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THE PROBLEM OF STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY IN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

EL PROBLEMA DE LA AMBIGUIDAD ESTRUCTURAL EN PSICOLINGÜÍSTICA

O PROBLEMA DA AMBIGUIDADE ESTRUTURAL EM PSICOLINGUÍSTICA

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Abstract: The present article is devoted to the investigation of structural ambiguity in English. Investigation has been carried out on specifically selected sentences containing structural ambiguity. Ambiguity is the inner feature of every language. We come across the process of ambiguity in both spoken and written discourse. Ambiguity has been a topic of interest not only for linguists but also for psycholinguists. The interest in the study of the decoding of the meaning of the sentence can be considered a new sphere in general linguistics. Here a great attention has been paid to the experimental-phonetic analysis of the ambiguous sentences.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics. Structural ambiguity. Acoustic parameters of syntagm. Syntactic units. Experimental-phonetic method.

Resumen: El presente artículo está dedicado a la investigación de la ambigüedad estructural en inglés. Se ha investigado sobre frases seleccionadas específicamente que contienen ambigüedad structural..La ambigüedad es la característica interna de cada idioma. Nos encontramos con el proceso de ambigüedad tanto en el discurso hablado como en el escrito. La ambigüedad ha sido un tema de interés no solo para los lingüistas sino también para los psicolingüistas. El interés por el estudio de la decodificación del significado de la oración puede considerarse un nuevo ámbito en la lingüística general. Aquí se ha prestado gran atención al análisis fonético-experimental de las oraciones ambiguas.

Palabras clave: Psicolingüística. Ambigüedad structural. Parámetros acústicos del sintagma. Unidades sintácticas. Método experimental-fonético.

Resumo: O presente artigo é dedicado à investigação da ambigüidade estrutural em inglês. A investigação foi realizada em sentenças especificamente selecionadas contendo ambigüidade estrutural.A ambigüidade é a característica interna de cada linguagem. Encontramos o processo de

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ambigüidade tanto no discurso falado quanto no escrito. A ambigüidade tem sido um tópico de interesse não apenas para linguistas, mas também para psicolinguistas. O interesse pelo estudo da decodificação do sentido da frase pode ser considerado uma nova esfera da lingüística geral. Aqui, grande atenção foi dada à análise fonética experimental das sentenças ambíguas.

Palavras-chave: Psicolinguística. Ambigüidade estrutural. Parâmetros acústicos do sintagma. Unidades sintáticas. Método experimental-fonético.

1. INTRODUCTION

The research of the term “ambiguity” has been a central problem not only in linguistics, but also in psycholinguistics. “Many psycholinguistic studies have noted that sentences which are ambiguous, exhibit processing differences in a variety of tasks. For example, they may differ from normal unambiguous sentences in such tasks by usually taking longer to process or deal with in the manner prescribed by the experimental task” [Kess J.K. 1981, p. 3].

Ambiguous sentences being more difficult to deal with, as various experiments play a great role in psycholinguistics, we made an attempt to give a detailed psycholinguistic explanation of structurally ambiguous sentences by means of phonetical-experimental method.

Nowadays experimental-phonetic method is considered to be one of the most valuable methods in linguistics. Application of experimental-phonetic method in decoding the sentence intonation gives us an opportunity to express our thoughts, emotions. Being a powerful means of communication intonation plays a great role in the creation of phonological, pragmatic, rhetorical and stylistic nature of the sentences. Conveying the information of an utterance, it highlights the most important content of the utterance and gives an opportunity to distinguish the rheme and theme. Being an important element of a sentence, intonation helps to express different kinds of emotions of the speaker, through coding and decoding the content of the sentences. It is impossible to imagine a sentence without intonation.

In linguistics mainly four types of ambiguity - lexical, categorical, grammatical and referential can be observed. The results of investigation will be tested by experiment. The experiment has been fulfilled by means of PRAAT Computer program. The main objective of our research is:

- to investigate the nature of ambiguity and the cause of emergence of structural ambiguity in language,
- to analyze the structurally ambiguous sentences,
- to give experimental-phonetic analysis of their use in communication.

2. SCOPE OF STUDY

The main point in investigating of structural ambiguity is to find an answer to “what goes with what” [AndrianiH. (2009)]. To understand the meaning of a sentence, first of all it is necessaty to parse the words within the composition of a sentence. Parsing, being a complex process involves a number of features: 1) analysis of sentences of different types; 2) analysis of ambiguity [Daniel R.1997, p.367].

It is necessary to note that any simple sentence in itself possesses the ability to express a temporary ambiguity. The initial part of the sentence gives a way to a number of interpretations.

