

SENTENCE STRESS IN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN

В работе рассматриваются вопросы фразового ударения как части механизма, объединяющего слова в синтагмы и предложения. Рассматриваются различные типы фразового ударения: синтагматическое, логическое и эмфатическое. Сделаны выводы по типологически сходным и конкретно-языковым особенностям актуализации фразового ударения в английском и украинском языках.

Ключевые слова: фразовое ударение, логическое, эмфатическое и синтагматическое ударение, акцент.

В роботі розглядаються питання фразового наголосу як частини механізму, що об'єднує слова в синтагми і речення. Розглядаються різні типи фразового наголосу: синтагматичного, логічного і емфатичного. Автор зробив висновки щодо типологічно спільних і конкретно-мовних особливостей актуалізації фразового наголосу англійського і українського мовлення.

Ключові слова: фразовий наголос, логічний, емфатичний і синтагматичний наголос, акцент.

The work deals with the problem of sentence stress as an integral part of the mechanism uniting words into sense-groups. Several types of semantically important stresses are examined: normative (syntagmatic), logical and emphatic in English and Ukrainian. The typologically common features and specific characters for either of the languages under investigation are described.

Key words: sentence stress, logical, emphatic, syntagmatic stress, accent.

One of the main characteristics of a word's phonetic presentation is accent. Being an integral part of the mechanism involved in uniting words into a sense-group, the word stress is not unique. In structural units larger than a word, several types of semantically important stresses are distinguished: normative (syntagmatic), logical and emphatic [1, 2]. Sentence stress reveals itself in the stressed syllables of the words that form the above mentioned units. Such type of a syllable in a sense group is the nucleus.

One type of word stress distinguishes the most important word in a sense group; this is the word that forms the semantic and prosodic center of the sense group. This type of a stress is named *syntagmatic*. The semantic (intonational) center of the phrase that is formed by the stressed syllable of the word (most important in the communicative sense in an utterance that consists of many sense groups) is similarly characterized by the so-called *phrasal stress*. The semantic stress that is maximally emphasized and precisely marked by intonation and performs certain special semantic functions is named *logical stress*. In these cases logical stress carries out the function of syntagmatic (or phrasal) stress. Quite often this type of a stress is not only of a logical character but that of an emotional character as well. In this case the stressed word is the center that manifests either the speaker's emotional state or his emotional and attitudinal evaluation of the contents of the utterance [3]. This is said to be under *emphatic stress*.

Logical and emphatic stresses differ from the (normative) syntagmatic stress not only by the degree of semantic and intonational accentuation of the word it falls on and by a set of phonetic means that execute this stress in conversation, but also by this word's position in a sense group. The terminal position of the word containing the nucleus in the sense group is the normative location of ordinary syntagmatic stress:

Frock-coats have quite gone out of fashion.

The place of the logical (and the emphatic) stress is not fixed by formal rules and entirely depends on the speaker's aim. One and the same utterance can be realized in the speech with different localization of the words that are logically stressed: *Навіщо тобі чини? Навіщо тобі чини? Навіщо тобі чини?*

As has already been noted, the localization of a nuclear syllable in the terminal position in a sense group corresponds to the norm. However, it should also be noted that the normative syntagmatic stress in a number of cases shifts to the left from the terminal position in a sense group (the shift including one or more words). The realization of the semantic and intonation center of the sense group in a non-final position depends on communicative and syntactic factors on the one hand, and on the factors enumerated here on the other hand — how full the meaning of the sense group lexical units is and what kind of morphological means and stylistic elements are used in the text.

The following conditions are regarded to be the most typical ones for normative (syntagmatic) stress localization in a non-final position:

1. when the form-words that are stressed in connected speech in some language are the final words (word) in a sense group;

2. when notional words that lose their stress under certain conditions (while they are stress — marked in isolated pronunciation) are the final words in a sense group;

3. when the rhythmic structure of an utterance requires the shift of syntagmatic stress from the final position to the preceding notional word.

The fact that the indicated regularities are typologically common in Ukrainian and English is of great interest. However, the specific manifestations of these regularities in the same languages differ substantially.

In English, the specific manifestation of the normative (syntagmatic) stress shift can be explained by the following factors:

1. The presence of form-words that are not capable of becoming the semantic center of a sense group even though they execute the function on their own; this is why they lose regular word stress in speech continuum and, consequently, are incapable of displaying normative (syntagmatic) stress. This group consists of auxiliary and modal verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles and particles: *There's **no** reason why you **shouldn't** have one.*

At the same time, such formally notional parts of speech as personal, possessive, reflexive and relative pronouns also lose stress in English speech continuum because of their relative lexical deficiency: *I got my **raincoat** myself.*

However, form — words that are in the terminal position turn into the communicative center of an utterance and acquire the normative (syntagmatic) stress:

a) auxiliary verbs that are used instead of the notional verbs:

*Do you know where it happened? — I **do**.*

b) the auxiliary verb “to be” that is preceded by the subject which is expressed by a pronoun: *Here we **are**.*

c) complex prepositions that stand before the unstressed personal pronoun at the end of a sense group: *Don't you ever dare to talk **about** it!*

d) personal pronouns that are connected with a noun by the conjunction “and”: *My friend and I | could move up a little.*

2. When a noun, a verb and other notional parts of speech, being at the final position in a sense group, lose a certain part of their nominal semantic meaning, they also lose the function of being the intonational and semantic center of an utterance. The mostly widespread cases of this type include the following:

a) the word “street” in the names of the streets: ***Downing** Street;*

b) a noun that stands after the adjective which specifies the meaning of this combination of words on the whole: ***telephone** book, **evening** paper;*

c) a noun that stands at the final position and means some place: *He is without a shilling in the pocket*;

d) the adverb “so” in the word combinations “to do so”, “to think so” etc.: *Charge them for the programs if you regularly do so*.

