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Olha *Valihura*

THE ROLE OF INTONATIONAL PHRASING IN THE SENSE DECODING OF THE MESSAGE IN A BILINGUAL'S SPEECH

The research in the sphere of cognitive linguistics prove the fact that any language as means of communication can be properly analysed only with references to the general principles of human speech behaviour [1; 2].

As the aim of this paper is to examine sense segmentation devices as language orientation means and their role in the process of speech decoding we must emphasize the direct relationship between the phenomenon of intonational phrasing (i.e. division of the utterance stretch into phonosyntagms, phrases and more lengthy speech units) and human speaking activity, treating the former as inseparable from speech production and comprehension process.

It should be noted in this connection that this view is based on the works of Academician L.V. Scherba who defined minimal intonational phrasing unit - phonosyntagm as a phonetic unit conveying a semantic whole in the speaking-thinking process. Recent linguistic studies provide further evidence for the general idea of intonational phrasing relationship with speech activity [3; 4].

Problems concerned with sense segmentation devices can't be solved without investigating the general principles of processing and verbalization of conceptual information as they carried out by the speaker.

One of the most widely-known theories concerning the general rules governing speech behaviour belongs to the American linguist H.P.Grice [51. He put forward the idea that speech communication is based on the Cooperative Principle, which implies that participants of the communicative process interested in its successful realization, perform cooperative efforts to achieve understanding at minimal conceptual and linguistic expense. In accordance with the Cooperative Principle the act of verbalization must be oriented towards the recipient in advance. In the process of

language coding the speaker must provide the listener with the effective cues for the adequate text interpretation.

Recent studies in linguistics advanced an assumption that any language has special means which function as orientation devices in the process of verbal coding. It is supposed that the function of orientation has at least two peculiarities. The first one derives from the fact that the linguistic form of a speech utterence depends on the general communicative intention of the speaker and the speech situation. It was emphasized by many scholars that monologue as a form of speech communication presupposes more or less prolonged speech impact on the listener and, therefore, conveys complicated conceptual information and, as a result, is bound to set greater demands to the act of verbalization than dialogue.

The second peculiarity lies in the fact the use of language orientation means depends on the speaker's cooperative effort and on his evaluation of the intelligibility of the utterance.

Consequently, orientation means are not subject to grammaticahzation to the same extent as the means expressing the prepositional content of the speech message.

Thus, orientation means are related to such characteristics of speech act as the complexity of information transmitted, time of speech impact, the listener's cognitive and cultural background and the current state of his mind, the degree of the speaker's cooperative effort and so on. All these features clearly indicate a pragmatic character of language orientation means.

Intonational phrasing as one of language orientation means presents a special interest for the | process of speech decoding. It is common knowledge that the role of phrasing is more significant in monologue than in informal conversation, and it is most actively used in texts of considerable 1 structural and conceptual complexity. Correlating with the syntactic structure of the text, it can be Γ regarded as one of linguistic devices serving to increase the reliability of sense decoding in oral communication. It is evident that intonation phrasing occupies a dominant position (at least in English) in separating speech continuum and at the same time taking part in forming it as rhythmically organized time process.

Intonational phrasing correlation with speech rhythm is recognized by the majority of phoneticians and we'd like only to discuss some peculiarities of sense segmentation in its relation to rhythm from the point of view of speech generating process.

It is usually noted that rhythm as one of sense-segmentation forming factors is functioning under constant sense control. Contemporary cognitive psycholinguistics puts forward an idea that solution of different intellectual tasks, speech recognition among them, is performed by a listener on the continuously acting rhythmical background which regulates his attention, memory and other , cognitive devices [6]. It's possible that adequate detection of segmentation units is provided both by I listener's knowledge of the general rhythmical principle of speech patterning and due to his own I rhythmical activity, which gets him into the state of pre-expectation to find sense fragments in the i text he hears. It should be emphasized that the effort which the listener expends on sense decoding I depends on the extent to which the speaker coordinates information structure of the message with its. | intonational phrasing. Distinction of the phonetical realization of intonation units and correlation of : the speaker-listener rhythmical activity are to be taken into consideration as well.

Thus, it follows that the adequate detection of intonation units can be regarded as the first step on sense decoding of the text. At the same time sense segmentation is set by the speaker and by generating it the speaker governs the procedure of listener's speech perception. The prosodic means with the help of which sense segmentation is realized can be treated as orientation devices in sense space of the text development in time. In this case intonational phrasing can be considered a direct result of the Cooperative Principle in speech communication.

The psycholinguistic approach to the analysis of cognitive processing in speech through its reflection in the intonational phrasing proves to be valuable to understand the nature of the prosodic interference. In spite of the fact that prosody is to a great extent universal in its categories, languages differ one from another in the number and character of their prosodic units (prosodemes), in the frequency and sphere of their functioning as well as in the number, distribution and acoustic-perceptual peculiarities of their variants. All that provides the basis for prosodic interference, which is

defined as changes in the realization of the prosodic systems of the non-native language that emerge under the influence of the native language and manifest themselves in a bilingual's speech as deviations from the norm of the non-native language [7; 8].

Topicality of problems of prosodic interference for language theory and applied linguistics has widened the range of experimental phonetic investigations despite the difficulties of contrastive prosodic analysis aimed at revealing areas of potential interference in a bilingual's speech. The features of prosodic interference (deviations, errors) are analysed as to their frequency, stability, communicative relevance as well as to their occurence in different types of utterances and prosodic subsystems.

It's a well-known fact that interaction of prosodic systems in a bilingual's speech reveals itself in minimal prosodic units (tonemes, accentemes chronemes, rhythmemes) and in their structural complexes or phonosyntagms (tonal contours, accentual, temporal and rhythmic structures), which function as integrative units, as patterns of syntagmatic organization of prosodemes. In the functioning of prosody as one whole the structural correlation of the toneme, accenteme and chroneme as systemic elements provides their close interconnection and interaction in complex polycomponental prosodic units.

On the level of phonosyntagms, at it was experimentally proved by A.Metlyuk's research [9], the interference of the native language system in the syntagmatic organization of the minimal prosodic units within the structures in more expressed than in the features pertaining to the structure as a whole.

Regarding intonational phrasing to be one of the language orientation means in the process of the sense decoding of the message in a bilingual's speech, we consider prosodic interference to be based on the character of actual relations between the elements of the two languages as they are set by a bilingual speaker according to the laws of interlanguage identification. Contrastive experimental study of prosodic norms of the languages in contact that precedes error analysis makes it possible to establish the relevance of intonational phrasing to the cognitive processing, to define the inventory of units of the tonal, accentual, temporal and rhythmic subsystems of the English and Ukrainian languages and to determine their prosodic peculiarities.

As a result it would be possible to approach the description of prosodic interference as a psycholinguistic phenomenon in terms of systemic units of prosody, which is important for the theory of languages in contact and for the practical application in teaching foreign languages.

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