For instance, /The secretary applauded for his efforts was soon promoted //. At first view, despite the fact that the word "applauded" gives us the impression of the main predicate of the main sentence, it does not truely justify itself in this function.The main predicate of the sentence is "was promoted" and sentences of such types are called as the "garden-path" sentences.

As to some reasons "garden-path" sentences cause interest for the investigators. Such sentences on one hand sometimes stress a certain thought, but on the other hand they bear double meaning (ambiguity). Putting it in other words, one does not exibit a neutral approach to the sentence which is heard or read.What are the factors causing parsing? First of all it is necessary to note that parsing makes its impacts on the secondary words and different morphemes used in a sentence.

For instance, while reading the sentence /The secretary applauded for his efforts was soon promoted// many a man considers that "the secretary" is a woman and she applauses him (the man) for the work which he demonstrates. From here we can make a conclusion that in parsing semantic factors show their impact as well.The scope of study explores the investigation of structural ambiguity and its experimental-phonetic analysis serves to show precise understanding of the syntactic content of the sentence. In written discourse, depending on the type of the ambiguity there are a number of linguistic techniques that can be applied, such as, punctuation, local, minimal attachment, word order.

Touching upon the studied by us the problem Dallin D. Oaks writes: "Many expressions that would be ambiguous in print are not ambiguous in speech because we can clarify them through supersegmental features, such as intonation, pause and stress. Still, even when these supersegmental features are present, their role in classifying meaning can be neutralized when listeners allow themselves to mitigate these cues" [Dallin D.O.2010, p.39].Dallin D. Oaks in the above mentioned research work speaks about different fields of ambiguity and his thoughts on structural ambiguity give us ground to investigate this problem thoroughly from phonetical point of view.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the process of investigation structurally ambigiuos sentences are analyzed. For the successful realization of the goal of investigation a number of methods including structural-semantic and experimental analysis methods in the synchrone aspect are used.

4. NATURE OF VARIATION OF STRUCTURALLY AMBIGIOUS SENTENCES

The phenomenon of "ambiguity" is one of the most quarrelsome problems in linguistics. The existence of ambiguity in the language is not new. Ambiguity exists in all levels of the language, such as in phonemic, morphemic, lexemic, phrasemic and proposemic levels. Ambiguity is characteristic for all languages and every ambiguious word in the language has its own characteristic feature.

In linguistics we come across four types of ambiguity: lexical, categorial, grammatical and referential. Lexical ambiguity refers to homonymy and polysemy. Generally in linguistics there exist

some arguments concerning this problem. According some theorists homonymy is likely to create ambiguity, but polysemantic words and homonymic pairs create ambiguity.

Joseph F.Kess, Ronald A. Hoppe distinguish three types of ambiguity: lexical, surface structure and deep or underlying levels of linguistic structure. According to them lexical ambiguous sentences are the result of a word or word sequence having more than one distinct meaning. Surface structure ambiguity reflects two distinct syntactic groupings of adjacent words in the string. Deep structure ambiguity, on the other hand, reflects different logical relational sets between words or phrases in the sentence [Kess J.F.1981, p.30].

More than one syntactic interpretations are possible in structurally ambiguious sentences. Structural ambiguity creates confusion, i.e. in the context sometimes it is difficult to differ the word as to what parts of speech it belongs to - a noun or a verb.

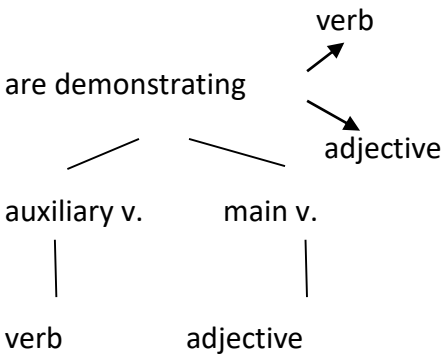
“Linguists have noted that an understanding of communication requires that we look at not only the structure of an utterance, but also at the function that utterance has in discourse, in other words, the “speech act” that is being conveyed” [Dallin D.O. 2010, p.27].

For instance, in the sentence /Can you pass me the book?// directive speech act is performed rather than asking a question. Here the answer “yes” is not expected, only passing the book is expected.

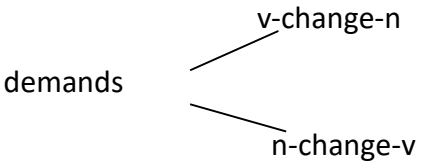
Spoken language is more clearer than the written language. It is difficult to differentiate the ambiguity in spoken language. “Generallywhen one uses ambiguous words or sentences, one does not consciously entertain their unintended meanings, although there is psycholinguistic evidence that when one hears ambiguous language, generally its ambiguity is not intended” [Khawalda I.M. and Saidat E. M-Al. 2012].

