I recorded on magnetic tapes the melodic contours and correlation of the following types: general, yes-no-questions, alternatives, the so-called predicting questions and repeated questions. It turned out that the main type of question melody in Russian and Finnish coincides. I would like to discuss the reasons of this coincidence now. And yet in order to have the right to speak about this coincidence being systematic, we ought to draw some conclusions.
a certain wire upon which words stressed and unaccented are moving. It is not the case. Sentence stress is the natural way to have its autonomous structure and its own autonomous history as segmental phonetics has. We have to reveal it and to describe it.

1. The folk music and folk songs. The intonologist can draw from it information on word prosody, stress andause means.

2. M. Bolinger recently has named intonation "Cinderella"/22/. I invite to review this name and propose for it a new term without explaining it.

3. The phonetic evolution of different parts of speech conditioned by their different syntactic functions. West Indo-European, initial Indo-European particles change, for instance, post,- particle (pa-,ku-) and usually had a fortis consonant in it. The intonologist can draw from it information on one expression unit. Because of the double articulation language has two possibilities of information augmenting: to increase the semantic load and to increase the speech rate, i.e., compressing and phonation compressing words.

4. During the sentence was distinct, prosodically loaded words to the initial position. Such phenomena are sense compressing. Yet perception capacity of humanlisteners leg sense compression that is why the fast speaking stops 50-60 msec per sound. Consequently language should develop all suprasegmental phenomena in a broad sense presupposition of all kinds, semantics of prominence, grammaticalized melodic contours, etc. All these factors help to create supplemen-tary sense lines, i.e., suprasegmental of content plan.

5. Reinterpretation of well known "phonetic laws" from the prosodic point of view. For instance, the North Russian dialects (see above) have a word-by-word pronunciation, relics of lexical tones and register oppositions in intonation. This means that in the same language there are languages with similar structures. The syntactic relations of spoken units and the economy to the "pragmatic code" speech model, as it was described by T. Givon /20/; the syntactic features can help to reconstruct the intonation.

6. I want to discuss the following very important hypothesis, in my opinion, the main clause and its constituents of intonation topology is a movement in three stages: (a) before-word stage; (b) word stage; (c) post-word stage. At the first stage the unit is utterance, which is perhaps syllable divided and has a specific metric model. It is probable that there are also melodic contours of prosodic phenomena (such data). All these factors help to create supplemen-tary sense lines, i.e., suprasegmental of content plan.