3. The rhythmic marking of a sense group can execute a significant influence on normative (syntagmatic) stress localization.

In Ukrainian, the three aforementioned occurrences of syntagmatic stress shift from a terminal word can also be observed; however, the specific realizations of these phenomena differ substantially.

1. The number of form-words incapable of accepting syntagmatic stress in Ukrainian is considerably less than the English prepositions, conjunctions, and other particles referred to here. Furthermore, in Ukrainian pronouns practically always preserve an appropriate stress and when placed at the final position can be syntagmatically stressed.

Після стількох літ він ще й досі без пам'яті від вас.

2. The loss of a certain part of the nominative semantic meaning in some notional parts of speech in Ukrainian is as widespread a phenomenon as in English: *гаряча голова*.

When considering sentence stress facilities, the following should be emphasized. The nuclear syllable, like any stressed syllable, differs from the neighbouring unstressed ones by larger magnitudes of the summary energy and its components (intensity and duration) in a speech signal. As to the distinctive characteristics of the nuclear syllable with respect to the other stressed syllables in a sense group, the kinetic pitch changes (falling, rising, complex), interval and speed of its alteration (being an important characteristic of the nucleus) determine the sentence stress character.

Beside the kinetic tone a certain role in English sentence stress is played by a loudness increase in the nucleus. In Ukrainian, duration is of greater importance in shaping the nuclear syllable than the power component of intonation.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that all of the above-mentioned situations characterize the regularities of normative stress (except logical or emphatic).

Unlike normative (syntagmatic) stress, logical stress can make any word in the sense group prominent; in this case it is strongly accentuated. It brings some cardinal changes into an utterance's meaning while its vocabulary and grammar remain unchanged.

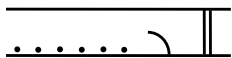
She didn't ask you to go there. (Somebody else asked you about it).

She didn't ask you to go there. (She asked another person).

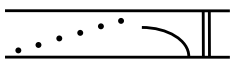
*She didn't ask you to go **there**.* (She asked you to visit another place).

The syllables that precede the logical stress can be pronounced in different ways:

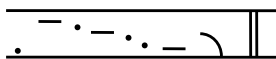
1. as unstressed ones on a low level,
e.g. *She didn't ask you to go **there**.*



2. as unstressed syllables with the pitch gradually growing up, starting with the initial syllable towards the stressed one,
e.g. *She didn't ask you to go **there**.*



3. as stressed syllables and stress is preserved in accordance with the general rules of the word stress in an English utterance; thus an ascending or a descending stepping head is formed,
e.g., *She didn't ask you to go **there**.*



In the final example the word under main stress is more prominent.

Thus, not only notional words but also the form- words as well (*That **was** very smart*) and even separate parts of a word can be marked by the logical stress.

*I didn't say **inclusive**, I said **exclusive**.*

In rare instances, stress can move from its regular place in a word to some other syllable.

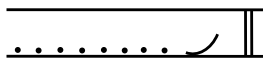
The above-mentioned qualities are typical both in the English and Ukrainian languages. The corresponding examples are given in the section on "Word stress".

The intonational means that bring the logical stress in a sense group to life are similar (by their quality) to the ones used in the normative (syntagmatic) stress. However, in the quantitative aspect they are marked much more strongly. The high fall and the accidental rise are often used for this purpose:

*I can't **understand** it.*



*Did you think he was going to **Leeds**?*



Moreover, in both English and Ukrainian the role of the dynamic and temporal components increases when executing logical stress: the syllable, being under logical stress, is pronounced very loudly and with a drawl:

To був швидккуї поїзд.

To був швидккуї поїзд.

In cases where the major stressed word is the center that expresses the speaker's emotional state or his attitudinal evaluation of the reported, normal (syntagmatic) stress is referred to as *emphatic* stress. It allows the speaker to manifest his attitude to the reported in the same way as logical stress. The location of the emphatic stress is not standardized and is entirely determined by the context:

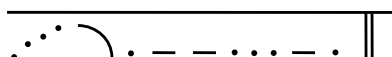
*She has a **nasty** cough. She has a nasty cough. **She** has a nasty cough.*

The intonation differences between the emphatic and the logical stress are demonstrated by the greater degree of prominence in the first one. This is caused by the wide range of nuclear tone and greater loudness on the main stressed word:

*There was an e'**normous** queue waiting at the theatre.* (Logical stress)



*There was an e''**normous** queue waiting at the theatre.* (Emphatic stress)



The differential feature of the emphatic stress (in comparison to the normative and logical ones) is a noticeable part of the timber characteristics in the emphatically marked nuclear syllable. In addition, the following specific characters are to be mentioned among intonational means that increase emphasis effect:

- the lengthening of consonant sound in the nucleus,
- a clear demonstrated glottal stop before the initial vowel of the nucleus located at the beginning of the word,
- an intentional accentuation of a normally unstressed syllable in a word for emphasis: *I **re**mind it to you;*
- emphasizing form-words (articles, possessive pronouns etc.): *He is **the** painter.*

In Ukrainian, the emphatic accent possesses similar properties. The differences are observed only in the language means prevailing in expressing attitudinal and emotional meanings.

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Стаття надійшла до редакції 26.09.13