Only in written form the exact or the intended meaning of the sentence can be clarified. The meaning of the sentences /I saw the actor’s performance // or / I saw the actors performance // is clear only in written form, in spoken form they lead to confusion.

Ambiguity may exist between verbs and clauses. In the sentence /The students are demonstrating // the word “demonstrating” can be understood as a verb or as an adjective. If the word “demonstrating” is understood as a verb, then the form of the auxiliary verb “to be” (are) must be the main part of the sentence. In this case the sentence must consist of S+V. If the word “demonstrating” is understood as an adjective, then “are” is the main verb and the sentence part will consist of a subject+verb+subject complement (S+V+S/c).



In the sentence /The University demands change // the word “change” can be understood as a noun and as a verb.



If “demands” is a verb, “change” is a noun, the word order of the sentence must be CVO, if “demands” is a plural noun, then “change” is the verb and the word order is SV. It shows that these sentences are ambiguous and have two structural interpretations.

In structurally ambiguous sentences tense and aspect categories also play a great role. Present Progressive is formed by means of the auxiliary verb “to be + v + ing” and the main verb is mainly dynamic in this tense form. But there are cases that – ing causes confusion, i.e. – ing - gerund forming ending, - ing noun forming suffix, - ing adjective forming suffix, - ing –preposition forming suffix. For instance, hammering – n., aspiring –adj., notwithstanding – preposition.

E.g./She gave the room a good sweeping// - sweeping – verbal noun.

The use of the suffix -ing as a gerund or as a participle depends on the syntactical function and their positions in the sentence.

For instance, in the sentence /The passengers suggested telephoning the hospitals before asking the police to look for him //. The words “telephoning” and “asking” are gerunds.

In the sentence / Writing his name in the list, a familiar voice attracted my attention //. – “writing” is a participle [Khanbutayeva L.M. 2007, p.68-71].

B.Ilyish spoke of the suffix –ing forms as of two different homonymous forms: the gerund and the participle. According to him,there is no external difference between the two sets (they are complete homonyms), the question may arise whether there is reason enough to say that there are two different sets of forms, that is whether it could not be argued that there is only one set of forms (we might then call them the suffix –ing forms), which is a different context, acquires different shades of meaning and performs different syntactical functions” [B.Ilyish 1971, p.135].

Structural ambiguity is found among perfect tenses but they are not as common as progressive tense forms.

In ambiguous sentences the use of adverbials also plays a great role. For instance, in the Present Perfect tense in this sentence /I have done my work// the time of doing the action is not reported, it only shows that the action took place before the moment of speaking or the completed action.

To differentiate the homophones is also possible in ambiguous sentences. For instance, the sentence /They can fish // is ambiguous in writing. “Can” may denote modality, otherwise it can be used as a part of a compound verbal modal predicate, if it (can) is a notional verb, then “fish” will be a noun.

“Ambiguity is a property of either sentences or perhaps the speech acts in which the sentences are used. There is no guarantee that every utterance of an ambiguous sentence will result in an uncertainty regarding what was expressed or meant by the speaker” [https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ambiguity].

5. EXPERIMENTAL, PHONETIC ANALYSIS OF THE STRUCTURALLY AMBIGUOUS SENTENCES

A sentence in a certain situation can be used for a special purpose and can receive an adequate form of intonation and express a different meaning. Accordingly the same sentence in different contexts cannot be expressed with the same intonation.

In this research three structurally ambiguous sentences are analyzed with the experimental-phonetic method.

Ex.: (1) I am taking a course in Modern English Grammar. This sentence can be interpreted like:

a) I am taking a course in Grammar of Modern English.
b) I am taking a course in Modern Grammar of English.
(2) Enough rest and exercise will help you recover. This sentence can be understood like:
a) enough rest and enough exercise will help you recover.
b) Exercise and enough rest will help you recover.
(3) He left her in tears. In this sentence the following interpretations are possible:
a) In tears he left her, or He left her while he was in tears.
b) He left her while she was in tears.

The grammatical form of the sentence consists of the formal-syntactic and intonation aspects. The grammatical form of the sentence is its scheme, i.e. the indication of the thought by means of the language. Intonation is the grammatical form of the syntactic organization of the sentence. F.Y.Veysalli explaining the determination of a sentence stresses the role of intonation as well. He writes: “A sentence is such a structure in which intonation possesses its own role” [Veysalli F.Y. 2013, p.226].

Intonation is considered a prosodic means, ensuring the formation of a sentence syntactically. As to this reason intonation is considered to be a syntactic means formulating internal

relations among the words, composing the sentences or among the sentences, setting up the text. It is necessary to stress the fact that syntactic structure formulating the internal relations possesses the ability to express the foreign links of distinctive language units in conformity with context.

For instance, in English the sentence /I am taking a course in modern English Grammar// [aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdə(r)n `ıŋlıʃ græmə(r)] has been put to the experimental-phonetic analysis in different structures. In this sentence the word combination /modern English Grammar/ in different phonetic structures has been analyzed. Generally the announcershave spent to the pronounciation of the sentence 3.0825 m/san. In the first variant the acoustic parameters of the sentence have been estimated like that:

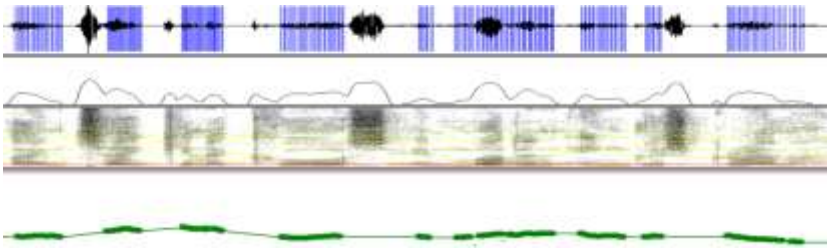
Main tone frequency: 169-163-193-165-180-161-158-181-160-173-161-142-130 hs;

intensity: 62-59-67-61-60-63-56-73-66-61-62-64-54 db;

time: 92-73-132-76-78-160-75-103-91-79-74-98-67 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.1).

Picture 1.1

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence will be: [aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdə(r)n `ıŋlıʃ græmə(r)]



[aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdə(r)n `ıŋlıʃ græmə(r)]

In the sentence /I'm taking a course in grammar of modern English// [aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın græmə(r) əv mɔdə(r)n `ıŋglıʃ] the duration of the announcer's middle pronounciation is 3.1256 m/san. In this variant the acoustic parameters of the sentence have been shown like that:

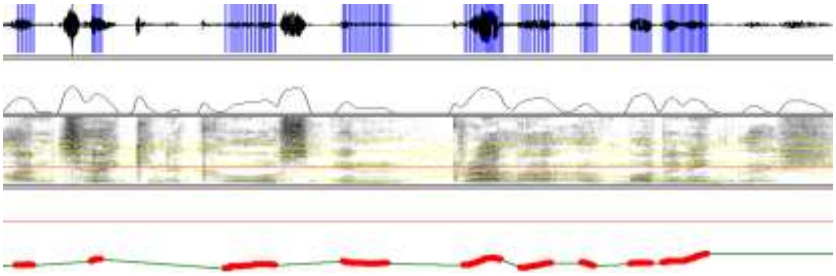
Main tone frequency: 161-158-185-163-168-161-173-197-173-169-173-170-185-172 hs;

intensity: 65-61-68-64-66-62-59-74-65-58-67-64-60-57 db;

time: 108-77-130-70-78-75-146-73-98-102-70-81-63-82 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.1).

Picture 1.2

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence will be : [aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın græmə(r) əv mɔdə(r)n `ıŋglıʃ]



[aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdn græmə(r) əv `ıŋglıʃ]

In the variant of the analyzed sentence /I'm taking a course in modern grammar of English// [aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdn græmə(r) əv `ıŋglıʃ] the indicators of the acoustic parameters according to the intonation contour doesn't differ from the indicators of other variants.

Main tone frequency: 193-182-167-170-161-148-193-136-146-142-126-150-123 hs;

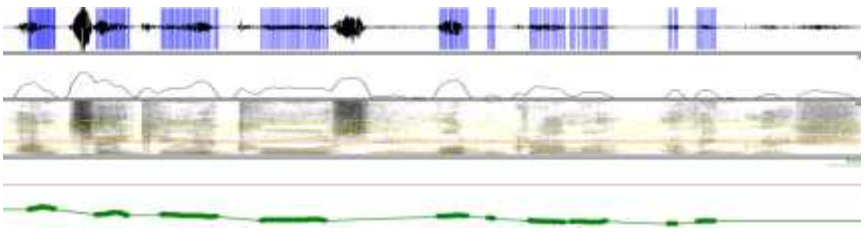
intensity: 67-65-71-63-62-61-71-54-63-57-59-59-65 db;

time: 92-72-128-67-152-60-108-58-99-73-74-64-83 m/san (see:Graph 1.1.1).

The syntactic arrangement of the sentence is not closely connected with its intonation: the same intonation can be observed in different syntactic structures. According to the result of the acoustic parameters the general intonation of the sentence is not completely connected with the lexical composition.The proof lies in the fact that the three variants of the same sentence are marked with falling tone characteristic to the declarative sentences, namely, they are pronounced with the intonation of completion of the sentence. Maximum tone frequency is conspicuous in all three variants in the starting syllables: 193-183-193 hs. It is enough to look through intonogramms of the sentences (see: Graph 1.1, 1.2, 1.3).

Picture 1.3

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence will be [aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdn græmə(r) əv `ıŋglıʃ].



[aı æm `teıkən ə `kɔ:s ın mɔdn græmə(r) əv `ıŋglıʃ]

Graph 1.1.1

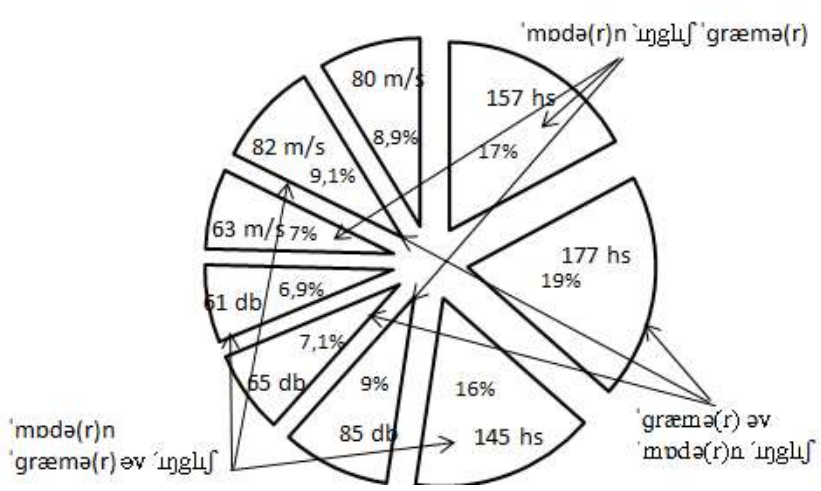
Acoustic parameters / Syllables		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I utterance	main tone frequency (hs)	169	163	193	165	180	161	158	181	160	173	161	142	130	
	intensity(db)	62	59	67	61	60	63	56	73	66	61	62	64	54	
	time (t)	92	73	132	76	78	160	75	103	91	79	74	98	67	
II utterance	main tone frequency (hs)	161	158	185	163	168	161	173	197	173	169	171	170	185	172
	intensity (db)	65	61	68	64	66	62	59	74	65	58	67	64	60	57
	time (t)	108	77	130	70	78	75	146	73	98	102	70	81	63	82
III utterance	main tone frequency (hs)	193	182	167	170	161	148	193	136	146	142	126	150	123	
	intensity (db)	67	65	71	63	62	61	71	54	63	57	59	59	65	
	time (t)	92	72	128	67	152	60	108	58	99	73	74	64	83	

In different structural variants of the sentence /I am taking a course in modern English Grammar// anaverage tone frequency had been 157-177-145 hs, dynamic parameters – 63-82-80 db, an average pronounciation speed 85-65-61 m/san (see: picture 1.4).

We must mention that in all analyzed variants the descending intonation contour has been realized. The fact that maximum fall of the syntactic structure is conditioned by the main tone frequency is noted by F.Veysally as well: “In the methodical description the peak may be placed

at the beginning or in the middle, but the general movement of direction of the main tone remains as a falling tone” [Veysalli F. 1970, pp.131-134].

Scheme 1.01



In the sentence /Enough rest and exercise will help you recover// [ɪˋnʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: rɪ:ˋkʌvə(r)] acoustic parameters have been noted like that:

Main tone frequency: 154-201-181-154-165-146-154-192-161-164-150-134-121 hs;

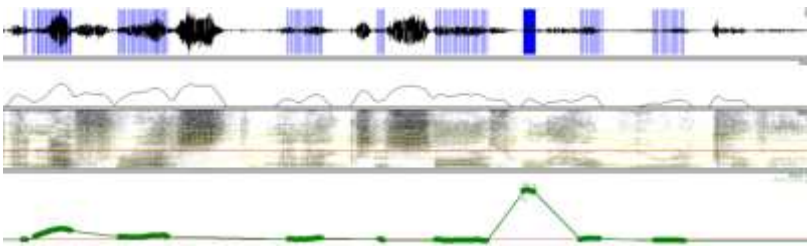
intensity: 63-72-74-58-63-56-63-68-62-57-58-61-56 db;

time: 80-90-96-70-80-71-167-76-80-85-96-74-86 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.2).

Picture 1.4

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence will be:

[ɪˋnʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: rɪ:ˋkʌvə(r)]



[ɪˋnʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: rɪ:ˋkʌvə(r)]

In the same sentenceacoustic parameters are the followings: /Enough rest and enough exercise will help you recover// // [ɪˋnʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: rɪ:ˋkʌvə(r)]

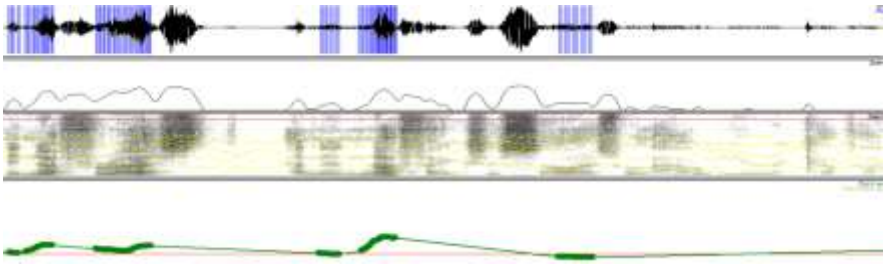
Main tone frequency: 154-183-197-150-150-208-177-154-147-130-140-150-153-132 hs;

intensity: 62-69-72-60-56-70-61-59-58-56-57-55-56-54 db;

time: 78-91-98-78-102-109-86-70-156-73-76-90-67-84 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.2).

Picture 1.5

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence will be: [ɪ`nʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: rɪ:`kʌvə(r)]



[ɪ`nʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: rɪ:`kʌvə(r)]

In the third variant of the sentence /Exercise and enough rest will help you recover// [eksə(r)saɪz ænd ɪ`nʌf rest wɪl help ju: rɪ:`kʌvə(r)] the acoustic parameters are the following:

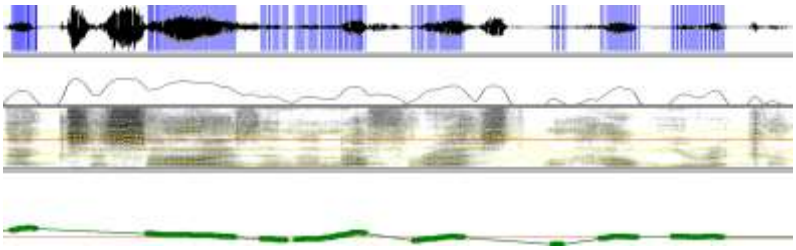
Main tone frequency: 189-177-193-161-164-178-169-128-149-165-149-143-128 hs;

intensity: 64-60-74-58-59-69-69-55-67-64-63-59-55 db;

time: 102-77-170-79-83-88-104-62-81-102-70-75-70 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.2).

Picture 1.6

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence will be: [eksə(r)saɪz ænd ɪ`nʌf rest wɪl help ju: rɪ:`kʌvə(r)]



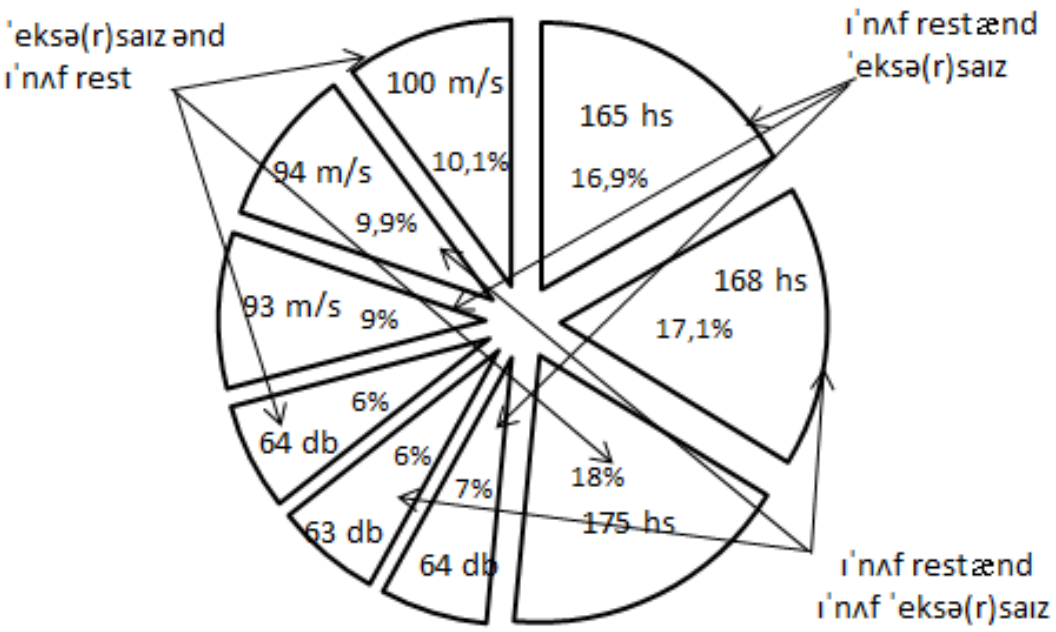
[ɪ`nʌf rest ænd eksə(r)saɪz wɪl help ju: ri:`kʌvə(r)]

The results of ossillographic analysis in all three variants acoustic variants of parameters speak of the intonation of the declarative sentences. In all three variants, melodic contour all through the sentence is in the discending direction. In the first sentence tone frequency is 201-221 hs, in the second sentence it is 208-132 hs, but in the third sentence it is comparatively 193-128 hs. In the performance of the both announcers melodic peak is situated at the beginning of the sentence.

Graph 1.1.2

Acoustic parameters / Syllables		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I utterance	Main tone frequency (hs)	154	201	181	154	165	146	154	192	161	154	150	134	121	
	intensity (db)	63	72	74	58	63	56	63	68	62	57	58	61	56	
	time (t)	80	90	96	70	80	71	167	76	80	85	96	74	86	
II utterance	Main tonefrequency(hs)	154	183	197	150	150	208	177	154	147	130	140	150	153	132
	intensity (db)	62	69	72	60	56	70	61	59	58	56	57	55	56	54
	time (t)	78	91	98	78	102	109	86	70	156	73	76	90	67	84
III utterance	Main tone frequency(hs)	189	177	193	161	164	178	169	128	149	165	149	143	128	
	Intensity (db)	64	60	74	58	59	69	69	55	67	64	63	59	55	
	time (t)	102	77	170	79	83	88	104	62	81	102	70	75	70	

Scheme 1.02



In the ossillographic analyzed sentence the acoustic parameters are like that: /He left her in tears// [hɪ: `left hə:(r) ɪn `teə(r)z].

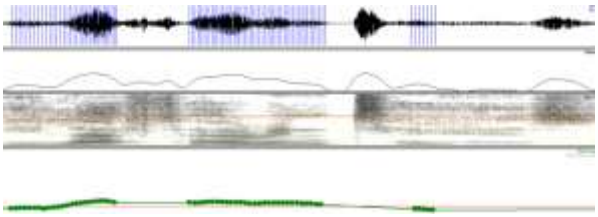
Main tone frequency: 154-195-171-166-138 hs;

intensity: 58-77-70-65-58 db;

time: 103-93-115-75-211 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.3).

Picture 1.7

The ossillogramme and the spectogramme of the sentence [hɪ: `left hə:(r) ɪn `teə(r)z]



[hɪ: `left hə:(r)ɪn `teə(r)z]

The acoustic parameters of the same sentence are the following: /In tears he left her// [ɪn teə(r)z hɪ: `left hə:]

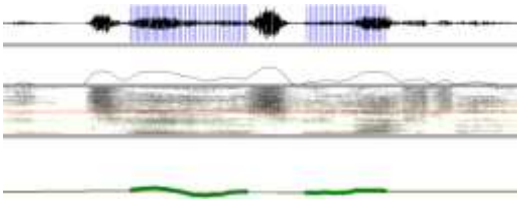
Main tone frequency: 151-189-150-161-135 hs;

intensity: 62-71-52-67-53 db;

time: 74-146-90-93-120 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.3).

Picture 1.8

The ossillogram and the spectogram of the sentence [ɪn teə(r)z hɪ: `left hə:]



[ɪn teə(r)z hɪ: `left hə:]

In the analysed sentence /He left her while she was in tears// [hi: `left hə: waıl ʃi: wəz ın teə(r)z] the acoustic indications have found their reflection in the following marks:

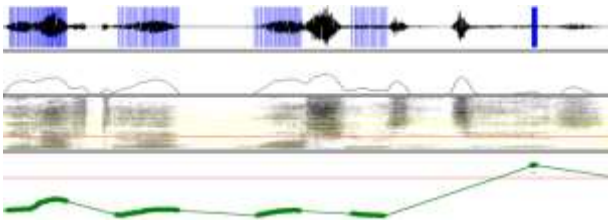
Main tone frequency: 177-212-168-152-142-152-168-153 hs;

intensity: 67-70-67-61-57-60-53-57 db;

time: 116-164-90-78-86—78-176 m/san (see: Graph 1.1.3).

Picture 1.9

The ossillogramme and the spectogramme of the sentence will be like that: [hi: `left hə: waıl ʃi: wəz ın teə(r)z]

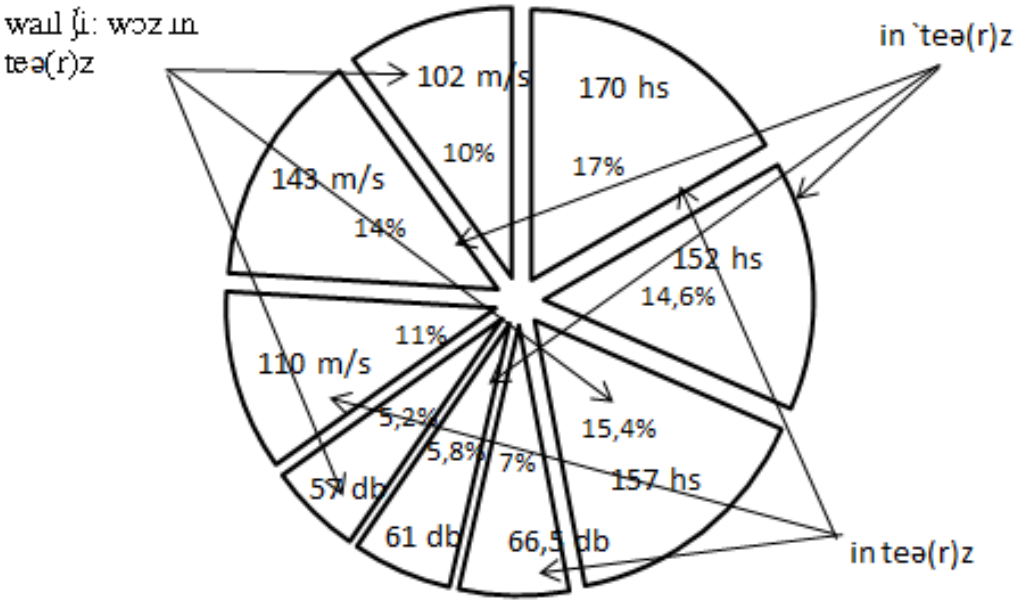


[hi: `left hə: waıl ʃi: wəz ın teə(r)z]

Graph 1.1.3

Acoustic parameters / Syllables		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I utterance	Main tone frequency (hs)	154	195	171	166	138			
	intensity (db)	58	77	70	65	58			
	time (t)	103	93	115	75	211			
II utterance	Main tone frequency (hs)	151	189	150	161	135			
	Intensity (db)	62	71	52	67	53			
	time (t)	74	146	90	93	120			
III utterance	Main tone ffrequency (hs)	177	212	168	152	142	152	168	153
	intensity (db)	67	70	67	61	57	60	53	57
	time (t)	96	116	164	90	78	86	78	176

Scheme 1.03



In two variants of this sentence acoustic components attracted to analysis must be obligatorily placed in the final position.Only in one variant it must be realized at the beginning of the sentence.

Distinctive positions in the sentence structures have also found their reflections in the acoustic parameters of the analyzed components.

For example, the indication of the average tone frequency (while 170hs at the beginning of the sentence) at the end of the sentence are marked as 152 hs and 157 hs. Intensiveness at the beginning of sentence is 66,5 db, but at the end of the sentence it is 61 db and 57 db. The average speed of pronounciation of the announcers at the beginning of the sentence is 110 m/sec., butat the end it is 143 and 101 m/sec.

It is necessary to mention that the acoustic parameters in all three variants reflect the realization of the intonation of completion. In all three sentences the least tone level lies on the last syllable of the closing syntagm 135-138-153 hs. Lingering of the speed of articulation is characteristic not only for the sentences consisting of one syntagm. The intemporal analyses of sentences with one syntagm indicates the slow level of the tempo.

So, it becomes clear from the syntagmatic analysis, based on the distribution of the vowels within the syntagm that in the terminal syntagms the solving of the tempo bases upon an objective law [Zinder L.R. 1979, p. 276].

6.CONCLUSION

The results gained from the discussed issues can be generalized as follows:

It is necessary to note that the problem of ambiguity is not a new problem at all. As it is mentioned in the article, a number of scientists have devoted their research works to the problem

of ambiguity. But their approaches to the problem cardinally differ from one another. In the formulation of ambiguity grammatical means along with syntactic structure play a great role as well. As an example to the given thesis the suffix "-ing" has been illustrated in the article. The suffix "ing" having different grammatical meanings (as –ing + gerund, -ing + participle I, -ing + verbal noun) also change the semantic meanings.

Being the inner specific peculiarity of every language and a fact of linguistic study, ambiguity takes place when the faulty arrangement of words and phrases or the omissions of a necessary word occur. Each language has its peculiar feature in expressing ambiguity.

Experimentally analyzed sentences show that the same intonation can be observed in different syntactic structures and it proves that the general intonation contour does not directly depend on the lexical content.

Maximum tone frequency and descending intonation contour are observed in all analyzed sentences.

All the disputable problems have been tested through ossillogram and spectrogram to prove the truth fullness of the uttered theses.

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